THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961–66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 19th July, 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. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (Chairman of Committees); Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Trade and Labour).

Prayers were read.

The Minutes of the meetings of 1st March, 1966, 8th March, 1966, 15th March, 1966, 22nd March, 1966, 19th April, 1966. 26th April, 1966, 3rd May, 1966, 10th May, 1966, 17th May, 1966 were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier and by command of His Excellency the Governor I beg to lay the following Papers:–

Barbados Constitutional Conference 1966 – Constitution Report.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1966.

The Public Employees (Scheduled Offices) Order, 1966.

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

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for payment of Money Order, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st March, 1966.

Mr. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I beg to give notice of the following:–

A Resolution to place the sum of $21,652 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966–67, Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1966–67, No. 8 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of $6,005 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1966–67, Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1966 – 67, No. 9 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve of the lease to the Esso Standard Oil S. A. Limited of a parcel of land situate at Seawell Airport in the parish of Christ Church on the terms and conditions so set out in the Schedule.

A Resolution to approve of the lease to the University of the West Indies of a parcel of land situate at Cave Hill in the parish of St. Michael.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development, I beg to give notice of the following:–

A Resolution to place the sum of $15,690 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1966–67, Part II – Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, No. 7 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of $23,285 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1966–67, Part II – Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1966–67, No. 10 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to amend the note to Item 100A – Transport Allowances of Head 38 – Ministry of Health and Community Development, to provide for the payment of monthly upkeep allowances and commuted transport allowances for certain Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

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

A Resolution to place the sum of $135,592 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1966–67, No. 11 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve, under Section 10 of the Harbours Act,1960, of the sum of $51,192 required to supplement the Annexed Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1966–67 as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to amend the note to Item 44 of Head 33 – Highways and Transport in Part I – Current of the Estimates, 1966–67 so as to reflect the responsibility of the Department of Highways and Transport for the maintenance of roads throughout the Island.

Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the House and took his seat.

2.55 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:–

A Bill to amend the Town and Country Development Planning (Interim Control) Act, 1959 to extend its duration for a further period of one year from the 9th July, 1966.

A Bill further to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941.

A Bill to change the title of the "Barbados Police Force" to the "Royal Barbados Police Force."

A Resolution to place the sum of $75,250 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1966–67, Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1966–67, No. 12 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

This Resolution Sir, is in the process of being printed, and I shall be asking the leave of the House to deal with it in all its stages today. It is in connection with the Independence Celebrations.

I shall also be asking leave to deal in all its stages with the Bill to amend the Town and Country Development Planning (Interim Control) Act, 1959.

I also give notice that the Reply to Oral Question No. 108 is ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would like to give notice that Replies to Oral Questions Nos. 77 and 101 are ready.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have been specially requested by the Hon. Leader of the House to seek Your Honour's indulgence for his absence. He has had to travel to the northern part of the island due to the illness of his father. I think that the Leader of the Opposition will be aware of these circumstances.

I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the Resolutions of which I have given notice today, with the exception of the Resolution for $75,250.

QUESTION

Mr. E. L. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. (a) Is Government aware that residents of Greenwich and Baywoods, both districts in the parish of Saint James, are still without the provision of the service of electricity?

   (b) Is Government aware that over three months ago – electric poles have been erected in the said Districts by the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd?

(c) Will Government use its good offices to ensure that electricity is installed in the said districts without undue delay?

LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM DEPUTY MARSHAL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that a letter has been received by the Clerk of the House dated 11th July, 1966. It reads as follows:

"Worthing View,
Christ Church.

Dear Sir,

Having obtained employment elsewhere, through this letter I am tendering my resignation as from 16th July, 1966.

I remain,
respectfully, yours,

Lionel A. Giles."

I will remind hon. members that at the last meeting of the House Mr. Giles was given leave of absence on a medical certificate. During the period that the House was in recess, he forwarded me another certificate dated 28th June, 1966, signed by Dr. St. John, saying that Mr. Giles was suffering from backache. I gave him two weeks leave from the 28th June, by virtue of that certificate.

There is a communication from the Labour Commissioner to the effect that Mr. Giles was selected for work on Ascension Island and left Barbados on July 6th, 1966.

I may just add that when the Hon. House gave leave to Mr. Giles, Mr. Orville Best was appointed to act for him. He is still acting.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. E. W. Barrow seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson the Bill to amend the Town and Country Development Planning (Interim Control) Act, 1959 to extend its duration for a further period of one year from the 9th July, 1966 was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. E. W. Barrow seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, the Bill to change the title of the "Barbados Police Force" to the "Royal Barbados Police Force" was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. E. W. Barrow, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, the Bill further to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941 was read a first time.

3.05 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. E. W. BARROW: 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. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken. As I indicated earlier, the Replies to Questions Nos. 108, 77 and 101 are ready.

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

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

QUESTION RE SKEETE'S ROAD, HOWELL'S CROSS ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 77 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:—

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Is Government aware that Skeete's Road, Howell's Cross Road in the parish of Saint Michael is well-nigh impassable to vehicular traffic at all times, and even to pedestrian traffic after heavy rainfall?

2. Will Government treat as a priority the repairing of the said road?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:—

"Yes, Sir.

It is proposed to repair this road during the current financial year."

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the Hon. Minister.

QUESTION RE PURCHASE OF "FLODDEN" AND "EYRIE"

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 108 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:–

To enquire of the Hon. and Learned Premier:–

1. Is it a fact that the Government is still negotiating or has negotiated with the owner or owners for the purchase of the property known as Flodden in Culloden Road, St. Michael.

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state for what purpose this property will be used?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the question which is now being read out is not the same question which was submitted on the 17th May when the hon. member laid the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is an error in the Order Paper, I discovered certain errors and the Order Paper has been reprinted, but certain other errors yet remain.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: As printed in the Order Paper, it is not the same question. The question was "To enquire of the Appropriate Minister". We have the original question which was submitted. The hon. member may proceed because I happen to be the Appropriate Minister, but apparently he does not know what his own question was.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question as I see it on the Order Paper is "to enquire of the Hon. and Learned Premier". Will the hon. junior member for St. Joseph continue to read the question?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member has to read the question as submitted and not as it is printed on the Order Paper. We have a certified copy signed by the Clerk of the House, and it is "to enquire of the Appropriate Minister". You cannot make an enquiry of the Premier, because there is no such thing so far as Question Time is concerned. The Premier is in charge of the Cabinet; it has to be a Minister responsible for a particular Department. You cannot ask the Premier a question except it is a matter relating to the Cabinet.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot help as I have not got the original question and the Clerk up to now has not arrived, and I cannot give an excuse as to his absence.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the question signed by the Acting Clerk of the House, and it is here, and I will show it to Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I understand is that the question as it was put to this Chamber on the 17th May, 1966, read: "To enquire of the Appropriate Minister." As is printed – and I have no idea who was responsible for proof-reading – it says "To enquire of the Hon. and Learned Premier".

Inasmuch as it was put in the House, as I am informed by the Deputy Clerk – addressed to the Appropriate Minsiter, I would suggest that the correct thing technically would be for the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to address his enquiry to the Appropriate Minister and proceed.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Is it a fact that the Govenrment is still negotiating or has negotiated with the owner or owners for the purchase of the property known as Flodden in Culloden Road, St. Michael.

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state for what purpose this property will be used?

2. Is it a fact that the guard wall to this property adjoining Culloden Road had been removed by Government, to effect entry of vehicles to park on the same property on the occasion of the Royal Visit to Culloden Farm?

3. Is Government negotiating for the purchase of the property known as Eyrie in Government Hill?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state for what purpose the said property will be used?
3.15 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first Question is as follows:–

Yes, Sir. Negotiations have been finalized, but legal formalities remain to be completed. The

property will be used as offices for the Service Commissions.

2. No, Sir. Only 8 ft. of the wall was demolished for that occasion the owner having consented to the use of the property.

3. The property has been purchased and will be used for providing accommodation and other facilities for Government Departments.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 101 in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip is the next question. The hon. member is not presently in his place and the answers to those questions will be held over.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance: To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 be the First Order under Government Business.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF LANDS TO BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 is the instant order of the Day. It stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Michael and it is a Resolution to approve the transfer by way of grant of the parcels of land together with all the buildings and erections thereon described in the Schedules hereto from the Crown to the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Marketing Corporation is a statutory Board established under the provisions of the Barbados Marketing Act, 1963. Its functions are (a) to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer; (b) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the Island or out of the Island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operative societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage; (c) upon being required so to do by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make recommendations on any matter directly or indirectly relating to the production and marketing of produce.

The first section of the corporation established was for fish and it went into operation in 1962. The other section established was for vegetables and that went into operation the following year.

The first section is situated on the southern side of the Princess Alice Highway and the vegetable section is situated on the northern side of the Princess Alice Highway.

The Schedules set out the area of the land. The First Schedule is as follows:–

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate at Bridgetown in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing 79,163 square feet or thereabouts bounded on the south by the Government seawall on the east by the Bridgetown Fish Market on the north by the Public Road and on the west by other Government lands or however else the same may abut and bound together with all the buildings erections plant and machinery thereon.

The Second Schedule reads as follows:–

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land also situate at Bridgetown in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing 21,665 square feet or thereabouts bounded on the north by lands now or late of Leo C. Yarde on the east by a Public Road on the south by another Public Road and on the west by other government lands or however else the same may abut and bound together with all the buildings erections plant and machinery thereon.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

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

A BILL TO SETTLE THE RATE OF INCOME TAX FOR THE YEAR 1966

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the next order of the day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the Day is the second reading of the Bill to settle the rate of income tax for the year 1966, and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, it is customary under the Income Tax Act 1921 that each and every year the Minister responsible for Finance introduces a Bill either similar to one to which we are giving a second reading today, or alternatively to introduce a Bill which will amend the rate of Income Tax.

It is not at this stage a budgetary measure, but it is necessary in order that the Department of Inland Revenue may be able to make the necessary assessments. For that reason it is necessary that this Bill be passed by the Legislature without delay.

The rates of Income tax for the year 1966 are exactly the same as they were last year and the year before, and I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. E. W. Barrow, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. Batson in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

BILL TO AMEND THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1949

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be taken as the next order of the day. It is the Bill to amend the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple and straight forward amendment to the Civil Establishment Act of 1949, and I move that it be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.
3.35 p.m.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS the Bill was read a third time.

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee to deal with the Resolution for the sum of $75,250 of which notice was given earlier today.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1966-67
No. 12

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, ever since the Legislature of this Island passed a Resolution in January this year asking the Secretary of State to fix a date for a Conference for the Independence of this territory in the year 1966, the Government quite properly has been working towards this goal assiduously and relentlessly. If we can now come before the Legislature with a Resolution, it is because we have been able to prosecute our enquiries and preliminary plans long before the delegates left Barbados to go to London in order to ensure that the people would be properly prepared and properly treated on the occasion of their Independence in the year 1966.

The purpose of this Resolution is preliminary only. I would not like anyone in here to go away with the impression that the Government of Barbados intended to spend $75,000 on so important an occasion. I want you to disabuse your mind entirely of any concept that the Government is going to be cheeseparing or in any way parsimonious in dealing with so important an occasion in the lives of the people of this island, and in the history of a country such as Barbados. I cannot at this stage give hon. members any assurance that the Independence celebrations will cost $100, $200, $500, $900, $1.5 million, $2 million or any other sum. All I can tell them is that it is the intention of this Government to do it properly.

Those of course who find Independence so obnoxious can either participate or stay at home; it is a matter entirely for them. They can do like the Jaganites did in Guyana and even take to the hills or lock themselves up in their houses. We are providing adequately for the people of Barbados, and we would not like of course to exempt anyone, the sick, the aged, the halt, the lame, the blind, the infirm, the young or the old, the just or the unjust, from proper participation in these functions. I should like to make that clear.

Now, the sum which we are asking for today is a preliminary sum only. Earlier today I re-introduced the annual Bill for settling the rates of Income Tax. I am not making my Budget Speech now. As Minister of Finance, I will be making that in due course within the next few weeks, but not having had to revise the rate of Income Tax in an upward direction, hon. members may be assured that they will not have to pay any more Income Tax in order to provide for these celebrations. I know that this is always the concern of the conservative element of this community – whether they have to pay any more income tax. What the people of Barbados have earned, they will be spending. I have a certain amount of money and the amount of money that it will take for these celebrations is not anything like the amount recommended for the salaries revision annually for the Civil Servants, neither is it anything like, I would say, a quarter of the amount which I hope to inform the House I have as a Budget surplus this year; so I do not intend to be tight fisted. I will control the expenditure, of course, to make sure that there is no squandering and unnecessary waste of public funds, but I would like to assure the House and the public that having fought so hard for the Independence of Barbados, we are going to make sure that we have the best Independence celebrations that have ever occurred throughout the Commonwealth of Nations. We have fought long for it, and it has taken us a long time to get to this milestone in our history.
3.45 p.m.

It has taken us a long time to get to this milestone in our history. We have not got here without considerable opposition and obstacles being placed in our way, but neither the Secretary of State nor anybody in the Opposition can increase the vote, they can reduce it by one dollar. I have the sole jurisdiction to decide how much money will be spent and I am giving members the assurance that it will be spent to the satisfaction of everybody. I therefore beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution be now passed, but since honourable members have had the Resolution in their hands for a comparatively short space of time, I should like to draw certain

salient points to the attention of members, particularly those of the other side.

There has been in the less enlightened sections of the Press – I am not necessarily claiming that the Press in Barbados are not enlightened – but certain criticism over the fact that the Government some months ago gave them indication that we intended to engage the services of an expert on Independence Celebrations. We have been taken to task in the daily press as recently as today; they even go so far as to suggest that it is disgraceful for Barbados to have to get somebody from outside.

Let us examine this situation very critically and very carefully. Any of them who have been independent before, and have gone through the exercise in Barbados, and are in a position to tell us of the little details, so that when our guests – welcome as they all will be, and unwelcome as some may be – move in the country they are not falling over one another, thereby causing chaos and confusion. If any of them have this expertise and skill we will be very glad to enlist the services of all those in a position to do so, and we would be glad to enlist the services of the pundits. I do not want to be personal so far as any member of the House present is concerned, but the Government was very enlightened to know that one of the members of this House who has never served in the Civil Service was an expert on Civil Service matters. We learnt that quite recently – about six or seven weeks ago – and therefore we are quite prepared to have a few surprises in the course of the next few months that there are people here who have been skilled and versed in Independent Celebrations. I know of firms who are capable of supplying material in the shortest possible time, whether it be flags, buntings, music or badges which the little school children like to have, that they know all the protocol concerned with the invitations to be sent to the other 67 or 68 countries outside of Barbados, not including the Caribbean, that they know the right seating arrangement which should be made for distinguished guests so that none of them will go away dissatisfied with the arrangements which may have been made.

If there are those people on that side of the table, never having gone through the exercise before, I am happy to hear it, but we confess all ignorance. All Civil Servants have been concerned in the same way that the Government has been concerned with the running of affairs of the country. We have not been pushing our noses in other people's business to find out where they went wrong – in Malta, or Kenya, or Tanzania – we know that there were mistakes. We have undertaken to engage a consultant to save us the headaches and to guide our younger eschalon people in the Government Service who may be seconded for this exercise. We consider it money well worth spent and it is a very fortunate thing for this country that we have a Government that does not run the affairs of Government by what is written in the newspaper, nor do we run our affairs by the concept of the Opposition. No democratic Government does this, because it means that you would be a pulley in the hands of the Opposition, and in the hands of the newspapers.

If and when the time comes when the Opposition will be running the Government, they can run it according to their likes, and they will have the newspapers behind them, and therefore they will be well satisfied, but until that unfortunate day arrives in Barbados, we will continue to run the country. Democracy means that you can get up and express yourself, even although you are a self-appointed expert on some matters. Democracy gives you the right to get up and display your ignorance to the masses and to the electorate.

As far as this exercise is concerned, we intend to engage a Consultant in order to free ourselves of a lot of headaches in this matter. This is a Government exercise, and the Government is going to run it, and to the satisfaction of the people. Quite apart from that, Sir, we have got to the stage now where we have been dealing with the question of External Affairs, and the question of Independence out of my own office. I have had even to split the functions of the office, in that the Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet has had to be seconded to External Affairs, and a separate and distinct officer allocated to the Cabinet duties. So already we have had a Specialist and separation of powers within the Ministry itself, specifically arising out of Independence, but at other levels now, the officers in the Public Service working in my department are already overtaxed in so far as attending to the numerous duties and matters which have to be looked after is concerned. So it will be necessary for us to employ additional staff – some of them may be seconded from other departments, if they can spare them, and some of them may be recruited from among Barbadians who are available and who have had the necessary training and qualifications for the work in an office of this kind.

Therefore, it will be necessary for us to get additional staff. Some of them will be obtained from other departments and some may be recruited from Barbadians who are available and

who have the qualifications of working in an office of this kind. We believe that there are one or two Barbadians who are available at this particular time so the reason why we have brought in the Resolution today and have asked that it be dealt with is because it has become necessary for us to begin functioning on the celebrations at once in order to get through in time. It is not possible, at the present time, to estimate accurately the total cost of the celebration because the scope of them has not yet been decided. We do know that the celebrations will last for seven days.

I feel hon. members would have felt satisfied with the work which was done without any additional staff for the Royal Visit. That work was done by members of the Public Service, particularly the Public Works Department and others of my Department. However this is a much bigger exercise than the preparations for the Royal Visit. This is a matter which affects not only us but our children as well, so we have to pay a lot of attention to the detailed planning in an exercise of this kind.

You will see, Mr. Chairman, that we have set out the expenses of the temporary Independence Celebrations Office and the establishment of that office will be something of the nature of two Assistant Secretaries, one Accountant, and two Stenographers. I have not set out the details of the Office because I do not consider that necessary but to give hon. members some idea of the scope and variety of the celebrations which will take place. The Celebration will begin on the 27th November, and will extend to the 3rd December.

I know there are lots of people who will be concerned as to whether we will be having a cricket match on that occasion. This will be a match of Barbados against the rest of the world and from the talks which I had with certain people, it appears that the cricketers of the world may not find it possible to make the tour later than the middle of November, therefore, the question of the cricket match will not now form any part of the celebrations during that week. It will take place the week before.

We have started discussions with people running the Barbados Turf Club as to the holding of a Race Meeting during that time and the people of the Barbados Agricultural Society as to the holding of the Industrial Exhibition. The Agricultural Society stated that they will bring forward the time of their holding the Annual Industrial Exhibition so that it will take place during the week of the Independence Celebrations. The Turf Club has also agreed to hold a race meeting taking place the Saturday following Independence Day. We are also holding discussions with the members of the Barbados Yacht Club and other service clubs.

Mr. Chairman, you will see the Government's activities in the Addendum to the Resolution. It is also expected that Government sponsored activities will include a Reception by the Governor, a State Banquet, a Reception by the Prime Minister, a Fireworks Display, a Children's Rally, some manner of commemoration for the sick, poor and aged, and a State Service of Dedication.

Therefore, Sir, in addition to the amount of $25,250 needed for office expenditure, we are asking for a further amount of $50,000 so that the total amount which the Committee is now requested to vote is $75,250.

Mr. Chairman, 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.

On motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON in each case, the Resolution was read a First and Second time and agreed to.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (INTERIM CONTROL) BILL, 1966

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Town and Country Development Planning (Interim Control) Act, 1959, be taken as the next order of the day.

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

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

4.05 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the House has already passed new Town and Country Planning legislation. In 1959, the Interim Control Act was passed by the Legislature, and this particular measure was intended to be of a temporary nature only. The new Town and Country Planning Bill has now got to be proclaimed, but there are certain preliminary matters which may preclude its being brought before the Legislature as soon as we had hoped, that is, within the next two weeks before the end of this month. Even if the Bill is brought into force before the end of the month, the Interim Control Act expired on the 9th July, the House of course was in recess on 9th July, and this is now the first opportunity that we have had for introducing the extension to the Act of 1959.

There are only three short Clauses to the Bill, and the first Clause of course is the citation, and the third is the date of coming into operation on the 8th July.

There is just one matter I would like to draw to the attention of the House, Sir, and that is that the Objects and Reasons state that the Bill is to continue in force for another year from the 9th July, 1966, but Clauses 3 says the Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 8th July. There is no incompatibility or inconsistency in this. One is merely the date from which the Bill comes into force, and the other is the date from which it is operative.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW seconded by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded in each case by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

LEAVE TO MAKE STATEMENT

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there are just two matters on which I would like to engage the attention of the House before the adjournment. First I would like permission to make a very short statement which is essential to the economy of this Island. Then in the absence of the Leader of the House, the next matter is that which as indicated earlier the Leader especially asked to be granted the indulgence of the House, the moving of a Resolution, the contents of which have been circulated and of which Your Honour is aware, and I will ask permission to do that in his absence. I should like at this stage to ask permission to make a statement on a matter of importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John is asking leave of the House to lay a statement with respect to a financial matter, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted. Let the hon. senior member for St. John proceed.

STATEMENT BY HON. PREMIER RE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there are really two matters on which I want to bring the attention of the House. Your Honour will be aware that the Government laid on the Table of the House a Free Trade Agreement which was signed in Antigua in December, 1965, on behalf of the Governments of Antigua, Barbados and the now independent state of Guyana, or British Guiana as it was then. It is my intention to introduce a Resolution approving the conventions which have been set out in the Free Trade Agreement next week. The Government of Antigua has already gained the approval of the Legislature of that territory, and I understand from the Prime Minister of Guyana that the Government of that country also intends to lay before the House a Resolution for approval of the Free Trade Area conventions as soon as the Prime Minister of Guyana and the Minister of Finance return to that country within a matter of days.

I very much regret that there are people in this community who have been going around to other territories, members of the commercial brotherhood in Barbados, trying to start something in opposition to the Free Trade Area Agreement which has been entered into after much deliberation both on behalf of the Civil Servants and of Government members of the three territories concerned.

4.15 p.m.

The Government of Antigua has already gained the approval of the Legislature of that territory, and my understanding from the Prime Minister of Guyana is that the Government of that country also intends to lay before the House a Resolution for approval of the Free Trade Area as soon as the Prime Minister of Guyana and the Minister of Finance return to that country within a matter of days.

I very much regret that there are people in this community who have been going around to other territories – members of the commercial brotherhood in Barbados – and trying to start something in opposition to the Free Trade Area Agreement which has been entered into after much deliberation, both on behalf of the Civil Servants and of the Governments in the territories concerned.

I want to give notice to the general public that the only body authorised to enter into agreements on matters of this kind would be the Government itself, and not any other person. I regret to say that some of those persons who have been participating – as a matter of fact, negotiating – these questionable activities, happen to be members of the Other Place.

The second thing which I would like to give notice of is this: that there have been deliberate attempts to undermine the Government's investment in the Marketing Corporation, but my Government has to plan its programme to reduce the price of animal feeds, and to rely more on our own production and less on imported commodities. The Barbados Marketing Corporation will very shortly, Sir, be negotiating a programme for the reduction in the cost of animal feeds in this island, and I give notice of it now, because it has also been drawn to my attention that a certain monopolistic combination is seeking to prevent the Marketing Corporation from entering into a competitive field, so that the cost of animal feed will be reduced in this island, and if they have managed to seduce any exporters from outside, or importers from within – and I understand they have a meeting tomorrow – they cannot say that they did not have notice before that their efforts to maintain the high prices of animal feed will all be in vain, because the Marketing Corporation will be taking positive steps in this direction.

Having, Sir, dealt with the matters of public business, I should like to move a Resolution by this House, placing on record the profound sympathy of the House to the Honourable Senior Member for St. Philip, on the death of his father. I am doing this, Sir, in absence of the Leader of the House, because he is much better on these things than I am.

I had the privilege of knowing the gentleman from the time I was a boy at Combermere School, when he lived not very far from the Barbados General Hospital, and I can say than in all my dealings with him, I have found him a gentleman in every respect. He belonged to the the old school. He was always very courteous, I have never heard anything to the contrary of him, and I do not think there is any higher tribute to pay to any person. He always had deference and respect for the people in authority.

I think that the late Mr. Crawford was a citizen – I'm sorry that he did not live to see the date of Independence itself – a citizen of whom this island may justly be proud, and I join with members of the House in expressing sympathy to the senior Member for St. Philip, and particularly to those other members of his family. I am sure that they, having lived so closely together for such a long time, must feel the demise. Therefore, I beg to move, Sir, that the Resolution be now passed, and that a copy be sent to the survivors.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in seconding and supporting the passing of the Resolution of sympathy to the members of the family of the late Montford Crawford, unlike the honourable mover of the Resolution, I did not know Mr. Crawford until in the evening of his days , but like him I can say that he always possessed that character which was a shining example to many of us.

Mr. Crawford raised a large family, and during the very lean years he educated them and kept them united together, and I know that his passing – although he had lived to a ripe age – must still be a shock to his family. I think, Sir, that the least we can do is to pass this Resolution, and more especially to his son who has spent 26 years in this Chamber. I know that to him it must be a sort of a gap to miss the head of the family for whom he had the greatest reverence and respect for years. While it is not a pleasure to do this, Sir, I second the Resolution, and I hope that this will in some way give consolation to the members of the family.

Mr. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, I would like to endorse the feelings expressed here regarding the passing of the late Mr. Crawford. It is indeed an achievement when we think of the tremendous struggle it must have been to raise such a large family and to reach the age of 89 years; also to have lived to see his son serve in Parliament, in all of the important positions, for as long as 26 years.

Mr. Crawford, an engineer of some merit and standing, reached the position of Assistant Manager at the City Garage in Barbados. He and one man served and assisted in the installation of the first lighting plant in Grenada, and he was liked, not only by his colleagues, but by the executive of that country who sought his help, knowing him to be a rather capable person. I know, Sir, that anything we can say truly expresses the country's expression of sympathy to the family of a man whose life was one of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if anything more can be said to express truly the feelings of the country to a man whose life was well spent. There was a man whose life was one of sacrifice for his children and I feel sure that Mr. Montford Emmanuel Crawford passed on with the happy feeling that his was a life well spent in sacrifice to his children. I share the feelings of his family and children, especially that of the hon. senior member of St. Philip, on their great loss.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, when one has to express sympathy to one on the passing of a relative, it is a very hard and trying time especially to know that when one loses his father, and a good father, it makes the hardest heart become soft. I knew the late Mr. Montford Emmanuel Crawford from the time I was a boy coming into Bridgetown and going around the various garages. He always had some kind words of advice to give to the few chauffeurs who were in the island at the time. I can remember his telling me one day:- "Boy, there are a lot of people who love driving motor cars but they do not know how to care a motor car." Those were the days when there were a few cars on the road in the Island. He said to become a good driver you must learn to care a car and I have found that out today. My experience of a motor is as long as you care it, it will last.

I know that in those days when you wer. working for $5.00 a week and you would have had to be a big shot to get that, the late Mr. Crawford still tried hard to educate his children and he brought them up so that they could give their services wholeheartedly to the people of this country. I summise many a day when things were bad the hardship which he endured to raise his boys and the pleasure it has given him to see now that one of them has the ability to be a representative of the people of Barbados. The hon. senior member for St. Philip is a shining example of the good work which his father had done during those days when money was a very hard thing to get. We must bear in mind that we all have to pass on sooner or later and no matter how bad we are or how good we are the day of reckoning must come. Therefore it pays to do good.

Sir, with those few remarks, I extend my sympathy to the hon. senior member for St. Philip and his relatives on the passing of their father. May he rest in peace.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers. I would like to express my sympathy to the hon. senior member for St. Philip and his relatives on the passing of the late Mr. Montford Emmanuel Crawford. I am going to say something now which I am sure the hon. senior member for St. Philip does not know anything about. His father happened to be my master workman in 1920 when he was at the City Garage. He was a man whose life was well spent and I owe the knowledge which I have of the trade to his father. I can remember that he trained six apprentices. Two of them went to the United States of America one has succeeded his father at the same garage and another went to Trinidad. The other is your humble servant. I can say that the late Mr. Crawford made me a man. May he rest in peace.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to pay a brief tribute to the departed gentleman whom I have known from my earliest youth. He commanded almost universal respect, and his passing must have left a great gap in the minds not only of his contemporaries, but also of all those who came under his influence. For many years his life was overshadowed by the dark wing of the angel of death, but so indomitable was his spirit that he lived on for many a year despite his lingering illness.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a Christian gentleman who has left our midst, and to offer my deepest and sincere condolences to the members of his family.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I would like to associate myself with the remarks in their entirety which have fallen from the lips of those six hon. members who have spoken, and which remarks I have no doubt represent the view of all hon. members present. This is one of the few maybe of all too few occasions when hon. members see things from the same point of view, as it is a matter which is beyond dispute and beyond controversy.

I associate myself also with the wishes of hon. members that we convey to the hon. senior member for St. Philip and other members of the

family an expression of our deep regret at the loss which this family has sustained as a result of the late Mr. Montford Crawford, who went only eleven short of his century.

I will ask hon. members to rise in their places for two minutes to indicate their approval of the passing in silence of this Resolution.

Hon. members rose in their places for two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will direct that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the relatives of the deceased.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to claim your indulgence to express my profound appreciation of hon. members on both sides of the Table and Your Honour as well for the sentiments expressed today on this motion, and I should like, Sir, on behalf of my family as well as on my own behalf to say how deeply appreciated they are. I should say that I have sat in this Chamber on countless occasions and participated in similar motions of condolence to the relatives of hon. members who are departed, and even although you were deeply touched by the occasion, yet still I did not think, Sir, that you were introspective enough as to think that sooner or later the time would come when similar motions may be passed in connection with someone with whom you were deeply involved. During all the years in which I participated in these motions, there was no occasion when a similar motion was made in respect of anybody in my family, and then suddenly, Sir.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think that I indicated earlier that prior to the two matters with which we have now dealt, and with the motion to the relatives of the departed Mr. Crawford – we know how they feel – that drew to an end Government Business. The last two matters of course not being strictly Government Business, but the business of the whole House, and that being so, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. and Learned member for St. John makes that motion, there are certain notices which through no fault of hon. members who, I understand, gave them in in proper time, were not on my Notice Paper, and the Clerk was not able to be present earlier this afternoon. The notices of Questions are now here in the names of the hon. junior member for St. John, the hon. senior member for St. Michael, the hon. senior member for St. James, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, and I am willing to let hon. members give those notices of questions now, as it is no fault of theirs that they were not able to give them earlier. That is why I am asking the Hon. and Learned member for St. John to defer for a minute or two the making of the motion for the Adjournment.

QUESTIONS

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

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that the fish shed at Consett Bay in the parish of Saint John is unsuitably sited and of no use to the fishing community there?

2 Will Government consider the removal of the said shed to a more central site opposite to the jetty which runs out into the sea at Consett Bay?"

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Questions:–

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:–

Is Government aware of the lack of proper drainage along the sides of the following Roads in Carrington's Village, Saint Michael, Harrisons Road, Chadderton Road, Murrell Road, Hunte's Road, Norham Road, Cole Road, St. Hill Road, Alkins Road, Railway Road, School Road, Grosvenor Road?

2. Is Government aware that because of the lack of drainage, the inhabitants of the said districts have great difficulty in getting to and from their homes in time of heavy rain fall?

3. Will Government have the situation remedied as soon as possible?"

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:–

1. Is Government aware that there are no toilet facilities whatever at the Department of Highways and Transport for the use of the many owners and drivers of vehicles who attend there daily to have their vehicles weighed, tested and examined?

2 Will the Government remedy this state of affairs immediately?"

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:–

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:–

Is Government aware of the hardship and inconvenience experienced by N.C.Os and men of the Barbados Police Force stationed at District "F" Police Station by the low pressure of water running to the said Station?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the advisability of setting up a tank at the said Station to keep water for emergency purposes?

4.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question stands in the name of the Honourable Senior Member for St. Michael.

Mr. S. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister: Is Government aware that Stevenson Road, School Lane, and the road running through Delamere Land – all thickly populated areas – are in dire need of surfacing and repair?

Will Government set about surfacing and repairing the said roads without delay?

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question stands in the name of the Honourable Senior Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. W. R. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will Government consider the question of equipping all police vehicles with sirens to be used when pursuing vehicles on the highway for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime?

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question stands in the name of the Honourable Senior Member for St. Michael.

Mr. S. SEALY: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister: Is Government aware that the jack at present used by the employees of the Department of Highways and Transport in the Pine is outdated, inadequate and non-serviceable?

Will Government have the said jack replaced without delay?

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question stands in the name of the Honourable Senior Member for St. James.

Mr. E. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister: Is Government aware that the residents of Greenwich and Baywoods in the parish of St. James are still without the provision and the service of electricity?

Will Government use its good offices to ensure that electricity is installed in the said districts without delay?

Mr. SPEAKER: That concludes the list of questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th July at 2.30 p.m.

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

The question was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without divison and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

4.50 p.m.