

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961 - 66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th January, 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.; Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health, and Community Development*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries*); 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*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Trade and Labour*).

Prayers were read,

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to have to inform hon. members that there are no Minutes available for confirmation.

Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. CARWICHAEL entered the Chamber and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Customs Duties (Raw Materials for use in the manufacture of plastic pipe, hose, tubing, film and sheet, plastic fittings for P.V.C. pipe and ducting, and plastic containers) Order, 1966.

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

The Barbados Harbours (Amendment) Regulations, 1966.

Mr. LYNCH entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to approve the grant by way of a lease to the University of the West Indies of a parcel of land situate in the district known as the Cave Hill Development Area in the parish of St. Michael.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$43,223 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 41, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

mate, 1965-66, No. 41, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$25,455 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1965-66, Post Office, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 42, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve the Compulsory Acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at the corner of Fairfield and Welches Road in the parish of St. Michael.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 81/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James is now ready.

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 85/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is also ready.

I am giving notice of these on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 76/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael, is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution to approve the grant by way of a lease to the University of the West Indies of a parcel of land situate at Cave Hill Development Area in all its stages today. The necessary copies will be circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is asking leave to deal with the matter of which he has given notice, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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 to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice has been given earlier today.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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. G. G. FERGUSON: 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 Parliamentary Question No. 81 standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. James is ready.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to withdraw that Question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually the answer has already been laid. The Hon. and Learned member for St. James is asking leave to withdraw the Question standing in his name, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted for this Question to be withdrawn. Accordingly it is deemed to be withdrawn.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next is Question No. 85 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware that for quite some time accommodation at the District "D" Court in the parish of St. Thomas leaves much to be desired?
2. Is Government also aware that the situation is so bad that very often Officers of the Court have got to stand, due to lack of sitting facilities, while performing their duties?
3. Will the Minister go into the matter with a view to effecting improvement at the said Court?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The reply is as follows:-

The Court at District "D" only sits once a week, and the lack of space and shortage of furniture in the Court does cause inconvenience to legal practitioners and to the officers of the Court when more than two barristers attend.

Government will give consideration to remedying this state of affairs.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next is question No. 76 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael who is not instantly in his place, and I would allow that question to stand over until the next meeting of the House. That closes Questions.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

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 when in Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution of which mention was made earlier.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am now informed that the Resolution to which the Hon. Minister is referring is an abstract Resolution and therefore it will not be dealt with in Committee of supply.

I am further instructed that copies of this Resolution are now in the process of being circulated to hon. members.

The question that the House go into Committee of Supply 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 ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No. 40 HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman in moving the passing of Head 10 which is comprised of three items - 12, 16 and 24 - the explanation is stated in the note:

As a result of the increased establishment at the Accountant General's Department, it is necessary to make provision for the office furniture, equipment and incidentals and the sum of \$1,300 is therefore required.

I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 37 - Ministry of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This Head is comprised of two items -- Item 21A (New) Payment of Allowances and Item 157 -- Light, Power and Water.

With respect to the first item, the note as set out reads:-

The failure to recruit and retain Health Officers on the permanent establishment has been attributed to the unattractive emoluments of the offices. It is proposed therefore with effect from 1st November, 1965 to pay Medical Officers of Health who possess the specialist qualification of D.P.H. or its equivalent a non-pensionable allowance of 20% of salary. A sum of \$4,620 is required to meet the cost of the allowance for the remainder of this financial year.

At present, we are indebted to retired officers who are acting, and it is proposed to pay Medical Officers of Health who are possessed of the special qualification of D.P.H. or the equivalent a non-pensionable allowance of 20% of salary.

We expect in the foreseeable future to have many of these posts filled as a result of this allowance which we are now bringing into force to supplement the non-attractive salary.

With respect to the second Item, the note as set out reads:-

An amount of \$800 is required to supplement Head 37 (4) District Hospital Services Item 157 -- Water and Electricity. Expenditure of \$765.26 incurred in 1964-65 has fallen to be met from the provision in this year's Estimates thereby causing the need for further funds.

I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 44 -- OLD AGE PENSIONS

Head 44 - Old Age Pensions - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, Head 44 deals with Old Age Pensions. The number of Old Age Pensioners has increased recently, and the increase is put at the rate of approximately 15 per month.

At the present, the number of Old Age Pensioners is 10,438 and we budgeted for 10,430. We are not making provision for the balance of the financial year; therefore, we have come now to ask for this supplementary of \$21,806 which is ample enough to tide us over to the end of the financial year.

If there is any information which hon. members want to know, the Hon. Minister in charge of that portfolio would be willing to give the answers.

I beg to move that Head 44 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister was kind enough to tell us actually how many new pensioners have been put on the list and how many have been removed from the list.

Now, Sir, dealing with the Resolution the Hon. Minister said that if anything is raised, the Minister concerned would be happy to report to the Committee, 3.00 p.m.

I think that I have put that as briefly as I can, and I am sure that the Hon. Minister will be able to tell me the number of the increase, and the total number of pensioners and what has been done with the Report, or what the Government proposes to do with the Report which has been submitted relative to the question of providing better accommodation and facilities generally for these Old Age Pensioners.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to give the hon. member full information. An amount of \$1,301,664 was provided in the current Estimates under Head 44 - Item 7 for the purpose of making weekly payments to the Old Age Pensioners. Up to the 4th December, 1965, the amount expended was \$909,518, leaving a balance of \$392,146 available for payments to the end of the financial year. The number of persons budgeted for in the Estimates was 10,430, but during the year the net increase in the number of pensioners since April, 1964, has been at the rate of 15 per month. The weekly payments against this item average \$25,800 and the amount required to meet expenditure for the remaining 16 weeks to the 31st March, 1966, is \$413,952.

The hon. member asked a question as to the Report of an enquiry into the conditions of payment to the Old Age Pensioners. I think my predecessor in office might be able to assist the hon. member on this point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, after the Resolution was passed in this House, a Committee was appointed to go into the question of paying Old Age Pensioners at their homes, and so on. Since then the Committee has reported, but the Postmaster General has been trying to get some information from Trinidad recently on their system of paying the Old Age Pensioners; but surely there are a lot of other things which makes this question even more complicated. With the impending Social Security Scheme, this question relating to the Old Age Pensioners may be tied up. This question of Old Age Pensions will be handled more or less by the Board which will be appointed to take care of Social Security as a whole. Any new treatment of Old Age Pensioners, whether it be an increase in pensions or payments to be made at homes or the appointment of of-

ficers to go around the districts or schools and payments made at certain dates - all of that will be implemented when the scheme is organized as a whole.

The hon. member wanted to know the number of new pensioners who are on the list and how many were taken off. There is a difference between those who died and the additional number on the register. I do not have the necessary figures here, but if 60 were added to the list and 45 died, the difference would be 15 and those are the fifteen additional ones. It has to be appreciated that the standard of Public Health in this country has improved so greatly that people are not dying as swiftly as they were dying before.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if that last statement with regard to the standard of Public Health was attributed to me or not, but I would just like to say that I can appreciate the fact that neither hon. member is prepared to answer the question. I am submitting that the payment of Old Age Pensions and Social Security are two different things. I accept the statement made that it is a difficult question to answer, but I was just wondering what has been done in the matter. I do not accept that the matter of Old Age Pensions is anything to do with Social Security. When the scheme gets working, it will have something to do with Old Age Pensions. Consequent on the passing of that Resolution in this House, I was asked to serve on the Committee in order to see whether or not persons should be paid their pensions at their homes by money orders and the like. I am not prepared to discuss the question here, but I would like the Hon. Minister to see about the provision of greater shelter and better accommodation for these Pensioners when they go to these offices in order to collect their money. When you pass the places where these people are being paid, you will find that there is a tremendous line of people trying to get to the Pension Officer. Until such time as the Government brings in the Report, something must be done in order to alleviate that situation. It is a bad thing to see these old, decrepit people going between the buses, in the rain and in the sun. I am sure that the hon. member must have thought of such persons even before he can get put into operation the new scheme for which he will be responsible, 3.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I should like to assure the hon. member who has just sat down that his comments will be properly looked into and considered, and his plea will not fall on deaf ears.

The question that Head 44 - Old Age Pensions - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$28,526 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No. 39

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$2,000, and the Addendum sets out that this sum is required to enable the Handicraft Centre to complete the purchase of cottage workers' craftwork for resale, and meet administrative expenses for the remainder of the financial year.

Hon. members who have some knowledge of this Handicraft Centre will know that this was instituted in 1955, and served as an appendage to the Social Welfare Department. Apart from the training facilities which the Centre provides, it purchases goods weekly from cottage workers and pays workers who are directly employed at the Handicraft Centre. The purchases are naturally heaviest in the latter months of the year, and sales are highest in the months of February and March; that is, during the tourist season. The finances of the Centre are therefore subjected to the greatest strain during the period of November to January.

Hitherto the expenses of the Centre have been met from the annual vote of \$6,000. In 1955-56 sales amounted to approximately \$36,000 (excluding smocking activity) and a 5% charge on smocking, an industry which showed a growth from \$18,775.90 in 1961-62 to \$186,653.43 in 1964-65, and was handed over to a locally registered company. The 1964-65 summary of expenditure shows that the annual outlay of the Centre is approximately \$52,000. Thus the percentage charged on smocking accounted for \$10,000 of this expenditure and has assisted in this year's operation so far. The income from the smocking industry ceased earlier this year, and the effect of this loss is now being felt. It is for that reason that we are asking for this amount of money to enable us and the Handicraft Centre to purchase cottage workers' handicraft work and have ample stocks for the tourist season, when we will get back in the money which we have invested, and which will provide steady employment to the workers in the Handicraft Centre, and the ones who do work at their homes.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded in each case by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Mr. WALCOTT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

THE LEAVE PASSAGES ORDER, 1966

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John; to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Leave Passages Order, 1966.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Housing and Community Development is asking leave to deal with this Resolution in the name of the Hon. Premier, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as hon. members will recall, the Civil Establishment Leave Passages Order, 1952 which provides leave passages to Civil Servants on a very generous basis has been the subject of certain revision, and certain proposals and recommendations have been made in order to curtail slightly certain facilities and the general scope of the Leave Passages Order.

The proposal seeks to revise the qualifying salary for United Kingdom passages from \$3,384 to \$4,728, and to limit the number of such passages in future to two in an officer's career. Formerly every three and a half years he was eligible for leave passage to England or the United States, but now he will be limited to two. That is the first notable modification. Additional United Kingdom passages will be granted only for purposes of attending approved courses of study or training. Officers in receipt of salaries of not less than \$3,384 and over will be eligible for passages within the West Indies, but leave passages within the West Indies will not count against the officer's eligibility for the two United Kingdom passages. If you take a passage in the West Indies, that does not count against your two passages to which normally you are entitled to go to England or the United States, as the case may be.

It is proposed also to extend the length of tour of service over which the officer qualifies for Leave Passage from three years to four years, so that the length of tour of service would be four years instead of three and a half years as it is at present.

It is considered that Officers qualified for Leave Passages within the West Indies should be allowed at their own expense to add to the amount of passage money provided for such a passage and travel to the United Kingdom and elsewhere as the passage would not be regarded as a United Kingdom passage. In other words, you can pay some more money and go to the United Kingdom or anywhere else; but for the purpose of Leave Passages, it would not be regarded as a United Kingdom passage.

At present, Sir, the amount under existing conditions set aside - and when I say set aside, I mean if all the existing bodies were entitled - for them to take Leave Passages is \$288,000 approximately.

However, you seldom have more than 30 % of those taking advantage of Leave Passages and as a result in 1962-63, the actual amount spent was \$74,803. The bill for 1963-64 was \$124,000. But it would be \$300,000 if all the Civil Servants took advantage of it.

It is for that reason that certain restrictions are implemented and the old rate of Leave Passages is being curtailed to some extent.

Sir, in the case of school teachers, the qualifying basic salary for an Undergraduate is not less than \$4,728 and in the case of a person appointed to the post of Vicar of the Anglican church prior to the date of the Anglican Church (Partial Suspension) Act, the basic salary is \$2,616.

Certain amendments are proposed in this new Order whereby teachers would be qualified and modified to some extent. The tour of service in the case of a Head Teacher of a primary school is service for 15 terms, and in the case of secondary School Teachers and other officers attached to Education Establishment, their tour of service is for a period of twelve terms. Therefore, Sir, in respect of these officers it would be on a basis of terms.

Leave Passage is still very favourable. Leave Passage Regulations were brought into force in 1952 to facilitate expatriates, and then it was extended to the entire service. At present, there are not as many expatriate officers from overseas coming to us as we formerly had, but we still have some coming to us; so we still have to retain Leave Passages. We have still to retain Leave Passages because those of our island who want knowledge and experience would have the opportunity of going to the United Kingdom or Canada to gain an insight of how things are done on a large scale.

I do not think any hon. member would oppose the principle, and we should not say that because we live in the West Indies, we should not see England or Canada. We should be given every opportunity.

The object of this Leave Passages Order is to curtail the facilities, but not to abandon them. These new Leave Passages Regulations have been referred to the proper authority, in other words, the Civil Servants Association, the Whitney Council, Public Service Commission and all interested bodies, and these are the Regulations which have been finally agreed to.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) Order, 1966, do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister introducing this measure said that he does not think any hon. member would be against the principle of Leave Passages. I must say that I am against the principle of Leave Passages.

However, I regard this matter as a compromise. There is no justification for the retention of Leave Passages as such. It was a financial arrangement with Barbados, and we were forced through certain circumstances to recruit people from overseas to do jobs which should normally have been done by creating the services within your own community. You recruited teachers in a place like Barbados with a redundant population and you could not pass enough of your own people; therefore, you had to export some of your people to the United Kingdom. You find that Barbados is exporting labour to the United Kingdom and importing labour from the United Kingdom and introducing a condition of service for the people from the United Kingdom.

3.30 p.m.

You have to be aware that there are certain sectors in our community who, after a time, feel that they have original rights to certain privileges. When you allow these things to seep into the community, everybody wants to hold on to them. No Barbadian -- and I am putting emphasis on "No" -- Barbadian has any prior right to a condition of service on being recruited to a job in Barbados that you must send him to England at some period of his lifetime. No Englishman has the right that, on holding a job in England, after a number of years he must go to Africa or the West Indies. I do not accept the idea that Leave Passages broaden anybody's knowledge. Some of these people go abroad and they come back narrower than when they went or than they were before, and some of them are so conceited that travelling has done more harm to them than good. Some of them have the idea that they must retire at the age of 55 years. In Barbados when you perpetuate the idea that people must retire at the age of 55 years in the prime of life when other people then have to begin to shoot labour, we will be giving people pensions at 50 years when, in normal circumstances, a man who is at the age of 50 years looks as if he has another twenty-five years in which to live. I therefore would not oppose the Resolution because I believe that the Government has some obligation to the Civil Servants by agreeing to giving them Leave Passages in the past; but I would say to the Civil Servants and the public of Barbados that the granting of Leave Passages would be stopped. I say that now before any election comes around; whether you vote for me or not, I am opposed to giving Barbadians Leave Passages to go anywhere -- even if it is to St. Lucia -- as a condition of employment.

I have been working for 21 years in an organisation and I have no condition of service where I can get Leave Passages. I am given leave. I may say that every Civil Servant has a job with a value of a pension attached to it. If a Civil Servant has a job with a value of a pension attached to it. If a Civil Servant works for \$100.00 a month he works for \$100 plus a pension, so that his salary has a higher net value than that of the ordinary citizen who does not have, as a matter of right, a pension attached to his salary. The Government should pay proper salaries to its Civil Servants and excellent conditions of employment should be given to provide them with adequate facilities for the public service. What I would say is this: I would take the one hundred thousand dollars which we are spending in Leave Passages and lend it to Civil Servants who want to improve their knowledge and they could repay the Government over a number of years, say, ten or fifteen years, or increase the number of Scholarships for Higher Education and you would not have these Leave Passages. You can give people who are capable of absorbing Higher Education loans repayable in stages. You can increase the amount as the years go by, because the Civil Servants would have to repay the Government more. A boy who is a Science Scholar who has not won a Barbados Scholarship, could do much better with a loan which is the value of some of the Leave Passages which you will pay, and that means a lot to people. Sir, this \$100,000 per annum would go a long way in that direction. Instead of subsidising the steamships and airplanes, you should subsidise the Universities, the seats of learning.

If you have people on contract, the contract will have to provide them with passages back to the place whence they have come; but as a condition of employment under the old Colonial concept that an Englishman was working in Africa and Africa was too hot for him and he has to get back to his

family in the United Kingdom, he evolved a system of getting Leave Passages from the territories. Very rarely do you hear an Englishman who is working in the United States of America getting anything like Leave Passages; he may get leave to go back to his home, and by all means he should get that; but I do not see where we have to offer a Barbadian a job in Barbados and, as an inducement, we give him Leave Passages. We employ Clerks and people in this House of Assembly, and I can say that no person who is a member of the House of Assembly is entitled to Leave Passages, no matter how long we have been in here; otherwise, Sir, you would qualify for leave Passages.

3.40 p.m.

If you were a Civil Servant, Mr. Speaker, for the number of years you have spent in this Chamber, you would see how many times the Government would have sent you to England on leave every four years. It would probably be five or six times, and you can see what that would mean. I should like to say to the Hon. Minister that travel is a good thing for a human being or a person in the Civil Service, and this is not a means of restricting him from seeing the world; but I do not see that as a part of employment why the Barbados Government or any Local Government must pay Leave Passages as an inducement to its local officers.

I will support this, Mr. Speaker, because it looks to me like a compromise. You have not gone to the extent yet of abandoning it, but you have cut it down and reduced it, because like everything else the Civil Servants have a right to defend something that they had. The argument which the Civil Servants use is that as Leave Passage was a condition of employment which had a momentary value, the only way the Government should reduce or take away Leave Passages from them would be if they were prepared to pay it out in some other form as compensation for what they are likely to lose as part of employment; so it would be better for the Government to review it in the light of equating some of the salaries in relation to what it would mean rather than continue to have this as a perpetual thing holding over our heads, and every young Civil Servant feels as a right that he has to go to the United Kingdom. Let them go to the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, all the Continents of the world, but let us send them there for training.

Mr. Speaker, there are many institutions in the world willing to train public servants. I was offered a scholarship for any young man from the Inland Revenue Department by one of the Trade Unions in the United Kingdom. Even in the United Kingdom they are not opposed to offering people a means of expanding their knowledge, and this was one Trade Union offering another Trade Union help in Education. I do not see that any public servant in Barbados would have the effrontery to say that if he does not get Leave Passage as a condition of employment, he is not going to work for the Barbados Government. My idea about it is that you are going to have to wish these people goodbye, and now that we are on the threshold of independence, we have now to begin to project to the minds of people in Barbados a completely different concept of running the country, and what they expect to get out of their country as against when they were going to the Secretary of State and asking him to do something.

We have to inject in our people that if independence is going to mean anything to us, our own people must regard our country as a place where we must live, and we cannot build it on extravagance and a lot of unnecessary trappings which have no real meaning to our economy. We have to build it on a sound economic basis, and all the fringe benefits that mean nothing to our economy must go. These fringe benefits had a real meaning to the Englishman whom you recruited from 5,000 miles away, and he obviously had a claim asking for passage to take him back home; but you have all these Barbadian boys and girls leaving school who cannot get work. Twenty-five years ago when a boy or girl had a School Certificate, they used to walk about feeling they had something big. When a boy of twenty-five had a Higher School Certificate, he thought he had something

great; but today there are some nineteen years old with seven or eight Certificates. There are girls today who get seven Certificates without any fuss; so it is not a question that you are lacking in children with brains. We have today more people in this island with potential ability for the University than we had at any time going to Universities. Some do not have any more aptitude after they finish for higher learning; they want to go and get money, but the ability is there. If we want to tap our human resources at the pool, you must give them the incentives and the motivations that when they leave school their parents can borrow money. I do not mean that you do not have that system, but you should add to it and leave out the Leave Passages. If you train a boy to be a doctor, there is no doctor who is not worth anything in his practice in Barbados who cannot afford to go anywhere on his own, and has to beg somebody to pay his passage. It is true that a Leave Passage is only \$400 or \$500, but when the Government had to add up one hundred passages, it is different from \$400.

Although the hon. member says that all the people who are eligible for leave passages do not take them, and only a small percentage does so, yet it costs \$100,000, which means that in ten years it will cost \$1 million.

I am not opposed to the Resolution, Mr. Speaker, because I regard it as a compromise, but I want my position to be made clear. I am a man who is fundamentally opposed to the principle of Leave Passages in Barbados, or in any place where you are recruiting a local person. I am a Trade Unionist, and I will fight for the highest conditions of employment for any worker, but scientifically there is no justification for me to ask an employer in Barbados as a condition of employment that whenever a worker goes on leave he must get him even in a bus to Bathsheba or to North Point, because if I went to a private employer and asked him whether he would agree to leave for his worker and he said 'yes', and I asked him whether he would agree as a condition that each time the worker goes on holiday he must pay his total expenses or boarding and lodging expenses, he would want to know what was wrong with my head. As a condition we have agreed that each time a man of a certain salary in the Government Service is entitled to go on vacation, we must also give him the money and let him go by boat or plane.

Leave conditions in Barbados are too generous. I am being very radical.
3.50 p.m.

The time is gradually coming when unless a person is ill, you must get rid of this old time nonsense of your talking of giving people six months leave which originated when a boat used to take a half-year to get from here to the United Kingdom. Now, you have the aeroplane which can get you from here to London the same day or to New York in three or four hours. We are still redeeming this old time nonsense of the 'slow boat to China' method.

The time has come when that should be reviewed in the light of what are the requirements you should give a man for Leave Passage. I prefer to see you give a man two years' full pay if he is ill so that he can go home and rehabilitate himself than your giving an able-bodied man six months long leave to go somewhere to spend a holiday, unless you are on a course and doing some work on education for which you may be on leave for one or two years. In that case, he is not on holiday; but do not tell me that we should allow a man to go away for a holiday for six months. If you want to go away to spend some time, the period of four months is sufficient time for you to see what is going on in any country. We have the aeroplane now-a-days; it is different from the old time days when a boat used to take ten weeks to get from here to London.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say that I would support the Resolution, but I must first of all let my views be made known. We do not feel it is fair to this country to give all this Leave Passage to some employees of the Government, and I am not going, as the worker's representative, to

preach conditions of employment for a section of the workers when I know those conditions are inimical to the progress of other workers of the country.

I will not say that you should go on giving Leave Passages as you did because a rich country is doing it. I am not going to ask the Government for a condition of service when I do not feel that there is dire necessity for it. If each time a man goes on leave, the minimum which you give him is six months, then, I say that man is an invalid. Any man can feel refreshed after he has had leave for four months. If he cannot feel refreshed after that, it is time for him to stop work. I object to this six months period of leave. We must put an end to this old time method, giving a man six months as if he is going back home to Yorkshire. Which Yorkshire? Do you mean the one in Christ Church?

Sir, I am opposed to the principle of this, just as I was opposed to the former Regulations, but I hope that this is a compromise and a step towards the gradual abandonment of Leave Passages.

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

RESOLUTION re. LEASE TO TOURIST BOARD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next item stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John, who is not in his place. It is to move the passing of the following Resolution:

A Resolution to approve the lease of the Barbados Tourist Board of an Area of land situate at the back of Hometown Police Station.

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

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, during the winter months hotels are unable to cater to all cruise ship passengers, and existing facilities cannot meet the needs of these visitors. Therefore, the Government is constructing cruise ship facilities at the back of the Hometown Police Station in St. James; and whereas the Government has primarily in mind the case of the local people, it is creating these facilities for the tourists as well.

It is proposed to lease the site at Hometown to the Barbados Tourist Board for the provision of a small restaurant and other beach facilities for the use of cruise ship passengers and local residents.

We have to see after our own first.

As I have said, this Resolution seeks to lease a parcel of land to the Tourist Board. The parcel of land is situated at the back of the Hometown Police Station in the Parish of St. James and containing by admeasurement 1.03 acres or thereabouts abutting and bounding to the north on lands of one R. Austin and one L. Reid, and to the south on lands occupied by the Carricana Beach Club Ltd., and to the east by the sea, or however else the same may abut and bound.

The lease is to be for a period of ten years at a nominal rental of five dollars per year with the option of renewal for a further ten years.

This is the first step in this direction. We propose to have half a dozen or more of these facilities, one at Silver Sands, another at River Bay, another at Bath, and so on.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, before this Resolution is passed, I just want to make a few remarks. I am exceedingly glad to see this Resolution to lease this site to the

Tourist Board for the purpose set out in the Resolution. That area of land was set apart for a few months and a building has been erected. I was wondering what had taken place.
4.00 p.m.

I do hope that with the passing of this Resolution, facilities will be started down there. There is one thing which I am very glad to see here; it is the last sentence of the Addendum to this Resolution. This is what it says:

"The right of the public to have access to the beach will be preserved."

I do not think that a better word could be used than the word "preserved". What I have witnessed for years is that people have had their access to and from the beach; therefore, I am very glad to see that that provision is put in the Addendum to this Resolution.

When you come to the Schedule to the Resolution, this is what is stated:-

"ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate aback of the Hometown Police Station in the Parish of St. James and containing by admeasurement 1.03 acres or thereabouts abutting and bounding to the north on lands of one R. Austin and one L. Reid, and to the south on lands occupied by the Carricana Beach Club Ltd, and to the east by the sea, or however else the same may abut and bound."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, I would like to amend a slight error which has crept in the Schedule to this Resolution. I am referring to the last line where it says.. "and to the east by the sea" That should have read.. "to the west by the sea."

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member resume his speech?

Mr. HOLDER: The Hon. Minister has cleared the point which I was going to mention. That area could not be bounded on the east by the sea. This shows, to my mind, that some hon. members may not have done their homework. If this Resolution is what would hold up that place from going into operation, I am glad to see that it will go into operation.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am sure that the Hon. Minister will be able to throw some light on what I have been hammering at for quite a long time, that is the entrance to the beach....

Mr. SPEAKER: I can hardly hear the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Do you want to hear me, Sir? What I am saying is that I am supporting this Resolution 100 per cent, and at the same time I would like the Hon. Minister to tell me what has been done to that entrance above Sandy Lane. Everybody cannot find the beach to go on, and families have to undress on the road. I see that the Hon. Minister is looking at me and I know that he has been giving some attention to this matter. You will find that a number of boulders have been placed there and that is not fair to the people.

Hon. C. E. TALMA rose to reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: There may be some other hon. member who wants to join in the debate before the Hon. Minister replies. (After a pause). It does not appear that any other hon. member wants to contribute to the debate; therefore let the Hon. Minister exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as to the last point which has been raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition with respect to the right of way to the beach, I will say that that is one of the legacies of the last Government. The terms and conditions as to the entrance to the beach at Sandy Lane were agreed upon by the last Government. Provision was made for pedestrian access to the beach. That

was not done by this Government. Anyhow, Sir, we will see to it that our people are given better conditions and we will have these conditions reviewed.

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

RESOLUTION *re* ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT

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, under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, the sum of \$14,558 required to supplement the Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1965-66, as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, Regulation 6 of the Waterworks (General) Regulations 1953, provides for the rates to be charged for water supplied by the Waterworks Department for the following purposes among others:-

"(a) For public institutions under the control of Government or parochial authorities, and other public institutions, at the rate of 40 cents per thousand gallons, and \$2.40 per quarter for the rent of each meter;"
4.10 p.m.

(b) for factories or for any trade or business purposes at the rate of 80 cents per thousand gallons, and \$2.40 per quarter for rent on each meter;

(c) for water supplied to the Harbour and Shipmaster for the shipping at the rate of 80 cents per thousand gallon.

In accordance with the foregoing Regulations, water supplied to consumers in the enclosed area of the Port is charged for as follows:-

Port Department -- (a) for domestic consumption 40 cents per thousand gallons; (b) for sale to ships 80 cents per thousand gallons; (c) commercial enterprises 80 cents per thousand gallons. Each consumer in the Port has an individual meter, and the Port Department is metered separately in respect of water supplied under (b) above. However, despite the fact that each consumer has his own meter, it is the practice for the Port Department to pay the water charges for all consumers and to recover from them.

It is proposed to stop this practice with effect from the 1st April 1966 and to allow each consumer to be responsible to the Waterworks Department for the payment of his water rates. Due to an oversight, the Waterworks Department charged them for water supplied to the Port Area for the period April 1962 to March, 1964 at the rate of 40 cents per thousand gallons, being the rate charged the Port Department under the Regulations mentioned in paragraph 1 (a).

The Port Department had, however, recovered from consumers at the rate of 80 cents per thousand gallons. The amount undercharged by the Waterworks Department is \$14,557.60 for the two year period mentioned above.

Supplementary provision to the sum of \$14,557.60 is therefore required to enable the Port Department to meet this Bill.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$14,557.60 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Resolution is to approve the grant by way of a lease to the University of the West Indies on the terms and conditions set out herein of the parcel of land described in the Schedule.

As the Addendum sets out, the British Government has agreed to provide the estimated capital cost of establishing the College of Arts and Science in Barbados on condition that the Government of Barbados provides a site of approximately ten per cent of such cost. The cost of the University will be granted by the British Government. The Government has decided to provide a site the value of which exceeds ten per cent of the estimated capital cost, and is therefore seeking the approval of the Legislature for the grant by way of a lease of the land to the University of the West Indies. It is proposed to hand over the site to Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Chancellor of the University, when she lays the foundation stone for the College on 26th January, 1966.

The description in the Schedule is taken from the 1:2500 contour map of the area, but it is proposed to have a survey plan of the area prepared prior to executing the legal document of transfer.

The area of the land is roughly 46 acres or thereabouts and is set out in the Schedule as part and parcel of the land which Government has recently acquired at Cave Hill. This is part of Wanstead Plantation and part of the Cave Hill Development Area which Government recently acquired, and this specified piece of land is for the establishment of the Arts and Science College of the University of the West Indies.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: 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 again taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 76/1964 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael has been duly laid.

Is the hon. senior member for St. Michael ready to proceed with his Questions?
4.20 p.m.

Mr. SEALY: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that the residents who live adjacent to the following roads in the parish of St. Michael viz:

1st Avenue, Green Hill; 2nd Avenue, Green Hill; 3rd Avenue, Green Hill; 4th Avenue, Green Hill, Baycroft New Road; School Road; Glendairy Road;

experience great hardship owing to the fact that there is no water supply easily available to them for domestic use?

2. Will Government see to it that water mains are placed in each of the above roads for the use of the inhabitants thereto?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:-

The Government is aware that there is no water supply in the following districts in the parish of St. Michael:

1st Avenue, Green Hill
2nd Avenue, Green Hill
3rd Avenue, Green Hill
4th Avenue, Green Hill
Baycroft New Road.

A water main was laid in School Road in 1958.

2. Construction of a reservoir at Lodge Hill, St. Michael, is due to commence shortly and consideration will be given to the laying of mains at 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues, Green Hill, St. Michael, as soon as the reservoir goes into service.

3. Consideration will be given to the laying of water mains at Baycroft New Road and Glendairy Road in the 1966-67 programme for the laying of subsidiary mains.

Mr. SEALY: I thank the hon. member and I hope he will expedite this matter in a very short time.

STATEMENT re CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short statement as regards the ceremonial uniforms. I would like to inform the House that certain ceremonial uniforms which we hoped to get in honour of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen are unavailable and that being the case there will be a proportionate reduction in the Resolution for \$100,000 which was passed recently for this purpose.

The Hon. Minister of Education, who is the Leader of the House, in his capacity as Chairman of the Royal Visit Committee at the next meeting of the House will be able to give hon. members more details, but I think that I should draw this to your attention as it is of some importance.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business.

I beg to move this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday next, 25th January, 1966, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.25 p.m.