

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961 - 66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd February, 1966

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health, and Community Development*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. R. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); and Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*).

Prayers were read.

Mr. HOLDER entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meetings of Thursday, 16th December, Friday 17th December and Tuesday 22nd December 1965 have been duly circulated and unless there is any objection, each of these Minutes will be confirmed. (*A Pause*)

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of each of these meetings now to be duly confirmed.

LETTER FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I am in receipt of a letter dated 14th February, 1966, from Her Majesty the Queen on the "Britannia" which reads as follows:-

"Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am commanded by the Queen to thank you for the charming ceremony in which Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh were welcomed at the Legislature this morning. To commemorate this, they have signed for you personally a photograph and also a large photogravure portrait for the Speaker's room.

Your Sincerely,
EDWARD FORD.

Perhaps I should say that the photogravure portrait for the Speaker's room is now in the process of being appropriately framed.

INDISPOSITION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Clerk of the House dated 22nd February, 1966, which reads as follows:-

"Dear Sir,

Owing to indisposition, I will be unable to attend the House today, I therefore ask to be excused from my duties as Clerk for the day's sitting.

Mr. Chesley Roslyn Boyce, Barrister-at-law will, subject to the approval of the House, be available to act at the Table at today's sitting.

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

H. O. StC. CUMBERBATCH

VOLUME OF "SEVENTH CENTENARY OF PARLIAMENT OF SIMON DE MONTFORT, 1265-1965"

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Clerk of the Records of the Houses of Parliament which reads as follows:-

"Houses of Parliament,
London S.W.1.
3rd August, 1965.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding to you for the use of your library a copy of "The Seventh Centenary of the Parliament of Simon De Montfort, 1265-1965." In it appears a record of the recent ceremonies at Westminster which were attended by Heads of States, Prime Ministers, Presiding Officers and Speakers from the countries of the Commonwealth. It is hoped that the volume may prove of interest and worthy of preservation in your library.

Yours sincerely,
M. F. BOND,
Clerk of the Records.

The Librarian,
The House of Assembly,
Bridgetown, Barbados.

As to that book, it is duly placed in the library of this House.

CLERK GRANTED DAY'S LEAVE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, owing to absence through illness of our Clerk, Mr. H. O. StC. Cumberbatch, I beg to move that he be granted leave of absence for today's sitting.

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

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

Mr. H. L. THOMAS TO ACT AS CLERK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Herbert Lisle Thomas, be appointed to act as Clerk of the House for today's sitting.

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

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

Mr. CHESLEY R. BOYCE TO ACT
AS DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. Chesley Roslyn Boyce be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for today's meeting of the House.

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

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

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 Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1966.

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Development Board for the period 1st April, 1964 to 31st March, 1965.

Barbados Statistical Service - Selected Monthly Indicators, July - September, 1965.

Barbados Statistical Service - Special Studies No. 9, Digest of Tourism, 1964.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for ten months ended 31st January, 1966.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1966;

Also, a Resolution to place the sum of \$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. 48 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Also, a Resolution to place the sum of \$13,160 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I - Current as shown in Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 52 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Education, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$3,700 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 49 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Also, a Resolution to place the sum of \$1,200 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 50 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$14,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 51 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Compulsory Acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Tom Bend Tenantry Road, Ashton Hall, in the parish of St. Peter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Provost Marshal's Act, 1904;

Also, a Bill to authorise the preparation of a Register of certain persons resident in the Island which would, in due course and after appropriate legal provision, be used as an Electoral Register and for other purposes, and for other matters incidental thereto.

2.50 p.m.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Education, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 90/1964, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, is now ready.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are now ready:-

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 82/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 68/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 71/1964 asked by the same hon. member.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 74/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 57/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 73/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to consider the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas. His question re Price Control Inspectors.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that the Price Control Inspectors must have cars to take them out to do their duties?

2. Is Government also aware that the said Inspectors have to borrow money payable with interest, from Banks to deposit on the said cars they now use?

3. Is Government further aware that after paying the Banks and Garages monthly for the said Vehicles, very little money remains?

4. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative,

Will the Minister go into the matter with a view to bringing relief to the said Inspectors by placing them on the Established List which will entitle them to car Loans from the Government?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Provost Marshal's Act, 1904, be now read a first time.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to authorise the preparation of a Register of certain persons resident in the Island which would, in due course and after appropriate legal provision, be used as an Electoral Register and for other purposes, and for other matters incidental thereto be now read a first time.

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

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re DEATH OF Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, today it falls to me, as Acting Leader of this House, to perform a very solemn duty in paying tribute to the memory of our former colleague and a late member of the House of Assembly. I refer to the passing of the late Mr. Victor Bovell Vaughan, druggist by qualification, who has served with distinction for many years in this Chamber and who has proved his worth as a politician. It was in 1940 that the late Mr. Vaughan successfully contested a seat in the Parish of St. Peter during the days of the former Progressive League of which I happened to be the first General Secretary. Mr. Vaughan was successful in being returned as the junior member for St. Peter. He served in the House until 1942 when he resigned; but it was not for long, because he was a politician and one of those who seemed to be born and not bred. Subsequently, in the 1951 General Elections, Mr. Vaughan was returned as the junior member for St. John and he served with distinction in this Chamber from 1951 until 1958. Mr. Vaughan then became the Deputy Speaker of this Chamber, a post which he filled with great decorum from 1956 until 1958. When the Federal Elections were held in that year, Mr. Vaughan was promoted to the Federal Assembly where he served again with distinction as Minister without Portfolio.
3.00 p.m.

Mr. Vaughan was one of those gifted sons of Barbados who blazed the trail in the early days and made the political path easy for the ones who come today, and his name will long be remembered and cherished by his many colleagues and friends who are in the House today, and many who have served and gone in recent years. I know that many other speakers of the House will be paying tribute, and I think that the tribute which we pay to Mr. Vaughan today is well deserved and very meritorious.

I therefore beg to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS this House has learnt with profound regret of the death of Victor Bovell Vaughan, a former Member of the House for the parishes of St. Peter and St. John, and Deputy Speaker from 1956-1958;

BE IT RESOLVED that the sympathy of this House be placed on record, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his relatives.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the time must come and will come when condolences will be passed to those of us who have served in this Chamber, and today in seconding the motion so ably moved by the Hon. Minister relative to the passing of Victor Bovell Vaughan, who was born in Barbados, son of a schoolmaster, an able politician, I do so with deep regret, because Mr. Vaughan during his life time was a personal friend of mine, despite the fact that we did not see eye to eye politically; but he was one of those gentle-

men who had tolerance for persons though they did not have his political philosophy, and he always respected their views. I would say, Sir, that the fight which he put up from time to time in this Chamber relative to getting better conditions will long be remembered.

Victor Vaughan was during his life time considered a very able orator. He came to this House, as the Minister said, in 1940, but then in those days you will recall that through economic pressure Mr. Vaughan had to go back to his business as a dispenser and store proprietor, and then again he won his seat back in the parish in which he first saw the light of day. On coming here, he made his contribution and even occupied the position of Deputy Speaker, and then the time came when he left the House to become a member of the Federal Parliament and was elevated to be a Minister without Portfolio. Failing health caught up with Mr. Vaughan not at a very ripe age at all, because he did not reach his sixtieth birthday. We regret that we have today got to stand here and pass this Resolution in respect of his passing. I say, Sir, "May he rest in peace." In seconding this Resolution, I do so with profound regret, and hope that the words of this Resolution will be to his family a source of comfort at his passing.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my Party and the people of Barbados, I associate myself with the kind words which have been said relative to the late Victor Bovell Vaughan. Mr. Vaughan made himself a politician in the days when one had to be very strong and bold to do so. There were very few at the time who would have taken the chance which Mr. Vaughan took to represent the working class people of this country, because at that time it was all sacrifice and worry and no money; so anyone who in those days took upon himself to offer to represent the people of Barbados was not thinking about himself at the particular time, but I am sure he was thinking about the people. Mr. Vaughan was a very good representative; he fought some battles and won. I can remember the time in St. John when I never expected that he would have got a seat due to the treatment which was meted out to him one night in that parish; but that did not prevent him from carrying on the fight which he did successfully.

As one of the speakers said, there comes a time when we have to throw down the gauntlet and stop fighting, although some of us do not think so. No matter how strong and how militant we are, the time is going to come when we all will have to pay that honest debt which Mr. Vaughan has just paid. I did not know Mr. Vaughan until I came into politics myself. I read about him and I heard about him, but I did not know him, and I can say that when Mr. Vaughan got on a platform, he encouraged people to listen, and he could always give some advice which it would suit those in politics to follow. He was always clean in his politics and never tried to be on the offending side; but he has gone, and I can only say "May he rest in peace."

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on occasions like these, one is not given to say too much because they are not pleasant occasions - the passing of a former member of the Assembly - and more so a comparatively young member.
3.10 p.m.

We all regret the passing of a late colleague in the person of Mr. Victor Vaughan. Mr. Victor Vaughan had the fire which all young progressive people generally have, and at that stage of his life he felt that he had a burning desire to represent the people of this colony and to get into the heat of battle. And he did so. Like all young men who are moved by their enthusiasm and a strong desire to do good, the late Mr. Victor Vaughan had his ups and downs.

Sir, I have the honour to represent the same constituency of which the late Mr. Victor Vaughan was a member and he was a very brilliant speaker. He made his contribution at the time when it was not easy for young men to make their contribution. Unfortunately, he paid a very expensive price for doing it, and that may be part of the price which one had to pay at that time.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the passing of this young colleague, surrounded by circumstances which are not pleas-

ant at all, should make hon. members of this Chamber regard it upon themselves as having a responsibility to do something positive and to stop the ordinary platitudinous statements which are meaningless, even on occasions like this, and to face certain positive matters so as to relieve any young member from the sort of indignity which this former member had to face in the evening of his last days. "Evening" is used metaphorically, not in relation to age but in relation to his health. I feel the time has come when hon. members of this Chamber should regard it as their duty - and not the duty of anyone else - to prevent any member of this Chamber having to fall by the wayside, so to speak, and to prevent such members ending their days in a manner consonant with this former member of parliament. I hope the time is not far distant when hon. members of this House would regard those who have served as members making a contribution to their country as persons who should be rewarded for the contribution which they made when they can no longer carry on, may be, through ill health or old age.

Mr. Speaker, I join with those hon. members who spoke in paying tribute to this colleague of ours and it is not for me at this stage to review his life; that is the job of a story writer. I served with the late Mr. Victor Vaughan in this Chamber and I feel it is incumbent upon me to join with those hon. members who have spoken in paying tribute to him.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I join with those hon. members who have spoken in paying tribute to the late Mr. Victor Vaughan. He was a young man and it is a sad thing when young people are called off in this way. I join with other hon. members in extending our sympathy to his relatives and I share all the sentiments of the other hon. members who spoke.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I must join in paying tribute to the late Victor Vaughan and I associate myself with the sentiments of the hon. senior member for St. Peter. I knew Mr. Vaughan long before I was associated with politics. I can well remember his speaking on platforms representing the people and he tried to do the most he could for them; but what has shocked my modesty is to see that Mr. Vaughan in his last days found himself in a place just like a certain man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. I think hon. members would remember that the priest passed by and saw him and passed on the other side. So, too, did the Levite and they left him there. It was only the Good Samaritan who went up towards him and poured oil on to his wounds. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to say the late Mr. Victor Vaughan did not have a Good Samaritan to come to his rescue in his latter days.

Mr. Speaker, it hurts me to think that when a member of the House of Assembly - a member who has devoted his entire life to the service of the people - his energy, his whole being for his people - it hurts me to think that there is no shelter for them. I am very sad that there is not a home built to place all the ex-soldiers, all the expoliticians who have rendered good service to the people so as to protect them until their end comes. I hope in the future that a home will be provided for such people who have rendered their entire life to the service of the community.

Sir, I have great pleasure in adding my small quota to the sentiments expressed on behalf of the late Mr. Victor Vaughan. I will only say: "Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God." I say: Blessed are those who render their life for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I must corroborate with those hon. members who spoke concerning the late Mr. Victor Vaughan.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I would like to associate myself with the remarks expressed by hon. members in respect of the late Victor Bovell Vaughan. He was a member of the Chamber for two different constituencies and, of course, on two different occasions.
3.20 p.m.

I was a member of this Chamber when he first entered it, and when he left it, having successfully contested a seat for the Federal Parliament. There can be no doubt about it that he was a politician of tremendous mentality, and intellectual stature, a man who lived for politics and, who, I think it is fair to say, died for politics. I will ask hon. members in the usual way, to signify their assent to the passing of this Resolution by joining me in standing in their places to observe two minutes' silence.

Hon. members stood in their places on the passing of the Resolution as requested by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare this Resolution duly to have been passed and I direct the Clerks at the Table to send a letter of sympathy to the nearest relative of the late Mr. Vaughan who is his sister, Mrs. Maycock.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with some of the members on the opposite side of the House and one hon. member has a matter which he intends to deal with: the second reading of a Bill, Subject to that matter under Private Members' Business being considered, 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. N. W. BOXILL: 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.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 57/1964, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael, is now ready. I observe that the hon. member is not now in his place. The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66/1964, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John, is also ready. Again, I observe that the hon. member is not in his place at the moment.

ANOMALIES RE-RATEABLE VALUES OF PROPERTIES IN NORTHERN PARISHES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Oral Reply to Parliamentary question No. 68/1964, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James, is also ready, and I observe that the hon. member is in his place.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware that several anomalies exist in respect of the determination of the rateable values of properties in the Northern parishes of this Island, particularly in the parish of Saint James?

2. Will Government consider the advisability of obtaining the services of an expert to correct any such anomalies, and generally to revise the system of the valuation of properties throughout the Northern parishes?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

1. No, Sir.

2. In 1963 at the invitation of the Government, Mr. J. M. Copes, U.N. Land Valuation Expert, visited Barbados and submitted a preliminary report on Valuation, Land

Taxation and Rating. Mr. Copes returned to Barbados in 1964 and submitted a Second Report as a result of which an approach was made to the U.N. for the services of an expert for a period of two to three years to re-organise the existing system of land valuation, rating and taxation. It is understood that there are good hopes of obtaining the services of an expert early in 1966."

STUFFBINS IN THORPES HOUSING AREA IMPROPERLY SITED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question to which the Oral Reply has been laid, also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James. That is question No. 71/1964.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that there are too few cement stuffbins in the Thorpes Housing Area in the parish of Saint James and that the existing ones in the said area are improperly sited, having regard to the proximity thereto of the homes of the residents of the said area?

2. Is Government aware that the Northern District Council has made representation to the Central Government about this matter?

3. Will Government take steps to correct this state of affairs?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

1. "Yes, Sir.
2. Yes Sir.
3. The Housing Authority is effecting the necessary improvement."

WEEK OF THE POOR CELEBRATION

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question to which the Oral Reply has been laid, is question No. 73/1964, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that in many parts of the world, celebrations depicting many aspects of human endeavour - such as Tourism or a Week of the Poor - are being patronised by Governments?

2. Is Government also aware that a Week of the Poor Celebration will initiate a spirit of giving to the poor and at the same time make the poor conscious that they are not a forgotten people?

3. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister approach the appropriate quarters with a view to implementing a Week of the Poor Celebration in the not too distant future?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:-

1. "No, Sir,
2. No, Sir. Government is not aware that there is need to initiate a spirit of giving to the poor. That spirit is known to be already present, though it is hoped that those Voluntary Organisations whose work now benefits by it could find means whereby donations to charity could be organised and dispensed in a manner which ensures that those who receive are in greatest need. On the other hand, Government is always concerned that those who are poor should be able to improve their lot, and the means by which Government seeks to achieve this end are clearly indicated in its programme for a free and diversified system of Education, full employment and Social Security.

3. Does not arise."
3.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 74 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip, whom I do not observe instantly to be in his place.

Parliamentary Question No. 82 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

QUESTION re NURSES' UNIFORMS

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Government aware that the uniforms worn by Nurses at the various Government Institutions are not the type best suited to the dignity of the professions?

2. Is the Minister also aware that the blue uniforms with aprons, laced shoes and black stockings keep the Nurses very warm while on duty?

3. Is the Minister also aware that the present uniform prevents the Nurses while on duty from working in comfort and deprive them of giving of their best?

4. Will the Minister also review the conditions of working with a view to inducing many qualified Barbadian Nurses who are in the United Kingdom to return home to give of their experience?

5. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister explore the possibility of going into the matter, with a view to adding colour and fashion to the Nursing profession by changing the said uniform for a modern type of uniform preferably all white?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows:-

"1, 2, 3. No Sir. No representations have been made in connection with these matters by the persons concerned.

4. The general conditions of service of all nurses have been under review, and the proposed revision of salaries will require a comprehensive study of their position."

Mr. SPEAKER: That concludes the list of Questions to which answers are ready, and in respect of which the hon. members who put the Questions are in their places. I will give instructions that in respect of those hon. members who are instantly absent - the hon. junior member for St. John, the hon. junior member for St. Philip and the hon. senior member for St. Michael - that those Replies be allowed to stand over until the next meeting of this House.

I am also advised that a Reply has been laid to Parliamentary Question No. 90 which stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

QUESTION re TRAINING CENTRE FOR DOMESTICS

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware of the hardships experienced by young women in the Parish of Saint Joseph who would like to be trained as domestics owing to the fact that there is no training centre in the said Parish?

If the answer is in the affirmative will Government consider the possibility of operating a Centre at one of the Schools in the said Parish?

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

"The Government is aware that there is at present no training centre for domestics in the parish of St. Joseph.

Persons living in St. Joseph receive training at the House Craft Centre or other City Centres or rural centres which are of easy access to them.

The Government is considering the re-establishment of a training centre in St. Joseph during the next financial year."

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the Hon. Minister for his explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: That definitely concludes Questions for today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

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

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 7 under Private Members' Business be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

THE BARBADOS FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION ACT, 1966

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association which has been in existence for the past ten years, but so far has not been incorporated. The Association feels it necessary because there will be continuity, and for that reason they wish to seek the permission of the Legislature to have the Barbados Family Planning Association incorporated.

The Objects and Reasons are very obvious because after being incorporated it becomes a body which can be sued or can sue, and it has succession, and it is easier to incorporate the business of the Association under these terms. This to me is a matter of formality, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. LYNCH: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. LYNCH: I beg to second that.

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

3.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask that the following hon. members serve on this Committee: the hon. senior member for St. Thomas (Mr. Batson), the hon. junior member for St. James (Mr. Holder), the hon. junior member for St. Thomas (Hon. N. W. Boxill), the hon. junior member for Christ Church (Mr. Goddard), the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown (Mr. Lynch).

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, what I would suggest to the hon. senior member for Christ Church, who is now the acting Leader of the House, is that I proceed now to deal with the item standing under my name: Second reading of a Bill to repeal the West Indies Hospital Funds Limited Act, 1964; or that the Hon. Minister give me the undertaking that

I will be able to deal with it at the next meeting. It is a very important matter. If it cannot be dealt with now, I will ask that it be placed first under Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I intimated to hon. members earlier that subject to anything which hon. members would like considered of a pressing nature to be dealt with.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Well, let it be placed first for consideration at the next meeting under Private Members' Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee of Supply to deal with the Money Resolution for \$800 of which notice was given today, the copies of which have been circulated to hon. members already.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1965-66, No. 44

HEAD 38 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 38 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing Head 38, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there are several supplementary requests which are listed here and to which the explanations are given in the notes to the Items.

The Items under the Head are: Item 117 - Substitutes for Officers and Servants on leave; Item 118 - Maintenance of Staff; Item 122 - Cleaning, Laundry and Water; Item 125 - Fuel, Light, Heat, Power; Item 126 - Stationery, Telephone, Advertising; Item 127 - Passages of Officers; and Item 134 - Incidentals. To each Item, the necessary explanation is given and the Note is there to explain the reasons.

This is the first full year that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been in operation and several of the Items of expenditure could not be accurately estimated, with the result that there is a necessity for supplementaries. The number of beds for this year that are occupied is 431 in comparison with 391 for 1964. We are asking for the total supplementary provision of \$71,800 in respect of the items which I have just read out. We are asking for \$12,000 to supplement the salaries of additional temporary staff as well as those of substitutes for officers on leave. As regards Item 18 - Maintenance of Staff, we are asking for \$5,000. No provision was included for overtime pay to the maintenance staff.

As regards Item 122 - Furniture and Equipment, we are asking for the sum of \$2,700. It is required to supplement this item owing to the increased costs involved in the maintenance of equipment and furniture at the Hospital and in resident staff quarters.

Item 124 - Cleaning, Laundry and Water. We are asking the House to vote \$7,000 and the note which explains that

states that the increased occupancy of the Hospital has raised the demand for cleaning and laundering as well as the consumption of water.

Item 125 - Fuel, Light, Heat and Power. We are asking for the sum of \$13,000 for the reasons set out. The current provision has become inadequate because the consumption of gas, oil and electricity has been greater than anticipated, 3.50 p.m.

In connection with Item 126 - Stationery, Telephone, Advertising - we are asking for a Supplementary vote of \$12,500. As the note sets out, this sum of \$12,500 is required to supplement this item which the level of expenditure during the year has shown to have been underestimated. In connection with Item 127 - Passage of Officers - we are asking for a supplementary amount of \$16,600. The note to this Item is as follows:-

"As a result of an increase in the recruitment of medical personnel from abroad, provision under this Item is insufficient. The additional sum of \$16,000 now sought represents estimated commitments for the rest of the financial year, including claims amounting to \$7,435 already in hand."

The last Item is Item 134 - Incidentals - and in this connection we are asking for a supplementary vote of \$3,000. The note explains that consequent on the increase in rates of travelling allowance and overtime fees, and in the rental of Rediffusion services, an estimated additional sum of \$3,000 is required, in order to complete the expenditure to the end of the financial year.

Mr. Chairman, those are the general reasons for these supplementary amounts. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No. 47

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES - OFFICE EXPENSES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is 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. This sum of money is requested to provide a supplementary vote in relation to Item 62 - Office Expenses - Under Head 27, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, of the Current Estimates. There were unforeseen expenses consequent on the re-organisation of the Office, and the funds which are now available are inadequate to meet the expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year. Owing to the re-organisation of the office, we are asking for this supplementary amount of \$300 to tide us over to the end of the financial year. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No. 48

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - SALARIES REVISION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$800 of which notice was given on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance earlier today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to deal with this Resolution of which notice was given earlier today, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause), Hearing no objection, leave is granted. The Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of \$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. 48, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. This sum of money is in respect of Item 24 Under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - and it is a new Item which deals with the revision of salaries. We are asking hon. members to vote this \$800 for the purposes of having a Salaries Commissioner appointed with the following terms of reference:-

(1) to examine the structure and remuneration of the Public service and to make recommendations thereon having regard to

- (a) the economy of the island,
- (b) cost of living, and
- (c) salaries and wages paid in the public services within the area and in the private sector of the island.

(2) To make recommendations on the procedure or permanent machinery for future reviews of the structure and remuneration of the Public Service of the Island.

The assignment of the Commissioner will be completed in about three months and the sum of \$12,366 is required to meet the cost of the following expenses -

(1)	Honorarium - £300 a month	\$4,320
(2)	Hotel accommodation - \$20 U.S. per diem for 90 days	3,024
(3)	Subsistence allowance - \$9.60 a day for 90 days	864
(4)	Car for official duties	675
(5)	First-class return passage	1,883
(6)	Contingencies, including the provision of secretarial and clerical assistance	1,600
		\$12,366

From the above amount, an advance will be made to pay for a first-class return passage, and accommodation in Barbados, for the Commissioner's wife. This advance is recoverable from the honorarium payable to the Commissioner.

The above amount of \$800 is required to meet anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year. The balance, \$1,566, will be provided for in the Estimates for the year 1966-67.

The Addendum to the Resolution sets out all the matters in detail, and this is the regular salaries revision which comes about after a period of five years or so. It is felt that the services of an expert from abroad would be more appropriate for an exercise of this sort. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I was not aware that this Resolution would have been before us today. However, I would like the Hon. Minister to know my views on this matter and I will make them known to him, if not from a scientific and technical point of view. My Organisation is responsible for some of the Government servants in Barbados today and I, as the principal officer of the Trade Union, am opposed to having a Salaries Commissioner appointed to go into these matters. I will state the reasons why I am opposed to such a person being appointed for this

purpose, A Salaries Commissioner is all right when you are dealing with an ordinary Colonial Government, but not when you are dealing with a Ministerial system of Government.
4.00 p.m.

A Salaries Commissioner, with a Ministerial system, has not the same meaning as it had when you had a Colonial Secretary, a Governor, a Financial Secretary and some members taken from the House of Assembly who sat on the Executive Committee. The Cabinet of Barbados is responsible for the running of this country, and when the Cabinet delegates its authority to a Salaries Commissioner to examine the structure and remuneration of the Public Service and to make recommendations thereon having regard to these points that might have been all right in the days when you only had the Civil Service Association to deal with. The structural arrangement of the Civil Service is different from the structural arrangement of the Trade Union, and it is true that the Civil Service Association still has recognition for some of the Government servants. I do not want to be impolite or unkind to another fraternal organisation, but a militant Trade Union is not like a lazy organisation waiting for somebody to make recommendations for it to criticise or for it to say that it is not enough.

A Salaries Commissioner may advise a Government, but we will never accept that we have to await a Salaries Commissioner, because we regard the Government as an employer like a private employer, and the Ministers are responsible for the running of the country. If they need advice on the economy of the country, we do not see how a Salaries Commissioner or any one person can come here and say he will examine the structure and remuneration of the Public Service and make recommendations having regard to the economy of the island. In what respect is he going to make recommendations having regard to the economy of the island? That is a matter of policy. The Government has to pay wages and salaries with a view to the economy of the island, not a Salaries Commissioner. A Salaries Commissioner may advise the Government on what to do, and I want to make it clear here and now to the Minister that my organisation is not accepting that a Salaries Commissioner has a role to deal with public salaries, because we do not intend to wait for any six months before we can settle certain fundamental questions.

I would like to make it clear that in the United Kingdom where there is a vast Civil Service, they set up Civil Service Commissions. In Barbados you have people in the industrial sector and you have people in the clerical sector in the Public Service, and it is a false picture to say that you are going to look at salaries in the Public Service and look at salaries in the private sector. Some aspects of the private sector are not open to the kind of competition to which the public sector is open, and if you are going to look at the private sector from the point of view of a negotiable sector, you have to look at it as against those that are not negotiable.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, to make it clear that the workers for whom we are responsible are not going to be satisfied with this. The Government has its advisers; it has an Economic Unit, a Financial Secretary and it has many functional Departments of Government; and if these people are incapable of performing certain fundamental tasks, and you have to go out for someone, then I say you must look into this matter very carefully. I have just passed through a similar experience where you had an enquiry into the sugar industry, and I have now to sit months and weeks on something for which a lot of money has been paid, and the exercise had to be performed by people who live here, who understand and who have to make the kind of recommendations that are fitting to the circumstances of the country. There are lots of people here, and the Government can save a lot of money if they need a Commissioner or any person to advise them on what they should do; but I would like the Minister to know that no Trade Union is going to accept this as a means of negotiating with Government. It is no different from a private employer telling us that he is having an investigation into his business and therefore we must wait; so do not ask the thousands of public servants we

are going to represent to wait until the Commissioner decides what a cantonnier should get or what the various men working in the industrial sector should get, because you want to examine the economy of the country and you want to examine that with private sources.

As I said, this examination is an examination for the Cabinet; the Cabinet holds that responsibility. The terms of reference are to examine the structure and remuneration of the Public Service and to make recommendations thereon having regard to the economy of the island, cost of living, and salaries and wages paid in the public services within the area and in private sector of the island. When you say "Cost of living", this is too loose with such a heterogeneous group of people. In the public service what cost of living you are going to evaluate and say this is the cost of living? You could not mean it in the same sense as that in which people walking about the street say that the cost of living has gone up, without knowing exactly what they mean. This is an exercise which may be suitable for the Government in relation to other issues with which they may have to deal, because one of the terms is to make recommendations on the procedure or permanent machinery for future reviews of the structure and remuneration of the Public Service of the Island. This in itself is an important matter.

I do not want to use this as a medium of saying what I want to say, but I have to use it as a medium of saying that a Salaries Commissioner coming at this time means that Government has to deal with wages and salaries proposals coming from people, and there is no secret about it.
4.10 p.m.

The last time the Government made a review of the salaries of the public servants in this island was in 1961, which is five years ago. Wages of people in the private sector have moved up since then. There is nobody whom my organisation negotiates for whose wages are the same today; therefore you can quite understand that the Public Service would have to make a move in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what procedures have been taken, but the Government has taken the responsibility for setting up the machinery for the importation of the Salaries Commissioner. As far as I have seen, this Salaries Commissioner is coming down on an assignment to last for three months. As far as I know, usually, Salaries Commissioners take up all the time and sometimes they ask for more time to complete their work. We may expect that they would take nearly up to Christmas time before anything is done, and round about that time elections are going to come. I do not want an election salary-whipping horse to ride. You have put it down on the basis that this thing is going to take three months because you have stated so.

In this case you have to send in proposals to the Government. When we of the Union are negotiating for increased wages for workers, we do not send in any proposals and then wait for somebody to send in theirs and then you have an Anomalies Committee set up. We make our proposals and it is for you to say that those proposals would cost you \$2 million, \$3 million or whatever it is. That is the condition which the Government must be prepared for. Long past are the days when even Arbitration Tribunals or Boards of Enquiry should be set up to deal with this matter. I believe if an employer employs people, and the representative of the workers is negotiating for better wages for the workers, they should understand that they are dealing with the employment of people and they must be able and prepared to sit down around a table and discuss the matter because I consider that you cannot delegate that responsibility to anyone else. If a clash arises over something which you cannot settle or there is a dispute, it has to be very grave in my opinion that you will need to have that sort of umpire. But from the word given "go", you are going to set up a Salaries Commissioner and you are setting him up on the basis that you know something has to be done, but you are not in a position to do what should be done, and therefore, somebody must do it for you.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be unkind to the Civil Servants in Barbados, but can you truthfully tell me, if we

are going to run the expenditure of this country and the Civil Servants have to pay the price in this independent country, when are we going to stop all the shackles which we carry on as a Colonial territory? The Government sits down at Government Headquarters and sends for a Salaries Commissioner from the United Kingdom to tell us what type of salaries we should pay to our Civil Servants, and they have given us all this bogus arrangement of Leave Passages and all the old Colonial trappings. A lot of old bogus things that used to happen they give us which do not have any more relation to this territory at all. A lot of those things want scrapping.

I am sorry that the Hon. Premier is not in his place, but the responsibility for setting up this Salaries Commissioner lies with the Cabinet. Is not the Cabinet aware of the unemployment in the island? Is not the Cabinet aware that an Economic Survey has been carried out? You have prepared a Development Plan. Were you going to prepare that Plan without knowing what the employment is? Therefore, in my opinion, the Government must have already enough information in hand relating to the economy of the Island to be in a position to know what they should pay their Civil Servants. They should know what the economy of the Island is like. They should know what is the cost of living.

If you are going to deal with the cost of living, you can get the information which you require from the Statistical Department. The Salaries Commissioner who comes here would have to rely on the Statistical Department for information about the cost of living to be able to make any proper analysis. Therefore, on that premise, you have all the information which you want to know already in Barbados.

You say in the terms of reference that the Salaries Commissioner is to examine the salaries and wages paid in the Public Services within the area and in the private sector of the island. Let us be quite frank. Do you expect that you are able to compete with everybody within the area? Can you compete with salaries paid in Trinidad whose economy is sometimes nearly eight times greater than ours? Barbados makes a budget for \$30 million, while Trinidad is making a budget of \$200 million. Therefore, if you talk of salaries and wages paid in the public services within the area, you are talking of places like St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Grenada, because you are competing with them from the point of view of public service. If you go to British Guiana, you will find that their economy is still higher than yours. As it is, the private sector in Barbados can only be used as a guide; they cannot be used as a reason because the Government must always set the lead for the private employer. The Government must set standards of employment which the private sector can follow.

4.20 p.m.

Where a person is working in the Public Service, the Government itself must be a model employer which must set standards of employment conditions which the private sector can follow. In some instances, the private sector calls for an examination to know how many people that private sector employs. I do not go too wild for all that the private sector does, because the private sector may employ two people at a much higher salary than that at which the Government can employ twenty people who are doing the same job, because the requirements of the Public Service can, in our own time, determine to a large extent how much we can pay. In our basic industry, which is the sugar industry, the sugar workers work for comparatively lower wages than what other people in the community work for, and that is as a result of the number of people who have to be engaged in that industry. That means that if you had to multiply this number of people by the salaries or wages which you will consider to be commensurate with other wages paid in other sectors, that would exceed the total income of the industry as a whole.

Those are the things which condition your thinking, when you think of paying seventy people as compared with paying two people or twenty people. I make this statement on the ground that the appointment of Salaries Commissioners is a waste of time and it is a delaying process.

It is all right to have a private investigator, but there is no point in asking us to meet a Salaries Commissioner if

a Salaries Commissioner cannot speak for the Government. When a Salaries Commissioner sends in his report, the Government sometimes is forced to change all that the Salaries Commissioner has done, so that you wonder afterwards if there was any point in having the Salaries Commissioner appointed at all. Mr. Chairman, the reason why I say that is that, structurally, there is nothing which you can do. Paragraph (ii) of the terms of the reference set out in the Addendum to the Resolution states this:-

"to make recommendations on the procedure or permanent machinery for future reviews of the structure and remuneration of the Public Service of the island."

If you have too many Departments or if you want to merge or consolidate your Departments, then that is a case which you can make out for having a Salaries Commissioner.

One hon. member in this Chamber introduced a question or a motion asking for the appointment of a Commissioner to revise the salaries of Civil Servants and public employees, but I would like to tell that hon. member this. The matter of dealing with the salaries of Civil Servants will not be the exercise of the House of Assembly any longer.

The people in the public service have rejected that; they have joined the Trade Union and they have allowed us to know that they do not regard the House of Assembly as any means of bargaining for them, because the House of Assembly is not constituted as a place for bargaining. This House of Assembly is not a bargaining agent. The Cabinet has the power to bargain. The House of Assembly has no power within itself to add one cent to a man's wages. All the Resolutions which we pass cannot do that, because we have no power in this Chamber to do such things. The power resides in the Cabinet. That is the Body which has the power to increase wages for the Civil Servants or the Public Servants so that the workers have wisely come to the right channel. The House of Assembly cannot talk about these matters; but if you want anything to be done you have to go to the right channel in order to have it done. The workers have the Trade Union to deal with the Cabinet and the Government directly and administratively and not with the House of Assembly. We do not want to have to sing a song in the House of Assembly saying: "I voted money for you; are you going to vote for me now?"

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that any member of this House of Assembly has a very grave duty to point out to the people that the appointment of a Salaries Commissioner is something which is time-consuming, delaying and at the same time there is expenditure involved from which we are not going to get the full benefit. If you were to make a full review of the Salaries Commissioners which have come to Barbados, you will find that we have had more here than they have had in the United Kingdom. Each time we discuss salaries in Barbados it has been the subject of the work of a Salaries Commissioner. We do not regard a Salaries Commissioner as any miracle man because there is no point in a man coming here and telling us that a man is getting, say, \$22.20 a week for doing eight hours' work a day and giving us any fancy argument as to how much the wages of this man must be increased. The Salaries Commissioner cannot tell you anything about this. On the other hand, we can tell him that the cost of living has increased to where it is and that a man who is getting twenty dollars a week or twenty five dollars a week should get so much and so much. We know what he should get. We can say that as a condition of employment, a man has to work eight hours a day and not less. I am a bit surprised that the Government has taken on a similar role after ten years of Cabinet Government in dealing with these fundamental issues for which Ministers were not responsible in the past. The House was not responsible for these issues in the past, because hon. members were not responsible for running the Administration. Nowadays the Ministers are responsible for running the Administration.

5.30 p.m.

These Ministers are responsible for running the administration; they are responsible for knowing how much money there is to spend. In the past there was a grouping of people around here and a few on Executive Committee

and the Governor was responsible; but if I may say so, the diversification of personnel through the Cabinet system distributes the running of the Government among more people with Permanent Secretaries which must form a real hub for implementing these things, and I am sorry I have to say that this Salaries Commissioner does not appeal to me. Whoever is responsible for it is going to find that he is going to waste \$10,000. It is not much, it is true, in the scheme of Government with a budget of \$30 million; but it is going to be a waste of time, and it is going to throw a lot of stress and strain on people who normally have other things to do, because it is not going to satisfy the people.

The workers in the public sector that I speak for are grass-roots people. I do not speak on behalf of any cocktail party groups; I am speaking on behalf of grass-roots people, not drawing-room orators, not people who will discuss politics on the wayside. These are grass-roots people who say what they mean and mean what they say. They have waited on the Government for a long time until we have achieved recognition for them, and I do not say that in any boastful manner. They insisted that they wanted a militant Trade Union to represent them, because they did not want the Civil Service Association to represent them, and if there was no acquiescence to that, they would have demonstrated in a way to show whom they wanted to represent them.

These Salaries Commissions are not going to satisfy the thousands of hardworking men and women in the public service today who expect more direct and positive approaches to their problems, and not any circuitous route that is suitable to the old-fashioned Civil Servants who wanted something done for them and somebody to do it, but when it came to doing the job for themselves, they looked to put the blame on somebody else. We want to accept the blame and they are going to accept the responsibility. For that reason, we only regard a Salaries Commissioner as advising the Government, but we do not look upon a Salaries Commissioner as any area with whom to ask any Trade Union to negotiate.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that what I have said is quite clear, because may be this evening there are public servants at the Union sitting down working out proposals on what they want to deal with, and not waiting until somebody calls them up to have a long wasteful chat and says he does not agree with their proposals. These are direct negotiations that will cost money, and it is better for the Government to think in terms of setting up some permanent body if they want to, and review it from time to time, because they have a Public Service Commission that deals with the appointment of people. I am not against the Government bringing in advice from outside, but I am against them following these old wornout paths of bringing people here to settle these problems that are really ours, and ours alone.

In the final analysis any agreement reached has to be an agreement reached between the Government and the Trade Unions, including the Civil Service Association. I can say this, Mr. Chairman, because as you know in representing public servants I am not a candidate for promotion. Neither the Governor, the Premier nor any Minister can promote me; so I do not have to be afraid that my name is going to be written off or it may be regarded that I cannot get ahead. I am ahead already, and I would have to have two heads which would make a double-headed monstrosity. I speak for the workers, and I say quite humbly that this is a waste of money and it is going to be a waste of time. It will be vexatious to many people, because we are the kind of people that if we come up with an agreement, we are going to stick with it. We are not going to be like those who are going to say they would not divide the service, because they will come and give a man eight cents an hour and give another \$800 a month because it is being done at election time.

It is not my job, Mr. Chairman, to embarrass the Government; that is the job of the Opposition. It is my job to save the Government from embarrassment and to point to the way of new approaches. The old time approach is filled with avenues of embarrassment, and I say that as a

positive warning, because one of the members of the Opposition asked for a Salaries Commissioner; but the member asking for it does not know about negotiating wages and salaries, and those of us who know how to do these things cannot see you approaching this matter in this way in these modern days. All this is going to do is to create so much worry in dealing with it, that when the final word has to be given, it may be very embarrassing to all concerned, because we cannot accept a Salaries Commissioner in 1966 with all the information that the Government possesses about the economy of the country and the cost of living. We cannot accept that this Salaries Commissioner at this time is going to be of any use to us. I know the public service is going to be waiting long - and very long - for an answer. We find it difficult to understand why they are waiting and have now come up with this, but I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I do not regard it as worthwhile, and it is a waste of public funds. The Government could have utilised this money by having their departmental organisation so geared that when the Cabinet takes a decision that they are going to have a review of salaries, the respective organisations they recognise would be able to present something to them as a Cabinet; and if they considered that these things could not be met or they would like advice, then they would be able to get further advice from someone who would say what salaries would be, notwithstanding what the Trade Unions want in a general way. This old-timish, old fashioned method is going to lead to more difficulty than if you did not have the Commission at all.

4.40 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, not too long ago in this House I had to liken the present Government to a motor car which they bought that every time they struck a forward gear, it struck a reverse gear - what the old people used to call "back-back". I thought the Government would have tried to fix their gear-box right, but they have not done so.

The Hon. Premier said on the floor of this House that something would have to happen very extraordinarily for him to think about a salaries revision or an increase in salaries for the Civil Servants, and he lambasted the former Government for the increases which they had made to Civil Servants at that time. He made one to think that through the increases he had headaches to find money to spend when he took up office.

However, today the pressure is too great and he has to "back-back". He has to take back his word and try to show the Civil Servants and to let them know that might cannot triumph over right. He is now trying to import someone to come down and tell us what to do. In other words, he is hiding behind the word of a Salaries Commissioner.

In my opinion, if the Salaries Commissioner were to make a recommendation to the Government for increases in the salaries of Civil Servants which the Government could not see its way to grant, the Government would not grant the increases according to the recommendation made, and I feel if I had to do it, in my small way of thinking, having the Financial Secretary and the other experts at my disposal, I would find out from them how much the country could afford to pay out for increased pay. I would go to work in my way of doing it and make increases to suit what the country could afford. It may be that I would take some more time in working it out, but I would work it out on a percentage basis.

I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter - I could not agree more - because I have no faith in the present Government that they will abide by the recommendations by way of a report from the Salaries Commissioner because I read in the Press that a certain Commissioner made a report to this Government and the most important part of it was being taken out. The Commissioner reported afterwards that his report was not published to the public as he had reported to the Government. These Commissioners generally made their report after they have left the island. Therefore, if the Salaries Commissioner whom we are importing should come down and make a report which is not favourable to the Government, we are still nowhere and these people are not going to wait for six or twelve months

more to know what is happening. The people whom the hon. senior member for St. Peter is representing are not going to wait; therefore, do you think the others are going to wait? They are not boys; so if one is not going to wait, the others are not going to wait; therefore the Government could as well get started and they had better work quickly too.

Sir, I know that this would have come down because this is the year for it. It has to come quickly and there should be no dodging about it. Come out and let the people know what you are going to do for them. If they did not make an effort, I am sure that there would be no increase for them and it may be that Government would still have been dragging their heels about it; but as it is now, Government has to step very quickly. It is the Government's business and they have to do about it and do it very quickly.

Speaking under correction, the last Salaries Commissioner recommended that Officers of this House should receive an increase, and up to now the Officers have not received that increase. The Government is planning now for another increase in salaries. Round one has passed and this is Round Two, and the Officers of this House are still waiting. They are not represented by any Association or Union: so they will have to wait. I do not think anybody prevented them from joining a Union and I do not think the Barbados Workers' Union would have refused to enroll them if they had applied for membership in the Union. Because they are not in a position to fight for themselves, they are the losers.

I hope something will be done for them now because it is not fair. This is the sort of Government which we have to deal with today. When it comes to these salaries, they are only doing what they care to do; they are not thinking for the people. If the Salaries Commissioner had recommended an increase for the Officers of this House, why not pay it out? You have paid it out to the others. The Government had to pay increases to the people who had to seek representation from the Barbados Workers' Union because the pressure on the Government was too great. They are not talking any more in their organisation. You would be surprised, if something is not done and adequate increases are not made to those who are in the Union, to see what is going to happen. As far as these people are concerned, they are not hiding any more; they are telling you what they want and when you are making increases for one, you have to make it for all. Everybody must get an increase. 4.50 p.m.

Everybody must get an increase. In other words, so long as you are a politician, you must get votes; but at the same time you should not allow this to be any vote-catching thing. You must let justice be done; otherwise the writing will appear on the wall. The Addendum to this Resolution states this as one of the terms of reference of this Salaries Commissioner:-

"To examine the structure and remuneration of the Public Service and to make recommendations thereon having regard to (a) the economy of the island,...."

Sir, am I to believe that this Government does not know anything about the economy of the Island? I feel that they should know about it. The next item is the cost of living. Do they not know about the cost of living? I feel that they should know about the cost of living in this Island. The Salaries Commissioner also has to make recommendations having regard to salaries and wages paid in the public services within the area and in the private sector of the island.

The Government should know about that, but the Salaries Commissioner will have to go into it. If the Commissioner has to go into this matter, then the Government does not know anything about it. I feel that the Government should know about this matter, especially since the Premier of this Island is supposed to be an economist. If I am to take him rightly, no Commissioner could tell him anything when it comes to figures. Still we are spending this money for the purpose of bringing a Commissioner here to go into the things which the Government has already gone into. The

next thing which the Salaries Commissioner has to do is to make recommendations on the procedure or permanent machinery for the future reviews of the structure and remuneration of the Public Service of the Island. Well, Sir, I am not going to say "No" to this. I am going to do everything possible to represent these people or to help them on by way of an increase; but I cannot see where the Commissioner is going to help. If he should make any recommendation that the country cannot carry, well, then, it cannot be carried; or the Government will have to say "No, we cannot do that". I told one in this Country how much it will take him to live or his value to this Country when he is not living in it, but if he is taking it from the country whence he comes, he may take it to be too high or too low. I cannot see why the Government cannot go through this matter themselves and say how much money would be required. I cannot see why they cannot cut the cloth to suit the measure. For a period of three months the Commissioner will be here, and if he does not get the necessary figures, the period may have to be extended, and the matter will run all the way down near to the month of December. It will be at any time before the last week in November or the fourth of December when the people will have to make up their minds and say whom they want and things of that sort. The taste may be in their mouths at the time and it may make them forget the remarks which were made in 1962 and the length of time which they had to wait for this increase.

The Government has given sufficient time for these people to make up their minds regardless of any increase or not. That is to say, they have waited a little too late, and now a Commissioner has got to come and say what must be done. I am not an economist. I do not know anything about big figures, but from my commonsense point of view, if I had to say anything in this matter, when I said it, the economist will be able to work by it and he would succeed too. I feel that there are men in the Cabinet who, if the matter were left to them, would go about it in the same way. They have come up the hard way and they know how to make two and two work. However, Sir, if we are going to think of the big shots and the big Commissioners coming down here - the hon. senior member for St. Peter remarked to a member of the Opposition as to something which he introduced about the appointment of a Commission, but that was the procedure which was laid down all the time. When you ask that a Commission be appointed and the Government has an easier way of dealing with the matter than by the setting up of a Commission, they should say: "We are not setting up any Commission because we can do better", and that would be the end of it. But I do not think that the hon. senior member for St. Peter should criticise any member of the Opposition because he has asked for the appointment of a Commission. The Government has been ashamed to do a lot of things which they have not done. The cost of living is soaring sky high, and it is not to say that the cost of living is high for a man who is getting \$8.00 a month or \$1,000 a month, and it is lower for the man who is getting \$1.00 a month or \$200 a month. It is a fact that the same item which the man who is earning \$200 a month has to buy, the man who is earning \$1,000 a month also has to buy. The Government has to do something at this very late moment, although there is the old saying that it is better to be late than never. I feel that rather than await this Commissioner, we should start off at once and do something so as to satisfy these people. 5.00 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution states that it is proposed to appoint a Salaries Commissioner with the following terms of reference - to examine the structure and remuneration of the Public Service and to make recommendations thereon having regard to (a) the economy of the island, (b) cost of living, and (c) salaries and wages paid in the public services within the area and in the private sector of the Island; to make recommendations on the procedure.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to take his seat while the Clerk rings the Bell, as there is no quorum.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Mr. CORBIN: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is to bring a Salaries Commissioner into this Island to go into salaries and wages and to make recommendations to Government after his findings in order to increase the salaries of Civil Servants.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, that if a man does not understand what he is saying, it would be better for him to hold his peace and let it be his wisdom. Here the hon. junior member for St. George has asked the Government to bring down a Commissioner to go into salaries so that people may get an increase; but no matter what the Government does, whether it be for the good of this island or not, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph intends to criticise and speak all manner of evil against the Government. It is in the Government's interest to bring this Resolution, because it is their opinion that some salaries revision must be made, and instead of taking it upon themselves, they are bringing a man from outside who would be able to give an impartial analysis of the situation and satisfy both the Opposition and the Government, and set up the machinery for future reviews for the benefit of the people.

It is painful that regardless of what this Government does, it is criticised by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I do not know what to say. The hon. senior member for St. Peter has said that the Government should be able to make a revision without bringing in a Commissioner, but this Government has a policy which is going to be carried out regardless of who may talk. I am sure that the last Government never considered making increases until election time, but this Government has been in power for five years and they are now bringing a Commissioner to go into salaries in order to pay better salaries and wages. There is nothing in this to criticise or condemn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. senior member for St. Andrew sit again while the Bell is rung? There is again no quorum.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, it is the Government's policy and desire to bring down a Commissioner to go into Salaries, and I am sure that the Government will do everything in its power to see that the people of this Island are satisfied.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, while agreeing with many of the comments which were expressed by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I would like to draw to his attention the fact that the Cabinet is fully cognisant of its powers, with its full internal self-Government and control of matters including finance and the revision of salaries; but, be that as it may and despite the numerous economic surveys and financial examinations which have been made, the Cabinet feels that at this time it may be more appropriate to appoint someone from abroad who is knowledgeable, experienced and trained in financial matters to advise the Cabinet at this stage and to make recommendations. The Commissioner is not expected to do anything further than to make recommendations. In other words, his recommendations may be accepted, amended in part or rejected outright; so that if we appoint someone from abroad, he may be more acceptable to the broad masses of Civil Servants as someone who would be more impartial and in whom they would have more confidence than someone who has been living in Barbados, because when the recommendations have been made, it may be embarrassing if a local person undertook that work.

That, Mr. Chairman, does not prevent the Union, representing the sectors of workers that it does today, from again scrutinising the recommendations, and if they think fit, making further representations.
5.10 p.m.

The Civil Service is comprised of the white-collared worker, the ones in the administrative, legal and professional services, the mechanics, the artisans and the tech-

nicians - and then you get the workers of the unestablished staff and the casual workers. Therefore the Civil Service is under the aegis of two associations - the Civil Service Association and the Barbados Workers' Union.

The real job of the Salaries Commissioner would be to assist the Cabinet in making certain lengthy prolonged examinations of the financial structure and the Government's ability to pay the increases; therefore the recommendations as such will be implemented within a reasonable time. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was saying that this appointment was unusual. I will have to remind him that the terms of reference of this Salaries Commissioner are similar to the terms of reference of the other Salaries Commissioners who were appointed by the last Government, except in this one respect, that in paragraph 2, the Salaries Commissioner will be appointed to make recommendations on the procedure or permanent machinery for future reviews of the structure and remuneration of the Public Service of the island. That in itself is ample proof that the Government is contemplating in its policy, in so far as salaries revisions are concerned, that this Salaries Commissioner is being asked to lay down procedures or permanent machinery for future reviews of the structure and remunerations of the Public Service. Therefore, this will probably be the last Salaries Commissioner that will be coming to these shores. He is being asked to lay down machinery whereby future increases would be arrived at in a simplified way. When I say in a simplified way, I mean in a way where we would have a basis to work by.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter who is the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union had his say and he could not reasonably be expected to take a different stand from what he has taken on this matter because he has a thousand of these workers in his organisation and he has to represent them at all times, whether it be on the floor of this House or elsewhere. I want him to rest assured that the Cabinet is fully aware of its responsibilities and it is fully aware of the future when this Island becomes independent. It has full internal self-Government at present. We know that we will have to control all matters, including that of a Salaries Commissioner.

This is just for the Salaries Commissioner to make this scrutiny and submit the recommendations to the Cabinet subject to the economy of the island. Then the Cabinet will peruse his recommendations and make an examination of them and then make their decision.

Mr. Chairman, I hardly think there are any worthwhile points made by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. It was very amusing to listen to him. I think hon. members want to get away as early as possible, and I would like to get the business of the House conducted and finished as early as possible too. However, the hon. member said that we are not thinking of the people. If we were not thinking of the people, we would not have brought down this Resolution and ask that it be dealt with in all its stages today in order that the Salaries Commissioner would be able to come here in a very short time so that in a few months from now, possibly around June or early July, we would have the salaries examined and implemented.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph also said that if increases are not made in a very short time, we would see what would happen. Those comments may be very well on a political platform, but when you come in here and threaten this House and you say 'you will see what will happen' that is the sort of sneering remark which should not take place. He also said: 'Let justice be done.'

Mr. Chairman, I hardly think that there is any further point for me to explain. As I have said, part of the workers is represented by the Barbados Workers' Union and the other part is still under the Civil Service Association. The Civil Service Association has approved of this machinery of appointing a Salaries Commissioner as has been done in the old Colonial days. It is true that we are on the verge of independence, but until such time the appointment of a Salaries Commissioner may be more acceptable to the majority of the Civil Service as such. In any case, in the future the Government will have a basis to work by as a re-

sult of the terms of reference of this Salaries Commissioner. I am asking hon. members to realise that the Cabinet is fully aware of its position and the day is not very far distant when we will not be appointing a Salaries Commissioner as such. This action was closely scrutinised and examined by the present Government.

The question that this Resolution for the sum of \$800 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 45

Head 31 - Printing Office - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum sets out, in consequence of a decision to revise rates of pay of the Cleaner-Attendant of the Printing Office, the provision for the current year will be inadequate. Accordingly, a sum of \$60 is required to supplement the provision under Head 31, Printing Office, Item 19, Cleaner Attendant.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$60 do now pass.

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

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

5.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of four Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TWEEDSIDE ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situated at Tweedside Road in the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is not, as some hon. members on the opposite side of the House sometimes say, wringing anything out of any old lady's hands. The Government has decided on carrying out a road improvement programme, and at the corner of Halls Road and Tweedside Road we have decided to improve the highway, and as a result we are going to erect a Stadium. What has happened, Sir, is that certain people whom we could find with marketable titles to the land were bought out, but in the case of the land owned by the late B. T. Millar and J. C. Payne, they cannot find good and marketable titles to this land. As a result of that, in order to facilitate the people who will benefit from the sale of this land, we have decided to purchase it compulsorily for the purpose of carrying out road improvement. I beg to move that this Resolution 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.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the consideration of that Resolution concludes Government Business for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 1st March, 1966, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

SELECT COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I am availing myself of the opportunity to discharge the Select Committee which was appointed to 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. I beg to thank hon. members for their co-operation and their services on that Committee.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 1st March, 1966, at 2.30. o'clock p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.28 p.m.