

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th June, 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.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M. A., (Minister of Education); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (Deputy Speaker); Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes for the Meetings of 1st, 14th and 22nd February, 1966, I am advised, have been duly circulated, and in the absence of any objection, I will declare the Minutes for those three Meetings duly confirmed.

Hearing no objection, I declare the Minutes of the three Meetings 1st, 14th and 22nd February duly confirmed.

I have the Honour to inform the House that I am in receipt from the Other Place of the Resolution re the Draft Constitution of Barbados which passed this Chamber with certain amendments which have been made thereto. Likewise from the Other Place I am in receipt of the National Insurance Bill with certain amendments made thereto.

I also have the honour to inform the House that I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. H. Lisle Thomas, Deputy Clerk of this House asking for leave of absence from his duties as such.

The letter unfortunately is unsigned, but I have the assurance of the Clerk that the Deputy Clerk is ill, and perhaps was not well enough to sign the letter in which he states that owing to illness he is unable to attend, and requests leave of absence from his duties as Deputy Clerk for today's Sitting. Subject to the approval of the House, Mr. Thomas has asked that Mr. Chesley R. Boyce, Barrister-at-law, be appointed to act in his stead.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Deputy Clerk be excused from attendance through illness at today's Sitting.

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

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

MR. CHESLEY R. BOYCE TO ACT AS DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. Chesley R. Boyce, Barrister-at-Law, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk of this House for today's Sitting.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance, statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for two months ended 31st May, 1966.

Also The Registration (No.2) Rules, 1966.
Barbados Statistical Service Selected Monthly indicators – January and February, 1966.

Barbados Economic Survey, 1966.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Labour Welfare Funds (Haggatts Factory) Regulations, 1966.

Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the year 1965-66.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$5,716 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part 1 – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67, No. 5 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$13,593 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part II – Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1966-67, No. 6 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the transfer by way of grant of the parcels of land together with all the buildings and erections thereon described in the Schedules hereto from the Crown to the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

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

A Bill to amend the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

A Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year one thousand nine hundred and

sixty-six, and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

A Bill to make provision for the registers of General Assembly and local government electors currently in force to continue, after the first day of July, 1966.

QUESTIONS

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that, although it has been agreed to pay exgratia payments to certain persons who have been employed at Highways and Transport and the Waterworks Department who do not qualify for pensions, that these persons have not yet received any money?

If the answer is in the affirmative, can the Minister responsible say why no payments have not yet been made and when will such payments be made?

If the answer is in the negative will the Minister responsible consider investigating the matter and reporting to this House the reason for the delay in making these payments which have already been agreed to in principle?

Mr. SMITH: Is the Government aware that the enumerators are experiencing great difficulty in getting the people to register their names, thus making the process a very slow one?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government consider extending the closing date?

1. Is Government aware of the absence of Electricity in the Bissex Hill Housing Estate known as Newton Crescent, in the parish of St. Joseph?
2. Is Government aware that the officers of the Social Welfare Department and the Police Band could not carry out their Christmas Festivity Programme show for the children of the same area last year, through the lack of supply of the necessary electricity?
3. Is Government aware that due to the surrounding of the four sides of the said estate by large fields of sugar canes, it is very inconvenient and lonesome at night for these residents and their children?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government have

the immediate installation of electricity into this Housing estate in the same way as it is done, or has been done in other Housing estates, managed by the Housing Authority?

12.35 p.m.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware that the Holetown Bridge in the parish of Saint James is becoming more and more a danger to the travelling public due to the increasing amount of traffic on that bridge?
2. Is it still the Government's intention to include this bridge in its development plan of 1966-67?
3. Will Government consider the advisability of installing two temporary traffic lights to the said bridge - one at each end and thus reduce the likelihood of accidents occurring on that bridge?

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware that several peasants throughout the parish of St. John have paid for the use of the Government Tractors to plough their fields since the month of March this year, and to date the use of the said tractors has not been made available?
2. Will Government look into the entire matter and use all available means to ensure that the said tractors be made available?
3. If there are not enough tractors available for the use of peasants farming, will Government see fit that enough tractors are made available for the ploughing of peasants' fields in this island?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Civil Establishment Act, 1949, be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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 a Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six, and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax, be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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 a Bill to make provision for the registers of General Assembly and local Government electors currently in force to continue, after the first day of July, 1966, be now read a first time.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 77, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael is ready, but that hon. member is not in his place.

Likewise I am advised that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 94 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is ready.

QUESTION RE REPAIRS TO BRIDGE IN ST. THOMAS

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

1. Is Government aware that the bridge on the main road via Arch Hall near the parish Church in St. Thomas needs repairing?
2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative: will the Minister go into the matter with a view to remedying same before a major catastrophe takes place on the said road?

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

1. "Yes, Sir.
2. Repairs to the Bridge have been carried out by the Department of Highways and Transport."

QUESTION RE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 107 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Hon. and Learned Premier:-

Will the Hon. and Learned Premier state whether it is the Government's intention to bring into force single member constituencies as provided for in the Boundaries Commission Order?

Will the Hon. Learned Premier state the reasons why the said Boundaries' Commission Order has not been proclaimed by the Governor?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:

"Extensive amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1957 and other legislation are necessary to give effect to the Boundaries Commission Order. Drafting of the necessary bills has been in progress for some time and they will be presented to the Legislature in due course.

No proclamation can be made until such bills become law."

12.45 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the Motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1966-67 No.5

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$5,000 was provided under Item 45 Ministry of Trade for Trade Disputes. This amount is inadequate for the business which has to be carried out under this Head and therefore I am asking that the Supplementary amount of \$5,716 be added to the Estimates to deal with eventualities which may arise.

I beg to move that the Resolution be agreed to.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1966-67 No.6

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution deals with a request for \$13,593 and as the addendum shows the estimated additional provision is required to complete work on garages, mechanical workshop and resident required \$6,129 is a revote. Hon. members will remember that the sum of \$10,000 was included under this Head in last year's Estimates. A total

of \$21,283 was allocated for the erection of garages, workshops and engineers offices. Subsequently an Estimate revised and submitted by the Director of Public Works disclosed that the amount required was \$34,876. The work was started during the last financial year. The amount of \$21,283 was insufficient to complete the work based on the revised Estimates and an additional sum of \$13,593 is urgently required if this work is to be completed before the ending of this financial year.

I beg to move that this Resolution be now agreed to.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

BILL TO AMEND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking that a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act 1967, be the next Order of the day. I now beg to move that it be so taken as the next Order of the day under Government business.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I do not propose to weary the House with the whole background of this subject, although I think I ought to say that the Government, like everybody else in this Island, is profoundly disturbed at the slowness of the registration which is now in progress.

I should like to assure hon. members that we yield to none in our concern in the seriousness of this matter, and that we have effectively taken steps to put it right. In the light of measures which we have recently taken, I think that there will be a speeding up of registration. The Chief Registering Officer is now empowered to create more centres where enumeration can be done, and he will himself publish the times and places at which enumeration can be done. This is in addition to what is going on at the moment. I myself in my capacity as Minister of Education have placed the school buildings of the primary and comprehensive schools in the Island at the disposal of the Chief Registering Officer to facilitate the registering, and I think that fifty such schools are going to be used.

In addition to this we have recently taken decision to give greater inducement to the enumerators by raising the fee for enumeration from thirty cents per registered person to fifty cents per registered person, because we think that this is more reasonable, and I should like to say that in that connection the increase is retroactive; in other words, it covers the whole period from the time the enumeration started.

The House should I think be aware of the fact that not a little part of the difficulty of this registration is due to the fact that it is a different kind of registration, and without wishing to play on words, not only is it a different kind of registration, but it is different with a different kind of difference if I may say so.

In 1961 for instance when the registration for that year was being done, it was certainly possible and frequently happened that with one visit made to a house, the enumerator could get all the information he required from a single person of that household, even if the others were absent or certainly were not present at the time. It is not so now; he is bound to see every single person because he has to get the signature of every single person. This makes the difference. This requires of course in some cases a revisit and may be three or four or five visits, and I have been told of several cases in which in order to get a single household registered, an enumerator was forced to pay a visit eleven times.

In addition this registration is linked with a most important bit of social legislation. It is linked with the social security and national insurance, and therefore it is necessary for certain statistical information to be got in order that the social security register can be promulgated. I think the people of this Island have got to understand these things, and we have done all we

can to make them aware. I know of course, that in Barbados nothing is ever done for the first time, and that if a new system comes along there is bound to be considerable criticism and considerable hesitancy before it is adopted. In this case, I want to make it perfectly clear that it is in the interest of the people of Barbados that they should and without qualification partake in this registration, because they will need to be registered not only to exercise their franchise as citizens in any coming general election and in those elections which will come subsequently, but in order that the entire adult and working population should be properly and adequately registered for social security purposes, they must be registered. More will be told to the population of this country on this matter shortly from now. The Minister of Labour himself who is due to speak on this matter in a Party political broadcast tomorrow night will deal with the implications of social security and voters registration, at the same time. But suffice it to say that all the qualms and fears of people will be allayed as the Government is taking full and adequate measures to deal with the situation and to speed up the registration.

Now, the purpose of this Bill is to make sure that there is in being in this Island as required by law a register of electors, and therefore since we cannot yet determine, because of what I have said before, the date for the publication of the new register, we have to make sure that the register which is now in existence continues in force after the 30th June. As soon as the new register is ready, the date of publication will be proclaimed by the Governor. 1.05 p.m.

The purpose therefore of the Bill is to ensure that the country is not left without a register. Hon. members will recall that the Representation of People Act 1957 provides that if any of the register is not published at a specified time it continues in use and the date following after the date of this register. In respect of the whole register there is no provision for it to continue if it is not published by the 30th June as required by law.

As it says in the Objects and Reasons:

"The Representation of the People Act, 1957, 1957-50 and the Local Government Act, 1958, 1958-55, make provision for the registers of General Assembly and local government electors at present in force to be replaced by new registers on the first day of July this year. However the registration of persons under the Electoral Registration Act, 1966, 1966-1, is still being carried out and it is not possible to make provision whereby new registers can be published before, or have validity from, the first day of July. This Bill

would provide for the existing registers to continue in force for a further period expiring on such day as may be fixed by proclamation."

Therefore the effect of the Bill which we are now discussing is to enable the present register to be the register until such time as the new register is ready. I will say that it does not give persons involved in enumeration licence not to expedite the finishing of the registration. It only ensures that there is a register in being. It does not excuse any slackness or dilatoriness in enumeration.

It is hoped that the new register will be ready in a matter of weeks. We have taken every step we can think of to expedite registration.

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

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

(Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair)

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as far as this Bill is concern, you will remember that I had asked question on the same matter. Now, Sir, with respect to registration of electors we can clearly see that the Government is trying to have this job done as cheaply as possible, and therefore they are asking both the people who are eligible to vote and those who are not to register so that when the time comes they will not have to go back in the nearest future to those people who are now not eligible to register.

I agree with the Government for trying to save money. They started off, I believe with good intentions but they have ended up in a mess and confusion with this whole registration business. It is causing them now to bring in an amendment which is now before us. What caused the confusion? In the first place people are not in agreement with having the photos taken in order to become registered voters. There are not accustomed to it, and they feel that it is for something more than merely becoming registered voters.

They feel within themselves that the only time that one gets his photo taken freely is when he is a criminal. It is only then that you are accustomed of giving the police trouble that the Government takes your photo. 1.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is only when you have a hardened criminal who is always giving the Police trouble and making mischief that the Government takes a photograph free so as to protect the inhabitants of the Island, and also to help the

Police catch up with the person at an early date; so the people feel they are not criminals, and they feel insulted to be asked to have their photographs taken freely for the purpose of registration. Some of the people feel that when the country becomes independent it would be an easy way to find them and lock them up, because of the threat that as soon as the country becomes independent certain people will be locked up. All these doubts and fears are in the minds of the people. Only about two nights ago the people were told by no other person than the Hon. Premier that as soon as he gets independence, there are a lot of people he will be sending to goal. When people hear these things from the Leader of a country, there can only tell themselves that they do not know if they will be locked up, and so they refuse to have their photographs taken or to register. A lot of fear is going through the minds of honest people since you are asking them to do things they never expected to be called upon to do. It is true that every birth causes pain, but in this case it is a disgrace that the electorate is in fear of re-registering because of the threats that are being levelled at them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one would expect that there would be at least a 50 per cent increase on the roll taking into consideration that you are registering the under fifteens and the eighteen years old who were never registered before.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Government is not registering the ones under fifteen.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been very succinctly made.

Mr. SMITH: I thank the Minister for that. They are registering those over fifteen, and now that the closing date is only a matter of hours off, less than half of these people are registered. Something is responsible for it, and it must be the Government. If they had taken the time from those who knew about it, we would not have to extend the date; but the first wrong and bad thing they did — I think those two words are very mild; I cannot call the right words because I would be asked to withdraw them — was the selection of the enumerators. It is a fact that the names of persons were sent up to be approved as enumerators and whoever is responsible took time off to make sure that only the enumerators of their kind did the job.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member is saying something which he knows nothing about. For

the most part the enumerators are people who were appointed by the Barbados Labour Party in 1961, and very few changes were made to the list. These names were submitted by the Chief Registering Officer.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member says that the names were put up by the last Government, the Chief Registering Officer submitted those names and very few were taken off. What was the reason for taking off a few? Would the Government or the Minister know whom to cut off better than the Registering Officer who has the job to do?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Chief Registering Officer submitted a panel of names which had been there since 1961, together with the names of people who were on the list as substitutes for enumerators, and the Government was asked to select from that panel a certain number of people. It is not that the Government pre-selected the names or told the Registering Officer that he should only select supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, because if that was done the people would have been registered already.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is not a point of order. May I remind hon. members that such matters as have been mentioned by the Hon. Minister are matters which in due course he may make in his speech since he has not yet spoken on this matter?

A point of order, according to Standing Order No. 28 is an interruption. "No member shall interrupt another member except by rising to a point of order, when the member speaking shall resume his seat and the member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman for decision."

I understand that the Hon. Minister disagrees with what has been said and differs from him factually. The Hon. Minister may make a note of what has been said and reply in due course. I ask hon. members not to take advantage of an alleged point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad you are trying to keep the Hon. Minister in his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I am misunderstood. I am not trying to keep the Hon.

Minister in his seat. I do not discourage any hon. member from rising every minute on a point of order provided it is a valid point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Now the Hon. Minister said that a panel of names was sent up for the Government or whoever is responsible to choose the enumerators. I wonder if the Minister would have the brass to deny what I am going to say now. Would he deny that a man from St. Lucy went up there and asked that a certain man's name be taken off the list? If he is going to deny that, I will call the names. A member of the Democratic Labour Party who is a member of the Northern District Council made it his business to have a certain man's name taken off the list and then made his boast. Is he going to tell me that they approved all the names sent up by the Registering Officer? It is not so. Would you expect that a Registering Officer.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order,....

(Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Man sit down.)

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is interrupting me all the time. If he wants this House to go on, he will keep quiet, otherwise it will be broken up now.

(Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Break it up; your name is Archie!)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Trade has risen on a point of order; let me hear the point of interruption by the Hon. Minister.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I categorically deny and refute the statement made by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that some one went to the Ministerial Buildings and demanded that someone's name be struck off the register from St. Lucy.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out that that is not a point of order? Let hon. members get it clear in mind the points which they want to refute, and when it comes to their turn to speak, they will refute them most effectively; but the point which has been made or the statement which has been erroneously uttered is not a point of order.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: The Government have themselves to blame for this delay in the publication of the Register of Electors. They have taken it into their hands to get a majority of their lackeys to go around registering people who will do anything at all. I

say the majority because there are some who were born decent and will remain decent. On the other hand there are people, some of whom are in responsible positions whose names have been taken off. If it is true that these names are taken off because of dishonesty you will have to say that you cannot press them to take down the name of the electors, but you can press them with the finances of Government. Do you call that commonsense?

It is only because the Government feels within itself that these persons are not in their corner that they cut off their names. Would I have a man in charge of my office and when I hear that this man is offered a job to go and take down names, run to the Ministerial Buildings and say that that man is dishonest, and therefore he should not be allowed to take down names? I would be entire hypocrite one way or the other. I would be dishonest myself to do a thing like that. I would have to think of other reasons for so doing.

I have not seen all the enumerators but I am sure that there are one or two good ones; but the majority are canvassing for the D.L.P. and the only responsible position or job I have ever seen them in since I knew them is now that they are registering people. It is a disgrace to the Electorate. I believe that is the reason why responsible citizens refuse to talk to these enumerators, especially when they begin to ask them private questions. The approach of these enumerators is a very bad one.

Some of these enumerators are going out of their way in respect of political persuasion while others just want the names and the thirty cents. That is the attitude that should be taken by these people if they took it in that light they would get names; but they are going in for politics, and that is causing the greater part of the trouble, because the present Government made sure that their lackeys will be registering people; but registering people does not mean votes, and the day that you are registered is not Election Day. These enumerators are not carrying people to the ballot box.

If the Government wanted people to vote they should have seen to it that the enumerators ask people to register their names and that is all. If you want other information for Social Security purposes then set up machinery for it to be done. It would not cost one cent if you did it in the right way. You are only confusing the people bringing everything into one and asking people certain questions. There are still people who do not like you to ask them too many questions.

Sometimes in your own home and you ask your wife too many questions she will ask you "what are you worrying me for?"

1.35 p.m.

Sometimes your own wife and even your children do not like so many questions being asked, but here you get an ordinary type of fellow, one who gets his living like a bird, who is prepared to sell his shirt or only walk about and pimp, going up to decent people wanting to know their business. I say again that it is an insult, and the present Government is responsible for it.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I would like the hon. member to know that 99.9 percent of the enumerators served the defunct Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: That, I am afraid, is not and could never be a point of order. That is a matter to make a reply to when the hon. junior member for St. Philip is speaking. Let the hon. junior member for St. Philip await his turn to make his speech, and reply and state the percentage. That is not a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member does not know the meaning of what he has just said. He does not know what is 99.9 percent. He ought to be the last to get up on the floor of the House defending the D.L.P. Government. I now find that he has no shame.

Mr. SPEAKER: That I will ask the hon. member to withdraw, — to suggest that an hon. member of this House has no shame.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully beg to withdraw it. It is not true to say that 99.9 percent of these people was appointed by the Barbados Labour Party Government; and this same Party had to come to his rescue somewhere or other.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, again on a point of order,.....

Mr. SEPAKER: Not "again", because the hon. junior member for St. Philip did not make a point of order when he rose just now.

Mr. WEEKES: The hon. member said that I should be the last person to defend the D.L.P. Government, but I would like him to know that I came in here under the auspices of the D.L.P. Government.

Mr. SMITH: And, Sir, he will go out under the auspices of the D.L.P. Government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong the debate, but when you get member after member getting up, I cannot do otherwise. I have not mentioned any member's name, nor have I misquoted them because they have not yet spoken. You cannot misquote a person if he has not spoken, but he is jumping up. I thought the promise made to him had fallen through, but it is still holding good.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing at all here about a promise. Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph stick to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, and the reason why it should not be read a second time.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Sir, as I was saying, when it comes to the registering of these people, it is late and the Government should speed it up as much as possible. There are a lot of unemployed decent, respectable people in the community who would be glad to do this job, and would have the confidence of the people; so you can start the ball rolling afresh. For instance, every sanitary inspector in the various parishes and districts should be called in, and you would be surprised to see how many names would go on that register, because the people are accustomed to them already and have confidence in them; but they are supposed to have doubts when they were registered by a particular sanitary inspector on the last occasion, and now a strange person is brought to do the job, although the inspector is still inspecting the district. Why is it that Mr. Brown, a decent respectable man, is not doing it this time? I am not saying it is so, but the people in that area might have asked him why he is not doing it, and all he might be able to say is that his name went up, but that it was struck off. Something on that side said "dishonesty".

Mr. SPEAKER: Did I understand the hon. member to use the word "something".

Mr. SMITH: I said something on that side.

Mr. SPEAKER: I heard that, but it could not possibly refer to an hon. member of this House.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I thought you had more confidence in me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I just want to be assured that my confidence is not being misplaced.

Mr. SMITH: I said something said "dishonesty". He is too dishonest to ask for information, but he is honest enough to inspect a yard and see it is being kept clean or to report a

person. We are going forward to independence and we are saying that we cannot trust our own people, because the mere fact that you are calling on them to take their photographs means that you are telling the outside world that we have so many dishonest people going and voting in various ways that we cannot any longer allow impersonation; so we are going to check on it now.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. member that a Bill was passed in this Session which sanctioned the taking of photographs, and the hon. member may not now reflect on a vote of this House during this Session.

Mr. SMITH: I am not reflecting on it, Mr. Speaker. I am only saying that it is creating doubts in the minds of the people. If an honest hon. member of this Chamber hears anything outside, and it is something that will cause confusion, this is the place to come and say it.

Mr. SPEAKER: All hon. members of this House are deemed to be honourable and honest.

Mr. SMITH: If all honest, honourable, intelligent and sober members of this House hear something and feel it would lead to trouble, this is the place to come and say it. You may not hear these things, Mr. Speaker, and even if you hear them, you are not in the position to say them here. You would have to jot them down on a bit of paper and give any member that you care to make the points, and even when that hon. member makes the points, your constituents would not know they were your points because of the position you are in.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad I have the hon. member's sympathy.

Mr. SMITH: I am not in that position; so I can talk.
1.45 p.m.

But, Sir, I am not in that position so I can talk. No member in here can stop me. As far as members on the other side are concerned, if I sit here and keep my mouth quiet it is all well and good. I do not belong to their party. I do not have to meet with them Monday nights and say 'Yes when they mean No. I can come inside here and talk for my people.

When it comes to this registration it is a very serious thing. The life of the country lies in the hands of the Electorate, and if the Electorate should be called upon at any time to right any wrong that they feel is existing the only power

they have is the vote; and if they are deprived of the vote by not being given a reasonable chance to register or if something is done to cause them not to register it is a very serious matter. Old people used to call it a nigger ten; but that little X means a lot in any country. It can be responsible for the down fall or the upliftment of the country; and it is any Government's duty to teach people that voting is their democratic right, and to see to it that every living human being is registered whether they care to vote or not.

Judging from the way in which the Government is going about registration business, I would not be at all surprised to hear soon and very soon that on account of the slow progress of registration you cannot get through in time and the same Government will come and ask that the life of the House be extended in order to get through with it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order. The hon. member is unnecessarily misrepresenting the present policy of the Government as well as any future policy. The whole purpose of the Bill is to make sure that there is a register of electors in being if there should be a General Election tomorrow.

Mr. SMITH: I am saying, Sir, that I would not be at all surprised. I asked a question on this matter since week before last. Any intelligent honest representative can see the writing on the wall. They can see the danger. The way that registration is going it may run to August or September. It would not be fair to close the register having at least 25% to 30% of the people off. You will have to carry on if you do so until next year. I am not accusing the Government of anything; but it is a possibility. Yesterday I was in a certain centre and there were people who wanted to be registered. They had walked for about two miles to get there. They complained that they had taken their breakfast hour to come and register and they wanted to get back for the other half day's work; but there was no one there to register them. What could I do? I told them I could not tell them anything. That was in the parish of St. Peter.

Now, if we try to grasp an opportunity in your breakfast hour to register and the Registering Officer has at the same time taken the opportunity to go for his breakfast you have to wait if you can. I am not blaming the registering officer because it was his breakfast hour.
1.55 p.m.

The people have become anxious because they have heard that Wednesday 15th June is the

closing date, and everybody is not so interested. Some people will say they do not get anything by voting. They say that So-and-so gets so much and they do not get anything; so they do not care; but they do not know that that vote is their cheque book. The vote is the poor man's cheque book. Just as you take up your cheque book and write for \$1,000, that is the only time they can exercise their vote, but they would be doing nothing if they continue to elect the wrong Government.

I therefore have to lay the blame at the feet or on the shoulders of the Government for discriminating and for cutting out certain names and putting in others, because as soon as they do that they create suspicion. It makes me think anything of them and I expect them to do anything worse at any other time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, quite apart from whatever criticisms might be offered later, I am bound to commend the Government for their wisdom in extending this time, and for so providing a Bill which would allow for having a voters list in operation if the Premier of this country decided to call an election any time between now and the time fixed by law at the end of five years. I think that we all, seeing what a mess has been made of things, should commend the Government for their wisdom in bringing this Bill.

I understand that quite a fight has been put up, all sorts of obstacles have been put in the way, and now that this has been brought, I think we should get it out of the way as soon as possible. There are however some comments which must be made. Those who are responsible for the registration of electors could have seen that at the end of the first four weeks, in accordance with the law as it stood, and with the present system, it was a rank impossibility to get all the names on the list. I say that for this reason. In 1961 when around 105,000 persons registered, there were no eighteen year old persons, nor did the enumerators have to register any fifteen year old persons, and therefore just as the public got it, the Government should have known and should have been advised that at the end of the first four weeks of registration, speaking subject to correction, less than 40,000 persons had been registered, and included in that 40,000 were fifteen and eighteen year old persons to whom the franchise was extended. Hence it should have appeared to the Government that something was wrong somewhere. If it took four weeks to register less than 40,000 persons, among whom, according to the Representation of the People Act, were eighteen year old persons, it

would have appeared that something was wrong, and therefore what is being done today should have been done before.

Now the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who has just sat down made a statement which was contradicted apparently when I was not here, but I hope nobody would be so rash as to attempt to contradict me today, because I speak *ex cathedra* on this matter. A list of enumerators had been sent up, and I think it is a bad thing for a Government to be interfering with the officer in charge of registration. If any member of this Assembly stands over there and denies that enumerators' names were cut out by responsible persons in Government and other names were put on, I am prepared to call every name in this House.

On the other hand, Sir, a combination of circumstances surrounded the fact that people were not registered in sufficient numbers. Having cut off certain names and included others was not the only reason why persons were not registered. I am sorry if the Government did not hear it, but some of the enumerators started the enumeration and did 20, 30 and maybe 40 persons and gave up, because they felt that alongside of them persons who were getting statistics for the Statistical Department were getting 75 cents per person while they were being paid 30 cents for doing more than those working for the Statistical Department. Not only were they taking information for the electoral role, but also they were getting information for the social security scheme.

When the officer came to register me, I sat patiently and answered every possible question. I say this because I do not believe that any member of Government would be dishonest enough to say that my Party did not do everything possible to encourage people to register. I am wise enough to realise that if you want to vote, you must register, and whatever obstacles were put in the way of people by accident or design, I felt it my duty not to wait on Government but to send around and encourage people to register. Part of the reason therefore is that the enumerators felt that they were not properly paid, and secondly the majority of these officers who were appointed to do this work only went out in the afternoon or evening going on to night, which only gave them two or three hours to do registration, and as has been reported to me, finding that people were not willing to register, they had to sit down and talk. It took so long for a person to register three or four people in a house that he gave it up.

One thing you cannot change in this world, Mr. Speaker, is that there are a number of women on the list of voters in Barbados, and officers were rebuffed in 75 per cent of the cases when they asked a woman her age. However you and I might think it does not make any difference, when you go into a house and ask a woman her age in front of her husband, she resents it, and the tendency is for them to say "over twenty-one", because if you are thirty-five or forty, you are still over twenty-one. Besides this, a number of these officers could not stand the idea of having wasted possibly an hour at a house then to be told to come back, or having to return several times not to find anybody at the house. I am speaking *ex cathedra* because I know people who started and gave it up after registering about 30 persons.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I came in late while hon. members were here from noon, and it seems to me to be Your Honour's wish that this House should have a short suspension and this is the right time to have it.

I therefore beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Sitting was suspended, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was addressing the House. He may continue if he thinks fit.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I said, Mr. Speaker, it is commendable that Government has seen the wisdom to make this extension, although it is somewhat belated, but as I have said there was a combination of circumstances which prevented this from going through. I said I felt that the compensation to the enumerators was somewhat inadequate, and I would recommend that this be increased. I cannot say that the enumerators have failed, but I do feel that there was an error in not using the services of the Inspectors in every area. I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that because of the position they occupy in visiting every house each month, people would know them, and that in itself would help to expedite the registration of persons who should

be on the list at a given date. I also agree with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that they should be no interference in my considered opinion by the Cabinet with the list as sent up by the Officer in charge of registration, unless they felt that on the list were persons who might be considered as questionable and could not be taken.

In Bridgetown and the parish of St. Michael, I find that people have had to wait in long lines for half an hour and an hour to be registered. I felt this was too long because people used their breakfast hour for that purpose.

I should like to say that no matter how reckless the members of the Government Party may be, they could hardly be so reckless as to say that any member of my Party or myself in any way suggested to people not to register. We would not be so naive as to make such a stupid suggestion. I believe it is generally and universally known that we have been doing everything to get people to register, because it is the only way you can get people to vote. Having brought down this Bill therefore, I feel that you cannot now remove these enumerators, but you can appoint more, and I would suggest that in order to get this done properly that you swear in all the elementary school teachers as enumerators so that people might go in the evening and give them the information necessary privately. I say "privately" because people resent giving certain information with other people standing over them and hearing what is being said. I feel that in your urban and other parishes teachers would be willing to undertake this since you will increase the fee from 30 cents to 50 cents which would make it worthwhile. I feel also that a lecture by the officer in charge would help to explain why these questions are being asked, because a person can refuse to answer the questions, and there is no law to prevent you from registering. To ask a person his mother's maiden name is in my opinion unnecessary although it is being done for social security purposes where it is incumbent upon the employer to send in the names of the people he employs.

In my capacity as a member of this House I should like to see everything done by the Government and the Opposition to make it as easy as possible for people to register so that they can exercise their right and say which Government they want when the election comes off. I suggest that the schools be used as registering centres, so that you would not have places so far apart as "Verona" in Bank Hall and the Bridgetown City Council building. It is impossible for 92,000 persons to be registered at

these two places in so short a space of time. It is tantamount to saying you do not care whether they register. On the other hand, if you use the St. Matthias' School, the Bay Primary School, Belmont School and the school at the Ivy where people can go on evenings and register, the registration can be easily done. Surely somebody must have the wisdom and vision to recommend these centres to Government.

I want to say, Sir, that there is a feeling that there is some sinister motive in doing it this way, but there are a lot of people who would like to register. I feel under the circumstances that we in the Opposition should support this Bill, and hope that what we have said here will not fall on deaf ears and that everything will be done to see that people are registered.

I want to say finally that I have heard it rumoured that certain people are encouraging others not to register. I say now with the fullest sense of responsibility that if any member of my Party had told people not to register, I would be the first to expose it, because I think it is dishonest for anybody to try to tell people not to register. I know that people have become very disinterested because it has not been made easy for them to register. In 1951 and prior to that potential voters went around to Justices of the Peace to register. As soon as we got adult suffrage in 1951 it became the responsibility of the Government, and enumerators were appointed along with registering officers to do the registration and this was repeated in 1956. Now in 1966 people find there is such a metamorphosis and they have to answer all these questions; so they do not worry. If for ten years people have got accustomed to a method of registration which was made easy for them, it is incumbent upon us to see that this is made just as easy if not easier for them to register for the forthcoming election.

It is true that the method which is adopted now might effect a saving with the social security scheme, and although you have told the hon. member not to refer to legislation which was passed in this House in this session about photographs, I counsel the Hon. Leader of the House that in dealing with this I have told people that under the law they can refuse to take their photographs, and a tremendous lot are not taking them.

I am sorry the Hon. Minister of Trade is not in his place, but if any member of this House is prepared to say that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was wrong when he said that names were cut out and other names put in, I am prepared to get up here and call the names of

those cut out and those put in. If the Government in power feels that the Officer sent up a person whose character and integrity were questionable, it would be all well and good to cut out the name; but they should not take off names and put in others whose character and integrity can be questioned. That is not the only reason why the registration is not going smoothly. I think the principal thing is that the fee is too small, and secondly it should be in the hands of inspectors in the various parishes, because an inspector can do more in a parish where he is working than an enumerator who goes there for the first time. Again you should not take a teacher from St. Peter and send him to Silver Sands to register people, because he does not begin to know the customs and habits of the people in the area, and it makes it somewhat difficult for him.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Minister of Trade would agree that somebody should be sent in his area who knows the area, but as it is something went wrong and the whole thing fell down. I however support this Bill although it is late, and I suggest that if you really want to get it off, you should use your elementary schools in the Island on Friday, pay the teachers 50 cents to register each person, and I am sure that by the end of July you will have a properly recorded list of voters in this Island. It is still the duty of those of us who have seen the sufferings of people to influence them to go to the polls; so it is not only the Government's duty to tell people to go and register. To be elected to come here is one of the greatest honours that could be bestowed upon us by our fellowmen, therefore we should not only sit here and wonder if they will register. Members should do as I have been doing and persuade people to register, so that they will know how they stand with their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat gratified to hear the hon. senior member for Bridgetown bringing back some measure of sobriety into this debate, because the the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, as the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would say, had gone off on the wrong latitude. No one on this side, Mr. Speaker, would want to create problems for the very people whom we have to ask to support us. It is true that the enumerators are running into difficulty, because when this method was first announced, there were some so-called responsible people in the community who were deliberately telling people not to

register and not to take their photographs. Now that they find that their machinations have backfired, they are singing a new tune and trying to accuse us on this side of all sorts of devious things, which of course, Sir, are far from the truth.

The present system of registration is completely different from that of 1956 and 1961. At that time, when the enumerator came around, any one person in the home could have given the names of the entire household and that was enough; but today every individual above the age of fifteen years has to give not only his name, but he also has to sign. It might surprise Your Honour to hear that I have not yet been registered because the enumerator came to my home twice and I was not at home.

It is pathetic to think, Mr. Speaker, that everything this Government decides to do on behalf of the community that some members from the opposite side can only try to see that these things have some devilish diabolical reason. This Government has not done anything right since it has been into power for some members on the opposite side. I need not remind this Chamber of the arguments produced recently by them about who has a mandate from the people, and that they represent a greater section of the people, because they have more votes than the Government in power. As far as I am concerned, they can get more votes in the next election, but we can have more seats. They got more votes, but we got fourteen seats.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the previous speakers said that because this Government knew that there were enumerators not with this Government, that is the reason why they were taken off. As soon as he says that, he is insinuating that these people are dishonest, because you do not have to be in anybody's corner to be an enumerator to register people for voting. The hon. senior member for Bridgetown has challenged us over here to categorically deny that names have been cut off from the list of enumerators, but that is similar to an occasion when a lawyer asked a defendant to answer "yes" or "no" to a particular question he had asked. The man said he could not answer "yes" or "no", but the lawyer insisted, and the man turned to the lawyer and said he was going to ask him a question to which he wanted the lawyer to answer "yes" or "no". He asked, "have you stopped beating your wife"? If the lawyer had answered "yes", everybody would have known that the lawyer used to beat his wife; and if he had said "no", they would know that he still beats his wife.

I should like to tell the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that when the list of enumerators is submitted, the exact number required is not submitted. If there are twenty names and you need six enumerators, obviously somebody's name will be dropped. Maybe one of the disgruntled persons who got dropped felt that so long as it is Government he is entitled to it. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Try and be honest!) When the hon. gentleman tells me to try and be honest, I hope he is not looking into a mirror. If you have a list of names and you only want a certain amount, you cannot use everybody. It is the same with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown...

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I do not want to be misrepresented. I distinctly said the names which were submitted, not the names in excess of the names wanted, were deleted and other names substituted therefor, which is a different thing from names which were in excess of the amount of enumerators required. I hope I have made that clear.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is clearly not a point of order, but I deem it to be a point of elucidation.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You are Speaker, Sir, and can deem it a point of elucidation; but if I were Speaker, I would deem it a second speech.

What I do not fully understand about some members on the opposite side, Mr. Speaker, is that they have grown in age, but have not grown in mentality. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph told the hon. junior member for St. Philip when he got up on a point of order that he ought to be the last person to represent the Government of which he is a member; but I will say this for the record: the hon. junior member for St. Joseph ought to be the last person to get up in here and accuse anybody of defending this Government for the simple reason that during the 1958 by-election in St. Joseph, the same member was told by Grantley Adams who told the public at a political meeting that they had already placed a donkey in the House, and therefore there was no need to put in another. He went on further to tell the member that he, Grantley Adams, was going to make the hon. junior member for St. Joseph beg his bread. Today the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has the temerity to come in this House and accuse a loyal member of the Democratic Labour Party of vacillation. He has more brass than the statue of Nebuchanazzar and more gall than all the elephants you can see. He has become an expert on every subject. If you came in here and talked about building atom bombs, he is an atom bomb

scientist. As the hon senior member for St. Andrew has said, he should thank the electorate for electing this Government to power, because if we were not here, no one would have known that he was in the House for seventeen years prior to the arrival of this Government. I do not think he even asked questions as the hon. junior member for St. James did. Today, Mr. Speaker, the member is an authority on setting up an electoral roll, running a Government, constitutional matters, how to go to heaven, and maybe even how to go to hell.

The hon. member went on to say that this Government should do this, that and the other on this important matter. Now it is true that this Government cannot see every need of the people, but it is also true that whenever this Government is made cognisant of something that affects the masses, the Government sees to it that the suffering which the masses might have undergone is completely eradicated. In this case, the hon. member finds this to be of great importance, although he himself was one of those persons going around telling people not to register, but now he finds that the people who are not registering to vote are, as he calls them, his own yard fowls. I am sure you will agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that the Draft Constitution for the independence of Barbados is just as important, if not more so, than this matter, since it affects the lives of everyone of us, men, women and children, and even the donkeys and cows pigs and everything in Barbados, and since he knows that he has been sent here to represent the people, I consider that that is one of the things he should have taken part in.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that does not arise at all in this Bill.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am only quoting what the hon. member said, and I am sorry he is not here, because this is something I consider to be very important, and he should have been here. Not that he could have contributed anything; he would have been his usual self, but when people get up in here and start looking towards the Gallery, they are only playing to the Gallery. It is another form of political platform speech; and they do not even address you as they should; they sometimes turn their backs on you and some how you do not observe these things.

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown was not in here when the Leader of the House stated that schools should be used for the purpose of registration. For some reason he tried to make capital out of telling the Government to use schools; but the Government has decided that

schools are quite convenient, and therefore the Chief Registering Office has been authorised to use schools wherever possible along with other centres given notice of. We realise it is a bit more onerous than we had anticipated, and I will say, Mr. Speaker, that if these trouble-makers did not go around the country telling people not to register, everything would have gone smoothly; but from the time they told the people not to register and have their photographs taken, they put a fear in the people. I heard the hon. junior member for St. Joseph say that only criminals have their pictures taken. The United States is comprised of a population of 194 million people, and I am wondering if he is calling all the people in the United States criminals, including the President, because in the United States I had to have my pictures taken, and I am no criminal. The President of the United States is no criminal so far as I know, and in a population of 194 million, you cannot tell me that you could not find decent people. If the United States which is the biggest democratic country in the world constitutionally and otherwise insist that people have their pictures taken and carry an identity card, would doing that in a country like Barbados brand people to be criminals?

I could understand the hon. junior member for St. Joseph not wanting to have his photograph taken, but he need not worry about that. I do not think the camera would be any more unkind to him than a mirror, and a mirror would just produce exactly what is there. Either you have it or you do not have it, and I do not see why he should be unduly worried about taking his picture, because he shaves; so he most likely would see himself more often on mornings than if he has a picture.

It is vicious and dishonest for so-called leaders in this community to be deliberately going around and misleading the general public, because this venture is completely new to the majority of people in Barbados, and what is most pathetic, Mr. Speaker, is that the majority of people who resent having their pictures taken here go to the United States or Canada and to other big countries and must have their pictures taken. Pictures are taken when they are married too, because I have seen some that I could not identify at all. If they want to go to Canada now, they have to send a picture on the application form; they do not resent that, so why resent having a picture taken in their own country? It would relieve a lot of hardship by people looking for a police or a postman to identify them.

I heard a man saying that he was not going to have his picture taken because if he committed

an offence, it would be easy for him to be found. But the object of having people take pictures is for the purpose of identification, because we have known of more than one occasion where people go one place and claim to be one person, and go somewhere else and claim to be somebody else. I have been through a list of workers in which I was surprised to see the name Neville Boxill; so this taking of photographs would prevent duplication. Besides, people who require a passport to go to Canada or England and other countries have to have photographs taken; so I do not see what this fuss is about.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, if the Government had come in and said it was going to give every man in the street \$500, the Opposition would come in and find some fault with that. Anything this Government decides to do is wrong. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the electorate of Barbados, they have become aware of their constitutional rights and of what they should do, and as a result of this Bill before the House today, I am sure that you will find people cooperating more with the enumerators, and by so doing we will be able to have this register compiled by the end of July. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, this Bill will provide for the existing registers to continue in force for a further period expiring on such day as may be fixed by proclamation.

Now the enumerators who have been engaged to register people have been finding it very difficult, because the members of the Barbados Labour Party and other Parties have been through the Island and have disturbed the minds of the people and influenced them against registering. It is only now that they see that this will affect them also that they are asking people to register. Several enumerators have told me that people have refused to give their names. It is not that the enumerators are not doing their job in the right manner as the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said, but the people have their minds made up not to register. They are now however running to the homes of the enumerators and registering their names because they see the benefit of it now.

The Government, Mr. Speaker, has seen that the time will run out before this register is completed, and they have brought this Bill to extend the time in order that every person may be able to register, and this registration will also be of benefit to the electors, because it includes the social security scheme. When people go around and preach evil to the electorate, it makes them sad and hopeless because they do not know the truth, and every one who goes around and bias the people out of their good intention will have to pay for it.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph tried to criticise the Government. I heard him say that whatever this Government brings he will oppose. You will remember that this hon. member's tongue was tied, and it is only since this Government has come into power that his tongue has been loosed and he can speak; so he should be thankful to this Government. The Government has not waited until the time has expired to bring a Bill before the House, but has come to extend the time so that every person who is eligible can register for voting purposes, as well as being on the list for the social security scheme. Under this scheme those men and women who walk about the street and beg for a penny will no longer have to do that. We are trying to help people by educating them in their duty to register both for elections and for the social security scheme through which they will receive help in due course. I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the Hon. Minister. Let the Bell be rung for the prescribed time — no longer, no shorter than that.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. senior member for Christ Church proceed, there being now a quorum.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, we have heard quite a great deal in connection with this new system of registration, and it is based on the Bill which has been brought down here today for the present register to remain in force and have the law compiled with so that we can have a register pending the compilation of the new register which is being formulated.

We have also brought down Registration Rules which were laid and in these Rules the Chief Registering Officer will be empowered to appoint certain registering centres, viz. the Headquarters of the District Councils, the Sub-Treasurers' offices, and so on; so that there will be many registering centres to facilitate the machinery. Over and above that, there will be, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, many schools in the populous districts where enumerators will be available after 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and where with the assistance of the teachers and additional enumerators comprised of public health inspectors and others who are competent to assist this new system of registration will be done.

Now I am not going into the pros and cons which have been so well explained, nor will I refer to the vicious propaganda on the part of the Barbados Labour Party which slowed down the whole system of registration at the commencement, but I can say here and now that many people in many districts are anxious, willing and ready to register now, fearing that they will be left off the register. To quote one example, it was stated here that the enumerators were handpicked by Government, and that many old enumerators were left out; but that is not correct. Take for example the parish which I have the honour to represent – and I refer to the very populous area of Silver Sands where there are 1,400 electors and upwards, and where there is a Barbados Labour Party enumerator as such conducting this work. He has only succeeded in registering 300 or 400 people of the 1,400; so that is a glaring example and an answer to the allegation that has been made. And what I have said of the Silver Sands area applies with equal force to many of the other districts in almost all the parishes. To get up here and emphatically accuse the Government of handpicking enumerators who will only register people who are in favour of the Government and will support it is not correct.

It might well be that if we had engaged more public health inspectors who know the people in the areas and worked it on a day to day and week to week basis as a whole time exercise, this registration would have been done within a reasonable time; but it is Government's intention to keep this register open and see that all electors in the Island are duly registered.
3.45 p.m.

It is Government's intention to keep this Register open so that all the electors can be duly registered. That is the object of this Bill. We cannot have a democratic system of Government unless the people are given all the facilities of registering and the Register itself represents a true and proper register of the electors of this island. The Government has not attempted to do anything wrong; but it is with the intention of doing everything above board and adhering to democratic principles that this Bill has been brought down. The point is that the Register will not be closed in June. There is no dead line. Registration is open and will continue to remain open until such time as each and every elector has had an ample opportunity to become registered, so that the democratic principles will be adhered to.

I wanted to make the point that there are additional enumerators who will be comprised of

Public Health Inspectors and Teachers, and the schools will be kept opened. There will be other additional centres. The fee has been increased from 30 cents to 50 cents as a result of the tedious work and the transportation expenses involved. I repeat the register will remain open indefinitely until every one is on.

The Question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

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

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

On motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a Third Time and passed.
3.55 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM SENATE RE AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Message from the Other Place with the amendments attaching to the Draft Constitution, as well as the further amendments which I gave notice of earlier today, be now taken as the next Order under Government Business.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be as well for me to tell the House of the procedure I propose to adopt in this rather complicated matter. Honourable members will by now, I think, have received not only copies of

the amendments to the Draft Constitution which the Other Place have sent to us, but I think they will also have received copies of the new amendments which it is proposed to insert at this meeting of the House today. This means, in effect, that not only will we accept the amendments of the Other Place, but we will be returning to the Other Place the Resolution with our further amendments. I understand that it is proposed that there should be a meeting of the Senate on Friday of this week to consider the Message with the accompanying Resolution as

amended, and I would like to say that by the time the Other Place has had its meeting on Friday, this Legislature, consisting as it does of two Houses, will have completed its work on the Draft Constitution, and it will be that document and no other which the Government of Barbados will be discussing with the Secretary of State as from Monday afternoon next week.

Just to recapitulate what has happened, this House passed on the 26th April, 1966, a Resolution which reads as follows:

"Whereas on the 8th day of January, 1966, the General Assembly passed a resolution requesting Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to convene, at the earliest opportunity, a Conference to arrange the constitutional, financial, defence and other details incidental to, and arising from, the assumption, by the people of Barbados, of Sovereign Nationhood within the Commonwealth in 1966;

And Whereas on the 24th day of January, 1966, the Senate concurred in the said resolution which was assented to on the 25th day of January, 1966 by the Governor of this Island;

And Whereas Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State has agreed to convene such a Conference on the 20th day of June, 1966;

And Whereas it is deemed necessary that the Legislature and the people of this Island should be made aware, prior to the convening of the said Conference, of the natural and constitutional rights and the legal provisions according to which it is fitting that they should be governed, a Draft Constitution, embodying these rights and provisions, has been prepared and was laid before the Legislature on the 15th day of March, 1966;

Be It Therefore Resolved that this House approve the said Draft Constitution."

This is the Resolution, Mr. Speaker, which, you will recall, went to the Other Place; and on the 26th day of May, 1966, the Senate in considering the Draft Constitution added further amendments, and it terminated in the Resolution being sent back to us including in the Resolution the following further recital in the Preamble:

"And Whereas the General Assembly on the 26th day of April, 1966 approved the said draft Constitution;

And Whereas the Senate, on the 26th day of May, 1966 approved the said Draft Constitution with the amendments set out in the Schedule hereto;

Be It Therefore Resolved that the said Draft Constitution with the amendments aforementioned be approved."

This, therefore, is the substance of the Message which we have received from them, and accompanying that is their Schedule with their attached amendments.

The first thing we have to consider is that the Senate at their meeting on the 26th May, inserted into the Draft Constitution a Preamble. The Preamble, of course, was not laid before the House in April when this House discussed the Draft Constitution and it is proposed by the Senate that there should be inserted before Chapter I the following as a Preamble:

"Whereas the love of free institutions and of independence have always strongly marked the inhabitants of Barbados:

And Whereas the Governor and the said inhabitants settled a parliament in the year 1639:

And Whereas as early as 16th February 1651 these inhabitants, in their determination to safeguard the freedom, safety and well being of the Island declared, through their Governor, Lords of the Council and members of the Assembly, their independence of the Commonwealth of England:

And Whereas the rights and privileges of the said inhabitants were confirmed by articles of agreement, commonly known as the Charter of Barbados, had, made and concluded on the 11th day of January 1652 by and between the Commissioners of the Right Honourable the Lord Willoughby of Parham, Governor, of the one part, and the Commissioners on the behalf of the Commonwealth of England, of the other part, in order to the rendition to the Commonwealth of England of the said Island of Barbados:

And Whereas with the broadening down of freedom the people of Barbados have ever since then not only successfully resisted any attempt to impugn or diminish those rights and privileges so confirmed, but have consistently enlarged and extended them:

Now, Therefore, the people of Barbados

- (a) proclaim that they are a nation founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity of the human person, their unshakable faith in fundamental human rights and freedom, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions;
- (b) affirm their belief that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law;
- (c) declare their intention to establish and maintain a society in which all persons may, to the full extent of their capacity, play a due part in the institutions of the national life;
- (d) resolve that the operation of the economic system shall promote the general welfare by the equitable distribution of the material resources of the community, by the human conditions under which all men shall labour and by the undeviating recognition of ability, integrity and merit;

- (e) desire that the following provisions shall have effect as the Constitution of Barbados:"

This then is the Preamble, and it will be found at the beginning of the document embodying the Constitution of this Island before the actual provisions of the Constitution. In addition to inserting a Preamble the Senate also made certain amendments.

On page 9, Section 2-09(b) line three — after the word "of" insert "sub-sections (1) and (2) of".

On page 11, Section 3-01(f) line two — delete the words "to provide a school of his own choice for the education of his child or ward" and substitute therefor the words "on religious grounds to refuse to send his child or ward to a school not of his (the parent's or guardian's) choice".

On page 22, Section 4-04(5) line four — delete the words "Parts V and" and substitute therefor the word "Chapter" and in line five — after the word "of" insert the words "Chapter X of".

On page 36, Section 5-12(2) (b) line two — after the numerals "5-04", insert the numerals "5-05".

On page 5, Section 1-10(12) line one — delete the numerals, symbol and words "1889 (52 and 53 Vict. c.63)" and substitute therefor the numerals "1966".

Those, Sir, are the amendments from the Senate. Those are the amendments referred to in the amended Resolution which has accompanied the Message from the Senate. It will be, therefore, necessary for me at a later stage to have inserted into the Preamble of the Resolution the following paragraph:—

"Whereas the General Assembly on the 14th day of June, 1966 has made further amendments set out in the Schedule hereto."

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that it will take a little time to deal with these amendments; but inasmuch as every member possesses a copy of the amendments, I will just ask them to follow me as I go along, and as I draw attention to the relevant portions of the Draft Constitution where these amendments will come. There will be on page one the definition of "the Commonwealth"; at line 10 substitute "2-07" for "2-10(1)".

On page 5, subsection (12) substitute for the words "Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom" the words "an Act of the Legislature of the former Colony of Barbados and in such application shall have effect as if it formed part of this Constitution".

On page 6 — in paragraph (a) of Section 2-01(3) substitute the word "becomes" for "became".

On page 7 — in Section 2-03, substitute for the proviso the following proviso:—

"Provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Barbados by virtue of this section if at the time of his birth —

- (a) his father possesses such immunity from suit and legal process as is accorded to an envoy of a foreign

sovereign state accredited to Her Majesty in right of Her Government in Barbados and neither of his parents is a citizen of Barbados; or

- (b) his father is an enemy alien and the birth occurs in a place then under occupation by the enemy."

On page 9 – delete the definition "Commonwealth".

On pages 11 to 18, substitute for Chapter III the following Chapter III. These concern the Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual; Protection of the right to life; Protection of the right to personal liberty; Protection from slavery and forced labour; Protection from inhuman treatment; Protection from deprivation of property; Protection against arbitrary search or entry; Provisions to secure protection of law; Protection of freedom of assembly and association; Protection of freedom of movement; Protection from discrimination on the grounds of race, etc.

Chapter III, Mr. Speaker, has been entirely revamped in accordance with the best constitutional practice and in accordance with the best possible guarantees of the liberty of the subject. On page 17 of this Draft Constitution there must be inserted at the top of page 17 Section 3-09 in the left hand corner the provision for Freedom of conscience, as well as the other freedoms to which I have referred. All these provisions are designed to give full protection to the citizens. Everything that the Opposition could conceivably want they have got although, as on other occasions, they are not here to take part in this most important exercise.

There is also, I need hardly stress, protection of freedom of assembly and of association; protection of freedom of movement. Then on page 26 in section 5-03, substitute "5-06" for "5-07". On page 33 in paragraph (b) of section 5-09 delete the words "Full Court of the Supreme Court" and substitute therefor the words "High Court". On page 35, in sub-section (2) (b) of section 5-12 – (a) delete "3-08" and substitute "3-17"; (b) delete the figures "6-19"; (c) delete the words "to 10-04 (inclusive) 10-06".

On page 38 – (a)

- (a) In subsection (1) of section 5-19 –
 - (i) delete the words "the Senate" in line 3 and substitute therefor the word "Parliament";
 - (ii) delete the word "paragraph" in the second line of the Proviso and substitute therefor the word "section".
- (b) In subsection (2) of section 5-19 delete the word "paragraph" in the first line and substitute therefor the word "section".

On page 39 –

- (a) Delete the word "paragraph" in lines 10, 14, 20, 21 to 22 and substitute therefor the word "section".
- (b) In section 5-20 delete the words "or grant of money to the Crown or to any authority" appearing between the words "any authority" and the words "or person, or" at the end of the page.

On page 41 —

- (a) In subsection (1) of section 5-22 delete the word "section" in line 3 and substitute therefor the words "sections 5-12".
- (b) In section 5-22 renumber subsection (2) as "(3)" and subsection (3) as "(2)".

On page 42 —

- (a) In subsection (4) of section 5-22, insert the words "and (3)" between the words "subsection (2)" and the words "of this section".
- (b) In section 5-23 delete the words "the Senate and the General Assembly have" and substitute therefor the words "Parliament has".

On page 61 — In subsection (2) of section 7-03 —

- (a) delete the words appearing between "appointed shall" and "until his" and substitute therefor the words "continue to act".
- (b) delete the proviso and substitute therefor the following:—
 "Provided that —
 (a) a person may be so appointed notwithstanding that he has attained the age at which that office is required by subsection (1) of section 7-06 of this Constitution to be vacated by the holder thereof; and
 (b) he may, at any time, resign his acting office by writing under his hand addressed to the Governor-General."

On page 69 — In subsection (2)(a) of section 9-01 delete the words "the Legislature" and substitute therefor the word "Parliament".

On page 70 — In subsection (3)(c) of section 9-01 delete the words "the Legislature" and substitute therefor the word "Parliament".

On page 72 — In section 9-02 delete the words "the Legislature" in subsections (2) and (3)(c) and substitute therefor the word "Parliament".

All this means, Mr. Speaker, is that after Independence we shall no longer refer to the General Assembly and the Senate as the Legislature of Barbados, but as the Parliament of Barbados in keeping with our enhanced status.

On page 75 — In subsection (3) of section 9-03, delete the word "Act" and substitute therefor the word "law".

On page 76 — In section 9-04 delete the words "the Legislature" in subsections (2) and (3)(c) and substitute therefor the word "Parliament".

On page 78 — In subsection (3) of section 9-05 delete the word “act” and substitute therefor the word “law”.

These then are the further amendments which this House is required to approve so that they may be sent on to the Other Place for their approval also.

I beg to move formally that the following be added to the Preamble:

“And Whereas the General Assembly on the 14th day of June, 1966 have made the further amendments set out in Schedule II hereto;

Be it Resolved that the said Draft Constitution with the amendments aforementioned be approved.”

I think, Mr. Speaker, that in the interest of clarity and perhaps procedural rectitude, we might split the motion up and have two distinct motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I entirely concur in that suggestion.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the amendments sent back from the Senate be read a first time.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it is now necessary that we should agree to the Message to be sent to the Other Place. I now beg to move that the following Message be sent:

“THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
THE SENATE

The House of Assembly have the honour to return to the Senate the Resolution approving the Draft Constitution of Barbados.

2. The House of Assembly note the amendments made by the Senate to the body of the said Resolution and the addition of a Schedule thereto with which amendments in their entirety the House of Assembly readily agree.

3. The House of Assembly have on the 14th day of June, 1966 further amended the said Resolution (a) by the addition of a Clause in Recital as shown in the said Resolution; (b) by renaming the Schedule to the Resolution as amended by the Senate as “SCHEDULE I”; and (c) by the addition of a Schedule to the Resolution as so amended known as “SCHEDULE II” which appears immediately after the Schedule to the Resolution as amended by the Senate.

4. The House of Assembly invite the concurrence of the Senate to the Resolution as further amended by them."

Briefly, Sir, the position is this. We are sending back now to the Senate to tell them that we have agreed to their amendments, and that further we have added to those amendments. With this action on the part of this Honourable House, its own part in the processing of the Draft Constitution is complete. The Senate will meet on Friday to learn that we have not only approved their own amendments but have added our own. When they have approved all these amendments the Legislature of Barbados will have finished entirely with the Draft Constitution, and it will be this Draft Constitution which will be debated for discussion at the London Conference.

I have nothing more to add except to express the thanks of the Government to those organisations and individuals whose ideas have resulted in the acceptance of these amendments. It is, I think, a great tribute to the intellectual virility and interest of large sections of our people that, at the invitation of the Government, it has responded by giving us these suggestions.

It would be invidious to single out one section of the population; but in the last two weeks we have gone through no less than six to seven hundred of these amendments, a large proportion of which we accepted. The only exception to participation in this exercise has been that of the political Opposition Parties. I think it is to their eternal disgrace. Every one else who had any interest has helped to make the Constitution of Barbados, and the Government of Barbados is proud of the fact that it has set in motion this exercise in which all people of goodwill could participate.

I have reason to believe that the Constitution as finished by the Senate on Friday, when viewed by the United Kingdom Delegation, will prove to be almost entirely acceptable. If the Opposition Parties have not seen fit to join in this exercise, it is their fault. They have not prevented a Constitution from emerging. It is a good thing for what I would call the pride and industry of the people of this island that they have witnessed what after all was perhaps the most important exercise of the 20th century.

I beg to move that the Message as read be sent to the Senate.

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

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

4.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the following Message has come from the Senate:

"THE SENATE
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY

The Senate has the honour to return to the Honourable House of Assembly a Bill to establish a system of National Insurance and Social Security which has been passed with amendments, contained on Pages 30, 34 and 38 therein."

The Message is signed by Senator E. S. Robinson, President.

The first amendment is on Page 30. In Clause 31 (1) in Line 4 (a) the Senate has added after the words "thirtieth day of" the word "June".

On Page 34 in Clause 36 (b) in the third line, in the original Bill the word "within" is written as one word and should be two separate words.

On Page 38 in Clause 39 (1) (b) the word should be "affixes" instead of "affixed."

I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. Tudor seconded by Hon. C. E. Talma in each case the amendments were read a second and third time and were agreed to.

A BILL TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the next Order of the Day be the second reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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 leave to deal with this item in the absence of the hon. and learned Senior Member for St. John.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think that hon. members can be forgiven if they have forgotten that this Bill was, so to speak, hanging around on the Order Paper. We should have done it a week or two ago. It is providential that we did not, because when we go through the Bill I will have to offer a considerable number of amendments.

I would say that the thickness of the Bill need not scare hon. members. It seeks to amend the Customs Act of 1962 in order that there should be complete consolidation and integration of all the various schedules attached to that Act.

Everybody knows, of course, that the Customs Act of 1962 is an important Act. This is the first time for a long time that we have managed to bring Customs Legislation up to date; and in order now that there should be an Act as soon as possible explaining in some detail customs policy and Regulations this consolidating Bill is before us.

There have been amendments to the Act from time to time, and for each amendment new schedules and new Regulations have been created so to speak. It is thought desirable that those who have to administer the Customs Laws of this island should know what body of laws they should refer to in all cases, and it is desirable to bring all the provisions of the Customs Act of 1962 up to date.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. When the House goes into Committee on the Bill I shall be moving the various amendments in their appropriate places.

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

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

4.45 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If I may, I will ask Your Honour to stay your hand until arrangements for a quorum have been made.

Mr. SPEAKER: And for another reason I would like to stay my hand, because my file has not been properly compiled. I have no copy of that Bill in my file.

There is now, I observe, a quorum, although I yet lack a Bill in my file, but the Hon. Leader of the House may proceed.

HOUSE GOES INTO COMMITTEE ON BILL

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 the Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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 on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 — 5 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 6 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have to move the first amendment in Clause 6. In line 2, delete the words "following Schedule" and substitute therefor the words "Schedule to this Act is";

In line 3, delete the symbol "-" and substitute the symbol "."

After line 3, delete the words and numerals

"FIRST SCHEDULE sections 19 and 20
PART I
PART II
PART III"

insert the following:-

"Read three times and passed the General Assembly the day of one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

Speaker

Read three times and passed the Senate the day of one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

President"

I beg to move that Clause 6 as amended stand part.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, before we deal with the Schedule, on page 3, after Clause 6, we have to insert a new Clause 7:

Commencement 7. This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Governor may appoint by proclamation in the *Official Gazette*."

I beg to move that Clause 7 stand part.

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

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

The SCHEDULE was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think you will notice that it is in the Schedule to this Bill that the bulk of the amendments comes. These amendments have been circulated to hon. members, and they are described in detail. The Clerks at the Table are of course in possession of these amendments, and therefore I beg to move that the Schedule as amended stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA; the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE PACKAGE TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1966

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the Hon. Premier, and in the absence of any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the first schedule to the Package Tax Act of 1941. In order to include references to certain commodities which have concealed packages for the purposes of the Act, and secondly to revise references to other commodities, and thirdly to delete references to further commodities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed on the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR and seconded by the Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case.

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

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chairman has just reported the passing of this Bill to me.

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

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

The question that the Package Tax (Amendment) Act, 1966 do not pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the final Order of the day under Government

Business appears as Order No. 1 on the Order Paper. It is a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Officers) (Amendment) Order of 1966 which was made by His Excellency the Governor on the 23rd May. This Order was made under subsection (i) of section 2 of the Act of 1947, and therefore, in accordance with subsection (i) of section 2 of the 1947 Act, it is necessary for any such Orders to be approved by the Legislature in order that they become law, therefore I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for the day's sitting. I have not been able to go through the customary processes with the Opposition; happily they are not present, but in view of the fact that several members of both Houses of the Legislature will be absent from the territory, and certainly since members of this House will be absent, and in view of the fact that I have consulted with Mr. Speaker, who tells me that my proposal finds favour with him, I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Honourable Leader of the House will bear with me, I have received a communication which is a request from the Messenger and Deputy Marshal, Mr. Lionel Giles, accompanied by a medical certificate asking for leave of seven days as from 14th June.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Deputy Marshal be granted seven days' sick leave as from today's date.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Accordingly, that officer has been granted leave as requested.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. Orville Best be appointed to act as Deputy Marshal with effect from the 14th June for seven days.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I now beg to move that this House do not adjourn until Tuesday, 19th July, 1966 at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

5.05 p.m.