

# THE House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

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SECOND SESSION 1961 - 66

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## (OFFICIAL REPORT) SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th May, 1965.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 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. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. (GODDARD, Mr. G. E. MILLER; Hon. C. E. TALMA (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. N. W. BOXILL and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

### MINUTES

#### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

Regretfully, I have to inform the House that there are no Minutes available today for confirmation.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR and Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS entered the House and took their seats.

### DOCUMENT

#### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a copy of the Accounts and Statement for the month of September, 1964, as prepared by the Accountant General

## LETTER FROM UNITED STATES CONSUL GENERAL

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Consul General of the United States of America, dated 18th May, 1965, It reads as follows-

His Honour J. E. T. Brancker,

Speaker,

The House of Assembly.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

My intuition tells me that there possibly will be more confusion about the alleged proposal of the United States Government to tax tourists - a proposal which never has been made or seriously contemplated. Some such confusion may arise when the discussion in the House begins on the proposed air tax to be levied on departures from Stawell

I am sending this statement I made to the Press yesterday along to you, therefore, in order that, as Speaker, you will have the facts.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Eileen R. Donovan. American Consul General.

I may mention to hon. members that, as the letter states, there is a copy of the Statement which the Consul General made to the Press, I wonder if it is the desire of hon. members that I may read this Statement to the House or have it made a Document of the House if the Standing Orders permit.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as you have notified the House of the receipt of that Statement from the American Consul General, it means that reference will be made to it in the Records of the House, I think it would be in order to have the entire text of the Statement made available for the Records whether Your Honour reads it now or not.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Inasmuch as the Statement may not appear in the Minutes verbatim, but only a reference made to it, in order that the Statement may appear in the Records, I will read it. The Statement is as follows-

Statement to the Press

There are certain misunderstandings which continue to recur in the Barbados press and on the air-ways

con- cerning an alleged U.S. Government proposal to tax tour- ists, I had hoped that the fact printed in my letters to the Editors of bom Barbados Daily newspapers (Barbados Ad- vocate of March 4 and Barbados Daily News of March 7, 1965) would have been read and understood, but apparently, they have not been. One such confusing article appears in die Advocate of May 3, following the return of one of the Tourist Board's promotional tours, headlined \"U.S. Travel Agents opposed to \\'penalty tax\\'\", another was the editor- ial in the News of April 8; and more recently, presunably garbled reports of the Tourist Board's \"protests\" carried over the air-waves.

Since this office acts as the official representative of the Government of the U.S. in the British West Indies, I should like to state the facts again although no queries have been made, nor protests lodged, with this office by the Bar- bados Tourist Board.

The facts follow: (1) There has not been any proposal by the U.S. Government to tax tourists either in the amount of \$100 (U.S.) or \$168 (presumably a transference to B.W.I dollars), or any otter amount at all. Some economic planner mate this stwestion in January 1965, it was repeated in a N.Y. paper, and quickly rejected by the U.S. Government.

The definitive recommendations of President Johnson to the Congress were stated in his Balance of Payments Mess- age of February 10. (2) Not only has there not been in the past, but there is not now, and as far as I know, there will be no U.S. Government plan to tax tourists. One wonders therefore, what purpose can be served in protesting against a non-existent proposal, and to what person or organiza- tion such protests may have been made.

Another related, but different, subject is the possibility of curtailment of the present duty-free privileges on pur- chases which U.S, tourists make abroad. As correctly re- ported in the Advocate of May 14, the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee is discussing that question. If the Committee should recommend further restrictions, and if its recommendations are enacted into law, the further curtailment win be for the purpose of alle- viating the balance of payments problem encountered by my Government in connection with the outflow of U.S. doll- ars, and in order more nearly to match the limitations imposed by other countries on the importation of American purchases by nationals of those countries when returning to their own countries from the U.S.A.

This Bill should not, however, be confused with the never existent alleged \"tax on tourists\".

Eileen R. Donovan, American Consul General,

2.55 p.m.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker. I really do not under- stand what has happened. I have just come in and would like explained to me what Your Honour was dealing with.

Mr. SPEAKER; I would suggest, in that event, that the hon. member should confer with his colleagues and other hon. members as to what happened when he was not pres- ent, although he should have been here from 2,30 p.m. o'clock.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

A lot of us should have been here at the time, but were not, I did not confer with my colleagues, but I understand that a Statement was being read from a person other than a member of this House, and this House can only accept a Petition or Statement from the members of the House, I may be wrong, but I do not know how hon. members think.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

On what is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition speaking?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I am speaking on the fact that you have read a Statement to this House coming from a person who is not a member of this House, I can bring a State- ment from Ding Ding tomorrow, and it would have to be read in the House,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The hon. member cannot rise except on a point of order or explanation or on a motion for breach of privilege,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

This is a motion for breach of privi- lege,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Then the motion would have to be re- duced in writing.

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

On a point of order, I take it this is a communication received by His Honour the Speaker which he is communicating to members of this House,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

It was received by me addressed to the Speaker to be communicated to members of the House. It is not a private document

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

Mr. Speaker. I take it that this is a matter of public interest in which the American Consul,

though representing a foreign country, is perfectly at liberty to exercise her discretion and judgment in communicating with you on a matter of public interest which is near and dear to the hearts of all Barbadians, relative to the tourist trade. That is how I understand it.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I am not allowing any discuss ion on it

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking and no- body is going to prevent me from doing so. You allowed the Minister to speak on the matter, and I am going to speak. This partiality cannot go on.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

This sitting now stands suspended for ten minutes owing to grave disorder. 3.00p.m.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Your Honour is so very well aware of Parliamentary pro- cedure and so matured in matters falling within Your Hon- our's attention that you need no reference or support from the floor in execution of your duties as Speaker of this Honourable House,

I take it that Your Honour, read ing that Statement, was doing so with full knowledge of the Rules,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of or- der, I would like to know what the Hon. Leader of the House is speaking on,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

That is not a point of order? that is an enquiry,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I would like to know what the hon. member is speaking on,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

If the hon. Leader of the Opposition would consult with the Hon. Leader of the House, he would know what the Hon. Leader of the House is speaking on,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I hope I win be given similar oppor- tunity,

Mr. SPEAKER- If the hon. member awaits his oppor- tunity.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

If the Hon. Leader of the House is given the opportunity to speak, I hope that I win be given the opportunity and any other member,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

In turn; in accordance with the Rules of the House.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

That is the reason why I ask what the Hon. Leader of the House is speaking on.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I was saying, Sir, that Your Honour normally acts as Speaker of this House fully apprised of your duties and fully aware of what you should do, I rise now on a point of order with reference to the controversy which flared up before the suspension. Your Honour was then reading a Statement from the American Consul General and I assume Your Honour read it with full responsibility of the privileges conferred on the Speaker of this Chamber.

I see from May's Parliamentary Procedure which we in this Chamber are prone to follow, that in connection with "Communications to Mr. Speaker" it is stated: "The Speaker communicates to the House at his discretion the purport or contents of any letter received from any external authorities,"

This is not ambiguous and, as a matter of fact, it is so clear as to merit no adverse comment whatsoever. You

are authorized after prayers, as Your Honour did, to read the purport or contents of any letter received from any external authority. External authority means: authorities outside of this Chamber, authorities outside of the Ministerial benches or any authorities outside of the ordinary business of this House,

It is quite true, as Your Honour said, when it comes to official statements, they are only permitted to be made by Ministers. Your Honour referred to the authority of May's, the standard practice in the House of Commons,

Mr. HUSBANDS; I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker Will the Hon. Leader of the House in his quotation from May's make reference to the page and edition?

Mr. SPEAKER- Will the Hon. Leader of the House be good enough to state precisely the reference?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

The page is 359 and the Edition is the Fifteenth Edition of the Law and Usage of Parliament by Sir Erskine May,

That page deals with Statements from Ministers and members, whereas on page 333 of the same Edition, the authority of the Speaker with regard to "Communications from External Authorities" is dealt with. From the paragraph to which I referred. Your Honour is entitled at your discretion to read the purport or contents of any letters you may receive,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I will just say this. The reason why I did not read the extracts of the document in question is because I prefer in fairness to the House, to put the verbatim account before the Chamber rather than to paraphrase it. The Hon. Leader of the House said that he heard the passage read out and that the American Consul General acts as the official representative of the Government of the United States of America,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say that while I agree with what the Hon. Leader of the House said, on page 351, it makes it abundantly clear and it strengthens my hand from this point of view

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition making a point of order? Or, is he questioning the decision of the Chair?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I am on a point of order. What else can I rise on? Am I permitted to say anything at all on it?

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I asked the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is he speaking on a point of order, or is he questioning the decision of the Chair?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

How can I question the decision of the Chair? What I am saying, test it be thought that I was trying to heap my ridicule or to be disrespectful to the American authority here, in the person of Miss Donovan, I want to make it clear that no American Consul-General that ever came here was treated with more respect than the present American Consular General,

Speaking on the question which the Hon. Leader of the House put to Your Honour as regards "Communications from external authorities," it does not say foreign authority! it says external authority.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Leader of the House rose on a point of order and cited a passage from "May's," I cannot allow any argument by any hon. member on the point of order which was made by the previous hon. member,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I am reading from the same edition of "May's." Am I not entitled to do that?

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

If the hon. member is making a point of order, and not attempting to rule,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

No, not at all.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I suggest that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would be attempting the impossible in such an event, 3.20 p.m.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

It says-

"These may include replies to communications of condolence or congratulation made by the House to members of the Royal Family or messages of the same kind sent by foreign legislative bodies. The hon. member purposely left that out. What the hon. member has mentioned is to the effect that Your Honour would be entitled to read this out from local authorities. If this is confining it to local authorities-

ties - I am not questioning Your Honour's Ruling, but local authorities mean those of the island. If Your Honour so rules, I will accept it.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

The Ruling says nothing about local authorities,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

It says \"external authorities\" as far as this island is concerned.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Any authority outside the House

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, you have ruled, and Your Ruling stands,

**Hon. J. C. TUDOR:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak on a question of privilege, I am convinced that we are now embarking on something which can be calculated

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

On a point of order,,,,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Minister of Education has risen on a point of privilege in accordance with Standing Order 68, That Standing Order states this-

\"1, A motion concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence of all other public business,

2, If during the sitting of the House a matter suddenly arises which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on such matter,\"

If the Hon. Minister of Education senses that during this sitting of the House a matter has suddenly arisen which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted so that his motion may take precedence of all other public business,

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

On a point of order,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Minister of Education rose on a point of privilege which takes precedence of all other public business, I interrupted the Hon. Minister just now. The Hon. Minister of Education may proceed,

**Hon. J. C. TUDOR:**

Mr. Speaker, I was speaking on a question of privilege. I was saying, Sir, that we are embarking on something here this afternoon which will have incalculable consequences. I agree with the Hon. Leader of the House that Your Honour was possibly on safe ground in communicating to the House that you had received a letter from the American Consul General. Of course, I may say that on the matter on which I am now speaking there is no need for us to maintain Cabinet or collective responsibility, because Questions of Privilege are matters for individual members of the House to resolve. My difficulty is this I do not know and I have never heard or seen that the British House of Commons has ever felt itself bound to receive communications from a foreign power, legislative bodies or associations who wish to send Messages to the British Parliament. Unless my memory fails me, in 1688 when William of Orange, who was shortly to be

King of England, sent a Message to the Convention of Parliament expressing his good fortune and thanking Parliament for having offered him the Throne, the message was not communicated to the British House of Commons on the ground that, although the Dutch Prince was to become King of England, he was not yet King of England and the House did not feel itself obligated to receive a Message from a foreign power.

The second point is this. As your Honour has communicated to us the contents of the Statement which accompanies the letter from the American Consul, It transpires that that Statement denotes something which has not been received in this Parliament. There was no previous debate in this Parliament at which that Statement would have been denied, I do not know, therefore, whether this House is in a position to accept a denial of something which was never stated in its precincts, or to enter into a controversy about anything which has not been received by this House, it is true, that there is going to be a debate in this House on a matter which is germane to the issue raised by that Statement, but that debate has not yet started in this House. That being the case, I do not see how this House should be seised of a denial which has never been asserted. I am not yet convinced that a foreign power can communicate with this Parliament. It would be all right for the letter to have been read, but the Statement is what has given me some concern. Secondly, as to the propriety of having something denied before us, something with which we have not been associated, I cannot see how we can have a denial without a previous assertion,

I respectfully suggest to Your Honour - I do not want to question Your Honour's Ruling in any way - that there should be some hiatus between what has been done this afternoon and the appearance of these proceedings in the Official Gazette, because I would like to be very certain that we are on firm ground. We have a communication which, in my humble view, is of doubtful propriety? it is something which I would have to investigate. There is no reflection at all on the character or the integrity of the gracious lady who represents the United States Government in this country, but not even with the same good relations with the United States of America would I be prepared to jeopardise what I would consider to be the privileges of this House, I should just like to make my position clear, I do not involve my colleagues in anything I say; this is purely a personal statement made as a member of this House. 3.30 p.m.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

May I just say this apropos of what the Hon. Minister of Education has said that in the Statement itself the main paragraph is headed "The facts follow"? Whilst it is true that "the facts follow" purports to be a denial of certain statements which have appeared elsewhere, it does set out the "the facts follow,"

and it thereby constitutes a statement of fact. In respect of the letter of which the hon. member refers, that was a letter addressed to the Speaker, written to him in that capacity and addressed to him at his office, and after I read the letter, the Hon. Minister of Education no doubt recalls that I looked around the House asking if it was the desire of the House that the Statement be read, and the House by implication and by certain hon. members nodding assent, indicated that they desire it should be read, as it was hoped that it would appear in the records of the House and in the Gazette in which it could not otherwise appear if it were not read,

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

Mr. Speaker, I rose a few minutes ago to discover from you if you were satisfied as to the right of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy speaking on a point of privilege at that particular time, I have my own personal views on this matter which I am not going to disclose at this stage, but since Your Honour has now recognised that I rose on a point of order, I would say this. Your Honour mentioned that certain hon. members has shown assent to the reading of this communication. I want it to be clearly understood that I was not one of those hon. members and would never have been. I want the records to show that. I have not entered into any controversy over or attempted to question your ruling, because I know better. If I want to

come here and question your ruling, I know what sort of motion to introduce for me to express myself on any matter in which I am not in agreement with the Speaker's ruling,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, what surprises me on this entire exercise is not that any hon. member would question the character or integrity of the American Consul General, but that any hon. member would impliedly question her ability as Consul General of this Island, That is what it amounts to.

When it comes to the rights and privileges of this Chamber, apart from the position I presently occupy, as one of its oldest members I cherish them highly as anybody else, but what I am saying is this: what the hon. member is saying today is tantamount to saying that the American Consul General does not know what she is saying, I will wait until the hon. members keep quiet, and I will show them what I mean.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I take it that the Hon. Leader of the House is speaking on a point of elucidation,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

On a point of order,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I cannot have two points of order at the same time,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Your Honour allowed members of the Government to speak. I am asking if the hon. member says that what hon. members over here said is tantamount to saying that the American Consul does not know what she is saying. If he is accusing me of that, I have said no such thing,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

There can be no question of questions and answers between hon. members. The Hon. Leader of the House has risen on a point of interruption, that point being a point of elucidation to clarify some matter raised by him in the course of his speech,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

And I hope not to be interrupted again until I am finished,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I want to make it clear,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I cannot have two points of interruption proceeding simultaneously. I really expect better of hon. members who have been here for many years.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I apologise to Your Honour, but what I want to get from the Leader of the House is whether he has said that what hon. members over here have said is tantamount to saying that the American Consul does not know what she is saying,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition may not rise on an alleged point of order, I almost used the phrase of Mr. Speaker Morrison of the House of Commons - on a fraudulent point of order, to inquire what an hon. member said.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I object to your suggestion that I rose on a fraudulent point of order, I do not care what anybody in the House of Commons has said, I sat here and heard the hon. member say that what hon. members over here said was tantamount to saying that the American Consul did not know what she was saying, I take strong objection to the suggestion that I rose on a fraudulent point of order. You have no right doing it, I respect anybody in the Chair in this House, and I respect the dignity of the Chair, but do not make that kind of rough sport with me, or I will be very, very rough. When a member gets up to speak, and it appears to me from what I hear that I have been misquoted, I will rise on a point of order,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not rise and say he was misquoted; he rose and said that on a point of order he wanted to enquire whether the Leader of the House meant him or not. That was not a point of order.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I rose on a point of order and said that I heard the Hon. Leader of the House say that what we said over here was tantamount to saying that the American Consul did not know what she was saying, and I said that if that were so, there was nothing further from the truth than that because there was no insinuation from me nor could you infer that I said anything like that. That is all I said and there is no fraudulent point of order in that,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I am glad the Hon. Leader of the Opposition repeated himself. He rose and said \"on a point of order\" and then he immediately proceeded, as he has Just repeated, to say \"did I hear the Hon. Leader of the House right\". That is not a point of order,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

That is just a matter of expression, meaning \"Did he refer to me as saying that the American Consul did not know what she was saying,\" I rose to say that if he had said that, it was not correct,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

May I suggest to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the point on which he rose was not a point of order, but under Standing Order No, 26 (16), a member who has spoken may again be heard to offer explanation of some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood. Do I gather that from the hon. member?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I am offering a further explanation, I am asking if I heard the hon. member say that what we said was tantamount to saying that the American Consul did not know what she was saying. If so, he was misquoting me.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I have been speaking and have been interrupted on points of order; but I am repeating. Sir, that any hon. member in this Chamber who queries Your Honours reading of the letter today is contesting the ability of Miss Eileen Donovan as American Consul General in this Island, and I am going to prove it. In her capacity as American Consul General, she would not have been appointed here unless she knew what her responsibilities were., and unless she could have faithfully discharged her duties. Therefore, Sir, having sent this letter here, the American Consul General must know that it was within her power to do so. If hon. members would stop talking and listen, they would imderstand. Miss Donovan in her position as American Consul General would not be such a fool as to send a letter to the Barbados House of Parliament unless she was entitled to do it, and I repeat that any hon. member who contests it is saying that she is unfit for her job,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, I must object to the hon. member saying that because we contest the reading of the letter, we are saying that Miss Donovan is unfit for her job.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

What Chairman is the hon. member addressing? The Hon. Leader of the Opposition rose and said \"Mr. Chairman\", 3.40p.m.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I beg your pardon. I was not referring to the office of Chairman, I object to the remarks which the hon. member said,

**Hon.W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, May's Parliamentary Procedure states with regard to "Communications by the Speaker";

"Immediately after Prayers or after any item of the kind described above, the Speaker, when occasion has arisen, communicates to the House at his discretion the purport, or reads the contents, of any letters he may have received from external authorities. These may include replies to communications of condolence or congratulation made by the House to members of the Royal Family or messages of the same kind sent by foreign legislative bodies. They may also include such matters as a letter from a judge communicating the cause of commitment of a Member arrested upon a criminal charge or the sentence passed upon him after trial. It is at this time also that the

Speaker announces the death of any Member which has been officially notified since the last sitting of the House."

Then, if you look at page 234 of the same edition, which deals with communications from the Speaker, this is the definition:

"The Speaker communicates the resolutions of the House to those to whom they are directed, conveys its thanks and expresses its censure, its reprimands and its admonitions. He issues warrants to execute the orders of the House for the commitment of offenders, for the attendances of witnesses in custody, and for giving effect to other orders requiring sanction of a legal form. Whenever it seems to him a suitable occasion he communicates to the House letters and documents addressed to him as Speaker, such as expressions of congratulations and condolence and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures letters acknowledging a vote of the thanks of the House, or relating to the rights and privileges of the House or of its Members, such as communications announcing the arrest or imprisonment of a Member."

This is the significant paragraph: "He communicates to the House letters and documents addressed to him as Speaker, such as expressions of congratulations and condolence and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures"

(Loud Asides),

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Standing Order No. 29 refers to Behaviour of Members not Speaking, Paragraph 6 states "While a Member is speaking, all other Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones, and shall not make unseemly interruption."

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that Miss Donovan as Consul General of the U.S.A. in this Island must have had the respect of the American Government before she was appointed. Secondly, if she sent a letter to the Speaker, she knows that she is entitled to do it; otherwise, she would not have done it. If she sent a letter here without knowing that she would be entitled to do so, she would be unfit to do the job, I do not see any reason why there should be this attack on her,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

It is not an attack on her. How can it be an attack?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

If the ten. member says that he is not attacking the Consul General, what else is it? The position is this. \"May's\" lays it down that any child can understand. Whenever it seems to be a suitable occasion, the Speaker communicates to the House letters and documents communicated to him and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Will the Hon. Leader of the House read it properly?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

\"The Speaker communicates to the House letters and documents addressed to Mm as Speaker, such as expressions of congratulation and condolence and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures, letters acknowledging a vote of the thanks of the House, or relating to the rights and privileges of the House or of its Members, such as communications announcing the arrest or imprisonment of a Member,\"

It is so simple that a little child can understand. In other words, Sir, if the Consul General of Tasmania sent a letter to you, it is a foreign country.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Yes, You mean a letter of condolence

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition must set an example. The Hon. Leader of the House is still on his feet.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, this is so simple. It says \"letters and documents such as expressions

of congratulations and condolences and goes on to say other messages from foreign countries.\" This is very clear. If we are talking of foreign countries, we are talking about accredited diplomatic representatives. It says: \"other messages from foreign countries.\"

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

As a matter of fact, even before the Hon. Leader of the House was good enough to read that passage for the benefit of hon. members, I was well seised of the passage which occurs in the 17th Edition - that is the 1964 Edition of Sir Erskine May's, Laws and Usages of Parliament, on page 341, paragraph 12, sub-paragraph (2) Forms of communications to the Speaker, which reads \"Immediately after Prayers or after any item of the kind described above, the Speaker, when occasion has arisen, communicates to the House at his discretion the purport, or reads the contents, of any letters he may have received from external authorities.\" 3.50 p.m.

These may include - and that \"may\" does not refer to the author of this work. (Mr. MOTTLEY; I thank you, Sir.) The passage continues\", \"Replies to communications of condolence or congratulation

made by the House to the members of the Royal Family or messages of the same kind sent by foreign legislative bodies, They may also include such matters as a letter from a Judge communicating the cause of commitment of a member arrested upon a criminal charge or the sentence passed upon him after trial."

The Speaker communicates to the House at his discretion the purport etc,

I regard this authority as being external to this House, external to this island and external to the British Commonwealth,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I have the 17th Edition, Sir, I suggest that the hon. member refer to page 246,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The hon. member has directed my attention to "outside authorities." For the benefit and edification of hon. members, I quote from page 246 also of the 17th Edition, 1964, to relation to "outside authorities" where it says this... "he communicates to the House letters and documents addressed to him as Speaker, such as expressions of congratulation and condolence and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures..."

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. We are trying our best to interpret certain preliminary matters and the position is stated quite clearly and unequivocally in May's Parliamentary Practice whether it be the 15th, 16th or 17th Edition. In the 15th Edition the matter is set out on pages 234 and 236, I want to make my position quite clear so that it cannot go outside that we are not capable of understanding these things, I do not need to labour and to go through quotations which have already been made by Your Honour, by the Hon. Leader of the House and also by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. It is quite clear what is intended. I have before me May's treatise on the Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament, the 15th Edition, and I am referring to pages 234 and 236, The Hon. Leader of the House has been very painstaking in pointing out for the benefit of the House what is stated very clearly in May's Parliamentary Practice, Among other things, (ASIDES).

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Let the hon. senior member for Christ Church continue to substitute his point of order,

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

Mr. Speaker, I was trying to make my point. As I have said, mention has been made of the words "and, other messages from foreign countries and legislatures". What is being done now is to attempt to take away the powers of the Speaker. That is what has been done here unnoticed; an attempt has been made to take away the powers which are vested in the Speaker, A foreign power has the perfect right to address the Speaker or the Premier or a Minister. According to our system of Government, it

is His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Senate and the Hon. House of Assembly, which is the most important body because it is elected The members of the Other Place are nominated; I refer to the Senate. 4.00 p.m.

There should be no attempt to say that a foreign representative here has not got a perfect right to write a letter to tell you something on a matter of public interest which had been mentioned in this Chamber when the Estimates were being considered. The matter was not debated, but It is a matter which has been disturbing the minds of many people, including the Government, the hoteliers and the tourist trade as a whole, and while are talking, the public at large is not aware of what we are discussing. What we are discussing is a point which has been mooted in the papers to the effect that the American Government intends inposing a tax of \$100 U.S. on all American tourists or prospective tourists wheat may be thinking of taking a holiday abroad. The whole attitude has arisen due to the French Government calling for payments in gold, with the result that the American Government wants to impose a tax to encourage people to spend their money locally for the purpose of balance of payments and so on.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Let the hon. senior member for Christ Church appreciate that we are not now discus sing the point at issue,

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

Mr. Speaker, I am merely mentioning what the letter is all about, because yon mentioned that nobody is aware of what we are discussing. What we are discussing is a matter of public interest, and one which has already been mentioned in this Chamber, I am saying, Sir, that the American Consul General, Miss Donovan, who is so well known to so many of us and who has endeared herself to the people of this island in such a magnificent manner by her ability, experience and good intentions towards this island, may have taken too much interest in our economy and our prospects, and she has sent this communication in order to set our minds at rest assuring us that this proposed tax of \$100 on intended tourists will not affect Barbados in due course. She probably has been given specific instructions to do that; otherwise she would not have done that. If this communication had to go to the Cabinet and go through the normal procedure, it would probably take three months to get here, but she thought she would write the letter directly to you, Sir, and she had a perfect right to do so and you have a perfect right as Speaker to read any message of public interest and public importance. If the members of this House are less interested in matters of public importance than the American Consul General and do not understand what is happening, it shows that we are not taking as much interest in matters of public importance as the American Consul General,

The question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, does not arise because she has written to you; so the question of privilege would be with the House itself. Let us not confuse the two points. She has a right to send this communication to you, being the duly authorised and constituted representative of the American Government in Barbados,

**Mr. MILLER:**

Mr. Speaker, I think we have bad enough to say on this debate.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

May I point out that this is not a debate in the normal sense of the item. Hon. members have risen on alleged points of order, and I have given them perhaps too much latitude, I take it that the hon. Junior member for St. George has also risen on a point of order. May I just point out, before that hon. member speaks, that this reference was made by me under the head of Announcements which comes under Standing Order No, 8 - Order of Business (a) Formal entry of Speaker; (b) Prayers and (c)

## Announcements by Speaker.

There may be some hon. members who were not in the House as early as the hon. Junior member for St George, and who were unaware that this was referred to in connec-

tion with \"Announcements by the Speaker.\" There was the announcement with respect to the Accounts and Statement prepared by the Accountant General, and the announcement of the receipt of a letter from the Consul General of the United States of America. Let the hon. junior member for St. George proceed with his point of order.

### **Mr. MILLER:**

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if I am speaking on a point of order, because I am in the House, All I want to say is that I think we are wasting vital and important time of Parliament. I think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition by now is satisfied and convinced, I heard on a number of occasions today the faithful expression and interpretation of May's on this particular matter, and I could not agree with you more. Here is some naughty American news-paper publishing something to hurt or injure the tourist trade between the United States of America and the rest of the world which is denounced by the American Government Now we have a representative of this foreign Government in the person of the Consul General. There is no reason to expect her to wait for the Speaker of the House or the Ministers of Parliament or ordinary members of Parliament to read the American newspapers to be satisfied that this is done in the United States of America, and therefore we should want to respect her discretion. She is a representative of the United States Government in Barbados, and there has been suitable discussion and to some extent fear and anxiety as to whether this false statement would appear in one of the American New York papers as true or not, and she sought to enlighten Parliament through the Speaker, I could not agree with her more, and that is about the very minimum that is expected of her since she is the representative of her government, serving in our country. I think we are wasting time, Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more that it should be regarded not as a debate but as a harangue, and I suppose.....

### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

I never suggested it should be regarded as a harangue,

### **Mr. MILLER:**

You said it could not be regarded as a debate, and I am saying in conclusion that in my mind it should be treated as a harangue., It seems as if, without further comment and talk, the Leader of the Opposition should apologise for the embarrassment he has caused to the Chair and other members. If he is expected to show an example in Parliament as Leader of the Opposition, the least one would expect him to do is to get up and say \"Sorry Mr. Speaker!\", This is something that Parliament can afford, and we should be happy to have Miss Donovan operating in an office located in Barbados, We want to be serious about these things,

### **Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect,,,

### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

Has the Hon. Leader of the Opposition risen to call for an explanation on some material part of his speech which has apparently been misunderstood. That is, by virtue of Standing Order No. 26 (16)? 4.10

p.m.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I have listened very carefully to what hon. members have to say, but I do not pay any attention at all to what the hon. junior member for St. George was saying. He is in his usually parrot-like fashion repeating what he heard, I want to say this. With the greatest respect, if I feel like criticising a method or procedure, I do it with no disrespect to Your Honour, I do it with no disrespect to Miss Donovan, But listening to the argument of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, I would say that up to the present we are still a Colonial territory, and any foreign country like the United States of America can only communicate with us on a matter through the Colonial Office and that only can be done through the Government.

Although the section says that you may read letters such as condolence and congratulation and other messages from foreign countries and legislatures, that is where the re is a difference of opinion, I interpret that to mean \"or any letter of a similar nature.\"

What I contend, with the greatest respect to Your Honour, - though I have consulted the legal luminaries cm this particular point and I find that I am wrong - I would go on and say that you are right, but from the point of view of this letter coming from a foreign power and this island being a colonial territory, communicating on the subject of a matter with regard to emigration, that is, in my opinion, not the correct procedure, I would challenge anybody on that question and say that that would have to come through the Government, and the Government through its mouthpiece would have to communicate it in here.

This is a matter -

Mr. SPEAKER- is the hon. member seeking to clear up any part of his speech?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

What is worrying me is this. If a Statement had been made in the House as regards the matter, or if a question of emigration had engaged the attention of hon. members, then we would appreciate very much the Statement of the American Consul General; but on the entire matter, this island being a Colonial territory, the correct procedure would be for it to come through the Colonial Office to the Cabinet and thin, the Cabinet, through its mouthpiece, bring it to the House.

It is a matter of difference of opinion or a different interpretation of the paragraph. It does not matter to me who thinks that I possibly have not got sufficient experience or, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, that a little child can interpret this because I have seen little children leading grown-up persons,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Is the hon. member exptoining a material part of what he has said?

Mr. MOTTLEY\ I think it can be closed, I would only say that it is not a matter of disrespect to Your Honour, but I feel that the intreprctation of the Hon. Leader of the House is absolutely contrary to mine.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I merely want to say-

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I take it that the Hon. Leader of the House is rising on a point of elucidation on some matter raised and which he wants to clarify.

May I suggest that the hon. member should not be unmindful of the fact that we have not yet started on the business of the day,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I merely want to say that if the American Consular General was not entitled to send this message to Your Honour, she was not entitled to hold a Press Conference and explain to the Press the purport of what she wrote to the House to explain,

### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Will the Hon. Minister proceed with the Business of the Day? We have completed the "Announcements by the Speaker."

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Before I proceed to lay papers, I want to make a statement. This evening is the funeral of Mr. C. B. Rock, former Reporter of the Legislature, He was appointed by the Debates Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER Is the hon. member desirous of making reference now to him?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Yes, Sir, I hope hon. Members would agree to a brief adjournment for an hour so as to attend the funeral, I am suggesting that we come back within the hour.

**VOICES:**

No; no. Adjourn until another day.

### PAPERS LAID

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health, I am commanded to lay The Hospital (Fees) Regulations, 1965,

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

Mr. Speaker I am commanded to lay

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 29th

February, 1965,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Quarantine Act, 1947,

**REPLIES TO QUESTIONS**

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

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

-

No. 33/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James;

No. 34A964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip;

No. 41/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James;

No. 42/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James,

**Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 35/ 1964, asked by the hon. senior member for St James is now ready, 4.20 p.m.

**STATEMENT re TENTH MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD- Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to make the following Statement in relation to the recently concluded Tenth Meeting of the Regional Council of Ministers,

On the 24th day of April, 1965, the Barbados Cabinet unanimously concluded that, on the subject of the proposed East Caribbean Federation, the Leader of the Barbados Delegation should, at the appropriate time, state the position of the Government of Barbados as follows: -

(i) that on the general principle of the desirability of an East Caribbean Federation, there was no change in this Government's position as expressed some three years ago;

(ii) that one of the contributing factors to the present state of disagreement and indecision among the seven territories was the continued failure of the United Kingdom Government to state in unequivocal terms the quantum of capital finance which it was prepared to make available to the Federation for the long overdue development of the constituent territories;

(iii) that any further discussion on proposals for the establishment of an East Caribbean Federation would be dependent on the willingness of the United Kingdom Government to state its intentions with regard to (ii) above.

This decision was presented in primed form to the Chairman of the Regional Council of Ministers by the Leader of the Barbados Delegation at 10.30 a.m, on Wednesday, 28th April, and was duly read put to the meeting by the Chairman of the Regional Council of Ministers,

The Leader of die Barbados Delegation further informed the Conference that, in view of the withdrawal of

Antigua from the Federal exercise, and the uncertainty of the Governments of St. Lucia and Montserrat as regards the form of association required, whether unitary or federal, it would be necessary for the Barbados Government to have consultations with the other Political Parties in the changed circumstances.

The Premier, as Minister in charge of Regional Affairs, in order that there should be the fullest possible discussion, both at legislative and public levels, therefore proposes to publish a White Paper on the state of the negotiations, which will be laid before both Houses of the Legislature not later than the week beginning 6th June, It is hoped that debate on this White Paper will be initiated before the end of June, 1965, in order that the Government may have the benefit of the views of this Parliament before entering into further discussions with the territories concerned,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I am giving notice of my intention to debate the Statement which has been made by the Hon. Leader of the House,

**Mr. MILLER:**

I want to second the motion of the Hon, Leader of the Opposition that this Statement be debated.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

There is no motion before the House. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has given notice of his intention to debate the Statement, That is only his intention, His next step is to reduce his intention to writing,

**Hon W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I think that both the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. junior member for St. George are labouring under a misapprehension. This is not the White Paper and therefore it cannot be debated.

**Mr SPEAKER:**

I am suggesting to the Hon Leader of the House that he should not go any further with that now. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has given notice of a certain intention. That cannot go any further unless I am satisfied that it may go further,

## QUESTIONS

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

There are certain Questions standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James, I understand that the hon. member has requested another hon. member to put these Questions for him in

his unavoidable absence, I understand that the hon. senior member for St. George is putting these Questions,

**Mr. LOWE:**

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the tea senior member for St. James- To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware: (a) that the poor drainage of the Hometown River causes extraordinary difficulty to persons living nearby ingetting in and out of their homes during the rainy season and at hightidc?

(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?

2, Will the Minister take steps as soon as possible to develop this area so as to remove this obvious hazard?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the narrowness of the bridge along the highway at Hotetown, St. James, creates a hazard to pedestrians using the said highway?

2. Will the Minister take steps to have the bridge widened so as to provide adequate sidewalks on both sides of the said road for the protection of the said pedestrians?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that certain printed forms- such

as forms of 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 unsatis- factory state of affairs remedied and that the said printed forms be made available at the earliest possible opportunity?

**Mr SPEAKER:**

There are also questions standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, -

**Mr. SMITH:**

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Is it a fact that Government awards contracts to building contractors for the erection of buildings, bridges etc,?

2, If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state how many buildings are under construction by the said contractors, and how many have been completed between 1st April, 1962 and March, 1965?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister state: (a) if there are any contractors or suppliers of building materials who are granted loans from the Development Board?

(b) if any of the said contractors or suppliers are selling materials to Government?

2, If the answer is in the affirmative will me Minister

state how many they are?

4.30 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

How many vans are being used by the Hospital for the transportation of patients to and from the Hospital?

Will the Minister state tow many of the said vans operate (a ) between the hours of 6 a. m, and 4 p.m. and (b) between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6 a.m?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

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

\\"BE IT RESOLVED that this House view with concern the Statement made by the Hon. Leader of the House on the 18th May on the subject of Federation.\"

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I take it that this would have been seen by the Clerk of the House,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

The Clerk of the House has seen it

### **BELLS READ A FIRST TIME**

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

by Hon. C. E TALIMA, a Bill to amend the Quarantine Act, 1947, was read a first time.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to hon. members that since we have done nothing at all today, that we take the suspension for an hour, pay our respects to the late Mr. Rock at St. Barnabas Church and return

to the Chamber.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended for an hour.

**Hon. C.E. TALMA:**

I beg to second that.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I would suggest to the Hott, Leader of the House that he adjourns the House. What is the point of suspending the sitting for an hour? You are not going to get a quorum afterwards, I am not a hypocrite, not that I am suggesting that hon. members are, but imagine the hon.

senior member for St. Andrew going to the funeral and then coming back here afterwards I Let the hon. member be practical and adjourn the House until this day week, because we cannot get back in an hour. I am therefore asking the hon. member if he will accept my suggestion,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I would be happy to do so if we had done two items today,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Has me Hon. Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech?

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Not yet. Sir,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Let the Hon. Leader of the Opposition continue his address,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Hotise do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th May, at 2.30 p.m.

**Mr. SMITH:**

I beg to second that. My reason for second ing it is because I do not sec that we can do justice this afternoon in going to this funeral to get back here within one hour. If we suspend me sitting for an hour and do not get back within the hour, we still cannot do anything, and I do not think it would be fair to hon. members over here, if we do not return, for the Government to carry on its business without us. The Government will get a quorum, and that may be the reason for pressing to come back here,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I object to that remark,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

May I suggest to the hon. Junior member for St. Joseph that he avoid imputing or even appearing to impute improper natives to another member, in other words, that the motion for the suspension is being made because it is hoped that, when the House resume, the members not of the Government Party will all be absent. As a matter of fact, if an hon. member of the Government had suggested that, I would say

that would be improper of the Government Party to assume that hon. members would not return if a motion for suspension is duly carried,

**Mr. SMITH:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to impute any motives at all, because I am sure the Government members are going to return, but I am not sure that all the members from this side will return, and it would not be fair to us for the Government to carry on their business without us. We have not refused to work; we will sit here and carry on if they want to; but if they want to go to the funeral, all of us should go. What is to prevent them from adjourning until today week or until Thursday? I therefore respectfully beg to second the motion for the adjournment until 2.30 p.m. today week,

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion made by the Leader of the Opposition, I wish the Hon. Leader of the House would realise that in answer to a summons we appeared here at 2.30p.m. today and it is now approaching 4.45 p.m. and no Government business has yet been done. Hon. members came here precisely to do Government business, and the Hon. Leader of the House must realise that after remaining in this Chamber for more than two and a half hours and finding that Government business has not yet been done, hon. members over here will not be prepared to come here after the hour's suspension to resume Government business. We are human beings after all. The Hon. Leader of the House is suggesting that the House be suspended for an hour in order that hon. members can go to the funeral of a late Reporter of the Other Place, but looking around this Chamber, and knowing Barbadians as I do, I do not see any of them in the traditional funeral dress; so I wonder if they would have time to change and go to the funeral. What funeral are they going to? Let us be serious and realistic.

The Hon. Leader of the House cannot expect to find members on this side coming back here after an hour, and if he really wishes us to participate in the business of

Government, he will reasonably adjourn this House until some other day. We are not adamant in our intentions not to return, but if he presses his business, he will know that he is doing without the services of members of the Opposition. Again, I say, I cannot see. If I am seeing right looking around this Horse-shoe table, the traditional funeral dress by members who are expected to attend a funeral in Barbados till afternoon, 4.40 p.m.

Therefore, what are we doing? We are prepared to remain and do Government Business now. Now is the time; not an hour from now when the body would be interred and when someone would just have arrived, I hope the Hon. Minister is listening to me, I know that the Hon. Leader of the House is serious, and I want to accommodate the hon. member. I want to say something on Government Business now, not an hour from now, I do not think that I should be precluded from that now and I think my colleagues want to do the same thing now, I want to make a plea. Please have us accommodated now rather than when we return. As a matter of fact, looking around the Table, I do not see hon. members attired for the funeral,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I would accede to the wishes of hon. members,

Mr. HUSBANDS. I think that the body must have been interred by now. Let us pass a Resolution of

condolence to the relatives of Mr. C. B. Rock and then carry on with the business of the House.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

So far as I am concerned, when we go as we are, we would be rendering our hearts and not our garments, I went to the funeral of the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George dressed in a brown suit, I did not know about it until late,

Mr. SPEAKER; Of course, I hope the hon. member is not implying that any politician goes about without his black tie in his back pocket.

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

I think the average politician is not always so mindful of taking his black tie along with him,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

To regularise this matter, I would ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his motion,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Yes, Sir. I do so now,

Mr. SPEAKERThe Hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking leave to withdraw the motion that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 2.30 p.m. If there is no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

Hearing no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I understand that the Hon. Leader of the House is seeking permission to withdraw his motion for the suspension of the Sitting for one hour and if there is no objection, leave will be granted the hon. member.

Hearing no objection, leave is granted the hon. member. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

It being after 4.30 p. m., I now declare that Government Business be proceeded with.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, we did not suspend any Standing Orders,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

It would not be necessary now.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

We have some replies to questions.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, I should like to know what is happening to Order No, 3 of

Government Business which has been on the Order Paper for longer than three months without anything being done about it. I am wondering if it is going to be proceeded with this evening,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

This is now time for Government Business, Let Government Business be proceeded with.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I am drawing something to Your Honour's notice under Government Business.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to proceed with Order No. 8 as the First Order under Government Business.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I have drawn something to your notice.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I am giving it some consideration,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

It is not for Your Honour to say that you are giving it some consideration. The Rules says what you should do.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

At this moment. I have the matter under consideration, I am not giving a Ruling instantly. Let that be perfectly clear. The hon. member is not entitled to suggest that I am not going to give a ruling,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

But it is not your desire to give a Ruling immediately,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I am not giving the Ruling instantly,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I must not be made to look like a fool, I am not allowing anybody to make me look like a fool. I got up and drew something to Your Honour's attention. How do you think I came in here?

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I said that I will give the matter my consideration and the hon. member is shouting at me,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

You should not shout at me either. That is not an indication of courtesy.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

If you shout, I will shout too.

May I point out that when the hon. member sits he must stop shouting. That is also a matter of discourtesy,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

This is no Sunday School. I merely drew something to your notice without saying one word to you, and the Hon. Leader of the House got up and started off with something else. 4.50 p.m.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

As soon as I heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition refer something to me, I said that I would give the matter my consideration. Sometimes shouting makes it difficult for one to understand what another is saying, I was looking in the direction of the Hon. Leader of the House because it was time for Government Business,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that it has happened in that way; but you looked around at the Hon. Leader and I felt that I was being ignored.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I never ignore the hon. member,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

And Your Honour knows that I would never be rude to the Chair,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The hon. member has been a member of this House since 1946 and he has not shown any signs of being rude to the Speaker.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I will never do that

### **NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Mr. SPEAKER motion has been made that Order No. 8 be the next Order of the Day, Hon. members in favour of

that will please say "Aye", and those against will please say "Noe", I think the "Ayes" have it Order No. 8 becomes the instant Order of the Day and that Order is: to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950,

Hon W. A. CRAWFORD Mr. Speaker. I am asking leave to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister and Minister of Finance,

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Order stalling in the name of the Hoit Premier and Minister of Finance, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted, (PAUSE). Hearing no objection, leave is granted. The Hon. Leader of the House may proceed,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple Bill, It seeks to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act of 1950 so as to increase the number of members of the Corporation from five to six. That, of course, includes the Chairman, The idea behind it is to have the Assistant Financial Secretary appointed as a member of the Corporation, Since the Corporation has a membership of five, in order to include the appointment of this officer, we have to Increase the membership which the law now permits, I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

**Hon. C E. TALMA:**

I beg to second that,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, I take it that there will not be any additional expenditure, in as much as it is the Acting Financial Secretary Who will be appointed a member of this Board, I should like the hon. member to assure me of that; otherwise I would suggest that they drop one member and include the Acting Financial Secretary, I should like to hear the hon. member on that matter. The additional member would not be drawing any fees.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

Before the Hon. Leader of the House replies, is there any other hon. member who wants to speak on this matter? (PAUSE). As it appears that there is no other hon. member seeking to speak on this matter, the Hon. Leader of the House may exercise his right of final reply,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. senior member for the City, I would like to say that, normally, the Financial Secretary is a member of the Corporation; but it happens sometimes that he is busy and cannot attend meetings and he has to send the Assistant Financial Secretary. Under the law, he cannot do it What we are doing now is to give legal status to the Assistant Financial Secretary to act as a member of the Board when the Financial Secretary cannot attend meetings,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I asked about the fees.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

The Financial Secretary does not get any fees when he attends meetings of the Natural Gas Corporation,

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; 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-1 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. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and passed.

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

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

**Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:**

I beg to second that.

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

The ACTING CHAIRMAN reported to MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER who took the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON in each case the Bill was read a third time and passed. 5.00 p.m.

### **THE SEAWELL AIRPORT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1965**

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 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.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Bill, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted,

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

**W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, this Bill merely seeks to amend the Act in order to make it legally possible to include in

the Regulations of the Act the imposition of tolls in respect of vehicles leaving the Airport, Hon. members are aware that we are committed to an appreciable expenditure at Seawell in respect of improvement and extensions, and the imposition of this toll tax of vehicles leaving the Airport is one of the ways in which the Government proposes to assist in financing this expenditure.

It is true in this island so far we have not had to resort to this method to assist in public financing in any sector, but the increasing cost of providing additional facilities at the Airport, and the high cost of maintenance, make it imperative that additional means of revenue be resorted to in order to maintain the expensive facilities at Seawell. In the Regulations under the Act, if this Bill is passed, we will now have power to fix a small toll on motor vehicles leaving Seawell Airport,

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

**Hon. C E. TALMA:**

I beg to second that,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I quite understand the hon. member, but the Bill is so vague. We on this side of the Table understand that Government must have funds for financing, but I well remember that when the Central Road Board Act came into being, it was felt in those days that sums should be set aside for dealing with roads. The hon. member said that lots of money have to be spent at Seawell, and therefore as a result of this Bill a pool will be imposed on motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport,

Now I do not think that the hon. member means that this money will be set aside in a special fund, but will go to general revenue although he has not said so. Paragraph 2 of this Bill says that subsection (2) of section 3 of the Seawell Airport Act, 1950, is hereby amended by the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (d) "and

imposing tolls in respect of motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport". Will the hon. member give us at least for the benefit of the public what this toll will be and how it will be collected? I am sure we would all like to know, The Bill refers to motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport. This means that all taxis, private cars and motor vehicles of those people who ply for trade from night to night will have to pay a toll as long as that vehicle is leaving the Airport. We should like to know how much the toll is going to be, and by what means it is going to be collected.

This Bill, Sir, is not good enough, and though what I am saying is not offering opposition to the Bill, I want to know something more about it. You are asking us to pass a Bill to give you the power to amend the Act to make regulations for a toll, and I think it is but fair that you should tell us what the toll will be so that the general public can know, A number of taxi men go to Seawell day after day and return without finding a job, but they would still have to pay a toll when leaving. The amount might be so infinitesimal that it might not matter, but again it might be such as to discourage a man from going to look for a job. I have seen people park their cars at Seawell Airport to get in line for a Trans-Canada plane, because I think there is some unwritten regulation where the police calls whoever is in line. The big garages get a certain proportion of the work, the United Taxi Association get a certain proportion, others who are not in a company get a certain proportion: so people get in line to be seen by the Police, but very often they do not get a job. We are wondering what the Regulations will be like. For instance, a

man has a car on hire and goes to Seawell Airport and gets no work, but when leaving he has to pay a ton although he has had to use gasoline. I am sure the hon. member would not object to telling hon. members of this House for the benefit of the public and those who work for a living as taxi owners what the ton will be. To those of us who go to Seawell for a drive or just to see a friend off, the toll may be nothing, but it might affect those who work for a living. The hon. Junior member for St. Thomas, the Parliamentary Secretary, knows what I am talking about, because he is very au fait with the situation with taxis and so on,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Leader of the House has listened to me, and will let us know what the toll will be before we pass the second reading of this Bill, 5.10 p.m.

**Mr. HUSBANDS:**

I very well appreciate the aims of this Bill as outlined by the Hon. Minister in charge. The Hon. Minister made reference to the future extension of facilities at Seawell Airport and its general overall maintenance; but like the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I too am of the opinion that the amending words which reads as follows

"and imposing tolls in respect of motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport", are rather vague. If you describe "vehicles departing from Seawell Airport" and stick to the letter of the law, I think the wording would appear to be very nonsensical. I think there should be a closer definition of what vehicles you are referring to as departing from Seawell Airport, I can well imagine that part and purport of the amendment is the inclusion of vehicles leaving the Airport after passengers have got to the Airport or after doing some business at the Airport; but I think anyone reading this amendment "vehicles departing from Seawell Airport" would think that you mean any vehicle departing from Seawell Airport, and you can well imagine that certain vehicles departing from Seawell Airport are not to be included in this amendment, Reading this amendment "motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport", you can very well think of a bus.

The definition is not close enough at all, and I do not think the Hon. Minister should be satisfied with this amendment. I think this matter should be deferred for a closer definition. I think it is not the intention of the Hon. Minister in charge to impose a toll on all and every possible vehicle departing from Seawell Airport, This is not a close enough definition. I hope the Hon. Minister is listening and thinking.

As I have said. Sir, I well appreciate the aims of this Bill, As you increase your facilities and more people are coming to Barbados, you have to improve and provide better conditions at the Airport and maintenance charges will go higher and higher.

There is one thing which the Hon. Minister has not told the House, and that is what is the fee. Is it to be \$1.00, 25 cents or ten cents? Whatsoever it is, it is of interest to this House, Will the Hon. Minister throw out a hint as to the amount of the toll? Further repercussions to this toll must be connected in the case of taxi owners. If a private individual goes to the Seawell Airport, how can this toll be collected? Will it be done by Government? Will the person have to drop a coin in the slot to pass through? It says "motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport", which is a description that is all embracing, to my mind, Mark you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, regulations will have to be laid on the Table of the House on the matter, and this is the only chance you have of debating them. We have the chance today; but when we give assent to this Bill and this Bill controls the regulations we have no chance, we have no word, we

cannot come in here and say one word on them. These are the only occasions, and we must make use of this occasion today to get as much information as we can, and to talk on the loose manner in which this amendment is worded.

Sir, I do not propose to be a know-all, and unless you are a know-all, you cannot say what this amendment means. It is absolutely too vague. If we have no say, our assent is taken for granted; therefore, here and now we ask the Hon. Minister for a closer definition of the words \"motor vehicles departing from Seawell Airport\". We also ask him to give us the extent of the toll and the manner in which it would be collected from owners of taxis and ownerdriven vehicles,

**Mr. MILLER:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take a somewhat different view of the arguments adduced by the two hon. members who spoke on this matter. It is for the Hon. Leader of the House who presented this Bill to say what he means. There are no arrangements in anything which the Hon. Minister said because, like the hon. members of the Opposition, he regards this as farcical. What is some argument which is introduced by the hon. member is that there is maintenance at this huge Airport. When we are collecting this toll and setting it aside for the upkeep of the Airport, would we not still have maintenance at other Government institutions? How would we collect for that? 5.20 p.m.

I share equally the sentiments of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition; this Bill is lacking in sincerity and it is lacking even in the idea. If you are in need of taxation, there are several other means by which it can be raised. You can look after an excess profits tax. I am submitting, Sir, that the amount raised from this toll would hardly pay for the setting up of the machinery to collect it. You have to employ persons to work 24 hours around the clock to collect this toll. The amount of this toll would not pay the wages of the gardeners at Seawell Airport. You will have to pay a team, and all of this will involve the consumption of electricity, the provision of tickets, and what not, for twenty-four hours a day. I do not agree with this, at whatever figure you fix the toll, it means nothing; this will be a constant irritant. Fortunately for us we have a lady who develops these gardens at Seawell. You have people who just take a ride out of town to the Airport, and these are people who have already paid taxes in relation to the Airport. These are people who would want to take a run up to the gardens at the Airport and feel happy.

We are dealing with people who have to deal with business, I know that you are in straits for money; you are carrying on all of these projects and you have the East Coast Road which has come to a halt. You knew that it would come to a halt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is a farce even to people who would enjoy a ride in and out of the Airport. You have people who want to go to the Airport in order to say goodbye to a friend, and now you are expecting to collect this toll from them. You are dealing with vehicles, and at whatever figure you fix the toll, this is

stupidity. I do not know that we should even ask what the toll will be. You will have to build a booth and have something for the purpose of restricting the passage of vehicles. Do you understand what the cost of all this is going to be? You cannot employ all and sundry because you have to be responsible to somebody for the funds which are collected, and this money has to be paid in to somebody. Whether a toll is paid or not, maintenance would have to be carried out at Seawell Airport. You are wasting the time of Parliament with this joke. What is ugly about it is that the same people who have provided the taxes to build this Airport you are going to add to their taxation. As I have already said, there are those persons who would take a ride to the gardens at the Airport, and I must say that here we have a form of

desperation which is unknown to previous Governments of this country,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that there are other tilings on which they could justifiably collect more taxation than they would ever hope to collect from this toU In order to collect this tax, you win have to appoint two officers and change them three times a day; you will have to get somebody to relieve them. You will have to do all of this in order to collect what? I am quite sure that on some days you would not even collect ten dollars, which will not even pay one of the officers. You would probably pay a shift staff for eight tours, and you would probably have four or five cars going through the Airport, As far as the officers are concerned, you would have to pay them something like \$50 or \$60 a week. That is just a little moment of examination. Then there is the question of the cost of printing this document which would be a loss to the Government Printery, This Bill will impose a hardship on the people on whom it was not intended to mete out this kind of treatment,

I think we should look away from the hope and idea of a toll to be paid when vehicles are going out of the Airport, This is something which is going to keep people from the Airport. This is a childish idea of hoping to collect this toll at the Airport: and even if you could justify it, it should not be done under the guise that you have to maintain the Airport The other institutions of Government must cost something for their running and upkeep, I am sorry about this because there are a lot of things which we could be discussing in Parliament rather than be wasting the time of the taxpayers. We could really be doing something else. I suggest that you should let people pay a tax of 10 cents for parking their vehicles or something like that, but do you tell me that somebody is driving through the Airport in order to say goodbye to a friend and he has to pay a toll? What are you going to get to be put into the Treasury by taking this toll? Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry that busy, hardworking people like ourselves have to leave our business in order to come here to discuss the frivolity of an organization, sometimes referred to as the Government, which has no significance in its term. This is all like Aesop\'s Fables,

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The hon. Junior member for St. Joseph caught my eyes first

**Mr. SMITH:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think I will be too long in speaking on this Bill, but I will have to say something on it, I really cannot understand it at all, 5.30 p.m.

The Objects and Reasons of this Bill state that this Bin would amend the Seawell Airport Act, 1950, in order to make it clear that Regulations thereunder may provide for the imposition of tolls in respect of motor vehicles leaving the Airport, That means. Sir, that every motor vehicle which goes to Seawell Airport would have to pay. The Hon. Introducer says that the heavy expenditure at Seawell is responsible for this imposition, but, Sir. a motor car does not use Seawell Airport, A motor car drives along the highway which is erected by Highways and Transport and passes through Seawell to the Terminal Building, That motor car is already taxed for using the road. If I am not mistaken, the owner has to pay six cents on every gallon

of gasoline he puts in the tank for die use of the road; so if a motor car drives to Seavell, sets down passengers and drives off, it does not use the Airport, To make him pay for going into Seawell, you might Just as well make people pay for the use of the East Coast Road, because that costs just as such money as Seawell,

This matter, Sir, must have been drawn to the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas who is Chairman or President of the Taxi Owners' Association, and he must have some say in it on account of his duties with the taxi owners whom he represents, and if he has agreed to anything like this, that is his business. It should be drawn to the Government's attention that there are some taxi owners who drive to Seawell and leave their motor cars there overnight, and take a bus to go home at night. They are so poor that they are not in a position financially to drive the car back to Bridgetown and drive back up next morning, because some of them do not always get a job. Some of these taxi owners are already committed to the garages, having to pay instalments, when the month comes, for the motor car; they have to keep the motor car on the road and they have to support their families and themselves; and no matter how small the toll is, it will affect some of them. The big garages do not care anything about this, because they have their agents in the other parts of the world who contact the Shipping Agents and Airways people here, and when people come here they know what motor cars to get in. You will often see ten or twelve cars belonging to the big garages drive off from Seawell with passengers, while the poor taxi owners remain there waiting for something to come by the way, because they have nobody to canvass for them, I understand that even some of the Airways people canvass for the big garages, while these poor men come down at night and go back next morning by bus. They leave their cars overnight, which is a big risk. It is possible that they might get a job while in town, but they cannot take the risk of bringing the car down because they would not be able to find gasoline if they do not get a job,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not feel that the Government is in such a bad financial state that they have to push these people to the wall by imposing a toll. There are other ways and means by which Government can get taxes without penalising the poor taxi owners. You will probably find passengers who are in sympathy with them and will alight at a point nearest to the Airport and walk in with their luggage, leaving the car outside, and the Government will not get the toll. I am not going to vote for this unless I know what the toll is, because if we pass this this afternoon, we will not be able to say anything more when the Regulations are made. Suppose the toll is \$10.00; you would be penalising the poor taxi owners to pay \$10 for a \$4 job. If it is 25 cents, that would be negligible, but I am surprised that the Government has to think so low as to call upon a poor man to pay 25 cents to pass through the Airport. Do you think that if these taxi owners were in a position to pay a toll, they would leave their cars up there overnight and take a bus home and back up next morning? 5.40 p.m.

I do not think the toll would be less than the cost of the gasoline to get you there; therefore, you are still driving them to the wall now, I can tell you, Sir, that this is no good sign at all. When a mule is going to die, he does not care whom he kicks, I do not know if this Government feels that its members are on their way out, and therefore, they are trying to make it hard for whomsoever they can. If they were thinking in terms of keeping the Government, I do not think that they will think of penalising people in this form. This, Sir, makes me think that they will kick until they kick off the kicking straps, I do not think any sane human being at this time of the year would do this when you have the majority of taxi owners, some doing it for a living, having to go up there and leave their car up there. They are too poor to drive their own motor car back home; therefore, they have to leave it up there. Now, Government is going to fleece them.

I am not going to vote for it until I know something more about it because I would be a party to it. I have no right to agree to anything which I know nothing about. What is going to be the toll? Is it 10 cents. 20 cents or what? The Government should wait until they have the regulations and then bring the

Bill and the regulations together, I am not going to vote for it; I do not see the necessity for it at all. It may cost more to collect this toll than what you would get from it. You cannot overwork people, and you will have to be employing people from morning until night to collect this toll because you get planes coming into Seawell from morning and all through the night.

Now Sir, imagine that I want to take my family up there only for a look, I do not think you will be surprised when I say that people take their families up there on Sunday afternoons only for a drive. The children like to see a plane land and take off, When you do that, you are not making any money. If you say that a taxi owner is making money when he carries people to the Airport, a private owner is not. You will be faced with a toll when you are already contributing to the upkeep of Seawell by way of taxation, and you are paying a lot too.

This is not fair. It is not a fair Bill to these people and I cannot find out the reasons for it. The hon. introducer of it, even from the way he spoke on it - anyone could see, as I have seen - is not in favour of it because he knows to himself that it is not fair to people to be taxing them when they have to be paying and paying all the time. This appears to me that this is only the straw, I am waiting on the Budget Proposals, This is only the straw; fire is behind. Because of the competition among these taxi owners, they practically work for nothing. They have to do everything in order to get a job and then look what is going to happen! You will have to increase the fare from me City to Seawell because of this. There you are, again going on another boundary.

Sir, I cannot vote for this Bill as it stands because I do not know what is the toll. As a matter of fact, I am not in favour of it at all, I am not in favour of your putting this toll on taxis or any other motor car going into Seawell because they already contribute to the rates at Seawell by way of taxation on gasoline and everything. When you are running a motor car, you have to pay one hundred and one taxes because everything belonging to a motor car is already taxed.

Why do you not tax the motor cars going to the Deep Water Harbour for passengers? Why put a tax on motor cars departing from Seawell Airport and not on those departing from the Deep Water Harbour? Passengers come off from the Deep Water Harbour, It must be some reason. I do not know the reason, but I do not think it is fair; therefore, I am not going to vote for this Bill,

**Mr. SEALEY:**

Sir, I am also a bit baffled over this Bill when you say that you are imposing tolls in respect of motor vehicles leaving the Seawell Airport, I definitely would like to understand what you mean by paying a toll, how much it would be, and if it means that you go into the Airport as you like, but when you come out, you will have to pay.

As it stands now, you are creating a hardship on these taxi owners more than what they have already got. Admittedly, you get people going to the Seawell Airport just to see their friends off. This is going to prevent people from going to Seawell. At the moment, Government is getting 34.3 % out of every gallon of gasoline which is sold. So far as I can see, by imposing this toll you would be a penny wise and a pound unwise. Ordinarily you get people going to Seawell Airport and showing people what the Airport looks like. You must use gasoline to get there. You are paying taxes on gasoline, tyres, oil and everything. Added to that, the Government is getting 40% consumption tax on every new car

I cannot see the reason of your imposing this tax. Firstly, for the amount of money which you are going to

collect on every car, I do not think it will compensate to pay for four shifts a day of the Clerks which you will have to employ to collect this toll. Seawell Airport is already a revenue-earning Airport and I think it is doing well. When I first heard of this toll, I thought it was coming about for motor vehicles passing on the East Coast Road, I feel that this is one time that the Government is sleeping, 5.50 p.m.

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, apparently, unless you are floating with your hands in the air and speaking in the most pontifical tones, hon. members do not want to think that you are in support of measures which are introduced in this Chamber. The hon. junior member for St. George was completely unparliamentary with reference to me in this matter; but I did not worry with him because that is just wasting time. My reason for being brief in my introduction of this Bill was because the Hon. Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech in June, intimated that certain measures would have to be taken in order to assist in the improvements and the expenditure at Seawell Airport. Apart from the acquisition of land, we had to acquire 90 acres at Spencers and over three hundred acres at Fairy Valley for making extensions to the Airport. This has cost us a lot of money. The average annual cost for improvements at Seawell Airport is something like \$700,000 a year, and that is apart from the question of acquiring the land. In addition to that, there are a number of facilities up there, which the public use completely free. We have a car park which accommodates about 180 cars. We have the toilet facilities free. You cannot go to any part of the United States of America or Canada and use the toilet free. You have to pay for these requisites. The public enclosure and the observation deck are free. We spend \$55,000 a year alone on the buildings, roads, maintenance of the car parks, the provision of toilet requisites and water and lighting in the terminal building.

Most hon. members who have spoken on this Bill know that Airports almost all over the world and extensions are financed by means of tolls. Before your taxi gets into any Airport area you have to pay a toll. The highways are tolled in Venezuela, and any new highway which has been constructed is a tolled one. Well, Sir, if wealthy countries have to resort to this measure in order to finance major public improvements like highways and Airports, there is no reason why this Government should not do the same thing. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proposal is to charge vehicles a toll of 25 cents on leaving the Airport. Certain public vehicles which have to be up there from time to time, will be exempted and the taxis will pay a toll of 10 cents on leaving the Airport. The collection will be done by a toll gate mechanically operated, and three collectors will be on the spot to collect the money. The actual capital expenditure is estimated to be \$1,000 for the toll gate, the sum of \$2,500 for the road works and the two ticket machines will cost \$500. This represents a total of \$4,000 capital expenditure and the recurrent costs in relation to the toll collectors, uniforms and tickets will be another \$3,500 a year. The revenue to be collected should be in the vicinity of \$25,000 a year.

Hon. members will be aware that over 100,000 cars use the Airport annually. I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that the East Coast Road should have been a toll road. I have suggested that myself, I am quite sure that the members of the public will not mind paying a small toll in relation to the East Coast Road in return for the facilities of being able to peruse that little pan of the island, apart from the fact that as a result of the construction of that road, so much land is lying idle and people can use the facilities to their advantage. Hon. members will appreciate that the Airport is not anybody's

office or his home. People go on the observation deck and see their friends off or just for the fan of seeing aircraft coming in and passengers landing, It is a recreation. You can put in three gallons of gasoline in your car, which will cost you \$2.00, and you can go to the Airport; therefore you should not object to paying this ton. The taxis pay a trade tax and a gasoline tax and these roads cost money, I have seen the item in relation to facilities for the toilets and what not,

and it is amazing how many of these things are used from time to time and all of them are used free of cost, 6.00p.m.

You can go into a urinal at any International Airport free, but the moment you want to go to the toilet, the door would not open unless you insert your coin. All these things are free at Seawell, Water, lights, toilet facilities and all these things cost \$55,000 a year, apart from spending \$700,000 a year for the improvement of the Airport, Exclusive of that nearly 500 acres were acquired in the last three years at an average cost of at least between \$400 and \$500 an acre purely for extension purposes, and, Sir, with the new plans on the part of the Airways Companies for providing faster jets, it means that in the very near future we shall have to look for an appreciable sum further to extend the runway, apart from the actual expenditure involved in the additional cost of maintenance for more runway.

Hon. members might be interested to learn that the International Air Transport Association normally known as I.A.T.A. has agreed with the proposals the Government has advanced for the collection of certain additional revenue from the Airport, This is not the only source we are looking to to collect revenue. The landing fees for aircraft are to be increases; we are going to charge more money to the Airways Offices up there; the concessionaires have to pay higher fees for their concessions, and we are going to increase the cost of advertising at the Airport. The levying of this toll on motor vehicles is only one avenue being exploited to derive more revenue for the Airport, and I am sure that hon. member? will agree that since, with the exception of the taxi drivers, people are not obligated of necessity to go to the Airport, there is no reason why they should not make a small contribution towards the cost of defraying its upkeep. Special concessions will be made to taxi drivers. They will pay ten cents on leaving the Airport, and I am sure the hon. senior member for St. Michael win not object to his taxis paying 10 cents to leave when picking up a fare from the Airport, If we did not have an up-to-date Airport, the aircraft that use it now would not use it, and the revenue available to motor cars from that source would not therefore be available. You have got to understand that public expenditure can only be maintained from public revenue. The Government has no fancy wand they can wave and collect revenue for expenditure on matters of public requirements,

**Mr. SMITH:**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the hon. member finished?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Apparently because we are talking about vehicles, the hon. member thinks I have run out of gas; but I am saying, Sir, that hon. members must agree that a levy to collect revenue from this source for this purpose is justified, and the charges are really at as low a minimum as they normally can be.

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

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that it is proposed to collect additional revenue from other sources at the

Airport. We are going to increase air traffic landing fees. These fees are authorised by the International Air Transport Regulations, 1959, and it is proposed to increase services at the Airport by having more radar facilities, better ambulance facilities, tracking radio ranges; and therefore with these increased facilities, Aircraft Companies will have to pay increased landing fees. I will not weary bona fide members with the revision proposed in respect of landing fees, but they will be satisfied to learn that the Aircraft Companies are not being left out in making their contribution to the maintenance of the Airport facilities. 6.10 p.m.

Then, Sir, there is a rental of offices to Airline Companies, There are at present, nine offices in the Terminal Building, and the floor space is 4,000 square feet. The area of the offices is rented at ten cents a square foot at the Seawell Airport to Airline Companies, but in Trinidad the Air-

line companies pay 20 cents per square foot and, as I have said earlier, the concessionaires who operate the restaurant, snack bar and the antique shops, other commercial shops and the Workers' canteen, would have to pay more for the space which they occupy,

Hon. members would agree that under the circumstances, these charges are by no means excessive and that they are justifiable in terms of the cost of the Airport at Seawell.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

**AYES:**

Messrs. LOWE, CARMICHAEL, Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSON, Messrs. BOXILL, YEARWOOD, HUSBANDS, GODDARD, SEALEY, LYNCH, Hon. J. C. TUDOR and Mr. MOTTLEY - 13.

**NOES:**

Messrs. SMITH and MILLER - 2.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

At this stage, I think we should take an adjournment for half an hour,

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting of this House be now suspended for thirty 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.

6.15p.m.

On Resumption,

## **DOCUMENTS**

### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

I have the honour to inform the House that in addition to the Accounts and Statement for the month of September, 1964, from the Accountant General, I am also in receipt of the Accounts and Statement for the months of October and November, 1964, prepared by the Accountant General.

I have also the honour to remind the House that it was drawn to my attention earlier today by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in respect of Item No, 3 in Government Business, that is, a Resolution which was given notice of on 2nd February, 1965, that the time had expired without any action taken on it. I am satisfied that inasmuch as in our Standing Orders no distinction is made between public and private members' notices, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Standing Order No. 24, the interval of three calendar months having elapsed after notice of the motion had been given without further action having been taken on the motion, the motion is deemed to have been withdrawn, unless the House otherwise were to order.

Accordingly, I declare that motion to be deemed to have been withdrawn, and I regret that it should have appeared on the Order Paper after the expiration of the three months period,

## **RESUMPTION ON BILL TO AMEND THE SEAWELL AIRPORT ACT**

### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

Immediately prior to the suspension of the sitting, the motion had been passed for the second reading of the Bill which was then under consideration.

### **Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

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

### **Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

I beg to second that.

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

### **Mr. SPEAKER:**

May I draw to the attention of the House, in view of the fact that Standing Orders have not been suspended, automatically till Sitting will have to be suspended at 7,00 o'clock for the dinner interval.

In the present absence of a clock in this Chamber, I am asking the Clerk to advise as to the correct time,

(The Clerk advised that it was 6.55 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

The three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

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

**Hon. J. C. TUDOR:**

I beg to second that.

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

The ACTING CHAIRMAN reported and MR. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

### **ORDER POSTPONED**

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention to propose that we deal with Order No. 5 which is a Bill to repeal the Barbados Development Act and to establish in its place a Board to provide for the establishment of a Corporation, but I understand that hon. members have not been circulated with their copies of this Bill, in view of that we will have to adjourn.

### **THE ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next 25th May, 1965, at 12 o'clock Noon.

**Hon. C. E. TALMA:**

I beg to second that.

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Mr. Speaker, there is not so much business for us to deal with on the Order Paper and could we not adjourn until 2.30 o'clock p.m. next Tuesday?

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

We came here late today and we did nothing,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

Well, we were in a bad mood today. Let them try and refrain from getting me in a bad mood by trying to prevent some of their people from walking about and slinging mud. Let them remember that a sleeping dog is not a dead dog. I do not beg anybody for anything, and I do not bow to anybody in here, I want it to be understood that my voice is as strong as ever. The question of making a living, whether you are on the waterfront or wherever you are. I am suggesting that the House might have gone a little further today. Anyhow, Sir, I am moving as an amendment that we should adjourn until 2.30 p.m., of the clock next Tuesday. The Hon. Minister of Trade has a charming manner. (ASIDES)

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

I am afraid that I cannot hear the Hon, Leader of the Opposition,

**Mr. MOTTLEY:**

I beg to move as an amendment that the words \"12 o'clock Noon\" be deleted and the words \"2.30 p.m. of the clock\" be substituted therefor,

**Mr. F. C. GODDARD:**

I beg to second that,

**Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:**

I accept that amendment, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. SPEAKER:**

The question is that this House do now adjourn until this day week, Tuesday 26th May, 1965, at 2.30 p.m. of the clock, Hon. members in favour of that will please say \"Aye\", those against will please say \"No\", I think the \"Ayes\" have it. Accordingly, this House now stands adjourned until this day week, Tuesday 25th May, 1965, at 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

This House now stands adjourned, 7.10 p.m.