

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, 16th March, 1965.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.00 o'clock (noon) today.

PRESENT

His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker); Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, (Minister of Development, Trade, Labour and Social Security); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. R. SUC. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. J. B. YEAR- WOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Health Housing, Local Government and Community Development),

Prayers were read.

Mr. LYNCH entered the House and took his seat. MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I beg to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay-

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 28th February, 1965;

Also.

The Draft Estimates for the Financial year 1965-66.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

ine Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1965;

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1965;

Report of the Waterworks Department for the year ending 31st March, 1964,

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Resolution to approve the Order entitled \"The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1965\";

Resolution to approve the appropriation of \$818,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare Grants to be used towards the financing of the construction of the New General Hospital in the current financial year- Resolution to approve the advance from the Public Treasury of the sum of \$10,611,750 to be defrayed from Loan Funds and placed at the disposal of the Government to meet expenditure during the financial year 1965-66 on the Capital Works included in the Estimates Part II - Capital;

Resolution to approve the sum of \$16,386 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964- 65 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1964-65, No, 65 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Resolution to approve under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960 the Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1965-66.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916;

A Bin to Grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 26 / 1964, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Sir, 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 Money Resolutions of which notice was given today with the exception of the Resolution for the sum of \$16,386. This Resolution deals with a matter of some urgency and copies of it have been sent down to hon. members. I am asking for leave to deal with it in all its stages today.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION

Mr. SMITH:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister, Will the Minister state

(a) What were the retail prices of goods imported from Canada into this Island Just immediately before the fall in the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar in 1962?

(b)

(c) What have been the retail prices of the same goods since then?

(d)

(e) What have been the average handling costs of goods from ship to shore and delivery from shed, since the Deep Water Harbour came into operation?

(f)

(g) What was the average handling costs of goods from ship to shore and delivery before the operation of the said Deep Water Harbour?

(h)

(i) What are the retail prices of goods exported from this Island to other Islands of the West Indies and British Guiana?

(j)

CO What are the retail prices of those goods in the Countries named above to which they are exported? 12,25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916, be now read a first time,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six, be now read a first time,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply be taken as the first Order of the Day,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Deputy 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 to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$16,386 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1964-65 No, 65 A Resolution for the sum of \$16,386 was called.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution has just been place in my hands, Give me a chance to look at what has just been placed before me; otherwise it will not be dealt with at all. This running around does not suit me at all, What are we dealing with?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

A Resolution for \$16,386,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Well, just give me a chance to look at it so that we can understand what it is all about,

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1964-65 No. 65

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution for the sum of \$16,386 under two Heads of the Estimates which we propose to take separately.

HEAD 3 - LEGISLATURE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE Head 3 - Legislature - was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 3 stand part of the Schedule,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out one thing from the Hon. Minister and it is this Would it be creating a precedent if this Chaplain, who worked here for over a period of ten years, got a gratuity or an ex gratia grant? I say that for the simple reason that I owe it to myself to raise this question quite honestly when I consider what I read recently and what was written by a very venerable gentleman in this country in the local Diocesan Magazine, This gentleman is not of the complexion of the hon. gentleman who was Chaplain of this House. The very venerable gentleman spoke of the early hardships which the late Chaplain had, (A Pause). I see that the Parliamentary Secretary is making a joke at me. I did not see that this Cost of Living Allowance was in reference to the Chaplain of the Senate. I am sorry, Sir, that I did not see what was written here in this note and I always apologise in these circumstances. There are times when you will make a slip. However, Sir, while I am on this subject, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, if any precedent would be created in making some ex gratia grant or some allowance to the late Chaplain of this House, Rev. Coleman, who died while in office. I think I owe it to myself to make these remarks. Although I am not so old, yet I am old enough to be cognizant of the days which the late hon. gentleman passed through. As I said, I make these remarks after reading what a very

venerable gentleman said about the late Reverend Coleman, this gentleman of the Cloth, and what he had to pass through in the early days. He blazed the trail for others to follow through his courage, and I think that I owe it a duty to myself to make the remarks which I am making. On this occasion I will say to those persons who, like he, had to suffer in those days when they took the Cloth and were pushed around and shunted off, that the late Rev. Coleman got recognition in this country nearly in the evening of his days. In the earlier days people looked at Graduates from the United States of America as persons who were not eligible to be employed in this country. 12. 35 p.m.

It did happen, however, that we were in here and the Reverend Coleman was appointed Chaplain here. You will agree with me that he did receive a small pittance which could hardly keep body and soul together, but after working for 13 years as Chaplain here, I believe that the least the Minister can do is to indicate today what is the Government's feeling on this matter. Despite the fact that it might displease somebody, I owe it as a duty to myself to raise this question on the floor of the House of whether his widow should be given an ex gratia grant. We do know the conditions through which he passed, and I hope that the Hon.

Minister will be able to tell me today if his services will be suitably rewarded. No precedent, I think, will be created, though I speak subject to correction, I believe there were people who retired from the Government Services and got pensions and went into other jobs and received further pensions or ex gratia grants, I am raising this question because I believe the Hon. Leader of the House is one of those people who, before he came to this House, did attempt to fight the question of placing people like the Reverend Coleman, and now that we are in a position to show our feelings in a more tangible way in this manner, I hope the Minister will be able to tell me something about it.

I have much pleasure in voting for this \$9.00 under Head 3 - Legislature., I understand there are other members of this House who would like to know something about this, because there was a time when there was a threat by a Gentleman of the Cloth - I am sorry to have to say this in the presence of one of our up-and-coming members of the Cloth - to open a rum shop and bring down the dignity of members of the Cloth because of the question of pigmentation,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; Mr. Chairman, I think you have been extremely generous to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown in permitting this latitude in dealing with a Resolution in connection with the Chaplain of the Other Place, While I submit that in the course of discussion on a Money Resolution hon. members are allowed to refer in passing to relevant issues, yet still, Sir, to have a long debate on a completely different matter from what is before the Committee is stretching Your Honour's patience a bit too far. The question of what sort of financial consideration can be given the late lamented Chaplain of this House is under consideration now, Sir, and the hon. member can rest assured that the Government is permeated by the same spirit of doing the best that it can for the late Chaplain of this House as has been demonstrated today by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

The question that Head 3 - Legislature - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 24 - Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries - was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 24 stand part,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$16,386 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 passing of one Resolution in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

LEAVE TO MAKE STATEMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to ask for leave at this stage to make a Statement on a matter to which my attention has been drawn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to make a Statement on a matter which has been drawn to his attention, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Statement concerning the changes of date for the celebration of the Queen's Birthday. The Statement is as follows-

STATEMENT MADE IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE 16TH MARCH, 1965, CONCERNING THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

The Queen's Birthday has been officially observed in the month of June for many years although the actual date of the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday is April 21st, Its observance in Barbados is marked by the holding of a ceremonial parade and by an official reception. Her Majesty has made it

known that it is her desire that territories should as far as possible hold their celebrations on a date which suits their own weather conditions, and that where some departure from the official date is considered necessary her actual birthday is preferable,

In view of the fact that the weather is drier in April than in June the Government has decided that in future the Queen's Birthday should normally be observed on April 21st. However, as Easter Monday falls on April 19th this year it has been decided that the Queen's Birthday should be observed on Tuesday, 20th April, in order that there may be a continuous holiday over the Easter week-end.

Attention is drawn to a proclamation appearing in the Official Gazette of 15th March, 1965, declaring that Saturday, 12th June, 1965, shall not be a bank holiday and appointing Tuesday, 20th April, 1965, to be a bank holiday, 12.45 p.m.

THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT, 1965

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No, 4 under Government Business 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order No, 4 is to resume debate on the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Agricultural Corporation,

On the last occasion, this Bill was moved by the hon, senior member for St. Michael and seconded by the hon, junior member for St. Andrew. The hon. senior member for the City moved, seconded by the hon. junior member for Christ Church, that further consideration be postponed. The hon. senior member for St. Peter spoke.

In my opinion, the hon. senior member for the City has the right to speak now, if he cares.

Mr. MOTTLE Y:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the House would appreciate the fact that the reason for moving the postponement of this Bill at the time was because we felt that we had only received copies of the Bill the Saturday before and it would require our going through it with members of the Party to which I belong who were more au fait with agriculture and development than members of my Party in the House. I must also say that it is a pleasure to work under a parliamentary system where, when a measure is brought to this Chamber and hon. members did not have sufficient opportunity to go through the matter and they ask for time to consider it the Government quite readily

agree with you to postpone further consideration of the matter.

Now, Sir, according to the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, and as the Hon. Leader of the House said, this Bill provides for the establishment of a body to be called the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation the functions of which would be -

(a) to stimulate, facilitate and undertake the development of agriculture in the Island and to carry out, operate and participate in such agricultural projects as the Cabinet may approve; and

(b)

(c) to develop and manage, on a commercial basis, such plantations and other agricultural land as may from time to time be vested in it along the lines of the Government's agricultural policy and so as to stimulate and encourage the private sector.

(d)

I start off from there to say that you have stated \"along the lines of the Government's agricultural policy\", I do not know if it is the Hon. Minister in charge or the Minister of Agriculture: but whoever it is that is handling that, I want to know from him what is the policy of the Government. Actually, when we come to this Chamber we do not come to represent any particular section of the community, but we come as a body to represent the Island as a whole; therefore, if members of the Government who have the majority in this House are charged with formulating the policy, then it is necessary and absolutely necessary and incumbent upon them to declare what is the particular policy. What this says here is \"along the lines of the Government's agricultural policy,\"

As the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said, we cannot on this side of the Table very well say what is the Government's agricultural policy. I therefore do not think the Government should come with a Bill of this nature and not to be prepared to answer and tell us what is the Government's agricultural policy. You cannot say that we know what is the Government's agricultural policy, What we do know is that at present the Government owns a certain amount of land and I think we should all realise that every square inch of land in the Leeward and Windward Islands, Jamaica and Trinidad is owned by somebody. There is no such thing here as Government-owned land with people coming and telling you that they got so much of Government land. All land owned by Government is actually bought by Government or semi-Government,

Presently, I know there are 2,646 acres of agricultural land owned by the Government. This is a very appreciable amount of agricultural land owned by Government. It is distributed as follows:- Haggatts, 677 acres; Greenland, 352 acres, 2 roods; Overhill, 235 acres; River, 173 acres; Bawdens, 323 acres; Bruce Vale, 8 acres, 3 roods, 10 perches; Sedgepond, 22 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches; Four Hill, 18 acres; The Hill, 140 acres; Mellowes, 74 acres, 33 perches; Joes River, 32 acres; Graeme Hall, 300 acres - and that depends on if the Government chooses to exercise its right in the acquisition of it and they do not choose to abandon it; and the Pine, 90 acres.

You will have observed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I have not mentioned any of the land owned by the Government for the purpose of developing housing areas and other areas for purposes which they have set out their policy of development, such as what they actually said in respect of \"Wanstead\". I have

not included that in the agricultural areas. Therefore, it is not necessary for us to know anything as regards the policy of the Government in respect of certain areas which Government owns and which they have given notice to the public that they propose to use for housing schemes. Therefore, when the Government owns 2,646 acres of agricultural land, it is necessary for us to know something of the Government's agricultural policy, 12.55 p.m.

In this Bill you are forming a Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation whose functions will be to stimu-

late, facilitate and undertake the development of agriculture in the island and to carry out, operate and participate in such agricultural projects as the Cabinet may approve. These are agricultural projects which the Cabinet may approve and that is the right of the Cabinet, the Government having been elected with a majority; but we, on this side of the House, are saying that before we pass a Bill of this nature, we would like to know what is the Government's policy so as to stimulate and encourage the private sector. What we want to know is what is the policy of the Government at present. Another thing you will notice is that I have not included the Government Industrial School which has been for some time in the possession of the Government, and we know that that Institution has been used for certain purposes, I have not included certain parts of Seawell about which I know what is the Government's policy. The Hon. Premier made a speech in here some time ago and he said when we were extending the air strip at the time, that it would be useless in less than five years. He was convinced that that would be so and it turned out to be so in less than three years, I have not included Seawell here. I notice that the policy of the past Government was to buy Seawell for use as an Airport, and with the extension they will accommodate planes coming from New York in three hours. That was the policy. You are not going to remove the Airport from that location, and therefore I have not attempted to bring in Seawell or the Government Industrial School which is used for dealing with children of a certain age. On the other hand, however, I have brought in other areas which have been acquired. Primarily, the great majority of the land lies within the Scotland area, I still count St. Joseph as being within the Scotland area and I count Graeme Hall and that portion of the Pine which has been used for development. By the creation of an Agricultural Development Corporation, it is a natural deduction to conclude that in the running of the estates comprised in the Schedule, there is to be a departure from the traditional pattern of agricultural operations. There can be no gainsaying that. The obvious reason for the appointment of an Attorney instead of a Corporation would, for all practical purposes, be all that would be necessary. At all of the plantations now you have Attorneys, and you have been following the practice in Barbados in relation to running plantations, I am only outlining the present situation so as to be able to get from the Government what is their actual policy. In the Schedule you will not be needing any Attorney, and the Corporation would be necessary for the running of these areas. It all refers to the policy of the Government which is not known to us. We are entitled to know what that policy is for the benefit of the public, In the absence of any clearly defined policy by the Government one can only conclude that new ground will be broken and that the Corporation may - I am not now indicting the Government - be charged with such duties as co-operative farming, livestock rearing, irrigation and land settlement. These are things which must come up from time to time wherever the land is, whether it is in the Scotland area or in the lowlying areas.

This is a very important Bill. If the Government were to take over the whole sugar industry - I do not envisage this Government taking such a reckless and far-reaching step, but, on the other hand, with a Bill of this magnitude, it is a great departure from the old position. The policy of the Government may

be a right one, but we want to know what it is. I repeat that in the absence of a clearly-defined policy by the Government we can only conclude that new ground will be broken and that the Corporation may be charged with such duties as co-operative farming, land settlement, agricultural diversification, livestock rearing and irrigation.

Nowhere in this Bill can you find any declaration as to the agricultural use of the land. Those of us who are not wedded to the past and who are anxious to see Barbados move on with the times, those of us who realise what a one- crop economy will mean to us, must appreciate the fact that something of the nature of what I have been mentioning must come about in the not too distant future. The question of the profitability of growing any specific type of crop should not be a matter of speculation. The Government has scientific officers, and these officers should be able to tell you that here in Christ Church, or thereat Mellows in St.

Joseph or at Joes River, this thing can be done and that thing can be done, I was present when the Government spoke of assisting farmers with the use of windmills for the irrigation of land, but it must be appreciated that while you may irrigate the land you may be reducing your sugar content. While it would follow that these windmills were good for the cultivation of the sugar cane, it is a fact that after too much watering the land becomes sodden and you do not get very much, 1.05 p.m.

These are not my deductions, but are matters which came from scientific and agricultural experts in this country. It was all right in the areas with very sandy soil where you grew okras and English potatoes and so on, but I would say that the economics of beef and milk production have not been properly placed before the public, I listened the other night to the Government broadcast, and I was so amazed at what I heard that I had to seek an opinion from a few agriculturists and dairy men. Someone from the Pine Livestock Station said that you could raise two milch cows to an acre of pangola grass without providing anything else, I thought to myself that that would be all right in New Zealand where there were hundreds upon thousands of acres of lands but imagine turning Lower Estate or Bulkeley into a place with two milch cows per acre of pangola grass. Can you give me the economic balance between that and an acre of land in sugar cane?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is deeper than hon. members may think, because it involves the 30,000 agricultural labourers in the Island. This is information which I got from the Government Programme in which Mr. Gladstone Holder was Chairman and there were Mr. Scale and others who had gone to Puerto Rico. If a man had 15,000 acres of land in Venezuela or in New Zealand, this would be an easy thing for him to do; but in this case the economics of beef and milk production have not been properly placed before the public. It is all right for Mr. Scale and the gentlemen at the Pine to plant a three score lot in pangola grass and rear a few cows, but you are dealing with 2,600 acres of agricultural land. I know that the Hon. Leader of the House has some knowledge of agriculture in this country. He would have to put before us the benefit to the community of having 5,200 cows, remembering that Barbados is a community with a lot of people, and that whatever you do you must remember that you get one of the biggest rows in this country over the question of finding employment out of the harvesting period for people. That is one of the biggest headaches of the Government and the plantocracy and of all who have the interest of Barbados at heart; therefore when these things are heard, people become very much alarmed, I see the Minister making a note, but I have not said that he has said that. The hon. member will agree with me that you do not have to be a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Economics to understand what it is not to throw away money, and that is why I say that the economics of beef and

milk production have not been properly placed before the public. We are not opposing it, because if you place something before us which would redound to the prosperity of Barbados, we are happy to support it; but in these matters, we feel that the public should be au fait with what is going on.

It might well be cheaper, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to import certain vegetables and beef and dairy products than are produced locally, and if the Hon. Minister does not tell us anything, we might come to that conclusion. People like myself who are not agriculturists would consider it more beneficial to produce fifty tons of cane than to have two head of cattle on one acre of land. What kind of dairy products can two cows produce that can pay? There is a tendency among some of the youth of Barbados to belittle and decry the efforts made by old members of the plantocracy in keeping alive the sugar industry in Barbados. We have had John R. Bovell, a man who has been immortalised, who had never seen a University door, but we were pleased to have people from all parts of the world come here to discuss the question of cane breeding, because here was a man who had done his research to such an extent that it caused people from all over the world who were interested in sugar to come to Barbados to see how it was done. We do not on the

other hand belittle any Government who can find ways and means to supplement and assist,

You will agree with me, Sir, that the members of my Party on this side of the Table did not get on any bandwaggon but were in the forefront saying that sugar was the mainstay of Barbados, but that some day something might happen, and therefore let us see what we could do for tourism. It was only when Sir Alfred Savage made a speech in the Other Place and convinced the now ex-Prime Minister of the West Indies, that the Government made any effort in that direction. He said then that if Savage said one thing and all the other people said another, he would do what Savage said. He did do what Savage said, though we had for ten years been pressing for something to be done for the tourist industry. We realised that other places were planting beet sugar, and therefore we must do something to promote our tourist industry. This Bill is a departure from the present situation and refers to the agricultural policy of the Government which has not yet been put before us. We have all been toying with dairies and all sorts of things, and only a few days ago someone came to me and asked whether I did not think we were wasting money in St. Andrew, 1.15 p.m.

My answer to that was that St. Andrew is such a place, you cannot afford to put it out of agriculture at this time. There is so much land there that I will back any Government who would get any scientific officer to find out even with the soil which we are reclaiming there, if you can get some stuff to put between that to get it to be productive quicker than the normal time nature will have it to be. When you take into consideration the hundreds of acres that you have to put out of cultivation there, it would mean a tremendous loss to the community,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you were a youngster who was born in St. James, You will remember when Mr. Thorne had planted a field in banana trees. You know the entire scheme failed in St. James, Kir, Thorne had a whole area planted in nothing else but bananas. That field was tried out in bananas and after three or four years and they did everything possible, the banana trees would not bear. What happened then was that they had to go back to the planting of the old grass plant. If you look in the encyclopaedia, you will see that the grass plant is the only plant which can stand up to the weather here between December and June because you must have noticed that it withers up in dry time and with the slightest rain it opens up. That is years and years of experience and even the Professor of the University College after years of

research gives that experience to all the youngsters who want to go into business of this sort.

The creation of a research unit working on these lines would be a determining factor. Bear in mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not merely passing a Bill and saying that we have these acres and go on from time to time acquiring more land, which means that Government is having a big hand in the sugar industry and then doing what? I think that you also can remember that there were years ago when almost every plantation was in Chancery and when they were set up for sale Friday after Friday there was only one single person in Barbados to buy them. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works knows exactly what I am saying is correct because he is a member of the legal fraternity. Therefore, we say that the creation of a research unit working on those lines could well be a determining factor in this matter.

On the other hand, a corporation might be charged with carrying out experiments on the intensive use of mechanical equipment in the production and harvesting of canes in order to have its findings more available to the industry. This is one more reason why the Government should make its intentions known as to its policy in the use of this land.

This is a sore point for the simple reason when it was discussed and decided by the sugar magnets that the \$2 million in sugar bags which had to be bought to ship sugar in would have to go or we could no longer compete with the bigger sugar producing countries in the world and that meant that we could not pay a living or a decent wage to our

agricultural workers, there was a human cry. Today you have discovered that you must compete with countries such as Cuba, Java, Australia or else what must you do? Therefore, the \$2 million which you spent in sugar bags and which went out to India in order to get the jute, you had to call that in and you also had to face up to the fact that you would have to get rid of the lighters and replace a lot of these outworn things by getting sugar right down the hatch. When I was a youngster and went to South America I saw that all their products go down in the boat by a chute and I was surprised. Of course, I was just a youngster and I did not have the thought of what all that meant. The only thing which I thought of then was for me to get ashore and have my fun, Today it is a different thing. Today I want to know the policy with which the Corporation may be charged, I do not know if it is going to carry out experiments in the extensive use of harvesting and mechanical equipment, but I do know that as night follows day that has to and will come.

Now, Sir, may I be permitted to say that a few Sundays ago I was driving around in another parish, interested as I am not only in the City, There I met in a far flung parish a colony of St. Lucians. There I met about 40 people of whom 38 were St. Lucians, I smiled at how gracious and kind this Government really is to some of these big-bellied people who just walk about abusing people, I made certain enquiries as to whether the Government had drawn a line on the immigration of these people and the answer which I received was "no". However, I can see the wisdom of the Government in saying "no".

Right here in this Chamber the Government has on its side an hon. member who is a schoolmaster who must have the experience, and over on this side too we have a school-master who has the experience that a high percentage of children who come to his school are children of agricultural labourers, and he would tell you that it is the most difficult job when these children have seen life in a different way to get them to go back and do agricultural work. It has been said that there is dignity in labour, but it is a difficult thing to tell the descendants of slaves that there is so much dignity in labour when their

forefathers were brought here to do agricultural work compulsorily, 1.25 p.m.,

I say that on one side you have a schoolmaster and on the other side you have an ex-schoolmaster. As I have said on the floor of this House, you will eventually have to go in for experiments. That is another reason why the Government should tell us what is their policy. We do not say that we are in opposition to the Bill; we do appreciate the fact that you have given us an opportunity to go into this Bill, but we feel that we are entitled to know what the policy is. The vital question is whether the Corporation is to run as a purely commercial venture or is it to be an experiment in economic planning. This is what we feel we have to know. When I say \"we\", I mean that the public must know.

With reference to the Bill as it stands, I feel that Clause 3 Sub-clause (2) deals with the composition of the Board or the Corporation, I feel that the appointees should be all persons who should have some experience in agriculture, A man may not be able to make a lovely speech or write a lovely letter to the newspaper: we have a lot of these men who cannot do what the Hon. Leader of the House can do, but they are first-class planters. They know when we should plant corn or when we should plant yams or potatoes, The idea is that a man who has no political views or ideas is a dead man- that is the opinion of Barbadians. Such a man is as dead as a dodo; in fact, he is more dead than Dodo, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I repeat that this is a matter in relation to which we should know what is the policy of the Government. This Bill is certainly one we should know enough about so that we can go out and tell the general public about it.

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a most important Bill to the economy of Barbados, We all know that the sugar industry is the backbone of the economy of this island. That has been so for 300 years and it will be so

for many more years to come. The Government having acquired such large areas of land in recent years, it is only natural that there would come a time when they would put this land under the management of people who have experience in that direction. The Government is now doing that in the form of an Agricultural Development Corporation. The Government has confidence that when they are setting up such a Corporation they will seek and obtain the services of persons who have the necessary qualifications for the proper running of this Corporation. The Government will be able to find people who will run this Corporation in such a way as would redound to the credit of this island in furthering and strengthening our economy. We produce from 175,000 to 200,000 tons of sugar; we send about 132,000 tons to England on an agreed price, and equally on an agreed price we send to Canada 15,000 tons and we consume at home about the same thing at about the same price. When all of that is exported we have about 25,000 tons to sell at prevailing market prices which is today far below the price of the production of that sugar. We are producing that 25,000 tons of sugar at one half the price which we get for our sugar in Canada, If we could turn the land which produces that 25,000 tons of sugar into something more economical, we would thereby strengthen the economy of the island. In that way people would have more money to spend. I believe that that is what the Government is getting at and we commend them for that.

In recent months the Government have 'frozen' the price of sweet potatoes and yams, and that is something which should have been done some years ago. Today we are exporting tons and tons of yams and we can do that at remunerative prices. We are doing now what we have not been doing before, and I

say that that is a step in the right direction. If the planters were to realize that they can make money by producing yams instead of canes, it will not take them too long to realise that they should produce more yams. We should also be producing more green vegetables for ourselves. Unfortunately, the people of Barbados are so accustomed to producing canes that they do not want to go any further afield. The people in Venezuela, with their rich oil fields, have realized that the day will come when they will not have that oil or those oil fields to strengthen their economy. They have vast areas of fertile land, but there is no one to produce anything. That being so, what did they do? They allowed the Portuguese to come in, people with agricultural experience, to produce the things that they had to import and today the position is that they are exporters of green vegetables. Mr. Minister of Agriculture, I am suggesting to you that you should investigate these possibilities. You can bring in a limited number of people, but we will be able to learn the knowhow from them. We want to introduce into this island people of any nationality, but people who have the necessary know-how who will be able to help to increase the economy of this island.

In this Bill we have fisheries included. 1.35 p.m.

We have been fishing about ten or fifteen miles around the coast for many years, but we are told that the fish are further afield, and when we get bigger boats, we have to get people with the know-how. We have to bring in the Japanese and pay their price, and our fishermen will learn from them. This Corporation can make regulations with the approval of the Cabinet, and these regulations can be very far-reaching; but I hope they will be widely used and not be something to stagnate the economy and allow a few people to grow something to the detriment of others. We must expand our economy because our population is expanding. We have been telling the Government for a long time not to be afraid to bring in people with the necessary know-how, whether they be Japanese, Portuguese or Italians. You should bring them in in sufficient numbers to show our people how to go about the task and our people will catch on. If they can go to the United States and pick fruit or cut canes up there, they can also do truck gardening in Barbados. It will mean longer hours, but it will also mean that we will be strengthening the economy of this island, because we would be producing for ourselves what we now have to import.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is timely, but I will say to Government that in the selection of the personnel to be the first Directors, it is most important that they should be guided by people of experience,

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

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, it would be to the credit of Government to select to the Corporation people of wide experience, because it would be to them that Government would have to look for guidance in the formulation of a policy, and that policy, if not yet crystallised, should be along the lines I have enunciated. The idea of producing 25, 000 tons of sugar at uneconomic prices is not good enough. We have been doing it long enough, and we can now diversify some of that land to animal husbandry, to truck gardening and to vegetables gardening; there may be other purposes, but let it be gradual and let it be firm. If the Government can set an example in their own 2, 600 acres of land, it would not be long before the Barbadian planter catches on. Give them the incentive, but do not hamper them. If they come to you with a good case in which they want to bring in people trained in any field in which our people are lacking, allow them to bring them in. They are knocking at the door and we cannot afford to turn

away at this stage capital or know-how. Our economy is growing, but it must grow faster. In this direction it will be speeded up, and in a short time we will find that this can take its rightful place and is still No. 1 for many years to come,

Mr. Speaker, we are looking to tourism to help, and it is growing healthily, but we must explore every avenue. We cannot sit idly by and allow other countries to outstrip us. We must use people who are experienced in all fields to produce more for Barbados because of our expanding population.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know is what the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has already asked, and it concerns the agricultural policy of this Government, I may be wrong, but I do not think this Government has an agricultural policy yet. I am not in a position to speak as I would like, because I do not know the agricultural policy of the Government; but if the Minister had informed us before I might not have any cause to say anything, or I might have my gun fully loaded,

Mr. Speaker, ask the hon. member to behave himself over there or have him put outside. He is talking about back-firing and is most...

Mr. SPEAKER:

Since I assumed the Chair I have heard no mention of back-firing.

Mr. SMITH:

I would be glad if the hon. member would respect this House or his office. He should respect one, if not both; and when an hon. member gets up to speak, he must listen or go outside.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph alone,

Mr. SMITH:

Now, Mr. Speaker, this Corporation can be very important and useful, or if it is not run properly it can be very destructive. If the shoe is on the wrong foot, Sir, we may not be in for good treatment, and as far as I am concerned, I have a right to be doubtful, because the Island is run on politics. This Chamber is a political Chamber, and you will notice that in this Bill no member of the House of Assembly shall be a member of the Corporation. That, Sir, was one of the big mistakes that was made by the last Government in not putting a member of this Assembly on the Transport Board. You can remember that I talked long and hard on it, and tried to draw to that Government's attention that it would be a very wise thing to have a member of this House on that Board, because he would be responsible to us for whatever was being done up there. In other words, you would have somebody on whom to throw your lashes. That was not done, and here again you are going to set up a Corporation and debar the representatives of the people. You are practically muzzling the electors of this country

and the taxpayers as a whole as soon as you try to debar a member of this Assembly from being on that Corporation, 1, 46 p. m,

You are only setting up this Corporation for the Government and for the Government alone. As far as I have read, everything is the Cabinet. Although the Minister concerned is a member of the Cabinet, even

the resignation of the Chairman is to go to the Minister first. Therefore, you can clearly see that this a Government set up on the whole and not for the benefit of the people. You should try to keep a member of the House on that Board because we know that he would be responsible to this House: and if anything is going wrong on that Board, he will keep his eyes wide open so as to try and steer the ship to safety to prevent people drowning. If you put a politician from this House on that Board, he would be able to advise the members; but if you only put a politician, he would still be useless because he does not have the vote. In other words, he would be only able to go there and sit down and give his ideas. But nothing else he would be able to do. That would be all right if you are going to select the right type of members to this Corporation That is to say, if you are going to select persons who know about agriculture. Do not go for a barber or either a bandwagon man. Do not go for those type of people to put on this Board,

Now, Sir, the Cabinet is going to appoint the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Do you not think that it would be fair to the Corporation, even if the Cabinet is going to appoint the Chairman, that the members should be in a position to appoint the Deputy Chairman? Here it is, the Cabinet is going to do everything on the Corporation, This is how I feel - I may be wrong - but if you are going to nominate the members of the Corporation, leave it to the members themselves to pick out the best material among themselves for a Deputy Chairman and then submit their nomination to the Cabinet, I cannot say that they should submit the name to the Minister this time because there is no Minister, The Cabinet is going to do everything. The Cabinet itself cannot know everything about agriculture. This is something which they would have to learn. No lawyer or barrister can know everything about agriculture. Let us forget about ex Judges and such people when we come to select people to put on this Board, You have to look for the real man who knows the stuff* but you are going to hand-pick, and when I say that you are going to hand-pick, I mean that you are going to hand-pick a friend of yours who wants a berry - or wants a berry to put with the one he has already. When you do that, you will be forgetting the interest of the community,

I warn you that as soon as you go and interfere with the agricultural development of this country, you are playing with trouble. You may play with the other things and be able to get out of them; but you are going to travel too far when you tackle the agricultural problem and when you do not do it right, I am not against you having a Corporation to deal with this matter, but you must appoint people who know about it. Do not act like the last Government or even this Government, Select people who know the stuff. Do not select people who know nothing at all about agriculture. When you select those people, you will be only saddling them with more power and authority than the elected people. Select people who know what to do and how to do it.

Sir, I sincerely hope that the Cabinet would act responsibly and would nominate the right people and would not act in the same way as they did before; that is to say; forgetting all the people who know something about the job and selecting others. Do not let anybody fool you. You may say that you do not want this particular person because he is this and that, I tell you that if that person knows about agriculture, whenever he goes and sits at aboard meeting, he is going to think about the economy of the country. Even if he is there thinking about himself, he will be thinking of the economy of the country. Think about the person and think about his ability. Do not think about if he is a D. L. P. yard fowl. If you are going to tackle this problem, look for the people who know about it and who would be able to stand up and say to anybody else that he is wrong. Do not nomin-

ate a person who would just go there just to see if there is any remuneration for him, You want people

who would forget about remuneration and think about the people. That is my warning to the Government.

I may be passing one morning or some night when the news is coming over and hear all the persons who would be appointed to this Corporation, It may be shocking, I may hear the names of people appointed who just do not know anything about it. You may hear the name of a carpenter coming over to do a mason's job, and that would be a serious thing.

Sir, I think that I have said enough for the Government to think about this thing more seriously, and for them to think of the country as a whole. As soon as we pass this Bill, owing to the fact that we are just ordinary members of this House, we will have nothing more to do with it. All that we would have to do is just to listen and bear what is happening and who will be Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The only chance which we have to air our views on this Bill is now. We are not opposing this Bill, but we cannot attempt to pass it in our heart of hearts without pointing out where you will be travelling on dangerous grounds and without telling you that you must forget friends and everything else and remember the people of this country.

Hon. members on the other side of the Table may think that I am out to oppose this Bill. Nothing of the sort. I only would like to see it goes right, I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you, as a lawyer, are sitting there thinking as I am talking but, as I have said, something is liable to happen. 1.55 p.m.

I know what is likely to happen. When the big shots say: "I want John Browne to be Chairman" nobody else can say "No, No". If anybody else says "No, No", John Browne will still be Chairman. If it were a question of having a majority vote, I know that everything would work in the right way, I know the difference when one man has food and another man is hungry. The hungry man will be told "You will do as I want you to do or you will not taste" Well, I am hungry and therefore I want to taste the food, (Laughter). Mr. Speaker, I have not got much more to say about this Bill, but let the Hon. Minister say what is their agricultural policy. The Hon. Minister should not be thinking of how he can plaster anything; let him come straight from the shoulder with his agricultural policy. That is what I would like to hear now. Knowing the Minister as I do, if he has it in his hands to make the nomination of the Board, I know that things will work rightly, but I can see that they are safeguarding him. They do not want to saddle him with too much power at this particular time. They do not want him to get too many enemies so that everything is to be done by the Cabinet, If anything goes wrong the whole Cabinet will have to go upside down because the Cabinet will be responsible in the matter, and not merely the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, you will pardon me for saying this, but an old lady said to me quite recently that when a mule is going to the he does not care whom he kicks. I hope that that will not happen with this Corporation, The time is getting near, and I do not know if all of these things are to be done before it is too late and some trouble might take place before the Government goes out. I sincerely hope that the Government will put on this Corporation people who have the ability and know their stuff, and there will be no question of placing on this Corporation the supporters of the Government's Party,

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

Mr. Speaker, there is one point which I would like to explain as a member of this General Assembly, It may be that Corporations are not all political bodies, but whenever you have a Corporation it is a political body even if it is not ostensibly so. It is from my limited experience that I say that if most

Corporations have a member of the General Assembly serving on them, regardless of whatever political party he belongs to, things will go well. That is my view because if you meet a member of the General Assembly who has not got full responsibility, that

is clear even if he does not show it. A short time has shown me that, even in the Councils if there are not members of the General Assembly, I do not think the Councils would exist. It is the member of the General Assembly who sometimes sees things and has the courage or the liberty to come in here on the floor of the House and say them, although people might misinterpret what he is saying. Sometimes people will even ask: "Is he a member of the Party still"? People tend to have things in their own way and they think of the economic society to which they belong. If something is going wrong, a member of the General Assembly who is on the Corporation, has the bounden duty of showing it up and allowing the public to know that he is not in any way associated with it. It may be that the Cabinet have their good reasons for the proposal in this Bill, but I say that it might appear to be derogatory for a member of the General Assembly to be excluded from association with such an important body. There is an example today of a man who should be co-opted and who would be willing to make every contribution to an association, and yet his services are not wanted. I want to say, Sir, that seldom will you see any Corporation with a member of the General Assembly co-opted because it might be thought that he has done there to rule.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, at this stage I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2,45 p.m, of the clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question that this sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m. of the clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

2,05 p.m.

On resumption,

Mr. SPEAKER; When the Sitting was suspended, the House was considering the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Agricultural Development Corporation, and the hon. and learned member for St. James had just completed his address.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, before replying to hon. members on the other side, I should like to state here that every member of this Government is fully aware of the importance of agriculture to this island. Since it has been discovered, agriculture has been the main source of the economy of this island, and I would like to assure hon. members that no member of this Government would do anything to impair the financial position and reputation that Barbados has built up.

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown was very keen on knowing what is the Government's agricultural policy, and in replying I should like to tell him that the Government's agricultural policy is diversification, and in saying diversification, I would not describe that as destroying any of the sugar cane crops, but producing the most that is suitable from all these areas. The hon. junior member for Christ Church queried the average cost of production versus the guaranteed price, and said in producing very large amounts there would be a strong tendency to lower the average price of sugar in this country. The hon. senior member for the City also spoke about the growing of pangola grass for the raising of cattle. It is not the intention of this Government to cut down all the sugar cane in Barbados and plant pangola grass to raise two head of cattle to every acre, but there is a certain acreage of land which produces far less than is economical. Some produce less than 25 tons per acre, and with the cost of sugar today and the expenditure of growing cane per acre, you would be obliged to get a greater profit out of two head of cattle per acre than you normally would from the production of sugar cane at less than 25 tons per acre. Pasture land and grass lands are normally over-run with sour grass, and para

grass could be cultivated to produce pangola grass. Due to the undulating terrain and the cost of transporting canes from the centre of the fields to track ways in the Scotland Area which has been reclaimed, very little profit is left for cane growers in that area, and they would be able to produce more out of pangola grass and other crops.

The Government's policy on diversification of agriculture is to produce the most out of the land that is suitable for each specific commodity. The development of the dairy industry in this island with a milk plant would be essential also to diversification. The Government has just received two shipments of cattle by air from Puerto Rico, and they are some of the best breeds for producing milk; and several farmers in the St. Lucy district and along the Scotland area are planting pangola grass on lands which have not been beneficial in the production of sugar cane. We are also establishing nurseries for the production and planting of bananas at many agricultural stations, and we have developed a Marketing Corporation to take the surpluses and practically all the green vegetables which the peasant farmers can produce. This is one of the means of diversification and aiding in diversification,

Mr. Speaker, the Government has acquired plantations, and instead of keeping them under separate management, it would be far better for a Corporation to look after the entire management of the acreage that is under Government control. Jamaica has already developed an agricultural Development Corporation and is seeing the benefits of its operation. The functions of the Corporation as set out in the Bill are to stimulate, facilitate and undertake the developments of agriculture in the island and to carry out, operate and participate in such Agricultural projects as the Cabinet may approve; and to develop and manage, on a commercial basis, such plantations and other agricultural land as may from time to time be vested in it along the lines of the Government's agricultural policy and so as to stimulate and encourage the private sector.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Government must set an example if it is changing over to something, and it is our intention to use our lands to produce and to show to farmers and people in agriculture what would be the best benefits. We must show that certain lands would be more beneficial to produce certain crops much better than other lands. Where you have irrigation by water you would be able to produce more vegetables, and therefore set an example in similar districts as to what can be produced at a greater economical value. The price of sugar over the 136,000 tons which is guaranteed on the United Kingdom

and Canadian markets shows a considerable drop this year, and therefore this policy would have to change from year to year in accordance with world demands on sugar and other commodities.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. C. FERGUSSON, 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. 3.05 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 19 inclusive were called separately and passed.

Clause 20 was called. It reads as follows:-

"All the land described in the Schedule to this Act and vested in or held by the Crown in right of its government of this Island under and by virtue of the Executive Committee (Vesting of Property and Transfer of Functions) Act, 1964, is hereby transferred to and vested in the Corporation and, by virtue of this Act and without further assistance shall be held by the Corporation for the like estate and interest and to the like extent as if the same were vested in or held by the Crown in right of its government of this Island immediately before the coming into operation of this Act."

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman. I just want to make one amendment to this Clause. Delete the word "if" and the word "were" in the ninth line and substitute for the word "were" the word "was".

With that amendment, I beg to move that Clause 20 as amended stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 20 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 21 was called and passed, The Schedule was called and passed.

On motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF \$818,000

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the next Order of the Day be the Resolution to approve the

appropriation of \$818,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare Grants to be used towards the financing of the construction of the New General Hospital in the current financial year.

Notice of this Resolution was given this morning and copies have been circulated to hon. members. It has been intimated that the Government would be seeking their permission to deal with this Resolution today in all its stages.

Hon. C. E. TALMA- I beg to second that, The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.15 p.m.,

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction of the House when in Committee to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$818,000 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 resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. BA TSON in the Chair.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF \$818,000 re CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Resolution for the sum of \$818,000 was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution for the appropriation of the sum of \$818,000 for the underwriting of the construction of the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I recently made a Statement to the House to the effect that the British Government had approved of the additional sum of \$1,670,246 out of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds towards the cost of the construction-

tion of the Hospital. The total amount which has been spent up to date is approximately \$5 million out of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, towards the cost of the construction of this Hospital, This is the largest single project to which the British Government has ever subscribed in this territory. At the unfolding of the plaque by Prince Philip in November it was recognized that the British Government was very generous with these funds. The Labour Welfare Fund was responsible for \$2 million of the expenditure which is in the vicinity of \$9 million altogether. Therefore there will be approximately \$2 million as a contribution from Reserve balances and funds.

It is necessary that the financial procedures be observed. This House is not therefore being asked to

vote this sum of \$818, 000: we are merely asking hon. members to approve of the appropriation of this sum of \$818, 000 towards the construction of the New Hospital, which is a slightly different matter. This is not a money Resolution for the sum of \$818, 000, We managed to pay from the Treasury or the Development and Welfare contribution an increase from 80% to 90% of that part of the expenditure which is eligible for the Development and Welfare assistance. Various C. D. & W. Schemes have been approved amounting to £347, 968, For example, we had one scheme which was for the sum of £33, 223 towards the main building, and there was another sum of £6, 915 towards the cost of the ambulance garages, workshop and the Resident Engineer's Office, There was a further grant of £7, 830 towards the Maternity Outpatients' Department which was not included in the preliminary plans of the Hospital, That was something which was added on the recommendations of the Specialists when the Hospital was nearly completed. As a result of this Resolution, the total expenditure chargeable to Loan Funds will be reduced by the amount which is being met from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. As we had the sum \$1, 018, 000 approved in the Estimates to be met from Loan Funds, and in view of the fact that we had already spent \$200, 000 from available funds other than Loan Funds, by a process of simple arithmetic the amount of money which normally we should be providing from Loan Funds should be \$818, 000, Therefore, Sir, all we are seeking to do by means of this Resolution is to approve of the arithmetic, as it were, so as to have the appropriation of \$818, 000 from the available amount of \$1, 67 million from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass,

Hon. C. E. TALMA; I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, in supporting this Resolution, the breakdown, as I understand it, is \$5 million from the U. K. Funds - \$2 million from the Labour Welfare Fund and the other \$3 million from Loan Funds etc, 3, 25 p. m.

I only rise, Mr. Chairman, to say it is well that these facts should be known because so much was made of the decision to name the Hospital \"The Queen Elizabeth Hospital\" by some, may I say, nationalistic youngsters who thought that it should not be so named. After it is universally known that \$5 million actually came from the United Kingdom, I could not see anybody finding fault with the name which the Government suggested. As a matter of fact, my Party never did oppose the name, because we did feel that since it was going to be a training hospital, people would tend to remember the Queen Elizabeth Hospital more than the Barbados General Hospital, We do feel that the Resolution is timely, and though it is not fitting for us at this moment to offer much criticism, while all this is done and we have a lovely building, we hope that the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services will continue in his efforts to provide services in keeping with the building, because we have always advocated that it is not the four walls or the gadgets which you may have inside that make a hospital, but what makes a hospital redound to posterity and for the benefit of the people of the island must be the harmony of the nurses, doctors, domestics and all those who must make a contribution to the work of the hospital.

We have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution, and I repeat, Sir, that now that it has been publicly known

that \$5 million from the United Kingdom taxpayers have been subscribed to this magnificent structure - you will note that I have not said magnificent hospital yet -there should be no reason why it should not be called \"The Queen Elizabeth Hospital\", even by those who were recklessly saying that people were

slaves to patriotism, and that the hospital should be given some other stupid name,

The question that the Resolution do now pass 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 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. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO ABANDON THE ACQUISITION OF TRAFALGAR HOTEL

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. John, the Hon. Premier to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the publication in the Official Gazette declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of a property known as the Trafalgar Hotel.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of the amendment to the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, there is now the procedure whereby the Government has to seek the approval of the Legislature for the acquisition by compulsory order of properties, and any question of compensation incidental thereto will be settled between the Government and the property owners. In this particular case we got the approval of the Legislature for compulsory acquisition because the owners of the property or the executors of the estate were asking a price which was far in excess of what the Government considered reasonable. The property was valued at £6, 000 or \$28, 800 for the purpose of Estate and other duties, but when the Government became interested in the property, it went up to \$85, 000; so for the benefit of taxation they were only prepared to value it at £6, 000, but for the purpose of selling to the Government, they were not willing to pay taxes on \$85, 000, but were willing to sell to the Government for \$85, 000.

I understand, Sir, that they were advised by a certain former member of the House who is not now active in practice; but anyhow, be that as it may, we will not worry to say more about that. I do not think the owners of the property were well advised, but there is a superstition in Barbados - I can only describe it as a superstition because it is evident in countries with a community such as this - that Government has a lot of money to throw away, and that whenever Government is trying to acquire a property, we are willing to pay any price because it is not our money. In the Ministry of Finance, we do not adopt that view at all. There has been a certain amount of resigning recently because we have set up a Flying Squad to investigate the expenditure of money by the Public Works Department, and I understand that several members of the Public Works have resigned and several houses have ceased construction over the past six months and cannot get off the ground, I make no apology for that. 3. 35 p. m.

I am a taxpayer myself; no member is exempted from the paying of taxes. All the same, former members of the House may have avoided paying taxes which they were asked to pay or some people may have got others to pay the taxes which they were asked to pay. However, numbers of this House

have to pay all the taxes which they are asked to pay

and I know that they will not approve of anything to put the Public Treasury to undue expense if suitable alternatives can be found.

As far as this Resolution is actually concerned, it is in anticipation of a situation such as this that I introduced an amendment to the Land Acquisition Act although this matter was not even contemplated at the time. The position is that we need not continue with arbitration and it is possible that the arbitration tribunal may not accede to the request of the trustees of the property. However, if the arbitration of this property was absolutely vital to the expansion of Government offices for accommodation, then we would have to proceed with it,

As a matter of fact, I would say that at intervals of not more than two weeks, the Central Planning Committee look at the whole of Government's programme. This Committee which is not set up by statute but which is an internal arrangement consists of the Minister of Works, the Minister of Finance and the Planning Unit, and we look into the matter of the whole of Government's programme for four or five hours on a Friday. We look at the whole of Government's programme carefully and examine it in order to make sure that funds are not wasted. We do a constant reappraisal of the expenditure in this community.

As a result of consultation with the Planning Committee, we have come to the conclusion that it is no longer a necessity to acquire this property, and for that reason we are asking the approval of this House to this Resolution which is to approve the publication in the Official Gazette declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of the property known as the "Trafalgar Hotel",

This is in accordance with the provision of Section 9 (1) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1963,

There is no consequential Clause as far as Government is concerned because all the rents and profits of the building, although they may be Government's, we allowed the executors to retain: so there is no question that the Government would have to pay any money for loss of property.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I beg to second that,

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

REPLY READY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, there is one reply which is ready today to a question

I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Ron, C. E. TALMA; I beg to second that, The question was put and resolved in the affirmative

without division,

BRANCH POST OFFICE IN St. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am advised that the Oral Reply to Question No, 26 of 1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready,

M, BATSON:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Is Government aware that the building now used as a Branch Post Office in the parish of St. Thomas has for a long time needed rebuilding?

2, If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take steps to have the said building replaced?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows -

1. Yes Sir,
- 2.
3. Provision has been made in the Development Plan 1965-68 for the replacement of the building,
- 4.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I understand that there are no further replies ready. Does the Hon. Minister propose to proceed any further today?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD- I would like to inform hon. members that the Government proposes next Tuesday to commence consideration of the Draft Estimates for 1965 to 1966 and our plans are to proceed daily afterwards until consideration has been completed so that the Appropriation Bill can be sent to the Other Place in order that they can deal with it before the 31st March,

I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until next Tuesday, 23rd March, 1965, at 12.00o'clock noon,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I put the question, I just wish to remind hon. members that the Hon. Leader of the House proposes that as from next Tuesday, the House will meet de the in diem until it has finished consideration of the Draft Estimates,

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday 23rd March, 1965, at 12 o'clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr, SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3, 45 p. m.