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THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st February, 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., *(Speaker)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *Minister of Health and Community Development*; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, *(Minister of Communications and Works)*; and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Trade and Labour)*.

Prayers were read.

Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER and Mr. F. G. GODDARD entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to have to inform hon. members that there are no Minutes available for confirmation. There are certain Minutes which, I understand, have just been received from the Government Printer, but they have not yet been circulated.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General, the Accounts and Statement for the month of June, 1965.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1966.

An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the Quarter ended 31st December, 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$71,800 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 44 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$459 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part II -- Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 46 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$300 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 47 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$60 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 45 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at Tweedside Road in the City of Bridgetown.

REPLY LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 62/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the Money Resolutions of which notice was given today, with the exception of the Resolution for the sum of \$459 which was given notice of on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At a later stage, I would like to ask leave of the House to deal with that Resolution in all of its stages today. Copies of the Resolution will be circulated to hon. members.

QUESTION

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government, in view of the fact that Independence for Barbados is just around the corner, appoint a Commit-

tee with the power to permit interested persons of the General Public to submit designs of a National Flag as well as the composing of a National Anthem symbolising many aspects of Barbadian nature?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of hon. members of the Opposition Benches, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the Oral Reply to Question No. 62/1964, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John, has been laid. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that persons who have applied for the first time for the post of Student Nurse at the Hospital and who have been unsuccessful in the examinations for the said post have in some cases been requested by the Matron not to apply again?

2. Will the Minister cause this most unsatisfactory state of affairs to cease?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"1. Yes Sir.

2. Candidates for appointment as student nurses are required to be in possession of the General Certificate of Education or its equivalent, with passes at Ordinary Level in English, and Mathematics and in any three other subjects and, in addition, to pass any further test which may be considered necessary. In the absence of a sufficient number of candidates with the requisite qualifications, it has been necessary to employ a variety of tests and to depend for guidance in recruitment on the results of tests of intelligence. The whole question of recruitment to the Nursing Service is under review."

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Item under Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, the Hon. Minister of Education, and it is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the island.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with the first Item under Government Business in today's Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church, Acting Leader of the House is seeking the indulgence of hon. members to take charge of the Item standing in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted for the hon. senior member for Christ Church to take charge of Government Business in the absence of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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 to deal with the money Resolution for the sum of \$459 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and of which notice was given earlier today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: 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. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1965-66 No. 43

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 10 -- Accountant General, there are three items -- Item 13 -- Allowance for Shortages; Item 20 -- Safes; and Item 22 -- Crown Agents' Charges, and the respective amounts are \$50, \$500 and \$4,000.

As the Notes set out, the provisions in the Estimates proved to be inadequate in each case.

As far as Item 13 is concerned, the sum of \$100 had been appropriated for the year 1965-66, and on the 30th November, 1965, expenditure and commitments on this item amounted to \$101.11. Of this sum the amount of \$36.34 represented unpaid shortages brought forward from the previous financial year; so that supplementary provision is needed, and we are asking for \$50 to supplement this vote.

So far as Item 20, -- Safes -- is concerned, we are asking for the vote to be supplemented by \$500. Of the amount of \$700 appropriated, \$685 have already been expended, and it is therefore requested that a further sum of \$500 be provided to meet the cost of safes which may be required during the remainder of the financial year.

With regard to Item 22 -- Crown Agents' Charges, the full note here is that the sum of \$22,000 was appropriated under this Item, and the amount paid during the current financial year in respect of transactions for the period February to August, 1965 was \$7,236. 3.05 p.m.

It is anticipated that supplementary provision of \$4,000 will be required to meet Crown Agents Charges for the remainder of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman the explanatory note to Item 20 is not clear enough to me. It reads as follows:-

"It is likely that more safes will be required by Government Departments for custody of Government monies, stamps and documents before the end of this financial year. Supplementary provision of \$50 is therefore required."

This note does not state here how many safes, nor the particular department. It states "departments". One would

not know how many departments or how many safes. It says "that more safes will be required by Government departments". How many safes, and how many departments do you want safes for? The amount sounds very small to me. As far as I know, \$500 would not provide more than one safe. I do not think that amount is even sufficient to buy a safe for a small business place. I hope the Hon. Minister in charge would be able to make it more explanatory for me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member would like to know how many Government departments and how many safes. If the hon. member would refer back to the Item -- safes -- he would see that it is only required for one department.

The position, so far as safes for that particular department are concerned, is that the amount of \$688 has been spent out of \$700 which was earmarked for this department for the current financial year; so, as hon. members can see, just a small amount is left and this request for \$500 is asked for to purchase any safe that may be required for the present financial year. They want a reasonable amount to tide them over until the end of March.

As to how many safes are required, I would have to supply the hon. member with that information. This amount is put in merely in the case of necessity.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it appears that the Hon. Minister did not understand me. I did not ask him how many safes for the particular department; I asked him how many safes they are asking for in this department now. I said that \$500 is a pretty small amount. The end of the financial year would soon be here and I want to know if it is so urgently needed.

Now, the explanatory note did not say "safe"; it said "safes". The explanatory note also says "Government Departments". I was of the opinion that there was more than one Accountant-General's Department. Therefore, I asked the Hon. Minister how many safes would be needed and not how many safes would be needed for the Accountant General Department. I would like to know how many safes would be required for this amount of \$500. The explanatory note referred to safes and Government Departments -- more than one in my opinion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, we have a request here from the Accountant General's Department and it was made out since the 12th November, 1965. It is a supplementary provision for this specific amount. If there are safes in other Government departments, they are not under the Accountant General's department. This department deals with the finance of all the other Government departments, and the amount which is asked for is to supplement this particular item. The hon. member wants to know how many safes are controlled by the Accountant General. I would be quite willing to give him that information at the next meeting of the House.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister still misunderstands me. I am not asking him how many safes the Accountant General controls, because I know you have a safe in the country at a particular Post Office, and that would not come under the control of the Accountant General's department too. It may be keeping money, but it would not be under his control. The only safes under his control are those in his office. I am not asking how many safes are under his control: I am asking how many safes are going to be bought with this \$500. The explanatory note refers to safes and departments -- not department and safe.

I would admit that this vote does not come under the Hon. Minister's portfolio, but he is in charge of it today. He may not have the information, but if he promises me that he would seek it and let me know, I would be satisfied. I admit that he may not be able to give me the information which I want, but rather than try to carry me all the way around, he should promise to give me the information. The Hon. Minister is not one who would try to pull a fast one over

me. Even that reply which he has given is a very weak one because the Accountant General cannot have the safe at the St. Joseph Post Office under his control.
3.15 p.m.

I only wanted to know from him how many safes are going to be bought with this \$500.00 and how many departments will be furnished with these safes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member is trying to make a mountain out of a mole heap. The hon. member wanted to know how many safes will be bought with this money. My instructions are that there will be two safes, one to be at the Black Rock Sub-Post Office and one for St. George. When we use the word "departments", the money is under the control of the Accountant General and that Department or the Head of it is the one who has to check the money. We are merely making provision for safes which are needed over the next financial year, and we need more safes at Post Offices and other Departments which are under the control of the Accountant General. We are making provision for these; we want to have protection for Government stamps and things of that sort which are valuable and which are under the control of the Accountant General.

This request is one which has been pending for a few weeks very well; it has been pending since 12th November. These things have to be checked properly. We have a new issue of stamps coming out, and we want them to be protected in all Government Departments. I have given the hon. member an assurance already that if he wants more information I will let him have it. The hon. member seems to want more information now and he can have it.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member should not try to treat me so unkindly. The Reply which he has given now he did not give at first. He said that if I wanted to know how many safes are needed for the departments under the control of the Accountant General, he will not let me know that. I said I wanted to know how many safes will be bought for the \$500. He has now said that there will be two safes. However, Sir, I am still at a loss about that, because two safes for \$500 will only be two puzzling-boxes. I do not know what kind of safe they are going to buy for \$250.00

The question that Head 10 stands part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD II -- PENSIONS

Head 11 - Pensions - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under this Head there are two Items. The first is Item 3 -- Teachers' Pensions and Gratuities. In the Estimates for 1965-66 the sum of \$120,000 was voted, but that amount has proved to be insufficient and we are now asking for a supplementary vote of \$22,000 to meet commitments for the remainder of the financial year.

The next Item is Item 14 -- Public Employees' Pensions Act, 1961. In respect of that Item, the sum of \$120,000 was also voted in the Estimates and we are now asking for a supplementary amount of \$21,000 to meet payment for the remaining months of the financial year. It may be that I can give a fuller explanation now. With regard to Item 3, Teachers' Pensions and Gratuities, an expenditure of \$57,306 was incurred to the end of August, 1965 and it was estimated that a supplementary provision of \$27,000 would have been required. Since then, the amount has been reduced to \$22,000. Relative to Item 14, Public Employees' Pension Act, 1961, an expenditure of \$545,340 has been incurred and it is estimated that an additional amount of \$21,000 will be required. As hon. members are aware, we are making proper provision for amounts which are likely to be incurred and to be paid to the end of the financial year. I beg to move that Head 1 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I now beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$47,550 do now pass.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 46

HEAD I -- AGRICULTURE -- FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

A Resolution for the sum of \$459 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$459 to be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1965-66, Part II -- Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1965-66 No. 46, which forms the Schedule to this Resolution. As the Addendum sets out, "The United Nations Caribbean Fisheries Development Project is co-operating with the United States Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in an exploratory fishing cruise in the Caribbean during the period 27th January to 4th May, 1966, on the Bureau's vessel "Geronimo."

The purpose of the cruise will include:

- (a) investigation of the distribution and biology of fishes suitable for use as live bait for tuna fishing.

3.25 p.m.

- (b) investigation of the distribution and biology of surface tunas and other pelagic fish, together with measurements of the physical and biological environment."

These cruises supplement the U.N. Caribbean Fisheries Development Project's training programme in the area for fishermen and persons interested in the fishing industry. The Bureau has invited the countries participating in the Project to nominate observer/trainees for the cruise or any part thereof, and the Barbados Government is required to bear the cost of the two persons we are sending, to and from the vessel.

Two trainees have been selected by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries to join the cruise from Trinidad along the North-east coast of South America and return to Trinidad. The sum of \$530 is required to meet their travelling and out-of-pocket expenses and we have available only \$71.

This is part of the United Nations Fisheries Project which we heard of some time ago, and this is a training scheme in order to equip two of our local fishermen in the art of tuna fishing.

I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$459 do now pass.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the Separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded in each case by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1966.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with this Resolution in the absence of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church is seeking leave of the House to deal with this Resolution on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1966," has been laid in the Legislature and it seeks in so far as the Department of Inland Revenue is concerned, the creation of the following additional posts: one Assistant Commissioner at \$6,600 to \$7,080; one Senior Inspector at \$5,328 -- \$6,288; one Inspector at \$4,128 -- \$5,712; one Executive Officer at \$4,128 -- \$5,136; two Tax Officers at \$2,472 -- \$4,464; One Senior Clerk at \$3,096 -- \$3,960; two Long Grade Clerks at \$1,200 -- \$2,832 and one Stenographer at \$1,260 -- \$1,728 or \$1,440 -- \$2,352 respectively. There is also the replacement of the post of Accounts Clerk \$2,472 -- \$3,384 by a post of Assistant Accountant \$3,096 -- \$3,960.

These adjustments are designed to enable the department to cope adequately and expeditiously with its functions and to establish an Investigation Unit within the Department in order that more vigilance may be exercised in the field of investigation.

In the case of the Executive Officer, he will be in charge of the non-technical functions in the income tax section and will relieve the technical staff of those duties, including office superintendence and collection of tax arrears. The Senior Clerk will be responsible for the general supervision of the Clerical Staff and will understudy the Executive Officer.

3.35 p.m.

In so far as the Ministry of Communications and Works is concerned, there is the creation of a post of senior Assistant Secretary at the fixed salary of \$8,160 per annum.

This new post is required mainly to assist in co-ordinating the work at top level, and to provide an alternative channel to the Minister in an effort to remove bottlenecks and speed up the process of decision making.

In a large Ministry like that of Communications and Works, speaking from my limited experience, that Ministry is provided with two streams of work, and you will find that it is absolutely essential to have the post of Senior Assistant Secretary or two Permanent Secretaries because the volume of work is tremendous. However, it is better to have it this way as set out in the Addendum.

I am very pleased to see that this post is created. I must congratulate the present Minister of Communications and Works in having been provided with the permanent establishment of an additional Senior Assistant Secretary. As I have just told the House, that department is divided into two streams all down the line; therefore, these posts of Senior Assistant Secretary, Long Grade Clerk and two Stenographers are to be established now permanently. They were on a temporary basis. I am pleased to see that they are now being established on a permanent basis.

The note goes on to deal with the Ministry of Health and Community Development. There is the regrading of the post of Head Male Nurse from \$4,344 -- 4,848 (Qualified) \$3,672

-- (Unqualified) to \$5,400 -- 5,592 on par with Matron, Mental Hospital.

The duties and responsibilities of the Matron and Head Male Nurse, Mental Hospital, are similar and it is considered that the terms and conditions of service of the posts should also be similar. Candidates for recruitment as Head Male Nurse should hold similar qualifications as those required for recruitment as Matron.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION *re* LEASE OF LAND SITUATED AT GRAVESEND

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier and it is to move the passing of a certain resolution. Am I to understand that the hon. senior member for Christ Church is seeking the leave of the House to proceed with this resolution? (Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, Sir.)

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution is to approve the lease to the Barbados Cruising Club of a parcel of land, situated at Gravesend, St. Michael.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Addendum sets out:-

"The Barbados Cruising Club in order to improve the service presently offered proposes to construct a proper Club House with modern facilities. To enable the Club to do this it is proposed to lease to the Club for a period of twenty-five years 16,628 square feet of land comprising the site on which the present Club house now stands and the area of land on which is situated a hut of the Barbados Rifle Association."

The lease will be for a period of twenty-five years at a rental of \$125 per annum.

The exact area of the land is set out in the Schedule and it is fairly well defined. Most hon. members are aware of the situation of the Cruising Club.

I think I should explain very briefly some of the reasons which inspired the Cabinet to grant the lease.

The Barbados Cruising Club was founded in 1957 on the Barbados Aquatic Club site to promote sailing and other forms of water sports and to meet a special social need in the community. For reasons such as encouraging membership, a 'new look' approach with this view has become necessary. In other words, proposed renovation has been found necessary.

The renovations envisaged in this programme involve the construction of a modern club house, and new features and improved services have been influenced by the growing membership -- the popular use of the club by visiting yachtsmen and cruise ship passengers, and Government desires that the club house be rebuilt to fit in with the physical and aesthetic appearance of the Barbados Hilton hotel.

In order to achieve the objectives referred to above, the drawing up of the plan for the new club house was assigned to the architects who designed and prepared new plans and new layouts for the Hilton project and the estimated cost of the new club house which is a private concern is \$45,000.

The club proposes to carry out this building programme in stages, raising capital by the enrolment of a quota of 50

life members at \$240 each. The money is to be raised in stages.

It is a very desirable objective in that it promotes our tourist industry and gives some outdoor sport to our visitors and residents.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

3.45 p.m.

RESOLUTION *re* ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:-

To move the passing of the following Resolution:

A Resolution to approve under section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, the sum of \$24,000 to supplement the Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1965-66 as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave for the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to take charge of this Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House. This Resolution really comes under the Portfolio of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. acting Leader of the House is asking leave for the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(After a pause)*. There being no objection, leave is granted. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works may proceed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the amount of \$22,000 is provided in the Annexed Estimates -- Port Department, Item 33 -- Light and Power, to meet the cost of the supply of electricity for the Bridgetown Harbour. This provision was passed through an error of an estimated consumption of 380,000 units for the current financial year. The consumption of electricity is showing a gradual annual increase because of the steadily increasing business of the Port. The following statistics show the strength of the consumption for the last three financial years:-

In 1962-63 -- 626,095 units
In 1963-64 -- 701,126 units
In 1964-65 -- 838,737 units

In addition to that, due to the late shipment of sugar as a result of the damage to the sugar tower, the cost of electricity which normally would have been paid for during the period from January to March 1965, has had to be met from the provision during the current financial year. The Ministry of Communications and Works was advised that at the present rate of consumption, it is now estimated that 900,000 units will be used and an additional amount of \$24,000 will be required to meet the estimated expenditure up to the 31st March, 1966. The expenditure under this Item to 30th November, 1965, has been \$21,194 leaving a balance of \$806.

I would like to point out at this stage that the expenditure on electricity is recoverable from consumers in the Port Area at the rate of 10 cents per unit as against 5.0625 cents per unit paid to the Light and Power Company by the Port Department. In view of the facts which I have given to the House, we are asking for this amount to supplement the Estimates. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$24,000 do now pass.

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

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

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Address for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her visit to the Legislative Buildings on 14th February, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for the City is asking the leave of the House to present the Report of the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Address for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen on the 14th day of this month. If there is no objection leave will be granted. *(Pause)* There being no objection, leave is granted. Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Address for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her visit to the Legislative Buildings on the 14th February, 1966.

LEAVE TO PRESENT A PETITION

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to present a Petition from the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society.

Mr. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the relative Standing Orders have been suspended, it is permissible for that to be done. The hon. junior member for Christ Church is asking leave of the House to present a Petition. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(Pause)* There being no objection, leave is granted. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society praying the House to pass a Bill authorising the Act of 1851 to be amended by substituting a full stop for the comma appearing after the word "years" in line 32 in Section 2 thereof, and deleting the words "not exceeding at any one time a yearly value of ten thousand pounds" from the said section.

The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of a Bill in respect of the Petition of which I have just given notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave of the House to give notice of a Bill in respect of which he has just presented a Petition, and if there is no objection, leave will be given for the presentation of such Bill.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Mr. GODDARD gave motion of the Bill

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to move that the Bill be now read a first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for Christ Church is asking leave of the House now to move the first reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Act, 1851, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Act, 1851, be now read a first time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th February, 1966, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, I am wondering whether the Hon. Acting Leader of the House appreciates the fact that most of us are busily engaged in preparations for Her Majesty's Official Visit, and as there is nothing on the Order Paper which we can see is outstanding and has to be done, I wonder if instead of coming here next Tuesday at 2.30 p.m., the hon. member would agree to an amendment which would bring us here at 10.30 on the morning of the 14th which is the day of Her Majesty's Official Visit. We would be able on that day to meet and pass the Address officially.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Did I understand the hon. member to say "10.30 a.m.?"

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather the hon. member meant "9.45 a.m."

Mr. MOTTLEY: We would in that time be able to pass the Address officially if the Government would fix the time for 9.30 a.m. Everybody will be so busy next Tuesday that you may hardly get a quorum and we would then have to meet at 12 o'clock on the following Tuesday, or Your Honour might have to summon a Special Meeting, because it would be represented to Your Honour that the public interest requires that a meeting be held on the Monday morning.

I therefore beg to move, as an amendment to the Hon. Minister's motion, that this House do now adjourn until 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 14th February, 1966.

I hope the Minister and his colleagues will see the wisdom in accepting this amendment, which is for the expediting of the entire matter and getting everything working in harmony.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I should like to make it clear that I have no specific instructions to adjourn for a later date than one week which is the normal practice, but in view of the extraordinary circumstances, I think I would be acting within my right to accept any reasonable amendment. There are only one or two very pressing items in the Order Paper, one of which is a Resolution for \$71,800 for which I thought copies would have been available so that we might have got it done; but in view of the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and knowing his many activities under the circumstances both as Mayor and as Leader of the Opposition, I think that if we can meet at 9.30 a.m. and get a quorum in order that certain important Government Business can be transacted before 10 o'clock, we can agree to the amendment made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to meet at 9.30 a.m. I therefore accept the amendment of the hon. member.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Monday, 14th February, at 9.30 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.06 p.m.