

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, 13th July, 1965.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.00 o'clock p.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (Speaker); Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, (Minister of Development, Trade, Labour and Social Security); Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

Hon. C. E. TALMA entered the House and took his seat.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

By virtue of the Standing Orders of this House, this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

This sitting now stands suspended.

On re-assembling,

MINUTES

Mr, SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that Minutes have been circulated for the meetings of the 25th March; 13th and 27th April; 4th, 18th and 25th May and the 1st and 8th June, 1965. If there is no objection to the confirmation of any of those Minutes, they will be duly Confirmed, (AFTER A PAUSE). There being no objection, I declare the Minutes for those Meetings which I have just mentioned, duly to have been confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to lay A Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1965.

On my own behalf, I beg to lay the Report of the Utilities Board for the year 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$15,899 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1965-66 Part

I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1965-66, No. 10, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I should also like to give notice that it is my intention to ask the leave of the House later in the day to deal with this Resolution in all of its stages at this sitting. Copies of the Resolution are here and they will be circulated to hon. members in due course.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$370,455 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1965-66 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1965-66, No. 11, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the disposal of a number of buildings, owned by or agreed to be purchased by Government, so that improvements can be carried out at road junctions as set out in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$843.00 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1965-66 Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1965-66, No. 9 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the re-mainder of the Money Resolutions of which notice WAS given today.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Replies to Questions ready. On behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 47/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, is now ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45/1964 also asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, is also ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the following Replies to Parliamentary Questions are ready-

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 24/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John;

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 36/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James;

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 51/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip. 2.55 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SMITH:

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Is the Government aware that a number of workers who were employed at Haggatts Factory have been displaced as a result of the take-over of the said factory by Government?

2.

3. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government consider the advisability of financial assistance to the said displaced workers?

4.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time, and the first Oral Reply which has been laid stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. James; likewise the second Oral Reply and the fourth Oral Reply also stand in the name of that hon. member, and that Hon. and Learned member's seat is vacant at the moment.

Oral Reply to Question No. 24 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John whom I notice is in his place.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, the question is as follows

Is the Minister aware that several plantations in the island have planted less "fall" potatoes this year than heretofore?

Is the Minister aware that such a reduction in the produce of such potatoes will lead to severe hardship to peasants and agricultural labourers during the forthcoming crop season who look to such potatoes as a staple diet during the duration of the crop?

Will the Minister take steps to see that that unsatisfactory situation is remedied as soon as possible?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows-

"Yes, Sir. 786.02 acres of land were planted in fall potatoes by plantations during the crop year 1964/65 as compared with 1,326.25 acres in the previous crop year 1963/64. The overall acreage planted represented more than the legal requirements under the notice issued to plantations by the Competent Authority under the Local Food Production (Defence) Control Order. No. 2 although there were some individual plantations which fell short of their legal requirements. The Competent Authority has drawn the attention of defaulters to their failure to comply with the law and warned them of the consequences of a repetition of their actions.

2. No, Sir. Adequate supplies of ground provisions were available to peasants and agricultural labourers during the crop season. In some parts of the island potatoes were not reaped during the crop season owing to a reported shortage of labour to do so.

3.

4. Does not arise."

5.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Oral Reply No. 36/1964 stands in the name of the honourable and learned member for St. James who is not yet in his place.

QUESTION to HARDSHIP AND EXPENSE SUFFERED BY OWNERS OF SOWS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 51/1964 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip.

Mr. WEEKES:

The Question reads as follows-To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

1. Is Government aware that much hardship, inconvenience and expense are suffered by owners of sows through having to bear the cost of transportation etc. to the several Agricultural Stations in the Island whenever their sows are being serviced there?

2.

3. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government initiate a scheme whereby artificial insemination can be done at the homes of owners so as (a) to avoid the hardship and expense abovementioned: (b) to encourage more people to rear sows and (c) to increase the number of piglets in the Island?

4.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

"No, sir. No complaint to this effect has been received by the Ministry.

2. Artificial insemination of pigs is still in the developmental stage in other countries and it is not proposed to introduce it here until the techniques have been sufficiently perfected to enable it to be successfully undertaken."

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for Christ Church to move the passing of a Resolution relating to the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals made by the Hon. Premier on the 1st July, 1965.

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, as the person responsible in our Party for financial matters, I would like to make some observations on the Budgetary Proposals of the Premier. If we review the past year's workings, we will readily see that agriculture and the production of sugar are still the mainstay of our economy, and this will continue, I am sure, for many years to come. We have seen other things coming along to help the sugar Industry in stabilising our economy, but apart from the Tourist Industry which is growing quite healthily and rapidly, the others are still in the embryonic stage. If we return to agriculture, we will see that we are still benefiting financially from the windfall year 1963. Not only did we have \$4 million

surplus in 1964 as the result of that year, but it carried forward, as I had predicted, into 1965, and we find that that was mainly responsible for the large surplus of \$7 million in this year. We are still therefore extremely dependent on the sugar industry.

We are somewhat worried at this moment because the United Kingdom Government has put up proposals to the Commonwealth Sugar Producing countries for a change in the formula by which they fix the annual price of sugar on the negotiated basis. 2.45 p.m.

Now, any change in formula from their point of view is not on an increased basis. I am sure that they are think-ing of reducing the price to the Commonwealth producing countries because at a meeting convened in the West Indies among sugar producing countries in this region, it was stated very clearly by the sugar producers that any change in the formula was not to mean any reduction in the price from its present basis. That is something to be ironed out later this year; I think in October.

You can see, therefore, what worry we are concerned about in this change of formula because in Barbados particularly we are so dependent on sugar to maintain our economy. In Trinidad, to a lesser degree, they are dependent on sugar because they are almost 50% dependent on oil. In Jamaica, they have their bauxite; but in Barbados sugar remains the greatest export of the country.

We do know that a lot has been said recently about it and I have elaborated on it in recent months and I do not intend to go over it again that we are producing large

amounts of sugar at uneconomic prices. This year I am told that we would be selling about 3,000 tons of sugar at world market prices which in many cases would be below the cost of production. This year plantations will receive for their canes \$16.00 odd per ton as against \$19.00 per ton which they were getting in recent years. The reason is because the World Market price is in the vicinity of \$100 (B. W. I.) as against \$504.00 per ton which they got in 1963. That explains the reason.

We know that the sugar producers are concerned about this and they are even contemplating diversification in other crops. They have recently employed two agronomists - Dr. Gooding and Mr. Hutson - who are actively concerned in the economics of other crops which would be suitable for Barbados. In other words do not go to them and say plant something else and think they will do it; the economics must be worked out. I am sure if it can be proven to the sugar producers and cane farmers that they can put their land to greater economic use than in sugar, they will set aside so many acres for experiments.

Under Agriculture comes fishing and, as I have said, we will have to go farther in deeper waters if we are to catch more fish. This year we saw a very a very short season of flying fish. It lasted about three weeks then we could not consume the catches which were being landed here. It did not last for more than three weeks but we could not cope with it; and I am told that large fish can be caught if we had larger boats to go into deeper waters to catch them.

We have seen other fishermen, such as the Japanese, fish further into the Atlantic and they are now landing large catches of king fish in Trinidad. They have just established a plant in Guadeloupe or Martinique which is their base for sending other catches into the U. S. A. We can learn something from them, and I am sure the hon. Minister for Agriculture Lands and Fisheries would be well advised to pay

attention to that - although I am thinking he is doing it - so as to increase our catches of fish.

The next large item of our economy is Tourism and this year we have reached the figure of \$24 million. It has grown quite rapidly in the last three to four years, and it has the potential of growing to a very much larger figure than that. But we would like to see a healthy growth. We would like to see the hotel development keep pace with the demand, but we would not like to see more building taking place before the visitors have been educated and told to come down this side, because the result would be that you will find many hotels fighting each other for the few visitors who would be coming, and instead of all making money, some would be losing money. It would help people in the hotel development to keep pace with the flow of visitors to the Island.

There are other things which we can do to help the industry. That is to say, not only should we induce the visitors who come here for two or three weeks, but we should pay attention to retired persons settling here. Barbados can be a resort for retired persons from North America and other countries for that matter; but to do that, I have suggested in the past, and I am going to suggest again, that the Hon. Minister of Finance should investigate the possibilities of giving up income tax from money brought into the country by way of pensions. In other words, any retired person whose pension comes from outside of Barbados, the amount of which is spent here should be tax free. Allow them to come and settle here, pay their rents and pay their servants, travel around the island, enjoy themselves, buy their food and clothing and pay their utility bills. Do not collect one cent of income tax from that money, and by so doing you will encourage large sums of money which are needed for this island. That suggestion has been thrown out in the past and it is going to catch on in other territories. Let us be one of the first to put it into operation. Too often we have legislation of the sort which is two or three

years behind other territories. We have recently Introduced a Bill which is based on the Bahamas, Bermuda and Jamaica, This Bill is to encourage international organizations which wish to deal outside of the territory to have a tax free holiday in Bahamas. 2.55 p.m.

Let them come in; let them trade outside. I am suggesting that the retired person should be allowed to bring in his money, and only that which is spent in Barbados should be tax free. If he had an income of \$10,000 and he brought it in here, but only spent \$5,000 in one year, you should tax him on the remainder, on the \$5,000. Or, on the other hand, let him bring in what he wants to spend tax free. That would be a great incentive to the Tourist Industry. We must realise that the present position of sugar is such that you must do everything possible so as to further the next biggest industry in this island, which is now \$24 million. We are also encouraging other industries in Barbados. This is something for which we have fought for many years: but because of the limitation of our local market, people will come and look and then go away. We have been able to attract some industries recently, and that seems to be reasonably good. If we can tie in with other industries in the Caribbean area and if we can tie in our market. I am sure that there will be a greater flow of such capital in Barbados. It does not seem, however, that the politicians of this region have come around to the idea of a Federation, and Federation seems to be farther away now than it has ever been before. As a matter of fact, this will be an appropriate time for me to say that the White Paper on the Federation Talks, which was promised In the month of June, has not yet been tabled. In the reply by the Finance Minister, we would like him to state what has happened to that White Paper and we would also like him to give us a little wider picture as to his most recent proposal of a Free Trade Area with British Guiana. We cannot express any opinion on that; we do not know the details of what it involves. This Party is convinced that we will have to tie in

with some other regions in the West Indies if these other industries are to thrive and expand. The local market is too small. As a matter of fact, one or two of these es-tablished industries will soon absorb this market and they will be looking for further fields overseas. They may be attracted to leave here and go elsewhere if the stagnation which exists in the Eastern Caribbean remains. If each island wants to develop similar industries on its own door-step, then we will be competing with each other and we will be getting nowhere very quickly.

Mr. Speaker, mention was made of the balance of pay-ment in the last large deficit of \$51 million this year. That is the largest deficit so far, but that can be broken down. In fact, an attempt was made by the Hon. Minister of Finance at least to explain some of the reasons for this large deficit of \$51 million or balance of payment. With new industries coming in, much of that money is spent in machinery and imports of that nature; the expansion of the tourist industry forms part of our invisible exports because some of that money goes to the purchasing of items for tourism and for the development of hotels. Also a large part of that money is met by remittances from England, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. You have remittances from emigrants overseas and from persons who have gone abroad to make a living and who send back money for their families in Barbados; it is estimated that these remittances are in the vicinity of \$7 million. My estimate, however, is that they amount to more than that. When we think of the number of \$5 bills which come back here in envelopes, the amount of money remitted in that way cannot easily be traced.

There is also the question of investments overseas, remittances and so on. The private sector is of ten accused, quite wrongfully, I believe, for not investing sufficiently large sums of money in new developing industries in Bar-bados. It is often said that the private sector, or the people in it, will sit idly by and allow foreigners to come in and invest in these ventures. Mr. Speaker, that is not so at all. You take a glance at recent industries and expanding industries because these industries have been expanded over

these years and they are almost entirely Barbadian owned. You take Banks Beer or Banks Breweries; that is a capital formation of \$2 million and the money has almost entirely been subscribed by Barbadians, and when I say Barbadians, I mean resident Barbadians, Setting aside the agricultural community, with the exception that there are a few absentee proprietors, almost every plantation in Barbados is owned by resident Barbadians. That is something of which we are very proud because in Jamaica and Trinidad the sugar in-dustry is controlled by Messrs. Tate and Lyle. Dividends therefore flow out from Trinidad and Jamaica, but in Bar-bados those dividends remain here. People wonder how it is that we, in a one-crop economy, could be as stable as we are. That is one of the factors of which we are very proud. The recent issues of the Telephone Company have been sub-scribed by Barbadian capital; Government short loans have been increasing in number and they have all been taken up in Barbados. We have the manufacturing of drugs and bricks in which there is much local capital, although the know-how may have come from outside Barbados. You have the manufacture of shirts and other garments and all of these things. Hotels have been built or bought by private capital, but there is still a large sector of local capital invested in hotels in Barbados and we would welcome more. 3.05 p.m.

It is unfair to say that the private sector is not pulling its weight in the economic development of Barbados. I am proud to say that after a look at these items there are many more. There is expansion of the rum industry and the expansion of the ice companies.

I will mention one thing, Mr. Speaker, which businessmen have reason to complain about. When they do approach Government for certain concessions or even to make land available to establish branches of existing industries, often they are not given the courtesy of an early reply. I know of many instances where there are great delays from the Ministry - I do not know who is to blame - over applications from local companies for expansion of other types of manufacturing industries allied to what they are doing, and they are not given the courtesy of prompt replies. I will not here call names, but I will tell the Minister of those that I do know. If that was rectified, you would probably find a more healthy expansion of local capital in expanding businesses in new businesses. The Government should be just as concerned as we are about the strengthening of our economy. Barbadians are proud of what they are doing; they have reason to be proud. We welcome foreign capital, and we welcome foreign know-how because the two together can put our people to work; but at the same time we wish equal treatment for local capital as against foreign capital.

We come now, Mr. Speaker, to the tax allowance which has been given to working wives. I am very happy to know that I drew attention to this just a few months ago, and although I am thankful, and, I am sure that working wives are, for the increase from \$300 to \$420, I had hoped that it would have been a minimum of \$600. I do know that there is not much play left for a Minister of Finance in our economy to be very spectacular, unless he is going to make additional taxation to already highly taxed taxpayers, and that we do not wish to see. We are not advocating that; but we must find money for essential services and the commitments which we have. I had hoped that the Minister of Finance could have seen it possible to increase another allowance which is the deep concern of many Barbadians. Today, we have a medical allowance, I think, of \$120. The Government has admitted that the cost of medical treatment in Barbados has gone up as a result of the new Hospital Fees both for operations, treatment and for hospital beds. It has been a considerable increase over what we had in the past, and I had hoped that at the same time the Minister would have given us an increased allowance for medical expenses. I had hoped that with the increased cost of medical care, the allowance would have been raised to about \$500.00. Actually, it only applies to those who have sudden medical expenses in one year, and I do not know of any avenue that is more deserving than a family that is

suddenly stricken with some sickness which needs expensive medical care. I hope that the Minister of Finance will take note of that and at the earliest possible opportunity give some relief in that direction.

Now, I also would like to state that if the Minister of Finance would take businessmen in this community more into his confidence, he would probably find that on the few occasions that he has attempted certain taxation, he could have been put right before hand. I am not alluding to the proposed tax on travelling. When we first saw the proposed tax, we knew at once that it was wrong, it was unworkable and unwieldy, and would be very hard on those who could least afford it. He must have been reading our minds, because our proposal was that the tax should be imposed on every one, because we were convinced that those using the facilities of the Airport should pay for them, and the new proposal of \$2 per person leaving the Airport other than intransit passengers has met with our entire approval. We must find money to run the Airport and extend its facilities, and who should pay for those more than the people who are using it? And those who use it are the ones leaving the Airport. I would say, therefore, that if the Minister in cases like that would take into his confidence people who are concerned in these matters, he would be well advised. He should not think that every one is going to jump the gun when there are taxation proposals and capitalise on them. I am not for one moment

saying that if he has good reasons to believe that the duty on rum, whiskey or gin can bear an increase, that he has to go and ask the merchants about that; but on other matters, he could be well advised by persons whose daily concern it is to deal with these matters.

Now this is going to be somewhat of a little departure from that. I am going to ask the Minister of Finance to make an exercise into the possibility of reducing both company and personal income tax in the years ahead. We have such a high rate both of personal income tax and companies tax in Barbados that it is holding back the economy of this island. There should be an exercise by competent persons into the possibility of a reduction. I am not saying, as someone, has said that it should be abandoned, although we would like to see it, but there should be some reduction. It has been done in Montserrat, and although you may say that Montserrat can do that because they get no income, that is not altogether so. 3.15 p.m.

If you can find the exercises: what it would cost the Government and what effect it would have if you would be able to have a 10% company's tax deduction, that is to say from 40% to 30% and also a reduction in personal income tax in much the same relation.

It would have one immediate effect. You would not have the Civil Servants coming as they probably would be coming in the near future, asking you for salary increases. It would be given them through the other end. Not only would that be the case by Civil Servants, but by the entire community: because one of the first things any person in the island or out of the island wants to know is what tax reduction they are getting per annum. That goes too clearly to show that income tax has reached its height. I would like to know what effect it would have, what savings and what boost it might be to the economy of the island. I know that you may at this stage not want even to entertain the idea for political reasons. The Hon. Premier has been accused already of taxing the poor and leaving the rich. But that is not so. If 5% of the population is paying 90% of the taxation and, may be, fairly heavy taxation, that could not be so by any stretch of the imagination.

I would like to know what the exercises would result in if that could be done. In general, with respect to the Budget Proposals, we are in general agreement. We were very pleased to learn that a surplus of \$7 million was available this year. When you can realise that, I think that it would have been unwise to have any increased taxation at all. Anyhow, the relief in taxation for another year would help the economy to expand; but if we are to expand in or*

der to meet the demands of our growing population, some-thing else would have to be found and you are not going to find it in one sector or avenue; it must be found in every-thing. Everything must be made to work to its fullest. Agriculture, industry and anything which is not too great a burden on Government Revenue that would encourage such an expansion should be recommended.

We did not know at that time that there was a surplus of \$7 million. However, I think the Budget Proposals are wise and the slight increases to protect and encourage the local shirt and garment manufacturers have been a step in the right direction. We entirely agree that we must learn to do more for ourselves, and I am very pleased that the Hon. Premier has seen fit in order to restrict imports on quantitative tariff bases if the lower figure cannot come up to the standard required they still will be able although at much higher prices, and that is the magic by which it should always be done.

Mr. Speaker, we have noted and discussed in recent months the educational proposals for this area. You are giving 1,500 scholarships virtually to Private Schools and there is also the expansion of the School Meal Programme in St. Michael, St. George and St. John, and most recently you are to have compulsory education in the municipal area, St. George and St. John. This step has been taken because the facilities in these areas are considered adequate for the school population of the ages from five to twelve.

Sir, I wonder why you should say 12 and not 14, because the age of 14 is the school leaving age. The Hon. Minister concerned may be able to give the reason.

We would say that with the introduction of compulsory education it is going to be a great burden added to the Government and the Councils Municipality. I know so because we of the Municipality have found out that we have to provide clothing for many children who would otherwise be unable to go to school; and with this compulsion, it would be an added burden on the Head, clothing; in the Municipality.-

I go further and say that this proposal is going to carry a burden on the parent. If the parent does not send that child to school for some reason or the other, he can be called before a magistrate. We agree with compulsory education, but I am only saying what are the implications.

I also notice that under the School Meal Programme, there is an extension of the Scheme. I do not know if it is a modified form of meal which is proposed, because that was a suggestion of ours long ago. A hot meal for school children of this Island is going to be a great burden, and almost an impossible task if the school population in Barbados is to receive it; and as you have proved yourself to be wrong on other occasions, if you find it is so with respect to this scheme, well then, come straight and say that we have tried out the experiment and we can have a modified form which no one would deny to the children.

As regards this hot meal scheme, we must also look at it in the context of our economy as to what we can afford, and if a bun, a good sandwich and a piece of cheese, or a hamburger will fill the bill with a quantity of milk built around it, then instead of your giving cooked bread-fruit and a few vegetables which we started off with, try the other things. 3.25 p.m.

I am not decrying the attempt; but if it is proved to be beyond the physical and financial ability of our Government to do that, let them at an early date modify the scheme so that meals will be given to more children and we would be in agreement with that. With these proposals and observations we generally agree with the Budgetary Proposals and we look forward to a further explanation. I would like the Minister of Finance to put his economist to work on the proposals, particularly on the question of a reduction of income tax and company tax. We want to know what would be the cost and what would be the benefits. Unless some-

thing like that is done, I cannot see ourselves going very far in an orderly way.

Mr. Speaker, I was just reminded of new proposals which seem to be coming to a head. As to the matter of social security, we would welcome such a proposal if we can afford it, but I did note some comment in these proposals which stated that within our life time we shall see a scheme or system of

social security as the chief means by which the Government is seeking to relieve hardship. In relation to this scheme of social security, that is being considered, and with the advice and help of United Nations Experts, the groundwork is being laid. The appropriate part of the Financial Statement and Budget Proposals laid by the Hon. Premier says this:-

"The chief means by which the Government is seeking to relieve hardship is a social security scheme. With the advice and help of United Nations Experts, the ground-work is being laid. Plans for the introduction of the scheme are well advanced, and we can now look forward to the achievement within our time of full employment in a really free society or a society free from hunger and want."

Mr. Speaker, these are very admirable words and they are very nicely put. They might have been taken from some textbook somewhere, but we will welcome them. With our large unemployment figures today and with the increasing population which we have, there will be another 10 or 15 years for this achievement which, is still within our life time. If we can have such a society, I take my hat off to any Government; but for a social security scheme to handle the work successfully there should be the maximum of employment and the minimum of unemployment, which is not what we have. In another place the Hon. Pre-mier mentioned the unemployment problem, the serious problem which faces our growing population, and therefore the Government is aware of that. However, Sir, as I have already said, this very happy paragraph or expression which has been placed here might have been taken from a textbook somewhere else. I do not wish the public generally to believe that this is really adaptable. Whatever is adapt-able for us we have to work for, and we have to work very hard for it. Each and every one who is eligible for work must do his best. I had hoped that the Government would have come down with some means — I hope they will do it later on this year - of trying to attract the extra money which is available in a savings scheme. Suggestions were made to the Government about a year ago in relation to a Committee which was set up; the suggestion was that there should be certain proposals for a savings scheme to be started in schools. This is not now a question of saving for a rainy day, but it is a question of saving for a purpose. The Government needs large sums of money for capital investment and capital expansion. Instead of people frittering away their dollars in Marhill Street in races which are being run in Trinidad, some of that money could take the form of a Government-run lottery in Barbados. You will always get back the money instead of getting the interest on it, and that interest will form a prize. In every three months you will draw the interest rate and a few lucky ones will get that interest. That is an incentive to the Government who would have use of the money. That is also an investment. There is no doubt about it that there is a flair for risk and gamble with the people of this country. All of us have that flair, but the Government could capitalise on this scheme. The Government can run the lottery and have the use of your money, and the possibility of that incentive is the drawing of a prize of \$500, \$1,000.00 or \$1,500.00 all depending on the amount of interest available from the deposit. I hope that that scheme will work.

We have also suggested a scheme like that which obtains in England whereby children are encouraged to put in their money weekly in a savings scheme. When they come out of school and begin to work, they would have something on which to go. I am submitting that Barbadians must work to that end. Do not let us think that one small sector of the community should continue to pay heavy taxation, whereas others will not be paying anything. The same thing applies to the public companies. We would like to see a

greater investment from the people in public companies. Banks breweries is one example of what I am

saying; we would like to see that widened because each and every one will have an interest in the activities and in the economy of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks I will again say that the Budget Proposals meet with our approval on this side of the Chamber. (Cheers)

Mr. SMITH rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member seconding the motion made by the hon. Junior member for Christ Church?

Mr. SMITH:

Yes, Sir, Mr. Speaker, you will find me this afternoon acting in an advisory capacity more so than in flogging a horse. As to these Budgetary Proposals, I may say that, as far as the Black Box is concerned, it has lost its sting. 3.35 p.m.

Most people had begun to believe that whenever the Black Box appeared on the scene, death was at the door, but in this case the death blow had already been dealt about a year or two ago. In other words the stinger had already been left in the arms of those people whom it had stung so hard. As you know, Sir, when a bee stings, it leaves the stinger, and it is no more a stinging bee; it becomes a drone bee. The Black Box has certainly left its sting in the people in the last two years.

On page 2 of the Budgetary Proposals which I have in my hand the Premier states the following:-

"At the 31st March, 1962, the Island had a deficit of \$948,000. I was faced with the problem of meeting the bill of over \$2 million for Civil Service salary increases and back pay and somehow or the other getting the economy of the Island off the ground at the same time, A strong dose of medicine was clearly indicated and we ended up the Financial Year 1962-63 with a deficit of \$74,000 only. The import duties on twenty-seven items were abolished in order to stimulate local production. The patient survived despite the wails and moans of disgruntled alcoholics and unemployed politicians."

Now, Sir, a strong dose of medicine was recommended and passed on to the patient, but good luck for the patient, he was not so weak and sick as the doctor had expected, because after the heavy over-dose of medicine the patient still survived. The ones that the Minister of Finance re-ferred to are the disgruntled alcoholics. When a person is accustomed to drinking his rum, an over-dose of four cents on a half-gill is sufficient to make him disgruntled or moan and do something more than moan; but the people in this country are so friendly and take things so calmly that the Minister can afford to call them disgruntled, and mention that the patient has survived. If we did not have alcoholics in our midst, I am sure, Sir, that we would not have this type of Budgetary Proposals here this afternoon. You can clearly see that by imposing that over-dose he was only taking a chance. As luck would have it, the patient survived and we are this afternoon in the happy position where these Budgetary Proposals reveal that we have a surplus, when in truth and in fact during the last two years we were making down the hill financially.

I can remember, Sir, that when this tax was first imposed, the Hon. Minister of Finance said that one could do without drinking rum, and that he had no apologies to make for inflicting this over dose of

medicine on the rum drinkers and if that were true, he would not be in a position this afternoon of having a little money in the till; so we can clearly see that it is good to have alcoholics; and rum is a food for most people, though at that time the Minister said they were not supposed to drink it. What would be the position if those people had obeyed him and refused to drink it? The Minister also recommended an over dose for another patient, but after two or three months he discovered if he had insisted on injecting the patient, those patients who

had an interest and who were sick at that building on Wildey Road would have gone overboard, and he has returned. Although he said that rum was not necessary and that people were not supposed to drink it, it still stood the test, and he did not have to back down as he is accused by some people of doing or be given the name of \"Back-down Premier\". That shows, Sir, that you have to be very careful with these injections and that it is not always safe to overdose a patient. 3.45 p.m.

People of this country have come to realise it and if they were disgruntled - although I do not believe they were disgruntled because if you had a disgruntled servant I do not think he would work well. Therefore, if these alcoholics were disgruntled, they could not raise their minds to that lovely beverage. I will have to say that they were more satisfied than disgruntled because they stood up under the overdose and the patient survived.

Now, Sir, we pass on. The Hon. Premier mentioned that it was due to having to face the Island's Civil Servants by finding money to pay them. I do not know if he is thinking that he would not have to look for more again to pay them; but if the cost of living should keep at the same pace as it is now, by all means, he would have to look at them again although it was said that something would have to happen extraordinary for him to consider giving them an increase. It is not going to be that anything would have to happen extraordinarily; he will have to give them an increase because when you take into consideration that everybody is moving on, and everybody is asking for a little piece more change and is getting it, therefore I cannot see for the life of me that Civil Servants of this country are going to take it sitting down and go on to work as they were working before for little or nothing. We have to make increases so as to measure up with the times and to offset your Budget.

Leading from that, I am going to throw this out to the Hon. Premier. If he has not thought about it yet, he had better start thinking about it so as to keep things going, because as the old man said, it would be worse than the first. It is a matter if the Hon. Premier does not consider and look like doing something as far as the Civil Servants are concerned.

Coming to employment, I do not know if the Hon. Minister of Finance knows this, but unemployment is still on the move; and even in some of the Government Departments, he may be surprised to know or to hear that some of the workers who were laid off during the months of January and February are still laid off up to now and are not yet re-employed. Therefore, you have unemployment rampant in the Government Departments. There are workers who are walking the streets up and down still looking and asking for work, I feel that it should be the duty of the Minister concerned to make notes of what has been stated here this afternoon and go into the question. As I have said, I am not criticising the Government this afternoon. I am trying to see if I can be of any help by drawing to their attention things which are not going in the best and safest way or in the interest of the country. The Ministers responsible should see to it or get in touch with the Heads of Departments concerned and ask them to find out if any persons working in their departments have been laid off and up to now have not been re-

employed, and if those people are told that there is no work for them to do because there is no money to pay them.

I do not know if it is true, but when they were laid off they were told that the money was gone, and that they would have to wait until the new financial year started. I do not know when that new year would be, but I am thinking that the new year of the Government has already started, and since it has started, it has very nearly come to its end; therefore, something is wrong.

The Head of the Department, or some of the people in it, are so sympathetic towards these workers that they are trying to rotate the workers. In other words, they are lay-

ing off "A" who worked last week and bringing on "B" to work this week. Therefore, it is not the fault of the people responsible for taking on these workers. They are rotating the workers; so I believe the Minister concerned knows that such things are being done and carried on in this Department. However, it was not mentioned in these proposals or elsewhere that unemployment is at a very low ebb, but it may be somewhere else. There is not sufficient employment in the Government Departments because workers are still hanging around, especially the Department of Highways and Transport, asking the Personnel Officer and the Supervisor when they are going to re-employ them. At till time of the year, that should never be the case if the Government was doing its part.

Now, Sir, another part mentioned in the Budgetary Proposals is this:- "We were treated to such statements by a former Chairman of the Cabinet as 'putting aside something for a rainy day' and 'good housekeeping'."

I feel that the Hon. Premier was referring to a Minister or Chairman of the last Government when he was laying his Budget because in such order, it is a clear definition.

I will go on to read further:-

"There has been some idle talk that the Government is over-taxing the population because we have enjoyed surpluses on current account for the past two years, i.e. in 1963-64 and 1964-65. This is far from the truth because we are borrowing at the rate of \$8 million per year in order to provide the funds for the development which is taking place and to which the Legislature has given its prior approval and consent from time to time. 3.55 p.m.

"In truth and in fact we are not paying our way and we are getting certain facilities now to which we are asking posterity and those who come after us to contribute. Current surpluses mean that we borrow less. For ten years prior to my first budget, the average \$3 million surplus was spirited away on unremunerative overseas investment through a lack of understanding of facts of life on the part of the former Ministers."

Now Sir, if the particular Chairman was conscious enough to try to run his house or to run the Government in such a way that he is putting up for a rainy day, I do not see that there would be anything wrong in that, because any sensible housewife, rather than spend all that her husband earns by the month or by the week, would not spend it and not remember that the rain would fall some day or that someone would be taken ill some day and all the money will be used up. Something might go wrong, and then the

husband will have to appeal to the Government or to the Public Assistance Board for help. I do not think that there is anything wrong in any Government trying to go cautiously. It is all well and good when you take up your last dollar and spend it and nothing happens. You can pat yourself on the back; but when you spend the last dollar and something happens, then more persons than yourself will suffer. Therefore I feel that the particular housewife who is thinking about a rainy day is the wise housewife. The Premier and Minister of Finance in his Budgetary Pro-posals goes on to say this:

••The reason why this aggregate sum has risen rather than fallen is that other sectors of the economy have been expanding. Most important has been the rapid growth of the tourist industry. It is estimated that tourists spent about \$24 million in Barbados last year. The industry has continued to swell in the current year, and it is essential that we should press on with the construction of additional hotel accommodation and the improvement and enlargement of Seawell Airport. In 1964, 240,399 passengers went through the Airport, an increase of 48,872 on the number in the previous year. Another indicator of the growing popularity of the Island is the increase in cruise passengers from 27,194 in 1963 to 41,671 in 1964."

Mr. speaker, we would have to praise the shipping lines and the Airlines for doing such a magnificent job, by putting two and two together and improving the accommo-dation of their Airlines, their cruise ships and things of that sort. All these businessmen have been getting together with their own funds and while they are thinking of ex-panding and helping themselves, they are also thinking of helping this Colony. The Government cannot altogether pat themselves on the back for this state of affairs because they did not provide the ships or the airlines. They can provide the hotels, but the Government did a magnificent job when they provided the Harbour. I believe I am right in saying, and even this present Government will agree with me, that in spite of all that has been said about the last Government, this Government should take off their hats to the last Government when they look back and talk about what is being done at the Harbour, the increases in the amount of money obtained and everything which is being done down there.

The business people of this country or those of any other country are in truth and in fact really responsible for this state of affairs. I term any Government as I would term a housewife. Some housewives remain at home, read books and listen to the radio and think about the dresses which they are going to press for a particular party or for going to the cinema. That is the duty of some of the house-wives. On the other hand, the husbands of these wives have to be on the grind in trying to work for money to bring into the homes. It is the duty of the wife when the husbands arrive with the money to spend it wisely. That is what is happening or what should happen with any Government because the businessmen of this country have to work their brains and look for capital and do some of everything in order to raise funds so as to establish a business or businesses and get them off the ground successfully. The Government is just there waiting until a business succeeds in order to get part of the profits by way of taxation so as to run the country.

As the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said, the Government should take the businessmen more into their confidence and when it comes to certain matters, they should ask them for their advice and try to get the line-up from them. In that case, they will be able to do a better job and, in my opinion, they will be able to get more money in the till. They should not be like some people who, as soon as they see a businessman, they expect him to be everything in this world, except being honest. They should not be like some people who will say that that business-man is not going to advise you honestly or he will

not advise out of his favour and things of that sort. You must remember that the businessman knows things better than you know them. Of course, you must not tell him your business; if it is your intention to put something on whiskey or rum or anything like that, nobody will expect you to go to him and ask him if he feels that you should tax those things. 4.05 p.m.

There are certain things which you might be doing for the first time and on which you should seek advice; otherwise, you are bound to find yourself backing down without anyone asking you to do so. This occurred not too long ago with the proposed tax on passengers leaving Seawell Airport. Nobody agreed with that because in my opinion it would have been imposing an additional burden on Barbadians and no one else. There are people leaving this country in search of work, and if a ticket costs \$400, you can imagine what a person would have to pay in addition at 2% on the price of the ticket. Before the matter could reach this Table for consideration, the Minister of Finance had to change it up. If he or whoever is responsible for it had taken the matter up with the Airline people, when it did reach us and the public, no one could say a word against it. The Premier should not adopt an attitude of not listening to anyone or referring to a suggestion as a \"cold pone\" amendment because that attitude gets you nowhere. A person cannot always be right.

In your capacity, Sir, as one of the best lawyers Bar-bados has produced, you may have at some time to listen

to a layman, and you may find yourself putting down the book from which you have quoted the law and acting on what the layman says to you, and you and your client are liable to come out with flying colours. It is a reflection on Gov-ernment to bring down Bills or Resolutions to this House, and before they are debated they are followed up by all sorts of amendments. It is not a good reflection on the person who drafts them. That should be left to someone like me who does not know law. I have been in here long enough that I can go back out, and I cannot remember anything like that happening during my time; so it is not a good reflection on the Government which is responsible for over 240,000 souls in a country to make such big mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think you were in the Chair at the time, but I was told by the Hon. Premier that I under-take to do things I cannot manage. I do not think I have proved that up to now, but he has proved it on his part with certain Bills and Regulations, and that has been proved by the proposed tax on passenger tickets. The withdrawal of that proposal has shown me that he tried to undertake doing some things that he could not manage. I can remember that years ago when we were discussing a minimum price for canes, I was told by someone that we could fix the price or do whatever we liked; it would not prevent him from loosening the roller where instead of getting eight tons of cane to a ton of sugar, you would get four or six tons, and the people would lose. That never saw the light of day because it could not work. One has to be very careful in trying to tackle things he cannot manage.

The Government intends to spend money on Seawell Airport to improve it; but I have not heard anyone say that he is suffering at the moment, nor have I heard in-coming or out-going passengers complaining about room; so if they have the money to spend, they can spend it, though I always say that first things should come first. There are many other ways in which money can be spend to relieve unemployment. I have been to a few airports, and I feel that Seawell is among some of the best I have seen; so if you do not have other pressing matters to attend to, you can spend the money there. 4.15 p.m.

I am not saying to spend it. I would like you to spend it but first things first.

Now, Sir, the statement goes on to say: \"The main object of the exercise is to relieve the serious unemployment problem which faces our growing population. At the same time, management and labour must see that our local industries are efficient and competitive. Only on that way will they be able to obtain the export markets which are so necessary if they are to survive and expand. Local traders must be prepared, even at the expense on some profits, to help with promotion of sales of local products. We must all face up to the fact that in this Island in the ultimate result we shall all sink or swim together. In this matter of trade unless we increase our local production and exports and actively contain our imports we shall come to the point when we shall not be able to import goods in increasing quantities. Our total trade will ultimately begin to shrink and we shall find ourselves unable to support our growing population.\"

This is telling us that we will have to get up and get. We realise that to be sitting back and merely talking, and not even talking the right thing, is not going to help us because there are industries which we must build up, especially the local industries.

Now, Sir, if we are to build up our industries, we have to expand; but, as I have said already, Barbados cannot maintain any industry whatsoever economically. We have to think of outside markets. We have to try and get out some of our products. If we do not try to do that, we cannot expect intelligent business people to come from far with hard cash and invest it in Barbados by way of establishing industries when they know that Barbados cannot give them the business to help them to save their money and to make money.

Let us look around ourselves. This is a very serious matter. Let us look around ourselves and start to let the people of the Caribbean territories do the job. It would appear to me that the leaders are failing or are bound to fail, or want to fail. Well then, if the leaders have seen the writing on the wall and they are not trying in any way to save the situation, I think it is time that the people of the country should try to save it. It is time that the leaders put the ball into the court of the people because it is not good enough for one man, regardless of who he may be, to be deciding for so many when in truth and in fact the majority knows that he is making a wrong decision. It is not good enough when we know we cannot thrive.

We have a teeming population. Everyday more and more children come into the place. Look in the schools and see how many children are in them. They are not going to stay in there forever. The time will come when they would have to leave. When they come out, what are we going to do with them when everybody is already in a job and the emigration possibilities are looking so dim? What provision are we going to make for these children coming out of schools and those who are going in? We know that we have to expand and we have to build up industries and encourage capital; yet we are still monkeying around talking.

It seems as if even the taste of Federation is going out of the people's mouths. It looks so to me. As I have said, Sir, this morning, even now the Mother Country has been waiting on a White Paper from Barbados to know what we are going to do as regards Federation. We are keeping back ourselves. The Mother Country wants to know what her children are doing. I do not know if that is an excuse because you have some Governments which give some replies only to keep you off.

The time has come when we will have to do something and it is no use Barbados playing that she is a \"chiachi King\" and that she is the big boss and can do everything. That is not true. We are still a small island. Do not think that we can run along with British Guiana an independence and leave out the small islands.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let us not anticipate that Barbados is running along with British Guiana.

Mr. SMITH:

I am only mentioning that by the way. I have to make my point clear that we cannot live up to expectations as far as this Budget is concerned unless we come together. I am not going to elaborage on it. Sir, you only go off your point sometimes when everything is not smoth; but when everything is smooth, you do not have to go off your course. 4.25 p.m.

As far as this matter is concerned, I am still saying that Federation Is the answer to this particular problem. That may sound like a Joke, but It is not a joke. If I had the time and the money at my disposal I would leave here tomorrow and visit the other islands and when I return here we would have a Federation. Leave It to me. (Mr, SPEAKER: After the White Paper.) I do not want any White Paper. If you send me off tomorrow, I would go to the smaller islands and when I come back here. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR You would fix-it-right.) As the Hon. Minister has now said, I would fix-it-right. We would have Federa-tion. That is so because I would know how to approach the various leaders; I would want to know how they stand and what they are prepared to know. I would want to know how would each one like to be in the picture. I would want to find out all of these things. I would say \"Let us come together and solve all of these difficulties.\" As one gentleman has said, let us stop the ruling in Hell methods and have all the ruling in Heaven methods. I quite agree with him. We want to serve the people; we do not want this power any more for one or two people. Let us talk about serving the people. Let us leave this question of power for the last. Let us start.....

At this stage, it now being 4.30 p.m. of the clockMr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock, the time when the consideration of Private Members* Business comes to an end.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, at this stage, I am asking leave to give notice of a Question which I was unable to do earlier today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is asking the leave of the House to give notice of a Question which was inadvertently not given earlier today. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. (AFTER A PAUSE) There being no objection, leave is granted. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appro-priate Minister -

Is Government aware that Mr. Archibald Hunte, formerly employed by the Department of Highway and Transport in the capacity of a watchman, has been suspended from the said post without consideration for his seventeen years' service?

2. Is Government aware that an official Enquiry into the circumstances culminating in his suspension was commenced and adjourned sine die over two years ago?

3.

4. If the answer to (2) is in the affirmative, will Government state (a) whether the said enquiry has been completed; (b) the findings of the said enquiry; and (c) the date (if any) upon which such findings were communicated to the said Archibald Hunte?

5.

4. If such enquiry is not yet completed, will Government state when it is intended that same be resumed?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Leader of the House earlier today gave an intimation of his desire to have a Money Resolution, of which he had previously given notice, dealt with in all of its stages today. Copies of that Resolution have been circulated to hon. members. I therefore beg to move that Committee of Supply be the first Order of the Day under Government Business

Hon. C E. TALMA:

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 you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction of the House when in Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$15,899.00 of which notice was given earlier today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 10 CADET EXCHANGE SCHEME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution which has been circulated, and it is for the purpose of financing a scheme for the exchange of visits between Cadets of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and Barbados during the period from 18th July to

22nd August, 1965. In other words, the visits will begin on Sunday next and they will end on the 22nd of next month. Arrangements for these visits have already been provision-ally made. Transport will be provided free of cost by the Royal Canadian Air Force. The proposal is that Jamaican Cadets should visit Canada; Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, Cadets from Trinidad and Tobago should visit Canada, Jamaica and Barbados and Canadian Cadets should visit Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados and Cadets from Barbados should visit Canada and Trinidad. 4.35 p.m.

We are giving our Cadets while in Trinidad and Canada allowances for messing, laundering, and entertainment for the Cadets who will visit Barbados under the exchange scheme. I think hon. members are aware or were aware of the proposal before, and this merely outlines the position; but if there is any further information hon. members may want, I will gladly give it.

In this Resolution we are also asking for \$9,417 in connection with expenses for Wireless Equipment and Respirators. In the last Estimates we had two nonrecurrent items providing \$10,850 and \$600 respectively for the purchase and installation of Wireless Equipment and for the purchase of Respirators, and we are now asking for \$9,417 for new Wireless Equipment and \$600 more for Respirators, making a total of \$20,000 for Wireless Equip-ment and \$1,200 for Respirators.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the pass-ing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Reso-lution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT ACT, 1965

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Order stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, and is the second reading of a Bill to amend the Housing Act, 1955.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, this is a small amendment to the Housing Act, 1955. Section 18 of the Housing Authority Act sets out how the funds of the Authority may be spent, and this amendment which we now seek to make to the Housing Act is to give the Housing Authority the power to promote sport, provide recreational facilities, establish any business and also give the Authority power to make contributions to welfare within the Housing Areas. The main reason for this amendment, Mr. Speaker, is that recently two Day Nurseries have been established in the Housing Areas. It is the policy of the Government to place in our Housing Areas all the amenities which go to make them good communities, and therefore we have discovered that there are several tenants who live in the Housing Areas who -perhaps would be able to find jobs, but cannot leave their homes to go in search of work because of the fact that they have young children, and there is no place to leave them or no one to look after them. In many cases six, seven, eight, nine and ten year old children have got to be kept from school to look after the one year and two year olds. If the Government introduces compulsory education, how can it in one breath say that these children must be in school, and in another breath not provide in these areas

Day Nurseries where the children can be left so that the older ones can attend school? This is the main reason for implementing this scheme, and asking for this amendment to the Housing Act, 1955.

It is to be noted also that a playing field is now being provided at Grazettes. Later in the year one is going to be provided at the Pine, The Housing Authority must have the necessary authority to take care of these recreational facilities.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, this is a very commendable project. These Day Nurseries are necessary today in most of these housing communities, because as the Minister has said, many a mother could find employment if she could only have someone to leave her child with during the day. I also would like to draw to his attention that I understand that it is intended to open these Day Nurseries and close them at 5 o'clock. If that is so, they would not be of much use, because many of these domestic servants would be coming home at 7 o'clock and it would be inconvenient if these Day Nurseries closed at 5 o'clock, and some provision would have to be made for them.

I would go further and say that these Day Nurseries are rather costly and expensive things to run. I

would certainly suggest that wherever possible you should find voluntary organisations to operate these Day Nurseries, because it would be to your advantage. I have experience of this, because I have seen in St. Matthias one operated there by a voluntary organisation for which funds are raised by way of dances and other things. We contribute from the City Council, and appeals are made to the merchants in Bridgetown for such things as food and even clothing and bedding which they give. 4.45 p.m.

I have known one lady by the name of Mrs. Hall, and often she had to dip into her husband's salary to make ends meet at the end of the month and to pay the Nurses and maids so as to help through with this sort of work. I know that it is rather costly, but wherever it is possible that you can get voluntary workers, try and enlist their aid because if Government has to run all these organisations, they are going to find them a financial burden. Subscribe to them; but try and find in this community people who are willing to undertake the management and care of Day Nurseries, You must provide the funds, but let them have a little leeway. Definitely, closing at 5 o'clock would meet some of the needs, but not all.

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy about this Resolution. As a matter of fact, when I was at the new Nursery which was opened at the Gazette Housing Estate yesterday afternoon, a slight feeling of jealousy prevailed over me.

I hope that the particular Ministry concerned is making a very good attempt to further develop the Housing Area at Thorpes, and I have every confidence that the people in the area, as well as those in the surrounding area, would show such public spirit that the Ministry would be encouraged in a very short time to have a Nursery set up there. I am certain that there are other citizens in other areas who would like to have this same facility in their district. Much would be gained in the island as a whole, and by children growing up in the area by having day Nurseries.

Mr. CORBIN:

I think, Sir, that we all would agree with this Bill. We are grateful for the fact that one of its objects is to protect the little children of Barbados. We all remember that just a few weeks ago we had two fires in which children were burnt to death, one was in St. James and the other in St. Andrew; Parents who work in the field have to go out early and leave their children shut up in the house because they have no one to leave them with. The little kids having nothing to do try to find something to do and

that is where the danger lies. The Housing Authority, being given this power to build Day Nurseries, it would be able to protect these children and I am sure that they would be kept busy when they go there.

The hon. junior member for Christ Church said that even the very estates should erect nurseries on their estates for the people and should contribute provisions to them. When you look around and see the number of parents who are in the field with their little kids, you are bound to conclude that the prevailing situation had forced them to go out and work, and they must either leave them at home or carry them with them in the fields, I know of many mothers who have to run home at various times of the day in order to look after the children whom they left at home.

By the bringing in of this Bill, we have a solution. This Bill would enable the Housing Authority to contribute to Day Nurseries which would be of great help to the people as a whole. If you care for little children, I am sure you would reap your reward in Heaven,

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Shaker, I must say how pleased I am to see that the Government has erected such a spacious building at the Grazettes Housing Estate for caring for the children in that area. I would like to commend the Government for this. In my opinion, Sir, in the near future we should try to have these various centres throughout the whole island. It is not only the people in the parish of St. Michael and the City of Bridgetown who need such a building for their children. I hope the time will come soon when the Government would consider the erecting of Day Nurseries in every parish for the care of children during the time when their parents are out at work.

Mr. BATSON; Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that this Government is making an effort to establish Day Nurseries in the various Housing Areas. Two years ago, I posed a question to the Ministry in connection with the establishment of a Day Nursery in Redman's village, St. Thomas. I think the Hon. Minister, no doubt, now that there is a scheme to establish Day Nurseries, would find it convenient to have one established in Redman's Village because the parish which I have the honour to represent is a predominantly agricultural parish and I feel that being such a parish, it should not be overlooked in this scheme.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In reply to the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the average Day Nursery closes at 6 o'clock in the evening, but the question of closing at five o'clock depends on the need of the area. If it is found impracticable to close at 5 o'clock, well then, it will be opened until later,

I know that there are some Day Nurseries which close at 6.30 o'clock; for instance, the one at Belleplaine closes at that time and sometimes later than that.

As regards voluntary effort, the Day Nurseries established by Government are not run by Government, They are run by a Committee, What the Housing Authority is doing is paying the staff, A dollar a week is contributed by the parents and this is added to contributions made by firms and other public-spirited people, like the hon. junior member for Christ Church and this fund is used for the day-to-day administration of the Nursery. 4.55 p.m.

What the Housing Authority is doing is contributing towards the payment of the wages and salaries of the people employed. There is still an amount of voluntary effort with these Nurseries and it is by means of contributions, as has been pointed out, that the children are fed. Some people made a contribution in kind while others make their contribution in cash. Therefore, the aim to which we aspire is to establish Nurseries in every one of the housing estates throughout the island. We have plans for the conversion of two houses at Sayes Court, and the hon. junior member for Christ Church will be glad to hear this. We have a voluntary Committee, and two or three members are employed to look after the children of that area. Those people will be employed by the Housing Authority, Parents will pay

a fee of 75 cents per week and the Committee will hold fairs and dances and what not, so as to get money for the purpose of feeding the children. If a parent contributes \$3.00 a month the subsidy which is necessary for keeping a child in a Day Nursery is \$11.00; that is to say, it takes at least \$14.00 a month for the maintenance of each child. As I have said, Sir, if it takes an average of \$14.00 per month per child to run the Nursery and the subsidy is \$11.00 per month, then the remainder would have to be

found by contributions. The wages and the attendance to the children will be paid for.

Mr. Chairman, it is also planned to convert a building which has been recently bought at St. Patricks into a Day Nursery. That is the building which adjoins the Boys' School. That building is required by the Ministry of Education and the land is for the extension of the playing field. Instead of having the building closed, we are looking forward to having a Voluntary Committee to look after the raising of funds for the establishment of a Day Nursery in that area. We are satisfied that St. Patricks is an area in which a Day Nursery is needed; we are dealing with these areas as the priority goes. There is a great need for a Day Nursery in the Pine and the same thing could be said for the Grazettes Housing Estate and the Silver Sands area. As I said, Sir, we are dealing with this matter in order of priority. The next area will be Thorpes because the Housing Authority has just planned an extension of the area. More houses will be built at Thorpes this year because there is a demand for housing at Thorpes. We have a large area of land in that vicinity, and we will extend the area. The hon. senior member for St. James need not worry because we will be coming with this extension.

The hon. junior member for St. Philip has suggested that this project be an island-wide project. We would like to make it an island-wide one, but it does not mean that it will be carried through the whole island this year. However, Sir, hon. members can rest assured that wherever possible we will do something to assist those people who have to leave their children at home and go out to work. We are concerned about the recent accidents which have taken place. Just a few months ago, two children were burnt to death in a house and the mother was out working. Last week I heard about a child who got killed and it was reported that this child was left in the care of a younger child. These are things which we are concerned about and we are also concerned about ameliorating these conditions. This campaign will be intensified and we will try to find money so as to have as many of these Day Nurseries as soon as we can afford them throughout the island.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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 on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

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

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

5.05 p.m.

THE RATES OF INCOME TAX ACT, 1965

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John; to move the second reading of a Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking the leave of the House to take charge of this Bill, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, as you and hon. members are aware, it is necessary every year to legislate for the rates of income tax to be charged for what is called the assessment year. It is an annual exercise; and for the year 1965, the current year, it is proposed not to vary the rates which were effective last year, so that the Bill before hon. members therefore seeks to leave the rate on chargeable incomes at the same rate as was in effect during the year 1964. Since there is no change in the rates, and there is, therefore, no reason in my opinion for any lengthy introductory speech on the matter before us, I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, 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.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) ACT, 1965

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Bill standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to proceed to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour is aware, this matter is also a matter dealing with income taxation. It deals, Sir, with the allowances given to wives whose incomes are chargeable in the names of their husbands. At the moment under Section 20, paragraph IX Subsection (1), it is permitted to allow from a wife's earned income an allowance of \$300, and under the present pro-

posals it has now been decided to increase this allowance to \$420 a year with effect from the income tax year commencing 1st January this year. The increased allowance, it is estimated, will cost the Government something like \$35,000 in decrease of revenue. Nevertheless, although I am sure there are people in the community and even hon. members in this House who will cavil over the fact that the allowance has not been increased to a greater extent, yet still I am sure that hon. members will see that under the circumstances it is an admirable gesture on the part of Government, and that this further remittance to the extent of \$35,000 of revenue annually is about the most we can afford at this stage, bearing in mind the present heavy commitments of the Government.

In our fields of Labour and Social Welfare, in the fields of Housing and Education, in the fields of Public Works and Communications, and in the fields of Community Welfare and Development, the expenditure of public funds is increasing, and therefore the Government has to be extremely careful that in making gestures towards relieving the incidence of taxation due care is given to the circumstances that we do not allow our commitments to extend beyond our financial capacity. This increase by 40 per

cent on \$300 to \$420 a year is, as I say, as far as the Government can be legally expected to go at this stage. 5.15 p.m.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to support this Bill although in doing so I regret that instead of the figures \"\$420\" they are not \"\$600\". I know of the commitments of Government; but when it is known that many housewives have to go out and work in order to supplement their husband's income, and in doing so they leave their children at home for which they have to employ other help, I think that that in itself would take up the allowance of \$420. That is taken up in wages and in travelling backwards and forwards to work.

I am sure that the Government is just as conscious of the burden of housewives as I am, and I am sure that if the Government could have given more allowance, they would have done so. However, this is one bright spark in the Budget Proposals for the taxpayer.

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

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, 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.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION re RENTAL OF GROUND FLOOR

OF BUILDING TO MARKETING CORPORATION

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I do know that Your Honour as well as other hon. members would like a short adjournment at this stage, but as Order No. 7 is a rather small item which can easily be disposed of I would suggest that Order No. 7 be taken before the suspension of the Sitting.

I beg to move that Order No. 7 be taken as the next order of the day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Accordingly, Order No. 7 is the next Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church \ "To move the passing of the following Resolution

Resolution to approve the rental of the ground floor of the building formerly used as the Police Post at Speights-town, St. Peter, to the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Addendum sets out very clearly the Resolution.

This resolution seeks the approval by the Legislature of rental to the Barbados Marketing Corporation on a month to month basis at the rate of forty dollars per month, of the ground floor of the building, approximately eight hundred and sixty square feet (860 square feet) in area, and for-merly used as the Police Post, at Speightstown, St. Peter. The Barbados Marketing Corporation will be responsible for the maintenance of the premises.

This is purely an extension of the operational ar-rangements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation to the consumers in the Speightstown area on the same score as is carried out by the Corporation in the City of Bridgetown. The ground floor of this building at Speightstown which was formerly used by the Police is considered eminently suitable for this purpose and we are asking the approval of the Legislature to rent this floor.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass, Hon. A DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Sir, I am sure the Hon. Minister can give us further information on this matter. Can he tell us if they are going to use refrigeration there? The Addendum only says that the Resolution seeks the approval by the Legislature of rental to the Barbados Marketing Corporation on a month to month basis at the rate of forty dollars per month, of the ground floor of the building, ap-proximately eight hundred and sixty square feet (860 square feet) in area, and formerly used as the Police Post, a Speightstown, St. Peter. The Barbados Marketing Cor-poration will be responsible for the maintenance of the premises.

I have to apologise to the Hon. Minister. I did not hear his introductory speech. I can understand from the Addendum that they are renting this building. 5.25 p.m.

What I mean is this: Will the Marketing Corporation be engaged in the processing of fish? In the Northern Area they catch quite a lot of fish. Are they dealing with fish in this area and storing vegetables? And will there be any cold storage or anything of that sort? If the hon. member cannot give me this information now, perhaps I will await the reply which will be given by the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is there any other hon. member who wants to contribute to this debate before the Hon. Minister replies? (AFTER A PAUSE). Apparently there is no other hon. member who wants to enter this debate and the Hon. Minister may exercise his right of final reply, if he to thinks fit.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would like further information as to the use of the ground floor of this particular building which was formerly the Speightstown Police Post. I have already in-timated the purpose for which the ground floor of this par-ticular building would be utilised. I said that it would facilitate both the consumers and the producers of vege-

tables. The hon. member wants to know if any further facilities will be granted for cold storage and things of that sort. I repeat that we want to assist the producers and the consumers of vegetables, but as far as the question of refrigeration is concerned, I am quite sure that the Mar-keting Corporation would provide for cold storage oppor-tunities, but now it is a question of catering for the vegetable section as distinct from the fish section.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for 15 minutes.

Hon. C E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On re-assembling.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I observe there is no quorum present and I make the request that the bell be rung. I observe that there is no Clerk either.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Senior Official Reporter, will you please ring the bell ?

On the bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Order which was last dealt with before the suspension of the sitting was Order No. 7.

MORTGAGE INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 1 is therefore the instant Order of the Day. That Order stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. John To move the second reading of a Bill entitled \"The Mortgage Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the provisions of this Bill seek to amend the Mortgage Insurance Act which was passed in 1962 so as to transfer the functions there-under of the Minister responsible for Housing and the Housing Authority to the Minister responsible for Finance and the Land Development Corporation respectively. The reason why we are introducing this amendment is that since the passing of the Mortgage Insurance Legislation, we have decided to establish an Urban Development Corporation, and we think that it is more appropriate for these functions to be discharged by a separate Corporation than by the Housing Authority which has some of its time taken up with the provision of low cost housing for the working class community.

There are two amendments which I shall be moving to this Bill when we are in Committee and they are in Clauses 2 and 4 respectively. In Clause 2 we propose to change the definition of \"Land Development Corporation\" into \"Urban Development Corporation\" so that those words \"Land Development Corporation\" will be deleted and the words \"Urban Development Corporation\" will be substituted in place thereof. We have to deal with that because, as hon. members will see, the next Bill as printed has the words \"Urban Development Corporation\" in it. At the time when this Bill which we are now considering was printed the use of the term \"Urban Development Corporation\" had not yet been finally decided upon.

I think that the Bill is a very simple one. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.55 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, 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 1 was called and passed. Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires - \"functions\" includes duties and powers;

\"Housing Authority\" means the Housing Authority constituted by the Housing Act, 1955.

\"Minister of Finance\" means the Minister charged for the time being with responsibility for the subject of finance;

\"Minister of Housing\" means the Minister charged for the time being with responsibility for the subject of housing;

\"Land Development Corporation\" means the Land Development Corporation established by the Land Development Corporation Act, 1965.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, in Clause 2, there is an amendment which we should like to make in the last definition \"Land Development Corporation\". The words \"Land Development Corporation\" should be deleted wherever they occur and the words \"Urban Development Corporation\" substituted therefor; so that it will now read

\"Urban Development Corporation means the Urban Development Corporation established by the Urban Development Corporation Act, 1965.\"

I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

Clause 3 was called and passed.

Clause 4 was called. It reads as follows:-

4. The functions of the Housing Authority under the Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962, are hereby transferred to the Land Development Corporation and accordingly -

(a) the definition of \"Authority\" in section 2 of the said Act is hereby repealed;

(b)

(c) references to \"the Authority\" in the said Act shall be read and construed as references to the Land Development Corporation; and

(d)

(e) the reference in subsection (1) of section 3 of the said Act to \"the Housing Act, 1955\" shall be read and construed as a reference to \"the Land Development Corporation Act, 1965\".

(f)

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, in Clause 4 the word \"Urban\" should be substituted for the word \"Land\" in the three places where this word occurs; so that Clause 4 should now read

\"The functions of the Housing Authority under the Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962, are hereby transferred to the Urban Development Corporation and accordingly -

(a) the definition of Authority in section 2 of the said Act is hereby repealed;

(b)

(c) references to \"the Authority\" in the said Act shall be read and construed as references to the Urban Development Corporation; and

(d)

(e) the references in subsection (1) of section 3 of the said Act to \"the Housing Act, 1955\" shall be read and construed as a reference to \"the Urban Development Corporation Act, 1965\".

(f)

I beg to move that Clause 4 as amended stand part.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT, 1965

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John; to move

the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Urban Development Corporation with responsibility for managing the development of areas designated as areas for urban development and for purposes connected therewith.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, in 1962 the Government introduced, and the Legislature passed a Bill, to make provision for mortgage insurance in connection with new town development. It has taken three years to acquire the land necessary to carry out the scheme for middle income and low income housing, due to legal and other difficulties in the acquiring of titles to the land. In the meantime a comprehensive physical development scheme in the island of Barbados has been prepared by the Town and Country Planning Department with the assistance of United Nations and experts from the Department of Technical Co-operation in the United Kingdom. We have Just passed an amendment relating to the present Bill to amend the Mortgage Insurance Act to transfer the power to carry out this Development from the Housing Authority to a new statutory body to be known as the Urban Develop-ment Corporation.

The provisions of the Bill which we now have before us, Sir, are similar to the provisions of the New Towns Act in the United Kingdom, They are similar with necessary modifications to suit our peculiar circumstances here in Barbados, and the purpose of this Bill therefore is merely to create or establish a statutory authority which will be responsible for the construction of the new urban development areas, the laying out of the land, the acquiring of the land, the sale of the land and all the other necessary acts which would enable the community to acquire these houses and pay for them under the Mortgage Insurance Scheme. 6.05 p.m.

The Clauses of this Bill are, apart from the provisions, similar to the Act of the United Kingdom. The Clauses closely follow the course taken by legislation for the es-tablishment of statutory authorities, and therefore mem-bers of this House would be more or less familiar with the kind of powers and functions which statutory authorities such as this would be investing.

The Bill is divided into parts. I cannot say that it is divided into three parts, but the first part deals with the Establishment, Constitution and Status of the Corporation. The second part deals with the Functions of the Corporation and the third part deals with the Funds and Resources and General Financial provisions made for the successful carrying out of the work of the Corporation.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative

without division.

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, 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.

Clauses 1-27 inclusive were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. 6.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

BUSINESS COMPANIES (EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX) BILL

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no need to make that motion because Order No. 6 is automatically the next Order of the Day. That Order also stands in the name of the honourable and learned senior member for St. John- To move the second reading of a Bill to make provision for the exemption from Income Tax in whole or in part of international business companies which are not trading locally.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Bill which we now have to consider makes provision for international business companies in the island to be exempted from income tax in whole or in part, provided, of course, that these companies are not carrying on business in the accepted sense of the term within the island. Hon. members may ask why the Government should be interested in passing legislation in favour of corporations or companies which are not trading within the island. The purpose of this Bill is to create further employment opportunities for the people of this island because if we have international business companies with registered accounting and forwarding of bills, orders, proclamations and so on, will have to be carried on in this island. Although the companies will not be manufacturing here, yet there will be a tremendous amount of clerical work and employment generated by these activities. Quite apart from that, there is also the added factor that the profits of these companies tax which local businesses have to pay, will be deposited and will be invested in this island in the form of Treasury bill or Government debentures and we think that this type of legislation has had a very salutary effect in those developing countries where it has been introduced.

This legislation is not to provide for wealthy people; we are only concerned with business people who are actually creating employment and carrying on business on a very large scale. The popular term by which this type of operation is known is \"off shore\" trading. You are actually trading, but not in the place where the operations are being carried on and which will be Barbados, we hope. This legislation was, naturally, proposed by the Barbados Development Board. We had a firm of experts in the United Kingdom some two years ago to look into all the legislation of a similar type in other territories, and to put up a joint scheme, and it is on that scheme that this present Bill has been founded. The countries which go in for \"off shore\" trading are connected with Barbados in the field of tourism, and these countries are the Bahamas, Bermuda and Jamaica. Similar provisions also, of course, operate in Panama. What the Bill roughly proposes is that a rate of 40% should be charged for a period of 20 years and

thereafter the Legislature would have the right to fix the rate from time to time - the rate which these international business companies which are operating under this Act will pay.

There are certain safeguards which have been inserted in the Bill and some of these safeguards are (a) that more than one-tenth of the sums which on a liquidation thereof, would be receivable by holders of share or loan capital would not be receivable (directly or indirectly) by or for the benefit of persons resident in the Island; (b) more than one-tenth of the assets which, on a liquidation thereof, would be available for distribution after the payment of creditors would not be receivable (directly or indirectly) by or for the benefit of persons resident in the Island; (c) more than one tenth

(i) of the interest payable on its loan and loan capital, if any; and

(ii) of the dividends payable on its preference share capital, if any, not being preference share capital,

is not receivable (directly or indirectly) by or for the benefit of persons resident in the Island. 6.25 p.m.

One of the reasons why this is being inserted is that obviously we do not want to introduce legislation which would exempt companies which have been established here for donkey years and have already liquidated all of their investment, and probably reaped benefits one hundred fold that they should not amalgamate themselves into an international business company and so deprive the Treasury of this Island of much needed revenue.

The purpose of this Bill, I must make it clear, is not to discriminate against local businessmen. The purpose of this Bill is to encourage new well-established and reputable businesses to establish offices in the country, so that we would have employment in the form of clerical services, processing, accounting and that kind of thing.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD 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.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, Your Honour will recall that at Question Time today there were tabled as ready Replies

to three Questions standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James, who at that time was unavoidably out of the Chamber. I am proposing now, Sir, to ask leave of the House to revert to Question Time. A suggestion is that rather than asking for leave to deal with the Questions, a motion should be made for the suspension of some of the Standing Orders in order to revert to Question Time. Personally I see no difference at all; the end is the same.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I gather that the Hon. Leader of the House is disposed to revert to the suggestion.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

This depends on Your Honour's approval.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think that the intimation given me by the Hon. Leader of the House that he is disposed to revert to that suggestion is the more pertinent course to follow.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Hon. C E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time, and Question No. 47/1964 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. James.

QUESTION re UNAVAILABILITY OF FORMS IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that certain printed forms - such as forms for summonses for informants or complainants, forms required for processing appeals to the Full Court, Accused Statement Forms used at the end of a preliminary hearing in indictable offences - are unavailable in several of the Magistrates' Courts in this Island?

2. Will the Minister take urgent steps to have this unsatisfactory state of affairs remedied, and that the said printed forms be made available at the earliest possible opportunity? 6.35 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 47/1964 asked by the Hon. senior member for St. James is as follows-

"Investigations reveal that there was a shortage of forms during the month of April, but that all such forms are now available at all Magistrates' Courts."

POR DRAINAGE OF THE HOLETOWN RIVER

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next question is Question No. 45/

1964 standing in the name of the Hon. and learned senior

member for St. James.

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware:

(a) that the poor drainage of the Hometown River causes great difficulty to persons living nearby in getting in and out of their homes during the rainy season and at hightide?

(b) that the poor drainage is a hazard to the health and comfort of persons living in the area?

(c) that the Northern District Council has brought this matter to the attention of the appropriate Ministry?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45/1964 is as follows-

1.(a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e)

2. The Department of Highways and Transport is experiencing a grave shortage of qualified engineering staff and the lack of a drainage engineer has curtailed the Government's plan for carrying out effective drainage schemes throughout the entire island.

As soon as the services of a drainage engineer are secured the Hometown area will be given a high priority rating in drainage schemes to be undertaken for the whole island.

PIGGERY AT BULLENS AGRICULTURAL STATION

Mr. SPEAKER:

The final question also stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. James. It is question No. 36/1964.

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister -

Is the Minister aware that there is no proper system of disposal of urine and waste from the piggery at Bullens Agricultural Station in the parish of St. James?

2. Is the Minister aware that owing to the lack of such a system a nuisance is being caused to the residents of the district surrounding Bullens Agricultural Station?

3.

4. Will the Minister take immediate steps to have the present situation remedied and a proper system put into effect as soon as possible?

5.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the replies to question No. 36/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James are as follows-

1. Work on improving the system of urine and waste disposal which commenced on the 19th February,

1965, has since been completed and the system is now operating satisfactorily.

2.

3. It is not considered that the system previously used constituted a nuisance.

4.

5. Does not arise in the light of the reply to 1.

6.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

That brings Government Business to an end for today.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I therefore beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until next Tuesday, 20th July, 1965, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C TUDOR:

Before your Honour put the question, it would be remembered. Sir, that when we were about to adjourn last Tuesday, you intimated to us that a servant of this House had suffered a bereavement in the death of his father. He is our Senior Reporter.

On behalf of hon. members, I desire that you see that the customary message of condolence is sent to Mr. Callender.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I shall give that undertaking.

The question that this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday 20th July at 2.30 p'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly,

6.42 p.m.