THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th January, 1966.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.45 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)*; *Hon.* J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education)*; *Hon.* G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)*; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., *(Deputy Speaker)*; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*; and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Trade and Labour)*.

Prayers were read.

Mr. HUSBANDS and Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that unfortunately, there are yet no Minutes available for confirmation.

MESSAGE FROM SENATE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I am in receipt of a message from the Senate to this House and it is above the signature of Sir Grey Massiah, President. It reads as follows:-

THE SENATE

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Senate has the honour to invite the Honourable House of Assembly to agree to the holding of a Joint Session of the House of Assembly and the Senate in the Senate Chamber at 10.15 a.m. on Monday, 14th February, 1966 for the purpose of presenting loyal addresses to Her Majesty the Queen and receiving Her Majesty's reply thereto.

(Sgd.) H. G. MASSIAH,
PRESIDENT.

Senate Chamber,
24th January, 1966.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, and Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay:

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1966.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1965.

PETITION

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition on behalf of the Barbados Family Planning Association praying the House to pass a Bill to incorporate the said Association.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 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 Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1966.

A Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Cruising Club of a parcel of land, situate at Gravesend, St. Michael.

A Resolution to place the sum of $47,550 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1965-66, No. 43 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communication and Works, I beg to give notice of:

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 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 Resolutions of which notice was given just now.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association.

QUESTIONS

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware of the vast number of Supermarkets opening throughout the island?

2. Is Government also aware that such an abundance of Supermarkets is driving the small shop-keepers out of business?

3. Is Government further aware that small shop-keepers are not allowed to purchase direct from the agents, and as a result their margin of profit is somewhat reduced?

4. Will the appropriate Minister go into the matter with a view to protecting the small shopkeepers from any unfair competition?

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware that the bridge on the main road via Arch Hall near the Parish Church in St. Thomas needs repairing?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister go into the matter with a view to remedying same before a major catastrophe takes place on the said road?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association be now read a first time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

WHEREAS the Northern District Council has decided to remove the inmates and staff of the St. Andrew Infirmary to the St. Thomas Infirmary,

AND WHEREAS provision will soon be similarly made for the staff & inmates of St. Joseph Infirmary.

AND WHEREAS large sums of money will be involved in the housing of the inmates and staff of both Infirmaries,

AND WHEREAS consideration should be given to the hardship likely to be thrown on the relatives wishing to visit the same inmates, hardship caused mainly by the inadequacy of cross-country public transport,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government be asked to provide a part of the old General Hospital building for the purpose of housing the same inmates and staff, thereby making it easier and cheaper for relatives and friends wishing to visit inmates, especially since it is more convenient to travel by public transport from St. Joseph and St. Andrew to the old Hospital and back.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I would be in order but I only want to register my protest that I am not in agreement, or will never be in agreement, with any Standing Orders being suspended because a few Tuesdays ago, after I agreed to certain things to be done through the suspension of Standing Orders, they were not done.
2.55 p.m.

I feel that it is my privilege to object to the suspension of these Standing Orders, because I do not see that there is so much on the Order Paper under Government Business that we should have to suspend the Standing Orders today at all. In my view the Order Paper is very light. I am not in agreement with the motion which has been made by the Hon. Leader of the House. I have no more faith or confidence in the mover of the suspension of these Standing Orders on account of what happened a few Tuesdays ago.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not take any formal objection to the motion. The Hon. Leader of the House made that motion for the suspension of these Standing Orders, but I think that the members of the Opposition should have been treated with some courtesy and be told why the Hon. Leader of the House has made that motion. The hon. member has always been courteous to tell us the reasons for suspending the Standing Orders and we would like to hear those reasons now. We would like to know what they propose to do.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that hon. members on the opposite side of the House are taking this attitude. Certainly if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had been present before we took our seats, I certainly would have had a word with him. There has not been any indication to me that anybody wanted to do any Private Members' Business today and that is why I moved the suspension of the Standing Orders. If anybody wants to do any Private Members' Business, however, that can be done. I am very sorry to hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph say that he has no further confidence in me when I do these things. I want to assure hon. members that there is no ulterior motive in making this motion, but Your Honour will still be obliged under the Standing Orders to call Private Members' Business.

The question that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40, and 45 be now suspended for the remainder of today's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:-

Ayes: Mr. BATSON, Hon'bles J. C. TUDOR, C.E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSSON, A. D. C. EDWARDS, Messrs. LOWE, YEARWOOD, COWARD, WEEKES, CARMICHAEL, HUSBANDS, GODDARD and MOTTLEY – 13.

Noes: Mr. SMITH – 1.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, although the Standing Orders have been suspended, I am perfectly willing to have Private Members' Business taken if any hon. member would indicate that he wishes to deal with any item under that Head.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that there are no Oral Replies to Questions laid.

ADDRESS TO SENATE *re* JOINT SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House proceeds to the consideration of public business, I should like to move the passing of an Address from this House to the Other Place. A Message has been received from the Honourable the Senate requesting this Honourable House to convene a Joint Session of the Legislature on the 14th February, 1966, for the purpose of presenting loyal Addresses to Her Majesty the Queen and receiving Her Majesty's Reply thereto. I believe I can speak for the whole House on this matter and I say that we would certainly agree to the joint sitting of the Legislature. In consequence of that, I beg to move that the following Address be sent to the Honourable Senate:-

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Message of 24th January, 1966, inviting the Honourable House to agree to the holding of a Joint Session of the House of Assembly and the Senate in the Senate Chamber on Monday, 14th February, 1966, for the purpose of presenting loyal addresses to Her Majesty the Queen and receiving Her Majesty's reply thereto.

2. The House of Assembly agree to the holding of the said Joint Session and will await the pleasure of the Honourable the Senate to attend at 10.15 a.m., on the said date.

Mr. Speaker, I should just like to make two slight amendments to this Address. In the last line of the first paragraph where it reads "and receiving Her Majesty's reply thereto." I am asking that the word "gracious" be inserted before the word "reply". And in the last line of paragraph 2, that the words "the said" occurring before the word "date" be deleted and the word "that" be inserted in place thereof. With those amendments, I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this represents an historical occasion and it gives me great pleasure and more than pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. We shall be happy to meet the Honourable Senate for this historic purpose, and I therefore have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address.

3.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think perhaps hon. members would like to hear some report of what has been happening in this respect. All the arrangements for Her Majesty's visit to the Legislature have been the subject of discussion between Your Honour, the President of the Senate and the respective Officers of both Houses, and I think the programme in detail for this visit has been settled, and Your Honour and all other hon. members will be made aware of the details of this programme. The only other thing I would like to mention is that this House did appoint a Select Committee to draft the Loyal Address and that was done, but for reasons, Mr. Speaker, which would be obvious, the Select Committee could not report back to the House because of the resulting publicity which would be given to the terms of the Address, and it would have been obviously improper for publicity to be given to it before it is read to Her Majesty. I think the House will understand these reasons why the Select Committee has not reported back.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say this .....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the Hon. Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and spoke. The Hon. Leader of the House is merely exercising his right of final reply.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the Hon. member would just give way .....

Mr. MOTTLEY: There is something I would like to say.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member may speak, Sir, by leave of the House, which I think would be right.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition who has already spoken is seeking the leave of the House, if it sees fit, to be granted in order to speak again. If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to speak again.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thank the Hon. Minister, I should like to say that I do not agree with the statement made by the Hon Minister about the Committee not being able to report because of the publicity. I only rise to say that I do not want it to be taken for granted that a committee having been appointed to draft an address or do anything for any purpose should create a precedent by not reporting, because I am quite sure that Your Honour will agree that the Committee could have reported to the House without having strangers in the House, and there need not have been any publicity at all even in Hansard. That could have been done quite easily. I say that for this reason; while we have every confidence in the Leader of the House as to the type of Address he would be presenting, suppose it were different and members had drafted an Address to which hon. members on this side of the Table would take umbrage when being read by Your Honour due to some political philosophy or ideology with which we did not agree. I do not agree with him saying it could not have been brought here, because I am sure he will agree that it could have been brought before this Chamber with no strangers in the Gallery and not even the Reporters of the House.

While I agree at this stage with what he has said, I do not want him to take it that the Opposition has agreed that this may be a precedent as to what may happen on another matter which may transpire in this House. Knowing the hon. member as Leader of the House and his loyalty, besides the fact that we have confidence in his ability to prepare this Address for this very special occasion, we will agree, but I cannot agree that this should create any precedent, because under the procedure of this House it could have been presented.

Mr. SPEAKER: I just venture to remind hon. members that this was a Select Committee of the House which comprised the Hon. Leader of the House, the Hon. Minister of Education; the hon. junior member for Bridgetown; the hon. junior member for St. George; and the hon. junior member for St. Peter, with the Speaker as Chairman.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to speak again.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House who has already made a speech in reply, is craving leave of the House to speak once again on this matter, in the light of certain remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who was granted leave of the House to speak again. If there is no objection, leave will be granted the Hon. Leader of the House to speak again.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House who may now speak again.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think, Sir, that I would like to assure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that his scruple and strictures on a matter of this sort would be entirely shared by me. I do think that as a general, if not absolute rule, a Select Committee ought to report to the House which set it up and then allow the Committee acting under the Speaker's direction to be discharged. This is true generally, but in view of the fact that this Select Committee was presided over by Your Honour and was an all-Party Committee, and was further charged with a matter which by its very nature was non-partisan and non-controversial, I had thought that there was general concensus among members of the Committee, and I thought under the circumstances the House would not mind us not reporting. I would suggest that in as much as it is an Address of the whole House, Your Honour might wish to arrange for a sitting of the House to pass it formally so that Your Honour would be armed then with the opinion of the whole House in presenting this Address to Her Majesty. I wish however, that the House would have been generous and indulgent enough to believe in the integrity of its Select Committee; but if there is going to be any difficulty or if there is going to be any doubt as to the propriety with which the Select Committee has acted, perhaps it would be better for us to arrange to have a private Sitting of the House for the Address to be passed. If this meets the approval of the House, this side would be quite willing to have it done. But as I said, Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped that there would be sufficient confidence in the integrity of a Select Committee charged with this kind

of responsibility not to require the House to pass the Address formally.

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

3.15 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY *re* SIR ABUBAKAR

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, again before public business is being proceeded with, I want to solicit the support of the whole House in the passing of the following resolution:-

"WHEREAS this House has learnt with profound regret of the recent death of Alhaji the Right Honourable Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, P.C., K.B.E., M.P., first Prime Minister of the Independent Commonwealth country of Nigeria.

BE IT RESOLVED that this House desires to express its sincere condolences to the family of the Prime Minister, and to the Government and people of Nigeria."

Mr. Speaker, it is only two weeks ago that this House passed a similar motion of condolence to the Government and people of India on the sudden and tragic death of the late Mr. Lad Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister of India who died suddenly. Hardly had the shock of that even begun to wear off, when in the course of last week we were made aware of the very tragic and harrowing events in Nigeria.

At first when the confusion -- charge and counter charge of the story -- was over, we were led only to believe that the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues were missing and throughout the Commonwealth we hoped to hear when the matter was cleared up, or better news had come to hand, that the situation was not as bad as it appeared. But last week when we thought that what we feared was not true, suddenly, within the last three days, news has come to hand that what we feared to have happened was true and that Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was dead.

Sir, we have only to recall to this House that just only a month ago the President of Nigeria, Dr. Nnandi Azikiwe, paid us a visit and his visit was stimulating to us for more than one reason; principally, it gave us honour of seeing what was the colour of the eminent people of Nigeria, and in the course of our entertaining the President, we on both sides of this Honourable House sent our kindest regards to the Prime Minister and people of Nigeria.

The late Alhaji the Right Honourable Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, was a man of outstanding qualities in the Commonwealth World Council, and although he was somewhat assiduous in his personal life yet he had qualities which endeared him to the people not only with whom he came into contact, but statesmen in the whole world.

Sir, the late Sir Abubakar was in his early life a teacher in that part of Nigeria where he lived at first before he made a tremendous impact on the people of Nigeria as a whole. In that part of Nigeria where he is known, over the last fifteen years he emerged as spokesman and champion for the Northern Region and then Legislator in the Northern Assembly and then he became the first Prime Minister of Nigeria. His first task was to weld together a nation out of the people of that vast territory. That, Sir, was perhaps his biggest challenge and he discharged his political duties with conscientious scrupulousness, and he made such a tremendous impact on the nation that he gained the reputation of being called a statesman of rare restraint.

The late Sir Abubakar was attested by those who knew him best to be a man of peace and, therefore, it is a fitting tribute to him that his last act of active statesmanship was not only to fly into London early this month to have talks with the British Prime Minister so as to allow talks of Commonwealth heads to be held in Nigeria, but also to arrange that the conference be held on the Rhodesian question. Only last week in Jamaica I was speaking with the Honourable Donald Sangster, the Deputy Prime Minister, who had taken part in the talks in Lagos two weeks ago. Mr. Sangster said that all Government leaders praised Sir Abubakar, not only for his acts of statesmanship, but for the tremendous restraint and tact which he exercised in getting a unanimous opinion out of the Conference. At that time there was not any indication that trouble was brewing in Nigeria.

The late Sir Abubakar was also in private life a scholar of some repute. Of course, it is well known that he was a Moslem of great distinction and eminence and he devoted part of his private time to the writing of history. I understand that some of his published works show a tremendous insight into that province or part of Nigeria from which he came.

Sir, we were nearly to have the privilege of entertaining Sir Abubakar in Barbados. He was invited by the Vice Chancellor of the West Indian University to deliver an Address at the graduation ceremony at Mona, Jamaica, in March. He had accepted the invitation and he said that he would take that opportunity to make himself aware of the people and problems of the West Indies. Therefore, it is certain that the Government of Barbados would have received him. Therefore, it is with great regret that we did not have the opportunity of entertaining this distinguished statesman.

Mr. Speaker, all tragedy is, first of all, personal tragedy, and our sympathy and hearts go out to his wife and children, who would mourn his passing longest, and most of all the people who knew him. No one would ever imagine that life would have been snatched from him in this way. The peculiar circumstances of his death are not known, but as far as can be ascertained, it was not dignified and I would only say that whoever is responsible for it would have a long time trying to assuage themselves of the guilt, because it was well known that the late Sir Abubakar never encouraged violence of any sort nor engendered bitter enemies.

Sir, we were made aware of the way in which they found him after his death. There is something which stands out -- it is a little thing -- but I think it is a tribute to him. The fact that his colleague and he were found clothed in robes of spotless white. Whether this was the last tribute by those who killed him or whether this was the last act of the Prime Minister it was symptomatic of his whole attitude that he should be found clothed in white. It was a pity that the life of a man of this distinction should be snuffed out like a candle.

3.25 p.m.

If the people of Nigeria are to reap any consolation from this tragic loss, it may well be that they may have to remember that he was essentially a man of peace, that his whole public life was devoted to the unification of his country, and that when he died he died enjoying the highest esteem of this international world.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, towards the end of last year it was my pride and pleasure equally to welcome the President of Nigeria here to this country and today we join with our brothers and sisters in Nigeria to mourn the death of Alhaju the Right Honourable Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. His passing is a great loss to the Federation of Nigeria and we, the people of Barbados, who have ties as far as we know in Nigeria, lamented when we heard the very depressing news that Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was dead. He has died but his work will live on. Indeed, as the Honourable Leader of the House has said, he was a great man who has done much to weld the African nation together. By his passing, he has left a wide gap. We hope that, as time goes on, it will be realised that he was truly a great man, set apart to do the work which he has been doing.

As the Hon. Leader of the House has said, he could not be described as a hot-head. He was one of those people who felt that the fundamentals of democracy should be maintained

in Africa to prosper. Today I regret very much having to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution. Little did I think, when we were paying eulogy to the President of Nigeria, that so soon would death deal such an unkind blow to one of the loyal citizens of that country. I regret, Mr. Speaker, having to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution and I hope that not only the people of Nigeria but the immediate family of this great man, will take courage in the fact that not only in Nigeria but all over the Western World, he will be missed as he was considered to be a great Leader.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that one has to pay tribute to such great people after hearing of the lives they have lived and the horrible way in which they have lost their lives. Sir, it is very difficult for one at times to pay a real tribute to one whom he did not know in person, but from what little I have read of this man and from the words which have come from the lips of the last two speakers, that would show that this was a man of the people for the people. When one has risen to such a great height as to become the Prime Minister of his country and has led such a good and clear life as to help his people, it all shows that that man was a man of quality. It shows that he was a good man, after hearing how he lost his life because nothing happens to a bad person. The life of a bad person, although you may try to take it, you cannot succeed in doing so; but when you are a good person it seems as if your life is pretty easily taken.

This man has fallen among robbers who have robbed him of his life, but I am sure that they will not be able to rob him of what he has already done for his people and what he will receive from the hands of the Almighty God for doing such a good job to help his people. May he rest in peace!

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join in paying tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister of Nigeria. Not long ago in this very place I paid tribute in welcoming the President of Nigeria to this country, and now I join with my colleagues in this House of Assembly in passing a Resolution of sympathy to the sorrowing relatives of the late Right Honourable Sir Abuhakar Tafawa Balewa, and to the people of Nigeria in connection with the passing of this great man. Sir, the price of democracy is dear. As far as I have been able to see, this great statesman recently led a most useful life in the service of his country which is one of the emerging nations in Africa, a place where we are witnessing, sometimes not very hopefully, what impact democratic principles are making on the country.
3.35 p.m.

When we begin to speak on such occasions on the passing of a national hero, we cannot easily divorce what he meant publicly from what he meant personally, and so today I cannot just think of this great stateman as an individual, but as what he meant to the maintaining of democracy in Nigeria. I remember not so very long ago we heard President Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe tell this Honourable House that his country of Nigeria was an outstanding bulwark of democracy in emerging Africa, and in a rush we have heard that the political barometer in Nigeria has been dropping and has reached the pitch where the murder of the late Prime Minister has taken place. We mourn not only an individual but we mourn the loss of that insight, the lack of that appreciation which means the foundation of democratic institutions. I am considering at this moment not only the memory of Sir Abubakar Balewa, but what he meant to his country and what his country will suffer until the time comes that people like him can champion the cause of democracy and continue to survive. It is indeed a serious state of affairs.

We are mourning today more than the passing of an individual. Never mind the great political stature he might have been to his country; he is just more than that, one who stood for something, something, something that is not yet appreciated and understood enough -- the foundation, the spirit of democracy, the give-and-take of democracy, the compromise that is found in democracy. Those are the things we have to remember on an occasion like this when we bemoan the loss of a great national leader.

Mr. Speaker, I, like the Hon. Mover of this Resolution and Seconder and hon. members who have spoken, send out my heart and sympathy to the surviving members of his family and to the people of Nigeria.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all hon. members representing all Parties in this Chamber in respect of the lamented death under such circumstances of the first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth country of Nigeria.

You will recall that only a few weeks ago the President of that country sat on my immediate left when we had suspended all the Standing Orders of this Chamber in Order that we might receive in this House so distinguished a representative of the Commonwealth country, and when we sent not only our kind regards to the Parliament which of course would include the Leader of the House and the people of Nigeria, but later we even requested the President of Nigeria to convey with out greetings to the late Prime Minister a copy of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly of Barbados.

It must be grievous to all hon. members that perhaps the opportunity was never afforded the distinguished Commonwealth statesman either to have glanced at this little Bible of ours of this ancient Commonwealth Parliament, or even of finding an honoured place for it in the shelves of his library.

As is traditional in respect of the passage of an Address of this Kind, I am going to ask hon. members to join with me in indicating their unanimous assent to the passing of this Address by standing with bowed heads for two minutes in their places.

Hon. members stood with bowed heads in their places for two minutes.

In view of the unanimous assent of all members of this Chamber to the passing of this Address, I now direct Mr. Deputy Clerk to ensure that the Address which has passed this Chamber be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Will the Hon. Acting Leader of the House indicate what he proposes to deal with next?
3.45 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: First of all, Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: 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. 41

HEAD 5 -- JUDICIARY

Head 5 – Judiciary – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 5 stand part. The note to the items -- Item 13 and Item 17 -- is very explanatory and it is stated that the provision is necessary to meet expenses for the remainder of the financial year.

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

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

HEAD 9 -- MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under Head 9 is Item 19A (New) Taxation Review for which the sum of $6,400 is to be voted. In moving that this Head stand part, as the note sets out, it is proposed to obtain the services of a firm of tax experts to carry out a comprehensive review of the present income tax system in Barbados. The estimated cost of the review will be of the order of $50,000, and supplementary provision of $6,400 is required to meet the portion of the cost which will fall to be met within this financial year.

In other words, to the end of March this year. It is thought that a taxation review should be undertaken and this is to get the first phase of the work started.

I beg to move that Head 9 stand part.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see this amount voted today, because we have been asking for this taxation review for a long time. It is vitally important for the country that the taxed property should be reviewed. We have been saying year after year that we are the hardest taxed people in the West Indies and probably in all parts of the world. A review should be made from time to time so as to put it on a proper basis.

New investors have come into this island and when they are told of the high rates of income tax and the inadequate allowances granted to people, they shun away. Not only that, but we are losing many of our young bright men who are going to other jobs overseas because no matter what we pay them, the allowances are so meagre, they have to look to other fields: and if we are to become independent in the near future, we cannot afford to lose wealth to other businesses.

Another thing which I am very pleased to see is that the Government is about to choose experts in the right field. So often we apply to United Nations for experts, and they just send someone down. They have sent some good ones, but some doubtful. There are special firms which specialise in this work and I do hope that selection will be made from one of these firms. I am sure that from the results of their work, they are able to re-organise the taxation system in the Municipality, and we would all benefit. If it is done here with the same skill and experience, it will redound to our benefit.

I am very pleased indeed to see this step taken because it stagnates the economy of this country when we are overtaxed in certain areas. There are things other than income tax which need to be reviewed. Trade tax needs to be reviewed as well as the entire taxation, and they should be done by competent people.

I give this vote my wholehearted support.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is dealing with bringing an expert from United Nations to review our income tax. Some time ago, I said that the system of rating properties in this island was not accurate, and I remember in 1965 that I suggested to the Government that there should be some expert called in to review the whole question as regards the rating of properties.

I know that in certain parishes some properties are rated higher than others. Why should a property worth $50,000 be rated ten times as much as another property and the taxation paid on that property twice as much? Go along the highway which is called the Gold Coast area and then go up the hill. Make enquiry as to how much the residents in that area pay the Northern District Council per year for taxation, and you will see the amount of money which the Local Government is losing.

As a matter of fact, I would say that there is greater need for review of the rating of properties in this island than anything else. There is something further. Two years ago, there were to be found pieces of land which might only bring $500 or $600 an acre. That area has been developed and that land is now worth $6,000.

The rating of these properties is in a way creating a hardship on the small man. Some of them would not grumble if they had to pay what is a just and fair payment. I hope Government will bear that in mind and see that there should be a review of the system of valuation of properties in this island.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I see that the hon. member is fighting a battle for the valuation of properties. I myself joined in the protest of valuation of arable and non-arable land because what I find today is that non-arable land is worth more than arable land because of its potential for building.

3.55 p.m.

That is the case throughout the island; but on the question of property when the hon. member mentioned the value of $50,000 in the Municipality, I think he will realise that the net annual value and the rental value of the property .....

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. would just give way, I should just like to say that I did not mean to make a comparison between rural and urban land. In the same parish you have houses, and you compare one of those houses being built for $50,000 and one being built for $10,000.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My own experience is that one has nothing to do with the inflated rental value of the house. The inflated rental value of the house is one thing and the actual rental value of the house is another. There are certain methods of valuation. It is not because your house cost $50,000 to build it, but actually you have to value the house in the vicinity and the kind of house it is. If a house costs $100,000 to build and you look at the rental value of it, that is nothing to do with the actual rental value. If you did not do that, what would you have right here in Bridgetown? You take the actual value of the building or the area which it covers and then you take the inflated value and I suggest to you that nobody in Bridgetown would be able to pay any taxes at all. I am suggesting to the hon. member that it is not a question of the inflated value. If I have a house with three bedrooms and ten acres of land or something like that, if somebody comes in the same area and builds a house for $15,000 it does not mean that the inflated value is the real value. If you were to start there, what would become of another man in the area?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should give the Committee a little more information on this particular matter. It is proposed to have a review of the income tax system in Barbados. The Development Plan outlined certain incentives which it is proposed to institute in order to stimulate further industrial expansion. The Government considers however, that the time has come for a comprehensive review of the present income tax system, and proposes to request overseas technical aid in this exercise. The purpose of the review will be to examine whether the present system of taxation of business profits, salaries and wages is best suited to the present needs of the economy, bearing in mind the Government revenue requirements, and to make recommendations. In particular, the study will be directed to an examination of the following matters:-

(1) Whether the tax system is conducive to the econo- expansion of the island;

(2) whether it achieves a fair distribution of the tax burden among the individual members of the community, and

(3) whether it is desirable or feasible to introduce taxation on capital gains in all fields or in certain fields only.

That is the main purpose of the review. The name of the firm which will be engaged in this exercise is Messrs. Touche, Ross, Bailey and Smart, who are tax experts of worldwide experience. The local agents are Messrs. Bovell and Skeete, local Auditors.

It may well be that when the Estimates are being considered, the Minister of Finance will be able to give hon. members further information on this particular matter.

The question that Head 9 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27 -- MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

RECOVERY OF FISHING BOATS

Head 27 – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part of the Schedule. As hon. members will see from the Note, the sum of $700 is required to supplement the provision in the Estimates to enable outstanding commitments to be met, as well as the cost of recovering any additional fishing boats which may drift to neighbouring territories during the present financial year, and to provide for the repatriation of and assistance to their crews. I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

The question that Head 27 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - WATERWORKS

Head 30 – Waterworks – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Under this Head, Mr. Chairman, there are four items, namely, Item 26 – Office expenses; Item 28 – Pumping; Item 29 -- Reservoirs and Item 33 Refunds. The note to each Item sets out very clearly the purpose for which the supplementary provision in each is necessary. I beg to move that Head 30 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 30 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of $43,223 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. 42

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks the approval of $25,455, and the purpose is clearly set out in the Addendum.

The amount of $25,455 is required to meet expenses in connection with this territory's participation in a special issue of stamps to commemorate the Royal Visit to the Caribbean in 1966, and the payment of commission to the Crown Agents for sale in the United Kingdom of new issues of stamps put on sale by the General Post Office.

The sale of the new Definitive Issue of stamps by the Crown Agents has exceeded all expectations and the amount provided has been found to be inadequate. The new Definitive Issue was put on sale on 15th July, 1965.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly..

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works: to move the passing of 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. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with this Resolution on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Michael the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, is craving the indulgence of the House to deal with the Resolution which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, and if there is no objection, such leave will be granted.

There being no objection, I declare leave to be granted. The hon. member may now proceed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, it is clearly set out in the Addendum that it has not been possible to trace the ownership of this parcel of land in order to conduct negotiations. It has therefore become necessary to use the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in order that a title may be acquired, and due notice of the acquisition will be affixed to the parcel of land in accordance with the Act.

The land in question is all that certain piece or parcel of land situate at the corner of Fairfield and Welches Road in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island formerly thought to contain 1,772 square feet or thereabouts but found by recent survey to contain by admeasurement 2,320 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of J. M. Hewitt on the public road called Fairfield Road and on the public road called Welches Road or however else the same may abut and bound.

Mr. Speaker, this land in required for widening of road junctions and for highway improvement. The owner of this land cannot be traced, and therefore the only means of the Government acquiring this land is by the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 in order to secure a good and marketable title.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 1st February, 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.

4.17 p.m.