

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 26th 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. F. C. GODDARD; Honourable J. C. TUDOR M.A. (Minister of Education); Mr. S. E. SEALY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON (Chairman of Committees); Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Trade and Labour).

Prayers were read.

Mr. Holder entered the House and took his seat.

The Minutes of the meetings of 24th May, 1966 and 3rd June, 1966 were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police during the quarters ended 31st March, 1966.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1966.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1965.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay, The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1966.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$2,500 at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1966-67, Part I — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67, No. 13 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I would also like to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to ratify the Agreement for the establishment of an Association to be called the Caribbean Free Trade Association.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1966.

I also beg to give notice that the Reply to Oral Question No. 101 is now ready.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Oral Question No. 102 will be ready later in the day.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. L. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Bridgetown City Council to make provision for a Scholarship tenable at a University within the British Commonwealth to commemorate the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, there is no objection to the laudibility of the matter just raised by the hon. member. Can he give us the assurance that Her Majesty's permission has been sought before notice to this Bill was given?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member in a position to answer the question posed by the Leader of the House?

Mr. L. A. LYNCH: All the necessary formalities have been complied with as far as I am aware.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Can the hon. member give a more specific assurance on this matter? We have rules here which prevent the Sovereign's name from being used in a manner which is contrary to usage and custom and he should give the assurance categorically that Her Majesty's permission has been sought to commemorate her visit in this manner and that permission has been granted.

Mr. L. A. LYNCH: At this stage I am only giving notice of the Bill. I can assure the hon. member that when the time comes all the necessary formalities will have been fully complied with.

Mr. S. E. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of the following questions for Oral Answers:—

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Is the Minister aware of the deplorable condition of the road, 3rd Avenue, Grazettes, in the parish of St. Michael where there are holes sometimes two or three feet in diameter that cause considerable damage to cars of residents near in?

Will the Government set about repairing the said road as soon as possible?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Is the Minister aware that the residents of Storey Gap, Green Hill in the parish of St. Michael, have in some instances to travel over a quarter mile to obtain water for domestic use?

2. Will the Minister consider the running of a four inch main and the installation of a stand pipe to facilitate the residents of the same gap?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Will the Minister inform the House what is the present position of the negotiations to

acquire Radcliff Pasture, Britton's Hill, St. Michael?

Mr. G. V. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Is the Government aware that there is a great demand in Britain for Postmen?

2. Is the Government also aware that there is much scope for promotion in the Postal Services in Britain?

3. Will the Government explore the possibility of entering an agreement with the Postmaster General in Britain with a view to recruiting Barbadians to fill the several vacancies?

POST OF DEPUTY MARSHAL DEEMED VACANT

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members will recall that last week I read certain correspondence in connection with the Deputy Marshal, Messenger and Library Assistant of this Chamber. In the letter in which Mr. Lionel A. Giles informed this Chamber of his having obtained employment elsewhere, he has tendered his resignation as from the 16th July, 1966. In view of the fact that he has not returned to duty, I deem the office to be vacant.

2.55 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. ORVILLE BEST TO ACT AS MESSENGER, DEPUTY MARSHAL AND LIBRARY ATTENDANT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. Orville Best be appointed to act as Messenger, Deputy Marshal and Library Attendant of this House with effect from the date of vacancy of the post.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the answer to Question No. 101 in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip is now ready.

QUESTION RE MANGROVE
CRUSHING SITE

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:—

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware of the danger to health and damage to property of the small number of residents of Greaves Hill, St. Philip, caused by the fumes and dust from the plant at Mangrove Crushing Site?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state what is being done to remedy this state of affairs?

Has the Minister received complaints from any resident of this area in connection with this matter?

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

“A number of complaints were received from residents of the district to the west of the Mangrove Crushing Site about the fumes and dust emitted from the Plant at Mangrove, St. Philip. Steps have since been taken by the Department of Highways and Transport to reduce to a minimum the amount of dust and smoke emitted from the Plant, and recent reports received have shown that the efforts of the Department have been highly successful.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 102 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I should like to give this Reply later in the day as it has not yet been received.

Mr. SPEAKER: I well remember the Hon. Minister intimated that, but the Clerk mentioned the number.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1966–67
No. 8

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think hon. members are aware with respect to Item 15 of this Head that this Government by agreement with the United Nations Technical Assistance Board pays an agreed percentage of the actual cost of the expert services it receives. Payment, as the explanatory note says, is usually arranged on the basis of an advance of 12½% of the estimated (or standard) cost of the experts' services pending the determination of the cost from the audited accounts of the experts' costs. The sum of \$11,030 has already been provided in the Estimates to meet the cost of these services, but this has proved insufficient and we are now asking that it be supplemented by \$5,512.

I beg to move that Head 9 – Ministry of Finance – stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.
3.05 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, this is a small sum we are paying for the services rendered by United Nations Technical experts. However,

there are two questions I want to ask. Can the Hon. Minister tell me how many United Nations Technical experts are at present in the Island working for Government and, secondly, are we expected to pay twelve and a half per cent of the cost of the Fisheries Project carried out by the expert working on that project? As the Hon. Minister knows, Barbados is the headquarters for the region. Are we expected to pay for our part of the project or are we paying twelve and a half per cent toward the cost of such personnel.

My question is in two parts. How many United Nations Personnel are operating in the island and, secondly, if we are paying twelve and a half per cent on each project which is carried out by them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, speaking subject to correction, I think the number of personnel hardly exceeds one dozen. I think there are four attached to the Fisheries Department, one to the Waterworks Department and maybe two others in other departments. The point is, that there is these technical experts in the island and there are conducting expertise work without payment from us. I do not know if this answer would help the hon. member. I said that they are far less than one dozen and the rate which Barbadians are required to pay is twelve and a half percent of the total cost.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for his answer but that does not answer me quite clearly. Barbados is the headquarters of the Fisheries Project which is carried on for the benefit of the Leewards and Windwards. Are they paying their portion of the amount? The experts are not doing the job for Barbados alone. Is that twelve and a half percent which we are asked to pay is for our part of the expenses or is it for the Governments of the West Indies?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, by an agreement made on behalf of this Government our share is 12½ percent. I think that the hon. member should rest assured that we pay for only our part and the other territories are asked to pay their part. Our part is 12½ percent. This is the agreement between this Government and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board.

The question that Head 9 – Ministry of Finance—stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26 – BARBADOS REGIMENT

HEAD 26 – Barbados Regiment was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with respect to Head 9, Barbados Regiment, Items 42 and 43 are new. They concern \$740 and \$12,400 respectively and what they have to do with is the delivery of wireless equipment for the Barbados Regiment which was delayed and because of a number of changes which had to be made the sum voted proved to be insufficient. The amount is being sought so as to complete the payment. I beg to move that Head 26 – Barbados Regiment – stand part.

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

The question that Head 26 – Barbados Regiment—stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 38 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 38 – Ministry of Health and Community Development was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Item 167 is a new item under Head 38 and it is for the Salvation Army. It is for a non-recurrent grant of \$3,000 to assist the Salvation Army in meeting the cost of extensive repairs to the men's hostel at Reed Street. The Government thinks it reasonable to make this grant and I therefore beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Salvation Army does good work in this Island and, therefore, we are not against any contribution made to that organization. However, I think the Hon. Minister and his Government before giving the necessary assistance to this organization was in the possession of certain information. The addendum reads: "A non-recurrent grant of \$3,000 to assist the Salvation Army in meeting the cost of extensive repairs to the men's hostel at Reed Street is required"

I believe the Hon. Leader of the House would have before him the amount of the cost of these repairs which were done by the Salvation Army, therefore he will be able to tell us what portion this \$3,000 is of the expenses which were made by the Salvation Army. I am sure the Hon. Minister would be able to tell us.

3.15 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the facts appear to be as follows: Sometime towards the end of 1964 the Government decided that the sum

of \$500,000 should be made available to the Salvation Army towards the cost of the renovation of the Hostel and Night Shelter, and accordingly we included the sum in the 1965-66 draft Estimates.

It was further represented that in addition to the grant of \$500,000 which the House approved, the Salvation Army has been very fortunate in receiving from various business firms and other well wishers considerable quantities of building materials.

It was originally estimated that the cost of the work would be in the vicinity of \$7,500. Neither the original \$500,000 and all the value of the other help received proved sufficient to cover the cost, and they made a further approach to the Government asking for additional assistance.

On the basis of this request and our satisfaction that it would be well spent, we decided to come for this extra grant of \$3,000. We have already voted \$5,000 which has proved inadequate despite the fact that, as I said earlier, people have assisted with building materials.

I move, Sir, that Head 38 stand part.

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

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is most unsatisfactory. I appreciate the fact that the Government has granted \$500,000 before. I agree with the work which the Salvation Army is doing for the under privileged; but obviously the Minister has not all the facts. The Army should have been able to tell the Government that we spent so much and we are in the red by so much. What proportion of the expenditure does this vote represent? These facts must have gone before the Cabinet or some Minister. It is very unsatisfactory.

If it was not the Salvation Army for which I have the greatest sympathy I might take a different approach. When the Minister says that the Cabinet is satisfied are we to be also satisfied?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know what is agitating the hon. member. I thought that I was pretty explicit. If you are dealing with the Salvation Army — and we all agree on both sides that the Army is a worthy cause — and they tell you that they want \$500,000 and they satisfy you at the time that the money is for some

worthy purpose which you approve, and you find that in spite of extra assistance they are unable to finish the work and they ask you for another \$3,000 that is the end of the matter.

This is probably the only organisation in this island that you would not need, except for certain official purposes, to question too closely. Everyone knows the unestimable work they do in the Social Welfare field. Obviously they would have labour costs which would far exceed the original estimate.

We are satisfied in the light of the evidence they have given us and we are prepared to give them this grant.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Of course both sides of the House are satisfied. The question is not simply that you are giving money to build something which will be alright. It was expected that it would cost x dollars. It has turned out to cost more and therefore they are asking for more. We do not object, but we are saying tell us what the whole thing cost and what is the proposal. If we give 90% I would say it is a worthy cause, but we are only asking what proportion are we giving.

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I move Sir, that the Resolution for \$21,652 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 — CURRENT — NO.9

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, Head 27 — Civil Aviation. Item 34A, House allowance is a new item. I refer to House allowance for the Director of Civil Aviation. Up to some months ago it was a condition of service attached to the post of Director of Civil Aviation that he should live in Government quarters at Seawell Airport. This has proved inconvenient, and there is now a decision that in view of the inconvenience and possible danger to health no Government Officer should now be required to live at the Airport.

3.25 p.m.

In the light of this, the Government has decided that the present incumbent should be released from the obligation to live at the Airport, and that a fixed house allowance should be paid to him in lieu of quarters there. The Resolution therefore for \$1,334 covers this fixed house allowance with effect from 8th October, 1965 – the date from which the Director had to vacate the quarters for reasons of health – to the end of the current financial year.

I beg to move that Head 27 – Civil Aviation – stand part.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, with this I fully agree. To ask any Government Officer or anyone to live with his family at the Airport and so near to the Apron, especially today with the constant noise, is asking too much. I am also glad to see that no Government Officer will be required to live there. Is it not a fact that the Customs Officer has to live on the premises? I do not know if it is so since the change has been made, but Mr. Lyall and his family lived quite near to the same area. Has that all been changed? In other words, I want to be assured that no Government Officer of any category will be required to live at the Airport, and should he have to live nearby, he would be given the same allowance.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the same matter, this works out at \$75 a month. Thinking of the status of the Officer and the recent trend of rents, \$75 a month with the modern cost of housing and the occasions on which he will have to entertain, I wonder if the Minister might have something more to say on this, because the amount seems quite inadequate for modern housing.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I can say is that this was negotiated with the Officer himself and he accepted it as being adequate; it was not forced on him. There is no question therefore of his being put to any inconvenience. This was his own suggestion and we agreed to it.

With respect to the other matter, I think I can give the assurance that we will not discriminate between Officers of Government with respect to living at Seawell, because we feel that if it is inconvenient for one, it is inconvenient for all.

With respect to the other part of the suggestion by the hon. junior member for Christ Church that a similar allowance be paid to any officer, it could not be a similar one; it would be one suited to the circumstances of the particular case. But as in this case we would hope to meet the wishes of the Officer in that regard as well.

The question that Head 27 – Civil Aviation – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 28 – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, here again, this is a new item, and it has to do with the Chief Agricultural Officer who is provided with unfurnished quarters as a condition of service. The Committee of course is well aware that Directors of Agriculture have always lived at Codrington House. It is not considered under the present circumstances that the Officer should be personally expected to completely furnish this house because of the magnitude of the house. However the Government does realise that there is an obligation placed upon it to provide the basic furniture, and in accordance with custom a rental at the rate of 3 percent of the value will be charged. In order to provide this basic furniture, and to do one or two minor incidental repairs to the property, we are asking for provision of \$4,671.

I beg to move that Head 28 – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – stand part.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for \$6,005 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 1966–67 No. 7

Head 103 – Health and Community Development – was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in the 1964–65 Estimates, an amount of \$10,000

was provided for repairs to the St. Lucy's Infirmary so that inmates from St. Peter and St. James could be transferred there. This was part of the programme of the re-organisation of Almshouses where Children's Homes were to be provided and the Infirmarys used for the aged, infirm and invalid persons. All destitute children were to be housed at the Children's Home at Farris in the North. Unfortunately for the Government, the Officer who was in charge of this job did the wrong job. He spent the money on the Infirmary rather than on the Isolation Hospital to accommodate the additional inmates who were being brought from St. Peter and St. James.

When we were about to integrate the Infirmarys and close the St. James and St. Peter Infirmarys, we discovered that the money was spent on the wrong building. This therefore necessitates the action which we are taking today. We have now got to spend money on the Isolation Ward so that our programme might be carried out.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution for \$15,690 do now pass.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, I think this is a great step forward as it reduces a certain amount of administration. I want to make a plea here and now to the Government, and I have every reason to believe that what I am saying will not fall on deaf ears. I understand that in a short time there will be no more St. James Infirmary. As is known, there are at the Infirmary not only children and destitute persons, but cases which could best be treated there rather than at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

3.35 p.m.

It is clear that the parish of St. James is developing not only from the point of view of buildings but the population is also increasing. The people of certain parishes and, particularly St. James, expect that the Government would put up, what is regarded as a clinic, for emergency cases and if they are of a serious nature they can be sent to the district hospital in St. Peter. I can tell the Hon. Minister that there is large concern about this by the people of St. James. There is a hospital already in St. Peter and the people of St. James would like a district hospital to be sited in St. James.

The Hon. Minister said in his remarks that some money had been badly spent by somebody.

I wonder if the Hon. Minister will clarify that statement and give me some explanation as to the amount mis-spent.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. James was concerned with the removal of the people from the Almshouses and I too am concerned about that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I would like the hon. member to speak in the microphone that I can hear what he is saying.

Mr. HUSBANDS: The hon. senior member for St. James like myself is quite aware that these almshouses have served their purpose. They have housed children who have not been wanted and they have housed adults who have been sick and normally would have been hospitalised at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as they have also housed the infirm people of the parish.

I wonder if with the propose changes, when the children will be taken away to the Farris hospital or Farris Home at Rose Hill, St. Peter, and the adult population at the almshouse is taken away to the hospital at the Hope, St. Lucy, what is going to happen to the people that normally were hospitalized in these almshouses. Would they be taken to Bridgetown? Does the Hon. Minister purpose to set up a district hospital in the parishes in place of the almshouses which are going to be taken out of use?

Now, Sir, this step was mooted long before the ruling party came into power and I hope the Hon. Minister and his Government will not claim that right.

Another thing, like the hon. senior member for St. James, I would like the Hon. Minister to explain further his charge that some officer spent money in the wrong direction. I think the Hon. Minister's remarks were that some officer contracted with the connivance of certain people a debt on the Government by doing a wrong job. I think this is something which happens. I accept the admission but for that thing to happen it is a serious affair on the part of the administration if not the executive. That is a very serious thing to happen. When an officer has to carry out the policy of the policy-making party, he should not be guilty of such an error to say the least. For my years as a member of this House I have never heard such an admission made on the floor of the House. I am not saying that it never happened before but for a responsible Minister of the Government to come into this House and say that an officer was required to do one thing and

did the other, that is a very serious thing. I think that whatever is the case the Ministry will have to take the blame.

3.45 p.m.

I am wondering whether this Committee will look at this matter lightly. I have never heard such an admission in Parliament before. I am not saying that it has never happened but it has never been brought to Parliament before by a responsible Minister.

It may happen again and the blame has got to go on the Ministry. They have got to take the blame. It is not good enough to have that coming from a responsible Ministry. It is a serious matter, and it has certainly delayed the progress of the establishment of the Children's Home at Farris.

I want the Minister to allay my fears on two counts. What will be done as regards those people who would be normally hospitalised at these institutions known as almshouses with the transfer of the children at Farris; and what is going to happen to those who would normally get the attention paid to the sick?

I would like to get the assurance that what the Minister told us about money being spent on the wrong job is not likely to happen again.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution we have before us is of a very good nature. I do not see that there is anything to criticise. This Resolution is seeking \$15,690 for the renovation of Farris to bring in children from St. Peter and St. Lucy. That is something that we have always been told should be done. We have been always told that children should not be housed in the almshouses with old and destitute people. Even when these children are grown up they are told that they were raised in the almshouse.

That is why we had to change the name "Dodds" to the Government Industrial School. Sometime ago I had the opportunity to go to Dodds. I saw the accommodation of the children up there and it shocked my modesty. If we remove the children from the almshouses and put them in Homes which will be like their own homes they would be raised in a better atmosphere and they would not be embarrassed when they grow up.

I do not see the need for criticism of this Resolution. It is a good Resolution that the Government has brought forward and we are willing to give it our support. Everything that is good we should support and anything that is evil we should eradicate and get it out of existence.

We are willing to receive material from any side of the House that can help us to build. Give us the material and we are willing to accept it. If it is bad when we put it to the test we will reject it. I think that the Committee should unanimously agree with this Resolution.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, relative to this Resolution I do not think that any hon. member would vote against it; but I do think that members would like to know certain things. I hope that we will get more light.

The children from the infirmaries are going to Farris House. I am in agreement with that. We know that in certain infirmaries children are housed with the inmates. Like the senior member for St. James I am asking that more light be thrown on things. For instance, what will be the position with the district hospital that was to be placed in Speightstown when the inmates are removed and the children sent to Farris.

I was on a Committee with Dr. Byer. The land was surveyed and things of that sort were done. The idea was that that district hospital would take some of the strain off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; that only serious cases would go up to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would certainly like to know if a district hospital will be erected at Speightstown where the infirmary is now.

3.55 p.m.

I know that up to the time that I was there, certain plans were laid, papers were acquired and the land surveyed, and I would be very pleased if I could hear something about that.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks the sum of \$15,690. The Addendum states that this sum is required to meet the cost of the renovation of the Isolation Ward at St. Lucy's Infirmary in order to provide additional accommodation to allow for the transfer to this institution of inmates from St. James and St. Peter Infirmaries.

Now, Sir, whilst the Government is thinking in terms of a building and its renovation, we have to think in terms of the people. You are going to transfer the inmates from St. Peter and St. James to St. Lucy. You will soon be transferring the St. Joseph inmates to St. Thomas. What provision is being made to accommodate the visitors to these inmates? You must bear in mind that these people are the very poorest lot that we are accommodating. No one who is able to pay his doctor and be treated at home is going to an infirmary; it is only those who are very poor and

have no one to stay at home to take care of them who will go there. You will find that a son or daughter is quite willing to maintain his mother or father, but he is not able to pay a nurse to attend them at home, and therefore they will have to be taken to the infirmary in the parish or to the nearest institution. When you take these people from one parish and carry them to another, you are creating a hardship on the children of these patients, because they are not in a position to hire a motor car to travel across country to pay their loved ones a regular visit.

While the Government is seeking money to make the necessary accommodation, they have lost sight of the inconvenience and hardship they are creating on these people at the same time. The Government should therefore provide some kind of transportation facilities so that these people would be able to pay their families a visit. Not long ago one had to pay a motor car \$10.00 to visit his brother at the St. Lucy Almshouse, because that man was transferred from St. Joseph. The Government has already taken the inmates from St. Andrew to St. Thomas, but the Infirmary is now full and cannot carry anymore; so if there are any sick persons who need attention at an almshouse, they have to be taken to St. Lucy through the shortsightedness in the change-over. They should have known the accommodation afforded at the St. Thomas Infirmary and expect to take in sick persons daily or weekly. No provision has been made for that, and people will have to be taken from St. Andrew to St. Lucy, and their families would not be able to visit them as regularly as they would like.

I understand that there will be a district hospital in St. Andrew though it is not ready yet. I should like to enquire about those persons whom you can term as outpatients and need dressings and things of that nature. What is going to become of that service now that you are preparing your district Hospital or Outpatients' Hospital? I feel that that should have been taken care of before you abandon the St. Andrew Almshouse. No one is saying that this is a bad Resolution, but the timing of it is bad because you are creating a hardship. In other words, you have started before you were ready and the people who cannot help themselves will be the sufferers.

When it comes to expenses, I believe you are doing this amalgamation with a view to keeping down the cost of administration as much as possible, but it appears at the moment that you are not reducing the cost. It is more costly now with the change-over, and it is going to be even

more costly. I cannot see how you are going to reduce the cost, because at present the staff from St. Andrew has to be housed at St. Thomas, and you have to pay for accommodation so much money per month rent for those persons.
4.05 p.m.

You have not saved anything at all. It is costing you more money at the moment for housing accommodation, not less than \$60 or \$70 plus the inconvenience to each and everyone. When you have to build more buildings to house the people, you are doing nothing. The savings on staff may be a little less but I cannot see by the way you are going about it how much saving there will be. You may be able to reduce the staff and by so doing affect a savings but I am only concerned with the great hardship which is being meted out by the patients and their relatives. The patients are daily crying out and saying: "Why have they taken us so far away from our family?" There is a saying when you get old that you are twice a child and once a man. When you get old you have the feeling of a child. You want to keep close to your family when you are sick. You get people who go away as soon as they get old, they want to come back home so as to be near their family. These old people who are only waiting for the call from above are now being pushed all about the place and far from their families. You are banding them together like cane plants. I do not think the taxpayers of the various parishes are quarelling about the cost for the upkeep of the entire lot of almshouses in the island. I think if you go around the parishes and ask the people if they would prefer to see the almshouses remain to provide for the people as before or that you eliminate them and do what you are doing now, they will say let the almshouses remain as they were.

It is alright for one to sit down and think of things on paper. I am not criticising the Government for trying to affect a savings but I am pointing out to you that if you are bringing this scheme into operation it would be better to go about it by making provision at once to see about establishing the inmates elsewhere before you abandon the almshouses that is to say, see that you do not create more hardship on them. If you are going to abandon the St. James almshouse, before you do so, see to it that you put something in its place. You should do the same thing as regards the other parishes. It is the old saying that while the grass is growing the horse is starving. We are not complaining that the people in St. Andrew are suffering.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I just rise to refute a statement made by the hon.

senior member for St. Joseph referring to the people of St. Andrew as sufferers. They are not suffering as a result of this problem.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, is that a point of order? The Hon. Minister called that a point of order but it is not a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair determines whether it is a point of order or not.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am still on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph complained that the inmates would experience hardship by having to go from St. Andrew to St. Lucy. Mr. Wilkie who is in the St. Andrew almshouse is from St. Joseph. He came to St. Andrew because he could not get attention in St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, you allow the hon. senior member for St. Andrew to get up and say what he said while I am still on my feet. While I was on my feet the hon. member jumped up and blurted out what he had to say. The Hon. Minister talks just as if he knows Mellowes River.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. It's a pity that some people do not like to behave in a proper manner. It is parliamentary decency when a member rises that the member who is addressing the Chair takes his seat. If the hon. junior member for St. Joseph had any decency he should have sat when I rose.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair decides that.

Mr. SMITH: Imagine the Hon. Minister getting up and saying whatever he likes and you are addressing the Chair! As I was saying the hon. member does not know Mellowes River.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member knows about Mellowes River, I never lived near Mellowes River.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask both members to get on with this Resolution and I am not entertaining any further cross talk other than that which refers to the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I referred to Mellowes River because it is of a little higher standard than Dark Hole. If I wanted to go lower down I would have said Seniors or Bruce Vale.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please get back to the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, what the hon. member — if he is in charge of this Resolution should have done if I had said anything worth while.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You don't say anything worthwhile.

Mr. SMITH: I am not asking the Minister nor anybody for anything for myself. I am asking for those poor unfortunate people who cannot help themselves, and I notice that it is the policy of this Government to try to cut off a man's head only because he tries to help the poor. As soon as you try to represent the poor you meet with all sort of opposition. I can only represent them when I see that a hardship is being created among them. I do not even know where I can go and borrow \$50,000, get an overdraft for \$40,000 or anything like that....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this within the Resolution?

Mr. SMITH: I am talking now about this overdraft for \$15,000. For one to get such a large overdraft he has to have the collateral. In other words he has to have the worth so poor people will never be able to go to a Bank Manager and tell him that they want an overdraft.

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of explanation, Sir. What are we speaking about? Are we speaking about this \$15,690 for this additional accommodation or are we talking about Mellowes River, Dark Hole etc.?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will now hear the junior member for St. Joseph on the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, he wants noticing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am now listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has just sat down from making a point of order, but the point I would like to make is a little above him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the junior member concluded his speech on the Resolution?

Mr. CORBIN: You are the source of ignorance.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am being interrupted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will deal with that in due course. I am listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and the others will be dealt with automatically.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that you are making sport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the junior member for St. Joseph is now entering a serious matter, and I would like to hear him on the Resolution, because I intend right now to be very, very severe.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if you are going to adopt now the policy of friendly members you may do so but when you get severe I can be just as severe.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Joseph is not the only member of the Chamber.

Mr. SMITH: I am the only member on the floor right now. Getting back to the Resolution I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to remedy this hardship which is being created. At the same time he is making provision for the building to accommodate the patients he should make provision for their transportation. I have to think about a man with a wife and three or four children going to school having to pay a visit to the Infirmary, he has to hire a motorcar and with these long distances he can only pay a visit once a year. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew knows that what I am talking about is true.
4.25 p.m.

The Hon. Minister comes from lower down in the parish than I have, so he would know the hardships better than I would. It seems to me as if some of us allow our feelings and sympathy to go for a joyride and they do not return too quickly, and people suffer as a result. Now that the Minister is asking for this money to do the necessary transferring, he should seek to bring a Resolution as soon as possible to establish these other outpatients' clinics where people can still go and get their minor dressings and other medical attention of which they are in need. If you remove the almshouse without making provision for this sort of attention, a hardship will be created on these people. This should not be so because at no time are the taxpayers in the Northern District in any way annoyed over paying their taxes for the upkeep of an Infirmary in the parish.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Government is now asking for \$15,690 to cover the cost of renovating the Isolation Ward at the St. Lucy Infirmary. The Minister did say something in his opening remarks about the Resolution, and I wish he would clarify it because I would have something to say about it. We are told that money was spent elsewhere and not for the purpose for which it was voted.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, to answer the last question first, the sum of \$10,000 was voted in the last year's Estimates to effect renovation to the Isolation block at the St. Lucy's Infirmary. The Officer, an employee of the Public Works Department, instead of spending the \$10,000 on the Isolation block spent it on the Main Building at the St. Lucy's Infirmary. In other words, he carried out renovations on the Main Building which was not a priority. I may say here that the Officer's three year contract was not renewed.

Now to answer the questions raised by my friend, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, he pointed out that no savings would be effected by the re-organisation of this almshouse system. This is the biggest joke I have heard in my life. In the first instance, there will be no maintenance of the building in St. Joseph, there will be no water rates to be paid for the almshouse, there will be no electricity rents to be paid, there will be no watchman to be paid, and the surplus staff which was employed at the St. Joseph Infirmary will not be employed. A large staff to look over twelve or fourteen inmates at St. Joseph is a waste of taxpayers' money, and I thought the people of St. Joseph would have been relieved at having to pay a smaller rate of taxation when the time comes because of the closing down of that infirmary in particular. Those who reach retiring age will retire and there will be no necessity for additional staff, because the surplus staff which was employed at the various infirmaries would be more than adequate to meet the requirements at the St. Thomas and St. Lucy Infirmaries, and this will solve itself when they reach retiring age from time to time.

I should like to answer the burning question which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph raised about transportation. I should like to ask the hon. member how often the relatives of those people who are in the infirmaries go to see them, and how often he goes to see them except when I invite him on the occasions I take the Choir there.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Hon. Minister wants to know from me

how often I go to see these inmates. You should really speak to the Hon. Minister, and if he does not know how to reply, let him sit down. But if he starts up now, I will start.

Hon. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I would not comment on that point of order because I have better use to make of my time. I would like the hon. member to state whether in any part of the world the Government makes provision for transportation for people in private homes to go and see relatives or friends at infirmaries. The people who go with maternity cases see their relatives often; those who go with other ailments see their people often; but on rare occasions do the relatives of those people who are permanently housed in the infirmaries go to see them, and all hon. members know that this is true. They may see them perhaps for Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. What is the point of wasting taxpayers' money to provide transportation when the people do not go, and there would be no necessity for this because the district hospitals are established to take care of all the maternity cases, and health clinics are established in the various parishes, and for the information of the hon. member one is going to be established in St. Joseph soon.

4.35 p.m.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph should be the least worried member in this Chamber because there are fewer people in St. Joseph infirmary than in any of the infirmaries in the North or in the island for that matter. He is only trying to draw a red herring across the trail. He is using that argument just to give people the impression that he has that much interest in the poor people. I would not do like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and say how many poor people we employ.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph raised the question of how many children there are. If the hon. member used to do his practical work as a representative of the people of St. Joseph, he would have known that there are fifteen children who are being cared for in the parish of St. Joseph. The hon. member says that St. Thomas is far from St. Andrew and talks of the travelling which the people would have to do. As far as that is concerned, the travelling from St. Andrew to St. Thomas is going to present no problem. This Government does not do its business in any laissez-faire atmosphere. We go into details and the hon. member would know that for three and a half years we had a survey carried out by the Chief Probation Officer and the staff of the Social Welfare Office into this

whole affair and they reviewed it and submitted a report on all these affairs. The hon. member would know that extensions are almost completed to the.....

I do not think it is necessary for the hon. junior member for St. James to have any fears at all. I am sure the hon. junior member for St. George can provide transportation. He has a pick-up and the finance to do it out of his pocket.

This hon. member knows that all we are doing is trying to reduce the rate of taxes of the people of the Northern district. They pay the highest rate of taxes of the three districts. We are closing down four of the almshouses in the north and that would affect a savings to the people. It would mean that the ratepayers in St. John, St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. James and St. Thomas would be paying less taxes. Why should they pay a rate of 26 percent when the people of St. Michael only pay 15 percent? This institution would not be looked after by the Northern District Council. This would be staffed by the Central Government therefore the rate of taxes must be less.

The hon. senior member for St. James is talking about providing a district hospital in St. James. He is saying that there should not be another district hospital in St. Peter. It is true that before we allowed the Community of the Sorrowful Sisters to bring in their equipment for use in their hospital free of duty and we gave them certain advantages, we made it quite clear to them that at least 25 percent of the beds in the hospital were to be made available to general public. This is what we did before we allowed them to bring in their equipment and other things free of duty.

I will like to go on record by saying that the Government is very pleased to see that these Sisters have seen fit to run this hospital themselves but it does not mean that the people should not have a district hospital in St. Peter for themselves. The statistics from the Ministry of Health have shown that there is need for district hospital in St. Peter so that anyone can go there especially for cases of maternity.

The hon. senior member for St. James also asked if Government was going to establish a health clinic in St. James and referred to the site of the Almshouse. The hon. member must bear in mind that that site is Church property. There is, however, Government land next door. It is planned that there should be a clinic in St. James and another in St. Joseph.

4.45 p.m.

It is planned that a Clinic is to be put in St. James and St. Joseph. St. Andrew's Infirmary is being converted into a District Hospital. Matrons' Quarters are being built and so on and we hope soon to start on the St. George's Infirmary. As soon as work at St. Philip is completed we will carry out our amalgamation there. I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have answered all the questions I can remember that were posed by hon. members and I hope that this was done to their satisfaction.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister was at pains to describe this District Hospital for St. George. All over the files you will find "Freddie Miller's" name there. It has been written there no less than six years previously. (ASIDES)

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. I have never mentioned the name Freddie Miller, I have not said that he had anything to do with this programme. I know that it is a programme initiated, planned and implemented by the Democratic Labour Party Government, under the Ministry of Community Development.

Mr. MILLER: He said that earlier, Mr. Chairman, (ASIDES) When you think of an Infirmary you think of a home for the aged and destitute that does not apply to the District Hospital. You cannot substitute an Almshouse for a District Hospital. The junior member for St. Joseph was unhappy about the condition of the folk at the Infirmary. I am hoping, Sir, that the Minister would enlighten me on this occasion and would not display this sort of folly. To discuss a District Hospital or Clinic has nothing at all to do with an Infirmary. It is quite clear that the cost of renovation was estimated at \$10,000, but it was not until after the work was completed on the wrong section of the building that it was discovered. How could this happen with any Government? He said that the work was done by contract.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Sir, The hon. member cannot avoid — not even if he tries — to attempt to mislead this Chamber. What I said was that the work was done by an Officer of the Public Works Department who was employed under contract with the Government of Barbados and the Public Works Department. I did not say that the work was given out under contract, otherwise a tender's notice would have been put in the Press. What I said was that the Officer who did the work spent the \$10,000 on the wrong section of the St. Lucy's Infirmary. Now a Minister or

Government to think that a responsible officer, such as the one who did this work, would at least follow the instructions given and the plans which were given. It is true that the money was supposed to be for the renovation, it was not for the construction of a new building and the officer would not have spent it on the wrong section of the building if it was designed for construction. But I want to make it quite clear that what I said was that the Officer who was on a three year contract with the Government did not have it renewed as a result of this.

Mr. MILLER: One would have imagined that the Honourable Member was on a point of order; he has made a fifth speech on this matter, but I must in fairness to the taxpayer say that you control the purse strings of the taxpayers in this country. You asked the Honourable Member for St. Joseph how often he visited the inmates of the institution. You are discussing \$10,000 not \$10. I am not sure you know where this institution is. You are going to change and renovate an isolation block of an institution. That is what we have to familiarise ourselves with. You cannot make a mistake that you can have a man on contract with the Government for three years and send him to an institution.....I am familiar with all of this. You send this man and he goes and does work on reconstruction of the building, and the man is guided by a drawing in his hand with a fixed estimate of, say, \$10,000 and he leaves the isolation block and spends the money on some other building, and you come and say that you have not employed him after the contract as a solution to the problem.

4.55 p.m.

Any Minister must go on the job, and he should not blame the contractor and say now that he has not re-employed him after three years because the Minister wants to shrink responsibility. The Minister came to Parliament for money; so he should not tell me that he will punish a scapegoat because he wants to be relieved of the responsibility for this. The Minister must face the issue and say whether it is right or wrong.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. junior member for St. George has said that the Minister was responsible for the mal-spending of the money. Now there are several construction programmes going on throughout the island. If the Minister responsible comes to the Legislature and asks for money to carry out construction and to do maintenance and renovation and then has to go peeping and dodging behind every officer who worked in his Ministry, he would have to go into every parish

in this country, and he would have to be eleven Ministers to know what is going on. Instructions and directives are given to perform a task, and it is expected that responsible public officers would carry out those instructions. The hon. member should be ashamed to make mention of that, because he unfortunately has adorned a Ministerial chair for five years, and he knows it would be dishonest of him to come here and say that a Minister should know what is going on in every crevice in this country where work is being done.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder why the Minister thinks that should be his attitude. Nobody is asking him to be a pimp; he may be that by nature, but nobody is accusing him. He has made about eleven speeches up to now and called them points of order. He is expected to visit these works like the Minister of Communications, who was cuffed down in the Financial Building; but for the Minister of Health to attempt to say that nobody expects him to be a pimp, it would be a sorry spectacle and the country expects a lot more of him. The Minister is drawing \$90 a month for petrol for his car, and he is expected to travel around. Does the Minister mean that this could happen on anything in his Ministry?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, in the last Government a lot of huts disappeared and nobody knew where they went. They dropped off a lorry.

Mr. MILLER: I never heard about that, but \$10,000 have disappeared now, and I would like to say that two wrongs do not make a right. Some investigation should be made to see whether this \$10,000 have been really spent. It is true that \$10,000 might be his share in the regime of this Government, but to say that somebody asked him to pimp borders on the disgraceful. We can appreciate his helplessness and we can understand the misfortune of the Government with the essential personnel in his Ministry, but look at what is going on!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the discussion on the Resolution right now.

Mr. MILLER: I hope you are listening because it seems to me that you are departing from the Standing Orders and threatening members on the floor of the House. Nobody is going to accuse you, like the Premier, of corruption unless he is sure that something happened with this \$10,000, but it is clear that you gave a builder a drawing and estimate and money from the taxpayers for which you are

responsible, and you come in here and shed your skin like Miss Baston's lizard and say you have no responsibility for it. The Minister of Communications went pimping in the Financial building and was beaten by three or four masons. That sort of thing is terrible, but it does not mean that you can relinquish control because of the personnel and the human clay, cheap and raw, which form the bloc called the Government. The electorate has an answer for this.

I was sure, Mr. Chairman, that somebody from that side would today have announced the date of elections, because they should not waste money and invite people here until this takes place, because Parliament will be in trouble to pass this. You may laugh now, but \$10,000 have gone down the drain. I know and I can see from the expression on your face how ashamed you are

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am ashamed to see that we are dealing with a Resolution and you are bringing in elections.

Mr. MILLER: This job was to cost \$10,000, but the new estimate is \$15,690. More than half that amount more has to be voted now that the original money has been spent, and he is shirking his responsibility. I do not know how the Minister is going to answer this. When the operation would have cost \$10,000, it is now going to cost \$25,690, because you are now asking for \$15,690. You had a plan and estimate to renovate the Isolation block, and you sent men to do the work and they decided to spend the \$10,000 on some other part of the building. You cannot spend that money in two weeks or two months. There must be some form of supervision, and it is the Minister's responsibility. Do you believe that I would spend \$6 million on the Hospital and not want to see the equipment that would be ordered? (Hon. N. W. BOXHILL: You would be thinking of a percentage.) Do not make any mistake about this; I was not born in the gutter. I can understand the Minister's problem to attempt to answer this today. How on earth can he justify this?

5.05 p.m.

You come to Parliament and ask for aid. Now, you have spent \$10,000 and you have come now and asked for one and a half that amount. You must have some responsibility and you must feel some sense of guilt. Does that mean nothing to you? You know that some poor people who have to pay their taxes have to go without bread. you have spent this \$10,000 which you had earmarked in the Estimate and now you hope to justify this by spending

\$15,000 more on it. This is a serious matter. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew like some bar fly.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. George should have better behaviour.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. George has just referred to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew as a bar fly. I am asking you to ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. MILLER: I withdraw that remark and say instead

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I thought that hon. members who had been in this House for many years would have been able to conduct themselves in a manner to enlighten members who have been in the House for only a short time but I have lost faith in the hon. junior member for St. George. I thought a great deal of him before because I never clashed with him but now he has lost gravity and has come so low down that I am sorry for him. However, I forgive him.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, I do not think that I have lost gravity. However I am sorry if I have caused him any pain by any expression of mine. I apologise to him and hope that he will accept my apology.

It is my duty to ask questions and to receive answers from the Ministers. Mr. Chairman I noticed that you are very lenient with me on this occasion and you are not threatening me. I suppose the reason is that you are in harmony with my expression and the expression from members on this side of the table. I know that the Hon. Minister cannot reply to this. You talk about poor people but you come to parliament with a sum of \$10,000 and you come back here today and say that it was mis-spent. That is a serious thing.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Resolution but after hearing the remarks of the Hon. Minister in charge, they have caused me to rise to my feet. I will first of all like to say that it takes a Minister with courage to come in this Chamber and admit what the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution admitted, and I think he should be commended. He said that the money which was voted was spent on repairs to something else. On the other hand, Sir, the Hon. Minister must

realise that as a Cabinet Minister he must carry the responsibility.

5.15. p.m.

What I am somewhat worried about is — I wonder if this is one of the reasons why the Premier has said that 25% of this money is going down the drain? I do not know, but surely if you are going to renovate St. Lucy's Infirmary, and you could do with an isolation ward, not only the person who you hired is to blame, but you must have somebody at the top who did not carry out the directive of the Government. On the other hand, I would take it that such renovations would have taken over a period of two months at least with the workmen and so on. Therefore, I do not see that this having to have a plan, in short, Sir, I commend the Minister for having the courage, I would say the integrity on coming to the House with the true position. But who the Minister was at the time cannot say that it was not their responsibility. I want to draw the Minister's attention to something, and when I am finished I'm going to see if the Minister in charge of this or the Leader of the House has the integrity to withdraw this from the House altogether. Look at the Addendum: "This sum is required to meet the cost of the renovation of the Isolation Ward at St. Lucy's Infirmary in order to provide additional accommodation to allow for the transfer to this institution of inmates from St. James and St. Peter Infirmaryes."

I would like to say this, Sir. On the question of St. James and St. Peter, as far as we are concerned, we do not share the view of what was hinted over there. The only thing to do with St. James Infirmary is to burn it down. For St. Peter to push it down with a bulldozer. You should provide accommodation for these institutions in such a way that St. Lucy, St. Peter and St. James could become one institution. I would ask the introducer to turn to the estimates on this matter. P. 170. You are saying that you voted \$81,544. I say this is a reckless statement. If you look at your notes, you will see a revote for children's Homes in the South and for completion of work for St. Philip, St. Andrew and Christ Church Infirmaryes. Not one thing about revoting money. It is just that somebody put these things wrong coming before the House. The Auditor General is not authorised unless with the sanction of the House to go contrary to the notes; in other words, no part of this \$81,000 could be spent anywhere but on the completion of the children's home in the South. It makes it quite clear. May I ask the Honourable Member how it would be possible for the Auditor General in this country to sign vouchers under the Head

when the money is to be paid out by way of a certification of the Department for work done to St. Lucy's almshouse when this is not in here at all? It just can't happen, and if it has happened it is a rank, stark, dishonest matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the Honourable Member would give way, this would cause no concern at all, because I would explain to the Honourable Member what is the position. Prior to last year's estimates, Mr. Chairman, when this programme first began, the money voted to be spent on Children's Homes and Infirmaries happened to be a block vote. Before last year's estimates, this money had already been spent on the St. Lucy's Infirmary — \$10,000. You will notice that the \$10,000 out of the 1963-64 Estimates, the original estimate was something like \$149,000 and the whole amount of money — the original estimate was \$350,000 for the whole exercise. Out of this amount, \$149,000 was voted in the 1963-64 Estimates. Out of that amount a certain amount of money was spent, \$10,000 of which was spent on the St. Lucy's Infirmary, \$17,000 was spent on the St. James Infirmary for the conversion of the Chapel there, the section in the back into accommodation for inmates, and some of it was spent on the Christ Church Infirmary, but in the 1964-65 Estimates, of the provision of the amount which was provided in the 1964-65 Estimates, Mr. Chairman, \$81,544 was not spent of the original amount. Hence it became a revote for this year, but of the original estimate in 1963-64, the money had already been spent on the St. Lucy's Infirmary, which was as I said spent on the wrong building, so it was not included in the vote. I think the original amount was \$149,000. The only reason that St. Lucy's Infirmary was not mentioned in the Estimates was because they had done this work from the original vote, and when we were ready to move the people to St. Lucy's Infirmary we discovered that not one brush was passed over the isolation block, but that most of the money was spent on the main building.
5.25 p.m.

In the 1965-66 Estimates the original amount was \$147,000. I hope that that satisfies the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not accusing the Minister of any improper motives. A Minister must have some responsibilities. If \$10,000 was spent and no work done it would have been the responsibility of the Minister. He tried to explain something about something which was not done while something else was done.

The Minister has said that this is a revote from last year and referred back to what was said in the 1965-66 Estimates. The note reads

Children's Homes and Infirmaries, \$166,250. If you look at last year's Estimates you will find that the note says: "To provide a Children's Home in the Southern district and a revote of the provision for alterations to and the conversion to St. Philip, St. George and Christ Church infirmaries etc." How do you get down to St. Lucy's almshouse? Something definitely went wrong. When a voucher is made out and sent to the Head of a department he must go by the notes showing what the Legislature approved. He cannot say that he can take money to be spent on one infirmary and spend it say, on St. Michael's Infirmary.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. The hon. member will note that nothing is said about the St. Lucy Infirmary. That work was done first. If that had been completed by the time of the Estimates that the hon. member is referring to that would have been done the year before. In the 1963-64 Estimates there was \$15,000 for the St. James Infirmary and \$10,000 to be spent on the St. Lucy Infirmary.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate the hon. member's position in this dilemma, but I am saying that this money had no right to be paid out in this respect. This year you said nothing about St. Lucy, nor last year. Now you come to the Legislature saying that the sum required is to meet the cost of renovation work which includes St. Lucy. The Minister went on to say that the Public Works acted contrary to the instructions of the Ministry.

I cannot see the Auditor General signing it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will explain. This whole exercise started about two years ago. If the hon. member will look at page 153 of the 1964-65 Estimates he will see that \$147,000 was voted and the note shows that it was for Children's Homes and Infirmaries.
5.35 p.m.

That is what the note says, Mr. Chairman, and it is from this \$147,000, as I explained before, that the work was done at the St. Lucy and St. Thomas Infirmaries, and I think some was spent at the Christ Church Infirmary. The note only says "phase 1 of the programme for re-organisation of the Infirmaries"; so the Auditor General was quite in order when the money was paid from this vote for the first phase. These two Infirmaries were done in the first phase, but in the following year there was detailed information as to what the \$166,000 in the 1965-66 Estimates were voted for. It was only after the second year that you had itemised instructions as

to which Infirmary, Children's Home or Clinic the money was to be spent on. I hope that allays the fears of the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have no fears, because the elasticity you had in the 1964-65 Estimates in some way gave the Auditor General that responsibility. This breach occurred in the 1964-65 Estimates, and you cannot blame the Auditor General. This must have come within your notice in recent months. Being unduly critical does not help the situation, but I do not understand this sum of \$81,544 which was voted. If you were to carry your argument to its logical conclusion, there is something wrong with this amount of \$81,544.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is the remainder from the money spent in the first phase.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I would like to suggest to the hon. member that while this is so, he has got to be more than careful with these matters. I see my friend the hon. senior member for St. George is looking over at me. He has been keeping very quiet on this, because it would appear that as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works, he would be responsible for this. I know that when the present Minister of Communications was Parliamentary Secretary, he did some visiting, and as has been said, he had some fisty cuffs. That does not matter, because if you have a job, you must do it. However, I think the part about the Auditor General is well clarified, and I would suggest that such elasticity should not be given. If you did not have that elasticity in respect of the note, this would have come before you earlier, because the Auditor General would have taken a stronger stand on the matter, knowing him as I do. If you had this money for renovating or remodelling or doing a particular job, they would have to put on the voucher exactly what work was done. The elasticity given was wrong, and that is where these officers got away with this matter in not carrying out instructions.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has replied to all the questions raised by hon. members, but other things came up and he had to speak again. I want to thank the Minister for the information he has given me to the questions I asked about the District Hospital at St. Peter. I am only too glad to know that that will take place. With regard to the clinic for St. James, I am well acquainted with the land where the Almshouse is, and all these buildings belong to the Church. I know the Hospital very well, but I will say to the Minister now that on the

opposite side of the Church there is some parish land and a building called "Folkestone", and I would suggest that when the National Trust repairs that building that they keep the name, because it carries a great history in the parish of St. James to those who know it.

Mr. CHARMICHAEL: I would like to say that "Folkestone" is under the Council's control, and I think that at the proper time the Government will do the right thing. As far as the District Hospital or Maternity Clinic is concerned, I am sure that Government will do whatever in its opinion suits the parish best.

Now I am not a planner, but in my view there is some beautiful unoccupied land in the back of Trents Playing Field. That would be a suitable place for it, and the Government can get the land, because even although a few persons may be dissatisfied, when it is something for the benefit of the people generally, my colleague and I would be able to lend any assistance in that respect to gain support which may not be forthcoming from certain persons.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I would like to advise the hon. senior member for St. James that I will refer his suggestion to the Minister of Health.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear what the hon. senior member for St. James has said with respect to the land at Trents. I would be very pleased if you were going to acquire that land, because it just about adjoins the same building. The hon. member can rest assured that I will do anything in my power to help to acquire that site.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that I wholeheartedly agree with the hon. senior member for St. James. In scanning the Tripartite Committee Report, hon. members will appreciate that it has been recommended — something which we actually know already — that we should go all out on the question of tourism and hotels. "Folkestone" is a site of over four acres with some of the loveliest beaches, and if it is in the hands of the Council, it can come into the hands of Government and would therefore make a lovely hotel site. If you are going to follow the recommendations, you would not go on such a lovely site and build a clinic; you can go on the other side where it would be centrally situated. I therefore agree with the hon. member that it would be wise for the Government to look at "Folkestone" from the point of view of developing a hotel site.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I just want to inform hon. members that if the Government wanted to place a clinic on that site, it would have been placed already.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$15,690 do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

5.45 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the 1965-66 Estimates the sum of \$166,250 was voted for Amalgamation of Almshouses and the erection of Children's Homes. The Children's home provided for in these Estimates was the one constructed at Farris. The original estimate was \$20,000, and as work had begun on this old building towards the end of the financial year 1964-65, an amount of \$19,250 was revoted in the 1965-66 Estimates. This work was completed, but on the completion of the work when the Ministry was told that the building was completed and ready for the children, it was discovered that there were certain things lacking in the building. It was discovered that there was not enough toilet facilities, lavatory conveniences. It was discovered that there was no provision for the accommodation for domestic staff, nor was there the appropriate dining tables, etc. amongst other things. This was one of the times when an estimate was given that only took into consideration the renovation to the main structure, and the provision of quarters for the Matron, but no consideration at the time was given to provision for changing rooms for the staff, and proper lavatory conveniences for the children. When the Ministry was told that the building was ready, an inspection was carried out, and these things were lacking. What I am asking here for on behalf of the Minister of Health is for a supplementary provision of \$23,285 to meet the provision of the basic interests, making this home a home for the destitute children in the Northern District, a home of which they will be justly proud, and a home in which they will live comfortably, quite distinct and separate from those in almshouses, or from amongst the people in the almshouses, the chronic ill and others, because it is an established fact that we do not believe that an Infirmary is any place for the destitute children. We feel that the Infirmary is there and it should be there for the aged, the infirm and the chronic ill, but that where the destitute children are concerned, they should be brought up in a more homely atmosphere. Provision should be made for well-trained people who can care children, who can give children that maternal care which they lack — which is not present — giving them the feeling that they are in a homely atmosphere, and we do not want

anyone telling them or referring to them as almshouse children, because some of these children have become our very best scholars in this country, and therefore we prefer them to be brought up in a home with this atmosphere, and where there will not be this snag. The ideal thing would be small cottage homes, but the economy at this time cannot afford it. What we are placing emphasis on is to use this home not as a final resting place for the children, but we will use the offices of the Social Welfare Department to see to it that some of these children can be placed in homes..... No provision will be made for adoption, and so on..... When the Children's Legislation is introduced in the Legislature. The reason that that is kept back is because we could not get the Report from the Committee which was put to work on it three years ago. The thing that strikes me now is that it takes at least \$10 per week to keep one of these children in an infirmary. The Honourable Senior Member for the City is only entitled to give \$1.00 per week. Most of these children in the almshouses are children who are destitute children, whose mothers do not have what to feed them with, and who are not in a position to provide clothing and so on for them. What I would think that the Councils could do in this respect is to try to have these children adopted by people who can take care of them and provide the basic things for them, and the same people who are adopting these children can be paid. I am sure that people will be willing to accept \$5 or \$6 per week, and it would cost the Councils less. All these children's homes will spend more per week on a child, because we intend that children must have proper care. More than that will be spent, but what we are looking forward to is for the officers concerned to try to keep the children, or the parents or other people who are interested in children to take care of these children, if it means changing the legislation governing the Councils and make provision for a certain fixed rate to be given to these destitute children, given to the people who look after these destitute children, but would cost them less than if they were in the almshouse, and what the Government is thinking of is that it will not be necessarily a children's home where a child would go there and remain for 15 years, but a responsible centre from which children may be drawn.

5.55 p.m.

Now I come to a breakdown of what is intended. At present we are providing for 36 to 40 children. We are providing for a covered varandah for the Matron's quarters \$1,060; furniture for the nurses department, \$7,000; additional accommodation for domestic staff, \$2,700; renovation of existing bathroom and

installing a bath tub and W. C.'s, \$1,400; renovating the old kitchen and installing cupboards, a sink and a drain board, \$1,500; converting the existing storeroom into wash room, \$700; installing water basins in the two rooms now used as a sick bay complete with plumbing etc. \$180.00; two dining tables sixteen feet long, \$120.00; repairs to the floor, \$200.00; replacing the shingle on the West roof with everite sheets, \$1,000; electrical fittings and installations including mains of the Barbados Light & Power Company, \$550.00; providing an entrance on a ground suitable for children to play on etc., \$4,000; for inclosing the area so that children will not stray \$1,600.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Northern District Council whose views were enlisted, I want to endorse fully what the Minister has said. With proper administration, particularly staff, we hope that the object aimed at will be achieved.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that modesty should prevent me from making a contribution to this debate, having blazed this trail many years ago, in fact 20 years ago, when I was Churchwarden of St. Michael and that Vestry had the fortune, to acquire $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land which is now known as the Nightingale Home. I am satisfied that my contribution has had the approval of everyone.

I understand that at Farris they are making preparations for some 40 children from these parishes. I would like to say that what is really necessary in Barbados is not only putting children into Homes, but a change of heart. Although I was not particularly an admirer of Miss Betty Arne, she made several attempts to get an adoption scheme put into effect.

We will recall how often with 120 children, some motherless, others unwanted and others with neither father nor mother, it was with the greatest difficulty that she got children into various homes. People in Barbados have not yet got around to this form of social service.

In addition some people prefer to accept the children of American Negroes than children of this country. There are people who prefer to go to West Germany and England and apparently Barbadian people seem to prefer to help them.

They do not seem to like their own. I have had experiences of that. People go to adopt children and they look at the fair skinned, brown skinned and mulattoes, but they do not look at the dark ones.

One of the things that hamper us is that in this country where mothers give birth to illegitimate children and then go for adoption the people who want to adopt them want to give them their own names. Another difficulty is that there are some people in this country who want to adopt a child to bring water; but there are people, some of them in an humble walk of life, who adopt children because they really want children.

The children of today are the men and women of tomorrow and the most we can do is to make some provision for them. A step in this direction is an absolutely correct step.

6.05 p.m.

If you go through the Children's Ward at the Infirmary, you will find several cases which should be provided for, so that if the parents were out of the country, they would be able to help them. Every now and then I pay tribute to the Introducer of this Resolution who is not now the Minister of Health. On several occasions I have had to appeal to the Hon. Minister to get children out of the Infirmarys to go to their parents when they were being prevented from doing so. This situation arises wherever there is mass emigration. It happened in the case of emigration to Panama and Cuba. It is true that public assistance will gradually increase, but you will benefit to a greater extent from the money orders returned and from the *ad valorem* tax on packages.

There is only one thing which should be associated with this and it is this: I have always had the idea that if you are developing industries you have to train your youth, and it would be infinitely better after these children reach a certain age, especially boys, that they be sent nearer to the city area to get their training in trades for industries. These are things which must be given very careful consideration in the re-organisation of public assistance and children's homes. I feel I have made my contribution, and while I pay tribute to my colleague and the Hon. Introducer of this Resolution for the help they have given, I was a very proud man when I observed that at the Nightingale Home I had a child who took seven subjects and gained seven certificates. He has now got a scholarship in Boston to do medicine. The hon. member's school offers scholarships to such people, but

they are few people with that outlook. I was a very proud man, and I know the Minister will be also, when I met three girls from the Nightengale Home at a hospital and the Matron gave me a very high opinion of them, because they came first, second and third in the examinations, and they were then going to take the finals, and I have every reason to believe that they are going to be successful from the recommendation the Matron gave me. The Minister should acknowledge this because they only reached Richmond School.

I do thank the Minister for what he has done personally for these children. As far as this Resolution is concerned, it is unfortunate that the Hon. Introducer is not now Minister of Health, but I do not pay tribute to people because I do not want anything from any of them; I speak from my conscience, and I must say that it is unfortunate that he is not now responsible for this aspect. I want to thank him for the interest he has shown when obstacles were put in the way of getting children to their mothers in England, and he went out of his way to be very kind.

I have much pleasure in supporting the Resolution, and I ask him to bear in mind that we are lacking in skills in this Island today, and if we are going to have industries, we will have to use these boys for trades. There are no more masons or carpenters to be found, and when these boys attain a certain age you will have to combine the whole set-up within your industrial climate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out that it is the policy of the Government that the children who live at the homes which we are establishing will be brought up like any other child in the community. Those who are academically inclined will attend the Government maintained schools or any school in this country for which they qualify whether it be Harrison College, Queens College or any other. Those who are less academically inclined will be sent to other schools where they will be placed in the "A", "B" or "C" Stream, and when the Trade School is established in Barbados, those who are technically inclined will go to that school.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$23,285 do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1966-67 No.11

HEAD 33 - Highways and Transport -
was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Highways and Transport with effect from 1st April, 1966, was given the responsibility for the maintenance of roads throughout the island. As a consequence, 166 miles of road in the parishes of St. John, St. George, St. Philip and Christ Church which were previously maintained by the Southern District Council will have to be maintained by the Department of Highways and Transport.

Provision is made in the 1966-67 Estimates under Head 33, Highways and Transport, Item 44, for the maintenance of 361 miles of road within the Northern District Council Area at the rate of \$812 per mile and 50 miles at \$1,000 per mile in the parish of St. Michael. It is considered that the cost of maintenance of roads in the Southern District Council area should be calculated at the same rate per mile as that used for the roads in the Northern District Council Area, that is to say, \$812. On this basis the cost of maintenance would be \$134,792. This estimate however includes cost of labour which according to the current practice would be about 50 per cent of the cost of maintenance or \$67,396. The other half would represent cost of materials used in maintenance of roads. Labour costs are met from the provisions under Item 27 - Casual Labour, while materials are purchased from Item 44 - Parish Roads. It would therefore be necessary to supplement Item 27 - Casual labour - by \$67,396 and Item 44 - Parish Roads - by \$67,396.

The Note to Item 44 restricts the use of the provision to the maintenance of roads in St. Michael and in the Northern District Council area. It will therefore be necessary to amend this note to read as follows:-

"Maintenance of approximately 527 miles of road at an average of \$812 per mile and 50 miles at \$1,000 per mile."

In the current year's Estimates under Head 29 - Ministry of Communications and Works - Item 14, District Councils - the sum of \$100,000 is provided for the purpose of meeting the expenditure on roads in the Southern District Council area. The note to the Item reads as follows:-

"Act 1958-55. Expenditure on Parish highways from this item will be subject to approval of the Cabinet on submission by the District Council of detailed programmes for the year 1966-67. Expenditure on the parish highways of St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. Michael, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Peter and St. James is met from Head 33 - Highways and Transport."
6.15 p.m.

The Department of Highways and Transport was given responsibility for maintenance of roads throughout the island with effect from 1st April, 1966. As a consequence, 166 miles of road in the parishes of St. John, St. George, St. Philip and Christ Church, which were previously maintained by the Southern District Council, are now being maintained by the Department of Highways and Transport.

Supplementary provision of \$134,792 is therefore required under Head 33, Highways and Transport to meet additional expenditure as follows:

- (a) Item 27 — Casual Labour — \$67,396
- (b) Item 44 — Parish Roads — \$67,396

The note to Head 33, Item 44 — Parish Roads is also amended to read as follows:—

“Maintenance of approximately 527 miles of road at an average of \$812 per mile and 50 miles at \$1,000 per mile (See Appendix X).”

In the Estimates 1966-67, Head 33, Highways and Transport, Item 44 — Parish Roads — the sum of \$171,566 is provided for the maintenance of approximately 361 miles of road at an average of \$812 per mile and 50 miles at \$1,000 per mile in the parish of St. Michael, and Northern District Council area. The Department of Highways and Transport now has responsibility for the maintenance of roads throughout the Island and as a consequence provision has to be made for maintenance of approximately 527 miles of road at an average of \$812 per mile and 50 miles at \$1,000 per mile. The Resolution seeks to amend the note to Head 33, Item 44 accordingly. Mr. Chairman, I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very satisfied and happy in mind to know that the Government has seen fit to bring this Resolution before this Honourable House of Assembly. You will remember, Sir, as the Honourable Minister has mentioned that the roads in the south were taken over by the Government. It is true to state that the Government has better apparatus and more up-to-date machinery to deal with these roads. Sir, I would like to draw to the attention of the Government the number of people whom the Council employed. In these changes sometimes it is quite possible that we get unemployment, and it is my duty as a Member of

the Council and a Member of this Honourable House to let the Government know that the Council expects them to employ all members of the staff so that they may be able to maintain their families. It is true that certain Superintendents were not employed by the Government; these Superintendents have got to think about other vocations now, Sir. You have drivers of gangs; these people have been supervising work for several years, and it would be wrong, Sir, to humiliate them by asking them to go back and work as Casual Labourers. You have roller drivers, Sir, all of these people should be called in, and Government should do all that lies in its power to prevent unemployment with the workers which the Southern District Council had employed. In these days, Sir, these changes can cause unemployment, but it is the duty of the Government to do its utmost to see that every person who was employed in the Council is being kept in employment by them. Some have reached the age of 60. As you know, Sir, in the council they are allowed to work until they reach the age of 70, and if the Council had not been abolished, they would still be allowed to continue to work. If you have to send home some of these people, or those people who have reached the age of 60, I am beseeching the Government to do its best at the earliest opportunity to see that they are remunerated for their services.

6.25 p.m

This is a very important matter, and consequently I feel that it is my duty to draw it to the attention of the Government. If you send home a man and then do not do everything possible to expedite his pension or gratuity you are sending him to the Public Assistance Committee and that does this country no good.

Finally, I am appealing to the Government to see that the people who are employed by the Southern District Council be employed by them so that they will not suffer and will be in a position to maintain their families.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. This is a straightforward and praiseworthy Resolution. I would like to inform the Minister that as far as St. James is concerned those who can see must be conscious of the vast improvement made to the highway. The taking over by the Government of the roads has been a blessing. But according to my policy, you do not have a proper home without a good road. I do not know if the Minister can do anything about this.

While there are many good roads in this island especially in certain places around the City, when you go to certain country districts you wonder if people live there. When I see people working on the highways I sometimes wonder if that work is as necessary as work on some of the subsidiary roads. I sometimes wonder if more emphasis could not be placed on the improvement of subsidiary roads.

In this day and age there is no question of back and front. You do not live in the back or front in St. James. I wonder if a little more emphasis could not be placed on tenantry roads. I am not saying that nothing has been done, but in St. James for many years all the attention seems to have been directed to the highways.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. Tudor, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, the Chairman reported the passing of five Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. Tudor, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

LEASE TO ESSO STANDARD S. A. LIMITED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of the next order which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution is to do with the provision of adequate fuelling facilities at Seawell as part of the Airport programme. The approval of the Legislature is now being sought under the Executive Committee Act for the transfer of this parcel of land described in the Schedule.

I move, Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

LEASE OF LAND TO THE U. W. I.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution arises out of the desire of the University of Sussex in co-operation with the U.W.I. to establish here in Barbados a Centre for the Study of Multi-racial Societies. The cost of the erection of the buildings is to be borne by the U.W.I. and the Government is asked to make some land available. It is therefore proposed to leave the U.W.I. the land set out in the Schedule.

I move, Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION re TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TO PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 4 is 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.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take charge of this Resolution in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Health, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are aware that many of the Public Health Inspectors who have been transferred from the Local Government to Central Government were allowed a motor cycle allowance according to the Government

standard rates, a motor scooter allowance, auto cycle allowance and a bicycle allowance for travelling, but many of them owned cars and travelled by them. What we are asking here is to amend the note 100A to allow them to use their motor cars and be given a travelling allowance which they would have got if they were using a motor cycle.

Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, whilst you were absent, I mentioned that the Public Health Inspectors having been transferred from Local to Central Government, there was no provision for them to be paid a travelling allowance if they used their own motor cars. What we are doing in this Resolution is giving them permission to use their motor cars and be paid an allowance which they would have been given if they were using motor cycles.

In the original Estimates, provision was only made for those Inspectors with motor cycles, scooters, auto cycles and bicycles to be given an allowance, but because quite a lot of them have been making use of their motor cars, it has resulted in an increase; but there is provision in the Estimates. What we are asking here for, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the note to Item 100A so as to give permission for them to be paid if they use their motorcars for travelling.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, there is one question I would like to ask the Minister, and that is, if the amount which they will receive will be retroactive, that is, from the time of the change over.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member desirous of taking part? Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the answer is in the affirmative.

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

RESOLUTION RE PORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas,

Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, and that is to move the passing of 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.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The Addendum to the Resolution sets out clearly the purpose of the Resolution, and 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.

RESOLUTION RE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the same hon. member, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, to move the passing of 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. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE PACKAGE TAX (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) ACT, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order, No. 7, stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John, to move the second reading of a Bill further to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this item, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the First Schedule to the Package Tax Act, 1941 in order to include therein the commodity "hydrated lime" and to define the quantity of such commodity which would constitute a package for the purpose of the said Act.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, 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.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, 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. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE POLICE FORCE (CHANGE OF TITLE) ACT, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: The Next Order stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John, to move the second reading of a Bill to change the title of the "Barbados Police Force" to the "Royal Barbados Police Force".

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Bill, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, members of the House will recall with pleasure Her Majesty's decision graciously to confer on the Barbados Police Force the title of "Royal" with effect from the 21st April, 1966. This Bill seeks to give formal acknowledgement of this and to adopt the title "Royal Barbados Police Force".

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House would recall that Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to confer on the Barbados Police Force the title of "Royal" with effect from 21st April, 1966. This Bill seeks to acknowledge formally and adopt the title "Royal Barbados Police Force" as the new official name of the Force and to provide for the substitution of that name for previously permitted designations in all legislation and other documents, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Preamble be postponed.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and passed without debate.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Preamble to the Bill.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me the passing of one Bill.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a third time.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now passed.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking the leave of the House to give a supplementary notice in view of the fact that I

could not do this in its proper place earlier this evening.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the House is asking leave of the House to give notice of a supplementary notice which he could not have done earlier today.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$839 to supplement the Estimates, Supplementary Estimate 1966-67, No. 14 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with this money Resolution of which notice has just been given. I beg to move that Question Time be now resumed.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 102 stands in the name of the Honourable Senior Member for St. James.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister: Is Government aware of the dissatisfaction of housewives with regards recent increases in the price of ribs, beef, snout and bones? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister go into the matter with a view to giving a justification for such increases?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, my reply is as follows:

Yes, Sir. The increase to the consumer is mainly due to —

- (a) the increased C.I.F. cost of these items, which resulted from the decrease in the amount of hogs slaughtered in the U.S.A. and the attendant rise in market values, and also the rise in the prices on the Canadian market. The C.I.F. prices of these items show an increase of some 39% — 40%;

- (b) the retail prices reflect the increased cost mentioned but prices vary from district to district.

My Ministry has for some time been concerned over the distribution system and price structure of goods in the Island, and has held discussions on this matter with the Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of The West Indies and as a result of these discussions has secured the services of Mr. Henry Smith, Vice-Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford, England, to carry out a survey of the distribution system and price structure of goods.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, August 2, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

The House was then adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd August at 2.30 p.m.
6.56 p.m.