
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th December, 1966

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m., o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health and Community Development*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance*); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN, L.L.B., and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M. A.

Prayers were read.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS, and Mr. SPRINGER entered the House, and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting of this House for Wednesday, 30th November, 1966, have been circulated and unless there be any objection, they will be taken as read and confirmed. (A PAUSE)

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of that Meeting duly to be confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform hon. members that I have received from Mr. J. Milliken, Chartered Accountant a Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for the period terminating 30th June, 1966.

I have the honour to inform the House that on the 5th of this month I received a letter from His Excellency the Governor-General which reads as follows:-

Government House,
Barbados,
3rd December, 1966.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I propose to leave

the Island on private business on the 6th December, until 9th December, 1966.

During my absence from Barbados, The Honourable W. R. Douglas, Chief Justice, will be Governor-General's Deputy.

As I understand that your House will not be meeting until my return, it will not be possible for the usual formal Message from me to be sent to your House. You may therefore wish to inform your members accordingly.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN STOW
Governor-General.

His Honour J. E. T. Brancker, Q.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the House of Assembly.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Auditor General re results of examination of Appropriation accounts. That letter was dated 5th December, 1966, and it reads as follows:-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Honour The Speaker,
General Assembly,
Public Buildings,
Bridgetown.

Sir,

Section 26 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964 provides that the Auditor General shall report annually as soon as possible and not later than the last day of December following the close of each financial year the results of his examination of the accounts. Such report shall be addressed to the Speaker of the General Assembly and a copy transmitted to the Senate for information.

2. With respect to the financial year 1965-66 I should like to inform you that it will not be possible to examine the relevant accounts and report thereon by the 31st December following the close of such financial year for the reasons set out below:-

By section 10(2) of the abovementioned Act the Accountant General is required to submit certain statements to the Auditor General within a period of four months after the close of the financial year, i.e. by the 31st of July. The statements for 1965-66 have not yet been received. A reminder in this matter was sent on the 14th October, 1966.

By section 10(3) of the Act, Accounting Officers and Collectors of Revenue are required to submit accounts to the Auditor General within a period of three months

after the close of the financial year, i.e. by the 30th June. Out of fifty-nine Appropriation Accounts only six were submitted by the 30th June, 1966, six in July, one in August, seven in September, four in October, one in November, and one in December, 1966. The general non-observance of the provisions of this section of the Act by the officers concerned was drawn to the attention of the Financial Secretary inasmuch as he has the duty of designating the officers who shall be responsible for the performance of the duties prescribed by the relevant section of the Act. At present, thirty-four accounts are still outstanding as follows:-

Legislature -- Head 3	1
Ministry of Communications and Works:	
Current Estimates	7
Capital Estimates	1
Annexed Estimates -- Post Office	1
Ministry of Education:	
Current Estimates	10
Capital Estimates	1
Ministry of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development:	
Capital Estimates	1
Premier -- Home Affairs:	
Current Estimates	7
Capital Estimates	1
Premier -- Cabinet and General:	
Current Estimates	3

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3. It is considered that you should be informed of the position for the information of the General Assembly.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
G. B. BRANDFORD
Auditor General,

I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General a Statement of Accounts as prepared by him from April, 1966 to September 1966.

I also have the honour to inform the House that those two beautiful boxes which for the first time are laid on the Table of the Clerk are the gifts of the people of Jamaica to the people of Barbados.

They have been duly acknowledged already, and unless there is any objection I shall direct that proper and formal communication be sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jamaica expressing the gratification and appreciation of the people of Barbados for this handsome gift.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Registration of Letters and Articles (Amendment) Regulations, 1966.

The Air Mail Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1966.

The Parcel Post (Rates) (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, 2.55 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$7,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67 Part II -- Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67 No. 39, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant a sum not exceeding \$30,000 from the Public Treasury to make advances of wages and salaries at Christmas.

A Bill to make provision in respect of the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Supreme Court of Judicature established by the Constitution and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$142,444 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1966-67 Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1966-67 No. 41 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to intimate to the hon. members that for reasons which I think they will appreciate, there are certain measures of which notice either has just been given or will be given in the course of today's sitting which we would like to proceed with in all their stages at today's Sitting. I must apologise to the House for not being able to give prior notice, but hon. members will understand that we have not met since the State Opening; so I would like to say that the Resolution for \$30,000, the Resolution to sanction the Shop Order, the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill, the Stamp (Amendment) Bill and the Resolution for \$142,444 are all of them matters which we would like to deal with in all their stages today. Copies of these Bills and Resolutions will be circulated as speedily as possible, and I hope hon. members will have time to study them before they actually come to debate them.

I therefore beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply later in today's sitting to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to sanction the Shops Order, 1966.

I should like to ask leave of the House to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today.

I also beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act, 1958.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Questions:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that Foster Hall in the parish of St. Joseph, is rapidly becoming a heavily built-up area, and that daily residents are experiencing hardship through the absence of a proper road leading from Tent Bay, Bathsheba, to the same Foster Hall?

Can the Honourable Minister have this bit of road done as soon as possible, and before the 1967 crop season begins?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that the road leading on to Horton's Village in the parish of St. Joseph is almost unfit for travel by those people who must use it?

If the answer is in the affirmative, can the Government have this road repaired in time to meet the reaping of the 1967 crop?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Has Government received applications or petitions from the residents of St. Joseph, via the Northern District

Council, for the installations of standpipes in various districts?

If the answer is in the affirmative, can the Minister state how many applications or petitions were received, the districts or villages involved, and when it will be possible to carry out such installations?

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir Grantley Adams, but due to some unfortunate misadventure, Mr. Clerk arrived somewhat late this afternoon, and I take it I will have the leave of the House to allow this question to be put as soon as we are more fully organised.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to make provision in respect of the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Supreme Court of Judicature established by the Constitution and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith, was read a first time.

3.05 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act, 1958, be now read a first time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916, be now read a first time.

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

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

STATEMENT re RESITING OF HOUSES AFFECTED BY LANDSLIDES IN ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOSEPH

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a Statement with respect to the resiting of houses affected by landslides in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Joseph. The Statement is as follows:-

Following the heavy rainfall of November which resulted in landslides in the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Andrew, the Housing Authority undertook on the direction of the Ministry of Health and Community Development a survey of the districts affected to determine actual damage to houses, and the need to remove to safer locations those which had been undermined as a result of the movement of the land.

2. The Authority's Report indicated that three houses had actually been damaged, the grounds of seven others had been cracked and that altogether some twenty-six houses should be resited. The Report also recommended the removal of a number of houses situated on high ground at St. Simon's to which access had been rendered extremely difficult through land movement.

3. The Cabinet directed the Housing Authority to make the necessary arrangements for removing and resiting the houses. It was not, however, until subsequent rains had worsened the conditions in the affected areas that residents agreed to be resited in areas outside the Scotland District.

4. The Authority has been instructed to submit a further Report on any additional houses affected by the more recent land-slides and another Statement will be made in due course.

5. In the meantime the work is in progress and houses are being removed to Bagatelle where land is immediately

available to the Authority, as well as to areas belonging to private persons and chosen by the owners of the damaged houses.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders, 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be now suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re DEATH OF Mr. BATSON

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House proceeds to its normal business, I have to move two Resolutions of Condolence, one in respect of the death of a former member of this House and the other in respect of the death of the brother of the hon. senior member for Christ Church. I propose to deal with the one in respect of Mr. Batson first. The Resolution reads as follows:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy with the relatives of the late George Victor Batson, a former member of this Assembly and Chairman of Committees, on the occasion of his death;

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

Mr. Speaker, I suppose that all of us -- and certainly all of us who knew Mr. Batson and who had the privilege and happiness of collaborating with him in public life as well as socially -- have been saddened by his passing; and certainly members of the last House who happened to be returned to this present House will feel his passing even more. George Victor Batson was a person with a large heart. I do not think that he made any enemies, and I do not think that he recognized anybody as being his enemy. His personality was pleasant and all who came into contact with him remarked on his process and love of fairplay. He came into our Party some six years ago after much political wandering, but I think that all of us who were associated with him in our Party will certainly pay tribute to his loyalty and steadfastness. It was a great privilege which he enjoyed some months ago of being actually present at Lancaster House in London when the historic announcement for Independence for Barbados was made, and I think that it must have been one of his great joys to have lived just long enough to see that day come to pass, and to realise that he had played his own part in bringing it to pass. Hon. members will doubtless have their own memories of Mr. Batson, but certainly I think that all of us would like to record our gratitude for Mr. Batson's kindness, and also the fact that we were happy to enjoy and share his friendship.

3.15 p.m.

I also would like to record the fact that the last Parliament of this Island was certainly a happy place with him in it, and as much as we regretted the misfortune which befell him at the recent general elections for the General Assembly, I think we can safely say that he played his part to the people of St. Thomas. The records of this House would show his unremitting Questions on almost every conceivable subject with regard to people of this Island, but certainly especially as regards the people of St. Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for members on this side of the House and of the Other Side when I say that we all deeply regret his passing.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Resolution on behalf of the Party to which I belong and on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am fully aware that my colleague did not know Mr. Batson, but I knew him well from long standing. From the time that I came into contact with Mr. Batson I always found him to be

very jovial and to be plain-speaking. Even before the late George Batson entered politics and since he entered politics and became a member of this House and Chairman of Committees, I have always been in contact with him, and I can safely say that if he had to rule, he would rule as far as his ability is concerned and he would always try to make the best as the old people used to say — of a bad market. He always liked to be on the side of the people, and truly he was more interested in the people of St. Thomas than anywhere else in Barbados.

Tuesday after Tuesday, week after week, Mr. Batson would always have something to say and to put before this House in favour of the people of St. Thomas. If there was any representative who was interested in the people who put him in the House, it was Mr. George Batson. He did it so well that one would think that the parish of St. Thomas was Barbados because whenever he asked a question or tried to move a Resolution, it was for St. Thomas and the parish of St. Thomas alone.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I would be going too far to ask hon. members to take a leaf out of Mr. Batson's book. However, I would not ask them to do it because when we are elected here, we are elected to represent Barbados. If Mr. Batson represented St. Thomas alone, you cannot blame him because it was the people of St. Thomas who were responsible for electing him to this House; therefore if he always had the people of St. Thomas at heart you cannot blame him.

Sir, when I heard of Mr. Batson's death, that was one time death shook and unfaired me. That was really one time that I never expected it of Mr. Batson, but we must realise that death is always with us and I hope that hon. members will always remember that playing powerful-foolish, in the midst of it, one day Moses will call your name. In this case, Moses called George Batson's name and he will call the names of all of us in due time; therefore you should always try to do good and be considerate and sympathetic one towards one another. We must not think that we are our own masters because when the bugle sounds we will have to answer our names.

I do not think Mr. Batson expected that his time would be so near to its end. I think that should be a lesson to everyone of us. We never can tell. This minute we are here, and the next minute we are called to rest. Therefore, do not let us try to fight and kill each other; do not let us kill each other because the time is drawing nearer and nearer every hour.

I am very sorry that the hand of death has come and called Mr. Batson to rest, because he was not a hard and unfair man. Mr. Batson never tried to be unfair to anyone; he always tried to do good. However, you cannot please everyone at the same time. Mr. George Batson has gone to the Great Beyond, but he has left us behind to do good towards one another.
3.25 p.m.

I sincerely hope that his death will be a lesson for most politicians, especially the ones who have lost. We must always take it in good faith; we must always be brave and always remember that today is for me and tomorrow is for you. May he rest in peace.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, whenever a group of men meet together for any purpose, whether it be legislative, social or otherwise, and one of their number is taken away before he has reached the allotted span of three score years and ten, the news is always greeted by the others as a shock of sadness and surprise. That is how we learned of the death of George Batson, a man who was gifted with an infectious *bonhomie*, one who had no streak of viciousness in his nature, but who was universally recognized by all his colleagues as a good fellow. His life came to an end at a time when he seemed to be on a wave of success -- if not legislatively, at least in his literary occupations; but the grim Fury with the abhorred shear came and slit the thin spun life.

The last time I was with George Batson I was sitting at his side in Nottingham and watching the first Test Match when he gloried in the wonderful foundation which was being laid by Messrs. Kanhai and Butcher, which resulted eventually in our winning that game.

Mr. Batson will be remembered by members of the House as the Editor of a magazine called "The Bat", and so he took advantage of the flower of West Indian cricket at that stage when it showed itself in all its magnificence at Nottingham. We regret the passing of our colleague and mourn him as a comparatively young man who had great potential, which perhaps had not fully reached its flowering. We here as colleagues and those of us who follow the same occupation feel that we are the poorer for his passing.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not fond of eulogies, but I think it is very fitting that I do say something on this occasion, since Mr. George Batson was my first running mate when I decided to enter the House of Assembly. I did not say 'enter into the arena of politics' because I had been in politics from 1954; but when I decided to enter the House of Assembly, Mr. George Batson was chosen as my running mate for St. Thomas, and there is one thing I can say for Mr. Batson, and it is that he was the type of person who never ever liked to say "No" if he thought "Yes" would do. He always liked to make sure that everybody was happy, and Mr. Batson in my opinion drove himself too hard.

One former speaker mentioned something about people being presumptuous about death, but nobody likes death and going to what people regard as Heaven or the Great Beyond. All of us are prepared to remain as long as we can on this sinful world. None of us is prepared to go to Heaven where the honey is flowing. I am sorry about his death although it was not a complete shock to me, because I saw him on Tuesday and I told members of the Cabinet to go and see him because I did not like the way he looked; he did not look promising. His problem, Mr. Speaker, was that he did not take what was necessary for all of us, and that is the necessary amount of rest. George was always effervescent, always wanting to go and always having time to do something, and he drove himself in my opinion a bit too hard.

Strange enough I learned of Mr. Batson's death in New York at the John F. Kennedy Airport, and I learned it from no other than his wife whom I met there and who was on her way back to the funeral, but we both got here too late. Although Mr. Batson has departed from us, he has left with us a lot of his ebullient manner and his effervescence, and I do hope that even if we do not try to emulate him in every respect, those of us who have been left here will see that this world is a place of give-and-take.

Mr. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Mr. George Batson and I knew each other only comparatively recently. Of course we were tied together with a very special tie, perhaps not as running mates, but as opponents at an election, and it was an even more special tie for me, because it was my first election, an election in which indeed it can be said that I succeeded Mr. Batson in this Honourable House. But although we were opponents in politics, Mr. Speaker, I am glad and proud to say that never at any time did Mr. Batson and I regard ourselves as opponents in anything else.

I met Mr. Batson at many different places, and I had the privilege of meeting him on the very day of which the hon. junior member for St. Lucy spoke, the historic day in London when Independence was announced.

As hon. members would all be aware, Mr. Speaker, during an election campaign you often feel closer to your opponent than to anyone else except your own running mate, and during the campaign I met Mr. Batson at dances and on the road, and I remember we were practically hand in hand at the Accountant General's Office on the very day we paid our deposits prior to nomination, and I am glad and proud to say that during the time of our acquaintance we enjoyed good personal relations at all times. As far as I was concerned, the campaign which was fought between us was

fought as far as Mr. Batson and I were concerned on a basis of fairness and decency, and it was with a sense of a very great shock as well as loss when I heard of Mr. Batson's death. Indeed I hardly believed it at first, but I join with hon. members who have already spoken in supporting this Resolution, because it is with very deep and sincere regret that I mourn the passing of George Victor Batson. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I must join with other hon. members of the House in their expression of sympathy on behalf of the death of Mr. Batson. For the last five years I have met Mr. Batson and I have admired the generosity, love and kindness which he displayed. He was never hostile or hasty and he would always talk in his right. Some times I looked at him sitting in the Chair and when hon. members wanted to resist his ruling, he would always take it with a smile. He was a man on whom you could really depend, a man who could be trusted in various capacities. When I heard of his death it shocked me. I said that the green limes drop as well as the yellow ones. I consider that we as men should equip ourselves and be prepared to meet the hour when we have to leave this scene and have nothing to regret. I think of his children and I say; "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted; blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." I trust that Mr. Batson will rest in peace and pray that God will keep his children in perfect peace until the eternal day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the question is put, I would like to avail myself of the opportunity of endorsing the sentiments which have been expressed on behalf of the former Chairman of Committees of this House. There was hardly a more convivial parliamentarian I have ever met. There was hardly a member of this Chamber who was always ready to enjoy the pleasanter things of life even at the risk of foregoing things which were more significant and involved, like him. The death of the former Chairman of Committees, as far as I am concerned, brings to my mind a very fragrant memory particularly at this season of the year when we have been accustomed -- the former Deputy Speaker, the Staff of this House and myself -- to meet together and think of the strenuous times we have had since the previous Christmas. This Christmas will not be the same without Mr. George Victor Batson. I will ask hon. members in respect of the putting of this question to join with me and stand in their places for two minutes in silence as an indication of our support of the passing of this Resolution.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I direct the Deputy Clerk to see that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to the nearest relatives of the deceased.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re PASSING OF Dr. ST. JOHN

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its sympathy with the honourable senior member for Christ Church at the loss sustained at the passing of the said honourable member's brother, Henry Noel St. John, M.R.C.S. (Lon.) L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to his widow and other relatives."

Mr. Speaker, it was sometime between the summoning and the prorogation of the first Session of this Parliament that hon. members of this House and the community generally heard of the death of Mr. Henry Noel St. John after a very long illness. I wanted when the House last met on the 30th November, to move the passing of this Resolution; but for reasons, at the request of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, I did not move the passing of the Resolution.

I wish therefore to let the House know before I say anything that I would willingly have dealt with this matter on the first occasion after we received the news of the death of Mr. St. John, but it was at the request of the hon. senior member for Christ Church that I did not do it.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant things about all sorts of contests and certainly about political strife is that no matter how deeply divided people are in their outlook and even in their political allegiance, there is always a touch of something which makes them have something with one another. Certainly whatever else may divide the hon. senior member for Christ Church from us on this side of the House, we, on all sides of the House, are united in the sympathy and regret at the death of the hon. member's brother. I should like to say that death, no matter whose it is, is first of all a personal tragedy which is felt most keenly by those who are best loved. I think that certainly in this case the one who is involved not only had a great reputation in scholarship himself in his chosen profession, but certainly he had many years to give to this and other communities in his chosen field.

He was educated at the Boys' Foundation School and at Harrison College and he entered medical studies at Guy's and Radcliffe Council and he had won a scholarship at the Edinburgh College of Surgery and Anthropology. We knew him best, of course, as a consultant at the Barbados General Hospital and subsequently at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. People who knew him as a professional man would have known him better as a cricketer and a man who had a keen interest in rowing. It is a sad thing that a man who was showing such promise should have been cut off when there was so much there to be given, but I suppose that members of his family will take their consolation in the fact that Mr. St. John was held in high esteem and regard by a large number of people and he was greatly loved by his friends and relatives. I therefore wish on behalf of this side of the House to extend our sincere condolences to the hon. senior member for Christ Church and to let him know that we mourn with him sincerely; and that despite our differences, despite the fact that our allegiance in politics is divided, we are at one with the hon. member in this matter and we want our sentiments to be conveyed to his widow mother and sister-in-law. I beg to move the passing of this Resolution.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution and I wish to say that we, on this side of the House, sincerely and profoundly agree with the expressions which have fallen from the lips of the Hon. Leader of the House. 3.45 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Party, I too would like to pay tribute to the late Henry Noel St. John. I had a great deal to do with him in a service club and, therefore, I have seen many sides of his nature which were unknown to the general public. The late Henry Noel St. John was one who liked to do good by stealth and blushed to find it fame. There are instances where he went out of his way to serve those who were stricken with incipient blindness, and there are other instances where he assisted those whose parents found it impossible to pay their school fees.

The late Noel St. John was one who was "hail fellow! Well met!" wherever he went, and people in other countries looked forward with anticipation to a visit from him. He was a man who was distinguished in scholarship and one who worked hard, who scorned delights, and lived laborious days to satisfy that driving ambition which took him to the top of his profession. That driving ambition which he took into the Lions' Service Club on his return home where he sought to do much good in that organization over and above his daily duties.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn his passing very much indeed and express our condolences to his family and to the senior member for Christ Church. The late Henry Noel St. John may be described as a prince among men by those who knew him best. It is fitting that I end with the valediction which was given to Hamlet:

"Goodnight, sweet Prince,
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to associate myself to the tributes paid to the late Henry Noel St. John and as customary I will ask hon. members once more to rise and stand in silence to indicate the passing of this Resolution.

Hon. members stood in silence.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare this Resolution duly to have been passed and I direct Mr. Deputy Clerk to write to the closest relative of the late Henry Noel St. John expressing the sympathy of this Honourable Chamber.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

THE SHOPS ORDER, 1966

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution to sanction the Shops Order, 1966, under the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance be the first Item under Government Business.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance: A Resolution to sanction the Shops Order, 1966.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, in 1965, a Committee was appointed to report on the working of the Shops Order. In this Report certain recommendations were made relative to the closing of the Shops during the month of December, especially the week before Christmas.

An amendment to the Shops Act, 1945, was to be introduced during the last session, but because of certain circumstances, it has not yet reached this House. Hon. members would remember that in December last year, there was an amendment to the Shops Act allowing the opening of certain types of shops to be extended to a later hour during the week preceding Christmas. These are, retail provisions, bakers, butchers, fish mongers and druggists.

In this Order the recommendations is that the hours of closing for all shops on Monday, December 19th, Tuesday, December 20th, Wednesday, December 21st and Thursday, December 22nd may be extended to 6 p.m. and to permit certain classes of urban shops to remain open until 7.30 p.m. on Fridays during the month of December, 1966, on condition that such shops close not later than 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

This was done in order to enable people to get all the supplies they need. Some of these people would be at work during the regular time of the opening of these shops or would be leaving work at a later hour. As soon as we bring down the comprehensive amendment to the Shops Act, it would not be necessary to do what was done last year and what is asked to be done today.
3.55 p.m.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution to amend the Shops Order, 1966, do now pass.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I was wondering whether when Christmas comes on a Sunday, if it is law or an agree-

ment by the Government that there should be two Bank Holidays. I think this happened already where we had two Bank Holidays because Christmas was a Sunday, and I would ask the Minister whether this is operating in the minds of the Government to give us two Bank Holidays instead of one as Christmas comes on a Sunday.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Minister replies, is there any other hon. member who seeks to contribute to this debate?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that we have only last month dealt with the question of Bank Holidays; and when the hon. member asks me whether it is the thinking of the Cabinet that there should be two Bank Holidays, I should like to advise him that I cannot anticipate the decision of the Cabinet at this stage.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have just noticed in the Act that if Christmas falls on a Sunday the following Tuesday will be a Bank Holiday; so we do not have to ask the Cabinet, the Minister or anybody else.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. member has made what is not a point of order, and I will ask him not to proceed further, but I do not differ from the legal opinion expressed by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. HUSBANDS rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. Minister replied, I enquired and looked around this Chamber to see if any other hon. member desired to contribute before the final right of reply was exercised, and no hon. member gave any indication. I must therefore regard this debate as closed.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee of Supply to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice was given earlier in today's Sitting.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1966-67 No. 41

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, as far as I can remember, not since 1938 have we in Barbados experienced the amount of rain which we are now experiencing. We do welcome the rain, but I remember reading in the Sunday Advocate's column "Cabbages and Kings" where the Editor wished the rain would go back to Spain. The truth, Mr. Chairman, is that though we welcome the rain, we have had more than our share of it this year, and as a result the damage that the rains have caused to the Scotland District area is far greater than we or anyone in Barbados would have expected.

From a rough estimate, the Director of Highways and Transport has told me that he is sure that the extent of the damage done is in the vicinity of \$1/2 million. As a result of the damage, hon. members on the other side will recall the expeditious way in which the members of the Cabinet and members on this side rushed to the Scotland area to see what assistance they could render.
4.05 p.m.

As a matter of fact, everybody was trying to get on the parish pump and that is why we are here today asking that this sum of \$142,444 be voted -- not as a temporary mea-

sure but for the purpose of starting something tangible, because we do not know when we will have another deluge; and on that occasion it might not only be a question of the removal of houses, but people's lives may be involved. The Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development made a Statement here not too long ago outlining to hon. members the proposals which he, as Minister of Housing, has in mind. As Minister of Communications, I am saying that we have to get these roads prepared in order to get to the houses. That is why I am asking this House for its unanimous support in allowing this sum of money to be voted.

Mr. Chairman, I shall be quite willing to answer any questions which hon. members may ask, provided that it is within my ambit to answer them. I am asking hon. members to give their wholehearted support to this Resolution; but I must warn them that this sum of \$142,444 is not -- and I stress the word "not" -- the last amount of money which we will have to spend in this area in order to make it habitable for the residents there. I will give hon. members on the other side of the House an opportunity to speak. With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister says that he is appealing to us, or words to that effect, for our co-operation in a Resolution of this sort. I want to say that the Hon. Minister would not have to do that at all because he is right now; and so long as he is right we will be co-operating with him. We will be against him at any time when he is wrong. For the first time the Hon. Minister is right. A Resolution of this sort does not need any waste of time to deal with it because for the people in the St. Andrew and the St. Joseph areas especially, the crop season is just around the corner; and if these roads are not put in order -- or at least if they are not dealt with in a temporary way for the reaping of the crop -- then we will not be doing anything at all. What I am appealing to the Hon. Minister for his co-operation now is that he must see to it that sufficient labour is put in force; let him employ more gangs and more supervision and get the work going along as fast as possible. That is what I am asking the Hon. Minister to do. I am asking him to instruct the Director of Highways and Transport that we want this work done within such-and-such a time, and do not let money be any hindrance to this work being done. At the same time when it comes to the question of the bridges in St. Andrew and elsewhere, I am of the opinion that these bridges need to be inspected regularly. It is my opinion -- not that I can say that it is a fact although it is a fact in the case of one bridge. Some years ago a bridge in St. Andrew was not inspected and from time to time the water got underneath the foundations and it was only at the very last moment, purely by accident, that somebody had to pass there and noticed a big hole which had been dug out at the foundation of the bridge and it was on the verge of coming down.

I will come right back to St. Andrew and St. Joseph. What I have said happened in St. Andrew sometime ago. I repeat; that bridge was on the verge of coming down. I am not saying that that happened in the case of the other bridges; but I am of the opinion that these bridges are neglected and they need to be inspected. From time to time as the water goes under these bridges there is the possibility that the foundations can be affected. I am throwing out this hint to the Hon. Minister so that he can take up the matter with the Director of Highways and Transport and find out if there is a Bridge Inspector. It is a matter of great importance to have somebody to inspect these bridges at least once or twice per year in order to see what is happening as a result of the water flowing under them. That is what I would like to see done.

I have to take off my hat to the Hon. Minister for his working so fast in this matter. We are now on the way to fixing the bridges and the roads. I wish that a Resolution of this sort would come down here asking for a sum of money for the resiting or the removal to other sites of the houses of the people from these areas. This state of affairs has been caused on account of the abnormal rainy weather

which we have had; but what is being done about the houses of these people? We want to resite these people -- not so much the people in St. Joseph, but those in St. Andrew as well.

4.15 p.m.

We are losing time now. The hon. member may not know, but we are subject to landslides more when we have the sun shining than when the rain is falling. The land is going to move just as fast when the sun is shining as if the rain was falling. The danger is there, and we should have a Resolution before us for some sort of money to buy land at Lammings, Joes River and Bissex Hill because people have come to me as their representative -- and I dare suppose they went to their representatives in St. Andrew also -- crying and saying that the Government is going to take them from St. Joseph to Bagatelle. They are taking people from Frizers and Mellowes Plantation and carrying them all the way to Bagatelle in St. Thomas. Bagatelle Plantation would not be able to employ all the labourers down there. I told them that I did not believe the Government was so near-sighted to carry them down there just because they have the spots there. But if they are taking the people there, are they going to find the people that they have moved there in work? I do not believe this Government would be so near-sighted as to leave land which they could use at Lammings pasture and take the people all the way down to Bagatelle.

It is not a question of money now. You have to protect these people from themselves. It is a question of service and quick action now. It is a question of taking land from the owners of these plantations and housing the people. The Government cannot say now, "Where is the money to come from?" We have the law at our disposal where you can take land from people so long as you require it.

I am very sorry that the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution cannot tell me now what is the position as regards the resiting of the people. You cannot drag your heels on this matter. Let the House know the decision of the Government as regards getting Lammings pasture for re-siting the people. Now, since there is so much damage and so much slipping and sliding, I do not think that Lammings pasture is able to accommodate all. I am trying to get away from using land for agricultural purposes for the re-housing of these people, but if we have to take it, we must do so. I notice at Clifton Hill which is not too far from this area that there is grass land available. I am trying to work between both places. While we have to re-site the people, we have to keep all the agricultural land that we can for its purpose. I do not want to put the Government on the spot. This is a problem which concerns all of us. It is not a Party issue. This is what I would call lending people a helping hand. I am very sorry that the Hon. Minister in charge cannot say at this moment what is the position as regards Lammings. You really cannot be thinking of taking the people from St. Joseph to re-site them in St. Thomas permanently except it is that you are prepared to find these people in work. There are certain people who work anywhere. When it comes to hawkers, they leave their homes and go all over the island and buy their wares; but when it comes to the real agricultural labourer who works at particular plantations actually from their birth, they cannot leave where they are working and find a job somewhere else easily.

Therefore, if the Government is thinking of taking them to St. Thomas, I am asking Government to forget it and house the people in the parish to which they belong. House the people of St. Joseph in St. Joseph and the people of St. Andrew in St. Andrew. Do not think of taking one from one's parish to the other because it is going to create a living condition. The people still have to live and you have to think about that. Rather than hying twenty or forty acres of land at one place to house all who need to be re-sited, it is better to buy six acres here and six acres yonder so that the people would be near their jobs.

I am sure that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture knows this just as well as I do as regards the hardship which will be created on the people if you remove them to a spot far from their work. The other Ministers may not know it, I

remember, long before I entered this House of Assembly as a member, I was in Roebuck Street one day and a man passed along and said: "do not mind him, he is from the country." From that time I always believe that the people from town always think that people from the country do not have any sense. The Ministers may be thinking that because you are from the country, you do not have any sense. They may feel that because they are from town and we are from the country that we do not come from anywhere. If I only give an instance. You had people from town saying "Such-and-such a person cannot get back in St. Joseph as a representative of the people". You would not hear people from St. Joseph saying that.

4.25 p.m.

We in the country come up the hard way, while the boys elsewhere come up the easy way. All you have to do is to pass around the wharf and you are a man; but we do not have any wharves in the country; so we have to work hard to get on. I am therefore appealing to the Government to forget moving the people of St. Joseph to St. Thomas, and forget moving the people from St. Andrew to some other place. We are willing to vote the money because we have it. This Government cannot tell me that they do not have any money because I would not believe it. We can 'hold strain' this time financially; so do not try to shelter and say you do not have the money. Let us have the sites wherever we can get them -- St. Joseph for St. Joseph, and St. Andrew for St. Andrew.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I sat and listened attentively to the speech which the hon. senior member for St. Joseph made, and I must say that criticism should be constructive. In his case.....

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, I have not criticised. It is not a criticism.

Mr. WEEKES: As I said, Mr. Chairman, criticism should be constructive. In his case as a member of the Opposition you would expect him to say something, but I must let him know that by virtue of my office as a Parliamentary Secretary, we paid a visit to the various parishes, and the Government has come to the conclusion that certain arrangements which will be made may only be temporary. But I must let the hon. member know that this is a case of emergency, and one in which the Government must do something to help the people as soon as possible. After all the facts are considered it is quite possible that other arrangements will be made, and I can assure the hon. member that this Government is quite capable of dealing with the matter.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, like my colleague on my right who spoke earlier, I too am glad to say that I feel happy because the Government is acting promptly in a matter of this sort, but I would like to go further. The Government has its way while the Opposition has its say, and that is what keeps democracy going. The incidence of the recent heavy rains in Barbados has caused many roads in the Scotland area to be impassable, and of course, roads are one of our chief ways of carrying on and maintaining our communications in this Island, and the repair of the roads damaged must proceed almost instantly. The incidence of heavy rains in high lands leaves its effect on the low lands, and what I am saying now is not to be taken as a criticism, but in order that Government can have an overall picture of what is happening in Barbados on occasions when we have very heavy rainfall.

I live in what is termed the flat lands. Many other people in Barbados live on or near the West Coast of this Island, and go to work or make their living in flat lands; and within the last decade I would say we know that there has been a heavy trend of building going on in this country. Whereas years ago water could run off through outlets to the sea as a result of heavy rains falling on the hills, many of these outlets do not now exist, and that makes the roads impassable on occasions when we have extraordinary heavy rainfalls as we have witnessed recently in November and again in December.

This Government has got to take an overall picture of drainage in this Island; otherwise we are going to have very

serious flooding in the low lands. Some night last week a telephone call reached me to the effect that the water was affecting residents of a place called Gill's Terrace and Mango Lane in Speightstown. I got into contact with the Central Fire Brigade Service, and their advice to me was to see if it were possible to get a small boat, because people wanted to vacate their homes and take their children out. I visited the area when the water had subsided, and actually a small boat would have been diverted out of its course because, as I said, the natural outlets for water that existed years ago no longer existed, and the overall picture of drainage has got to be looked into.

The Alexandra School in St. Peter is a problem on the occasion of heavy rains, and the Headmistress cannot get out except at the risk of her life. The residents of Mango Lane in Speightstown could not hope to get out until the water subsided next day.

I commend the Government for acting quickly and expeditiously, to use the Minister's own word, in this matter. We do have to repair the roads that are impassable; but if the overall picture of drainage is not looked into in this country, you are going to find roads in the level parts rendered impassable, and during heavy rainfalls we can look for incidents that are going to be none too pleasant.

4.35 p.m.

Water actually went into people's houses in Speightstown; the water passed the road level and entered the houses. That happened last week. The question of the canalisation of the Salt Pond is a matter which I took up at Ministerial level more than five years ago and it still remains undone. I hope that we will not wait until a few drownings take place to wake up to what must be done in this matter. There are certain depressions filled in, and the presence of mud, silt and rocks has caused overflowing. That problem must be tackled soon and we cannot continue to put it off. I repeat, that the canalisation of the Salt Pond a drainage which will take the water from the Almshouse Gap to the sea and attention being paid to the Alexandra School which is the property of the Government -- those are matters which need to be attended to. I know that a man had to break open a part of his stone gallery in order that the water could run out of the gallery and not enter the house. That happened near Church Street in Speightstown. My colleague was in that man's house at that particular time. I telephoned the Fire Brigade, but for some reason or other the people of St. James do not appear to like to answer or to come to the assistance of the people of Speightstown. It appears that the Central Fire Brigade is much more co-operative. I say that I commend the Government for the expeditious way in which they have come to the assistance of the people in the Scotland area in the repairing of these roads. The crop must be reaped and the produce must pass on the roads; but as soon as we get a few drownings then everybody will be wise after the event. A woman came to me through a heavy downpour of rain; I walked through Church Street and saw that the water was going into her house.

Hon. members will remember that heavy spate of house building which took place in this island. It is the business of the Government to prevent from happening something which we would not like to happen. There is an outstanding example, where there was a natural outlet to sea, people have filled in the depression and now the water comes back to the road. On Friday morning a car was neatly parked at Gibbes Beach; the Hometown Police Station was under water. I am speaking in advance of what may happen and I hope that I am not talking to deaf ears. I feel that the Government should be commended for having acted so swiftly in this matter of repairing the road damage in the Scotland area. We all know that there is more to be done in the Scotland area than road damage, and when we are better informed, we will be asked to put ourselves to more expenditure. If the overall picture of drainage is not taken into account or gone into, then there will be some unsavoury happenings in the low-lying districts of Barbados. I sincerely hope that no untoward incidents will happen. I repeat that the canalisation of the Salt Pond letting off water from Mango Lane and preventing the water from going into Alexandria School are things which must be attended to --

and there are other places of which I am not aware. Let the Government keep their eyes on these things.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give some indication concerning what has taken place since this heavy rainfall. I have gone to the various districts in St. Andrew and St. Joseph. I have inspected the roads, the bridges and the houses down there, and I have also seen the Speights-town and Hometown areas. I have seen what has caused many people to be suffering today. Some of the people refused to go to the high land and live. The areas of Speights-town and Hometown are beneath sea level, and whatever happens -- they will have these floods. If you were to canalise the Salt Pond, you will still have that trouble. I would not think that the canalisation of the Salt Pond would not relieve some of the trouble, but I am saying that the time must come when this whole matter of the siting of houses will have to be gone into by the Town and Country Planning Officer so that people will be able to erect their houses in suitable places. There are some people who do not want to be too far away from the Town, and therefore they build their houses in the low level. We have had some 22 inches of rain, an extraordinary rainfall indeed, and we do thank God that some of the people are not dead. As I have said, Sir, Speightstown is beneath the sea level. The rain had ceased falling and the water was surrounding the houses of the people in that district.

4.45 p.m.

Even when I looked to the West, I saw that the sun was high up and the people could not get out. Why? It was because they need to have their houses removed and go to the high land. It is only for safety that they need to remove their houses. We never had rain such as I have seen during these last months. I have never seen it rain as much as it did recently since I was born. I am sure the amount of rain which we had would remove mountains, not only houses. The rain which we had would take everything and break it to pieces.

Sir, I am glad that this Government has brought down this Resolution to help remedy the broken-down bridges and roads in St. Andrew and St. Joseph. We cannot bring down everything in bulk. We must take it in piecemeal. We must save the man who is about to die first. I am glad that this Resolution has come down. The Government is trying its best and I am supporting this Resolution. I think every hon. member would support this Resolution because it is for something of great urgency.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would not like to comment on the last speaker, but I do feel he was not carefully listening to the speakers from this side of the Table. The speakers from this side of the Table were praising the Government for bringing down this Resolution, and you cannot do otherwise than that. The recent rains which we have been getting here wrought havoc to St. Andrew and St. Joseph, and everybody is glad that the Government is trying to do its best for the people who are living in those two parishes.

I was born in Hometown and we have No. 1 Highway and No. 2 Highway; and if you look in the old history books you would also see that you have No. 3 Highway. We have had rainfall in the region of ten and fifteen inches down these parts, and when you think of all this rain coming from the high lands down to people who are living on low lands just as in St. James and St. Peter, you must know the amount of water that has poured down on us. We are not criticising the blessed rainfall, but we are saying that when it rains the water comes from the highlands to the low level areas. As the hon. senior member for St. Peter said -- and I speak for St. James -- I know the amount of water that has flown down these parts. Last Wednesday morning I received a call around nine o'clock. I wanted to go, but as some one who was at my home had to go out, I did not get away at that time. However, when I got home, I went down to see -- and you would be surprised, Mr. Chairman, to know the amount of rain which had fallen had caused so much water to be around the home of a shopkeeper and his shop that I had to go to the St. James Fire Station and get a fire en-

gine in order to pump the water away so that the people there could get out.

What is wrong is that when they are repairing these roads, instead of coming along and putting down funnels, they should have a word with some of the residents first. Do not just come along and do things without asking a question or two. Mr. Chairman, you would be surprised to know, in that same shop, the amount of water and mud which passed through it from the road. All that water came from the high land, from all up by Spring Head and Farmers.

I do not know if the bridge in Hometown is near low level, but with the amount of water which we have been getting recently and which has passed over that bridge, I think that the experts would really have to do something about it. When the rain comes it opens the river, and it takes time for this water to go off.

Sir, I am extremely glad that the Government has moved quickly on this matter, and I do hope that the Hon. Ministers will do their best and in no case try to hold things up. We cannot tell when we will get another heavy rainfall. It may be tomorrow; therefore with this exceedingly high rainfall which we have been getting it would be good if Government would take a surveyor around to this bridge and see what should be done.

4.55 p.m.

The gentleman for whom I got the Fire engine to come and pump off the water for him to save some of his things was living there for 56 years, and it was the first time he had had such an experience. I am therefore putting it to the Government that this rainfall has given an indication of what can happen throughout the Island, and they should in the near future try and see what can be done to help the situation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution which deals exclusively with certain improvements and repairs to roads in the Scotland area and other areas which have been damaged as a result of the extraordinary heavy rainfall over the last few weeks; but despite the fact that a Statement was read concerning the resiting of houses, some hon. members took full opportunity of this Resolution to speak not only on roads but on houses, and incorporated the entire thing. That kind of latitude is desirable in my opinion; but when you are speaking about the resiting of houses, you should at least remember that a Statement dealing with the resiting of houses was actually read at the very beginning. It may be that members of the Opposition know more about the state of funds within the Housing Authority than probably certain members on this side, but let me give the assurance that this Statement was made on a preliminary survey, and since the initial survey was made we have had more rains and the state of things is much worse than it was; so this is a Statement following a preliminary survey, and we have enough money from the emergency vote to cope with this particular matter up to a certain stage; but a further and fuller and more comprehensive survey is being conducted at present. It does not mean, therefore, that because we have not come for money under the Housing vote to cope with the problems at this meeting that this is the end of our intention as far as housing and rehousing and resiting are concerned.

I am sorry the hon. member who spoke on this point is not in his seat, but I want to give the assurance that we have money under the emergency vote to cope with the immediate problem of resiting certain of these houses in areas which are available and which are acceptable to the owners of houses in the areas concerned. There is no intention on the part of Government to deprive people of their living by removing them from one parish to another where they cannot find work. Only an imbecilic Government would try doing a thing of that sort. If the survey discloses that there are other areas for the Housing Authority to acquire, whether it be Lammings Pasture or whether it be a certain part of Blackman's Plantation or Joes River Plantation, that will be done. To insinuate that we should have brought down a Resolution for a large sum of money, or should have taken full advantage of the Land Acquisition Act and take away

people's land and so on is nonsense, because if we had done that probably they would have been making points along other lines.

We are conducting a comprehensive survey to find out what lots of land would be available and suitable to the people, because when the heavy rains first came, a lot of the people clung slavishly to their little lots and houseplots where they lived for 30 or 40 years, but now many more are willing to be resited. They must agree to accept the spots which are allotted to them, and if any of them have spots of their own or can rent spots anywhere in the vicinity which they consider suitable, the Government through the Housing Authority is giving assistance in removing the owners of these houses to the sites selected and accepted by them. Some have already been resited. To come here and say that you expected a Resolution for a large sum of money to grab hold of people's land is idle talk. Work is in progress and the people are assisted in the fullest sense. When the full estimates come in in a few days' time, we will be able to come down with a Resolution saying what lands we intend to acquire and what powers we have to exercise if the owners are not willing to co-operate and negotiate the sale in a normal way.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, in closing this debate, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking hon. members on the opposite side, though they have not voted yet, for their kind co-operation. I would like, too, to allay the fears of hon. members on the other side on the questions they raised.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter talked about the canalisation of the Salt Pond in St. Peter. I would like to tell him that this is something that has been hanging fire with this Government for quite a long time. Every time we open the canal to allow the water to go out, the sea throws the sand back and blocks it off again. I have two things in mind to do about this as Minister of Communications and Works, that is, either to build a canal out into the sea that will cause the water to keep flowing and keep the sand out, or most likely we would have to put a small pump to keep pumping water off. I would like him to bear in mind that we on this side are not unmindful of this situation, but are fully cognisant of it.

Another important point I would like to draw to his attention, and I think the Parliamentary Secretary made this point, is that Barbados is a small community; we have more people than we have space to accommodate. People generally live in close proximity to their work or where they can get house spots; it does not matter whether the land is low-lying or high. Sometimes the rain does not fall in the low-lying areas, but when it falls in the hilly country districts the houses in the low-lying areas get the trouble. The Government is cognisant of this fact, and we have an engineer by the name of Mr. Jenkins whom we have moved into the Scotland area to look after the bridges, and we are doing all in our power to see if we can alleviate some of the suffering. We would like you to bear in mind that what happened last week is something unusual; it is nothing that has been happening year after year. Who would have expected that the bridges at Coggins which we thought were so strong would have been washed away in a case like this?

Now the hon. senior member for St. Joseph started off by saying that he hoped that in this semi-crash programme we intend to employ more people.
5.05 p.m.

He can rest assured that we do intend to employ more people. I cannot give him any assurance that we intend to employ people from any particular area. That is not the duty or responsibility of the Minister; that is the duty and responsibility of the Personnel Officer who is responsible for the recruitment of labour. Anyhow, Sir, I can assure hon. members that Christmas is coming up and all those who want to be working for Christmas will be doing something in the Scotland Area because I have given instructions to that effect already.

There is another important matter which I want to raise. Not so long ago the hon. senior member for St.

Joseph brought into this House a Question or a Resolution saying that the poor people in the Scotland area were forbidden to graze their stocks on the land. It is a strange thing that the hon. member seems to think that he is the only person who represents the poor people, but we on this side are representing the poor people more than he does because we are poor. (Laughter). However, Sir, as a result of the stroke of the village pump, as a result of allowing the goats and sheep to graze in the area, the land has slipped away. It is a fact that goats pull the roots of the grass out of the ground, and that has caused the land to slip. I do hope that the hon. member has learnt his lesson and when the Soil Conservation people impose restrictions in this area he will not say anything about the poor people's stock not being allowed to graze in the Scotland area.

On the question of the inspection of Bridges, I have given instructions as to this matter. What has taken place within the last two weeks is a catastrophe in Barbados. We always learn by trial and error; and since we have seen what has taken place, I intend to give instructions that these bridges be examined thoroughly and more often than is the case at present. Mr. Chairman, I must appreciate the way in which hon. members have dealt with this Resolution and we thank the members on the opposite side most heartily. I think I have answered all the questions which have been asked, and if I have not answered all of them it is because I have forgotten them; but if there are any other questions which hon. members want to ask, they can ask them before the question is put.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this discussion, but the Hon. Minister says that I brought forward a question about the hardship caused to poor people because their stocks were not allowed to graze in the Scotland district. I want to say, Sir, that the Soil Conservation Officer has said that the place where they are operating now is firm apart from the Sedgepond District. The place which is causing the trouble is a place where you could not put your goat at all because you would lose it. (Laughter).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1966-67 No. 39

KEEPER'S LODGE

A Resolution for the sum of \$7,000 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is one for the sum of \$7,000 to be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part II Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1966-67 No. 39 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. This amount is to supplement the provision under Part II -- Capital Estimates Head 102 -- Communications and Works -- and Item 24A (New) Keeper's Lodge. As the Addendum explains, a new powder magazine has been built at Gun Hill, but it has not been put into use because no provision was made for a Keeper's Lodge. However, Sir, it has been considered that a site should be selected and a house constructed at a cost of \$7,000 to be used as a Keeper's Lodge. It is for this reason that this supplementary provision is being sought to implement this proposal. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

5.15 p.m.

RESOLUTION re ADVANCE OF \$30,000
FROM PUBLIC TREASURY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution to grant a sum not exceeding \$30,000 to pay advances of wages and salaries at Christmas be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, the next Order stands in the name of the Leader of the House: A Resolution to grant a sum not exceeding \$30,000 to make advances of wages and salaries at Christmas.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think hon. members would recall -- at least some hon. members -- that in a Statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister to the last House before the prorogation, during a Resolution for the payment of revised salaries, it was stated that if any case had come to light where officers or Government employees were not qualified for twenty-five percent of their salary or two weeks' wages, a Resolution would come to this House to make provision to loan them a sum of money.

In accordance with that, requests were made from various departments to the Ministry of Finance and these departments have submitted that special provision would have to be made for certain officers and employees. These departments are the Police and Auditor General, the Registrar's office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance, the Ministry of Health and Community Development and the Ministry of Communications and Works.

The sum of \$30,000 is just enough to meet the requirement, and this is proposed to make advances to staff which normally would be employed to the end of the financial year, and employees who receive monthly salaries, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE STAMP AMENDMENT BILL, 1966

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, we do not propose to do the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill at this stage. I understand that hon. members have not had the chance to study all its implications and I have decided not to proceed with that Bill today.

However, I will like to do the Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916 at this stage. I therefore beg to move that the Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916, be the next item.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, the next Order stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: A Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Hon. members would see that the objects of this Bill is to increase the fees chargeable for

the issue and renewal of passports from \$3.00 and \$1.50 to \$5.00 and \$3.00 respectively.

The new passports -- Barbados passports -- will be coming into effect as soon as this amendment to the Stamp Act comes into effect. Barbados passports can only be issued when this amendment comes into law.

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

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

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

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

5.25 p.m.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business. I believe Your Honour may wish to say something to the House; so I would not move the motion for the Adjournment just yet.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVISE
SALARIES

Mr. SPEAKER: Near the close of the last Session, there was appointed by Mr. Deputy Speaker in the absence of Mr. Speaker who was on duty leave abroad, a Select Committee to consider and revise the salaries and conditions of service of the Officers of the House and the salaries of members of the House. That Committee prepared a Report, but because of the Dissolution of the Legislature before that Report had been presented to the Legislature, nothing could be done about it. I gather that it is the feeling of this House that a similar Committee be appointed with instructions to proceed with the maximum of speed and, of course, efficiency to consider the matter afresh.

With the approval of the House, I shall invite the following hon. members to be associated with me to constitute that Select Committee: His Honour the Deputy Speaker, the Learned Junior member for St. Philip; the Hon. Leader of the House, the Minister of Education, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy; the hon. junior member for Christ Church; the hon. junior member for St. Michael; the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition; the hon. senior member for St. Peter; the hon. junior member for St. James, and the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown. If those hon. members are willing to serve, I shall be happy that they be deemed to be the Committee. I gather that hon. members whom I have mentioned are willing to serve.

Now I would like, in view of what is regarded as the pressing urgency of this matter and the imminence of the season of goodwill, to invite hon. members to endeavour to make it convenient to meet -- they will in any event be formally summoned -- tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think this is quite convenient, Your Honour.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of you? Would Your Honour read the terms of reference? I will give Your Honour my reasons. I noticed in the Report the suggestion that the salaries of the Ministers would more properly be dealt with by the Cabinet, and

there are some of us who cannot agree with that. The House votes all the money for ordinary members and Ministers, and I ask Your Honour to read the terms of reference that we will have to deal with, because the terms of reference state "members" which, of course, include Ministers. If Your Honour claims "members" mean all twenty-four members, then no harm is done; but it seems to me that the members of the Opposition would agree that the term "member" does not exclude the Ministers. If that point is clear, there will be reason to suppose that no ambiguity will arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: In answer to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will say this: that the previous Committee was appointed, as I think I said earlier, "to consider and revise the salaries and conditions of service of the officers of the House and the salaries of members of the House"; but I would say that in this Report which was never presented to the House, there was paragraph 6 which stated what was the view of that Committee in respect of not making recommendations with regard to the salaries of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

5.35 p.m.

In other words, that Committee regarded themselves as a Committee empowered to consider and revise the salaries and conditions of service but in their consideration they mentioned in their last paragraph: "The Committee after careful consideration decided to make no recommendation with regard to the salaries of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries as it seems that such recommendation would be more properly within the scope and province of the Cabinet." That was the view of the Committee as constituted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has raised a very interesting point, and as one of the members of the last Committee, I would like to say that one of the reasons why we did not deal with the Ministers' salaries on that occasion was that the members of the Legislature are paid from Head 3 of the Estimates -- Legislature -- whereas the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are paid from the provision made under Head 24 of the Estimates -- Premier -- Cabinet and General. It was for this reason that we felt that we would deal with the salaries of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, the Leader of the Opposition, Members, Chaplain and other officers conveniently and leave it to the Cabinet to send down their recommendations in respect of the Ministers. In any case, Sir, any recommendations in respect of the salaries of the Members of the House would have to come before the House as a Supplementary Resolution. I think that we could deal with the persons mentioned and excuse the Ministers from this exercise.

Sir, before I move the adjournment of the House, I understand that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition intended to give notice of some Questions and I gave an undertaking that the House would grant leave for those Questions to be put. (Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: They can remain over.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition for reminding me that these Questions can be put at a later date inasmuch as they do not seem to be available now. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said that he is quite willing to defer the putting of these Questions until the next meeting of this House. That applies also to certain questions which were to be put by the hon. senior and junior members for St. Peter. The questions are not now available.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Your Honour has just appointed a Select Committee which Your Honour wishes to get down to its business and to report as quickly as possible, and in view of the request of both sides of the House, I have undertaken not to press for the consideration of the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill. I am hoping that hon. members opposite will agree to meet again on Thursday of this week at 2.30 o'clock p.m. and I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday 15th December, 1966, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

I hope that we will be able to get through not only the salaries of Members and Officers of the House, but also the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill and so clear the slate for the Season, so to speak, and be able to exchange with Your Honour the compliments of the Season.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why we did not want to proceed with the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill is the fact that we have not yet had any copy of the Barbados Constitution to which this Bill makes reference. We would be most grateful to receive copies of the Constitution before Thursday because it is impossible to understand the implications of this Bill without having a copy of the Constitution before us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does any other hon. member wish to speak before the Hon. Leader of the House exercises his right of final reply? (After a pause). No other hon. member apparently wishes to speak and the Hon. Leader of the House may reply.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The point raised by the hon. member has been very well taken. Unfortunately, we have only received about a dozen or fifteen copies, certainly less than twenty copies of the Constitution. We have given instructions for one of the copies to be sent to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and if he has not by this time received it, he will certainly receive it tomorrow. I cannot promise the hon. member to send him a second copy. Each member of the House will, of course, have his own personal copy when more copies are available, but at the present time a very limited number of copies are available.

5.45 p.m.

Therefore, as I am saying, if the hon. member has not received it by this evening, he will receive it by tomorrow. Every hon. member will get his own personal copy in the fulness of time, but I do not think hon. members will have to wait too long for their own copies. If the hon. senior member has no objection to sharing this copy, I think there will be one available by Thursday.

That is as much as I can say on this matter. Instructions were given for a copy to be sent to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and all the other people who normally shall get a copy as soon as more copies are available, each member as well as other people will receive a copy.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just before the Hon. Leader of the House rose to speak, I asked if any hon. member cared to speak before the Hon. Leader of the House and looking around I saw no indication of any hon. member desirous of doing so.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I will now ask leave to raise another point, as I heard no mention made of any copy being sent to members of my Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: There will be a copy sent to all hon. members in due course. I am sure the Hon. Leader of the House would see to it that the junior member for the City gets his copy.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: At long last, we have arrived at the two Party system and I said that instructions have been given already for the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to receive a copy. All hon. members of the Legislature will in due course get a copy. As regards the point raised by the hon. junior member for the City as to whether a copy will be sent to members of the Barbados National Party, I am afraid that there is where the line would be drawn.

The question that this House do now stand adjourned until Thursday, the day after tomorrow, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock, was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.