

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961 - 66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st March, 1966

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 o'clock p.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour E. I. CARMICHAEL, J.P. (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health, and Community Development*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (*Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries*); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS, (*Minister of Trade and Labour*);

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I regret to inform the Hon. House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for confirmation.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the U.K. under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended 30th June, 1965 in respect of Schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1966.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Regulations, 1966.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1963.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay a statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 30th November, 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$4,176 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 54, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 7 of Head 3 of Part II - Capital, of the Approved Estimates for 1965-66 by the substitution of the word "provision" for the symbol, comma and figures "\$56,418".

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$4,831 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1965-66, Post Office, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 53, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are now ready:-

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 57/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 66/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 74/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip.

QUESTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a Question standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas re a sewing machine for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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

Is Government aware of the existence of a hand sewing machine in the Central Sterilising Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that stitches Linens and paper bags that keep instruments after they are sterilised?

2. Is Government also aware that the said machine has more than fulfilled its period of usefulness?

3. Will the Minister go into the matter with a view to supplying the said Department with a Sewing Machine that is more in keeping with the present-day standards?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders, 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. Again I say that if hon. members wish to deal with any items under Private Members' Business, perhaps they will indicate them to me and the Government will be quite willing to accommodate those hon. members.

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. Deputy 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. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. F. C. GODDARD entered the House and took their seats.

ACQUISITION OF RADCLIFFE PASTURE

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. The Reply has been laid to Parliamentary Question No. 57/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

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

Will Government investigate the possibility of acquiring Radcliffe Pasture, Brittons Hill, in the parish of St. Michael, to serve the purposes of a playing field and Community Centre for the residents of that entire area? 2.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"Yes, Sir, Investigation has started and will continue."

Mr. SEALEY: As a supplementary, is the Government aware that this pasture has been sold twice since I asked the question?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government is aware that the pasture has been sold, but that does not inhibit the acquisition of the pasture if the Government thinks fit.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for his reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 66/1964 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John who is not in his place at the moment.

Parliamentary Question No. 74/1964 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip who is not in his place.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to say that the hon. junior member for St. John was in his place a few minutes ago.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that hon. member returns, the House will have no objection to his asking the question standing in his name.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 52

Head 5 - Judiciary - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Head 5, Mr. Chairman, Item 20 - Medical Witnesses under Mental Health Act, 1951. The amount originally voted in the current Estimates was \$4,000 and extra appropriation for \$1,000 is now needed to supplement this vote, merely because what was originally voted has proved inadequate.

I beg to move that Head 5 - Judiciary - stand part.

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

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

Head 17 - Premier - Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Under Head 17, Mr. Chairman, Premier - Home Affairs, there are four items to be supplemented, Item 13 - Secretariat Allowance, Item 14 - Stationery, Item 17 - Electricity and Item 19 - Government Advertisements.

The explanations, I think, are adequate. I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the amount asked for to supplement the Stationery Vote appears to be rather large and nearly half of the original vote, but I would like to let hon. members know that this Stationery Vote, though nominally under Home Affairs, includes the stationery used by all the Ministries and Departments or nearly all at Government Headquarters. Consequently, it is a vote for several Departments and not only for the Ministry of Home Affairs as such.

With respect to Government advertising and electricity, I think that the explanatory notes say quite fully why it is necessary to supplement these. However, if there are any other questions or any points to be raised not covered in the Addendum, I shall try my best to answer them.

I beg to move that Head 17 - Premier - Home Affairs - stand part.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to the passing of this Head, but with respect to Item 19 - Government Advertisements - \$7,190, it is stated that this is due to an increase in the number of advertisements, particularly

in respect of Tenders, Land Acquisition and other legal matters. I should like to draw to the attention of the Government and the Leader of the House that I take strong objection to Government advertising in certain journals in this Island which can only be regarded as vulgar strips of paper, which means that we are subsidising vulgarity, and those persons who continue a subsidy of this type are breeding the type of cancer in our community that should be completely extirpated.

Too many people in this community are beginning to play softly with these types of characters - even some members of this Honourable Chamber; but I am going to say quite bluntly from this seat that far from the Government advertising in papers such as these, they are advertising in a paper which is not fit to be published in any decent modern society like ours. I want to say quite bluntly that more will be said of these things when the time comes, but the Government should call a halt to some of these papers that are being published.

3.00 p.m.

I would not say that the Government is courting them for their political ends because some of the newspapers themselves castigate the Government and members of the Government in a most foul manner, and this question of subsidizing blackmail is something to which we should put a halt.

I saw an advertisement appearing in a newspaper week by week - "The Truth" - in which it was holding up a person to scandal and vulgarity; and if this sort of subsidizing these newspapers is coming out of the public purse, I would prefer to be sued for income tax rather than to say that I am helping them.

I see Government advertisements appearing in these newspapers, and I want the Minister to get it quite clearly. If it is a legal matter to be examined, you better have this matter examined.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to rise, but I must say that this Resolution purports to vote some sum of money in order to pay for certain advertisements of the Government being published in the newspapers. Now, the Government has to be very, very careful about discrimination when it comes to publishing advertisements in one newspaper and not in another newspaper.

I do not accuse the Government of subsidizing by advertising in a newspaper because if a newspaper derives money from advertisements, I do not think that your paying for advertisements can be interpreted as a subsidy. You are paying for something which you get in return. Therefore, that is not a subsidy at all.

With regard to vulgarity appearing in a newspaper, the Government nor this House of Assembly is any type of body for criticising what appears in a newspaper. This community is protected otherwise. We are governed by laws; we have passed laws and we will continue to make laws to govern the people. The action of withholding Government advertisements from a newspaper cannot have any effect on any matter which a newspaper publishes or criticises because the newspaper may very well carry on without Government advertisements. However, this is a matter which is not before us at all. Because any particular newspaper may be regarded as a scandal sheet, that is not a reason why the Government would want to withhold advertisements from it; that is purely a matter of business. When you are sending advertisements to be published by a newspaper, that is not subsidizing the newspaper at all. You are getting what you want; so I do not agree that we suggest to members of the Government to withhold their advertisements from a newspaper because there may be criticism from time to time of the Government appearing therein. Therefore, I am going to vote for this Item without any reservation, irrespective of what papers these advertisements appear in, and how these newspapers are taken by any member of the community. As I have said already, the question of scandal or vulgarity, I think, is protected by laws of this country. An individual member of the com-

munity is protected from any scandal, and I am one member of this House who would be on the side of any Government defending its rights against any person or any newspaper. I would not aid and abet any newspaper against any Government or member of the Government.

As I have said, a Government has to be very careful. You cannot say that because a newspaper criticises your policy you should not advertise through its columns. That particular newspaper may be one of the best newspapers in this island for advertising purposes, and if the idea is to have the Government's business advertised to a wider section of the community, that is all you want.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, some time ago, the Hon. Premier talked about "Machiavellian manoeuvres". I am not associating anything Machiavellian with the hon. member who has spoken, because I believe "Machiavellian" is too high above that plane. When you hear that soap-and-water rubbish by the hon. member and his trying to defend the indefensible and saying that the Government must not discriminate, I will only ask hon. members to examine the provision of your giving advertisements to newspapers. To suggest that Government cannot discriminate in giving advertisements to newspapers, you are only stupid, because it does not mean that every newspaper which is published, the Government is bound to advertise in.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I did not say "the Government cannot"; I said that the Government should be wary against. I did not say "the Government cannot".

Mr. WALCOTT: No one needs to be wary against vulgarity; that is a matter of taste. Some people may not think things are vulgar. That is a matter of taste. What I am saying on the floor of the House is nothing to do with me because I am a man who can defend myself against newspapers; so I do not need anyone to defend me. I am dealing with my position in here in Parliament and I do not matter how many people read that particular newspaper. Lots of people read it, and I know that lots of people hide to buy it. I saw the other day some person hiding to buy it, and then folding it up very neatly and putting it away in his bag. When you buy the "London Times" or the "New York Times", you do not fold them up under your arms.

I am nothing to do with the individual, but with what is being printed. I used the word "subsidy" when speaking of the Government advertising. I said that when the Government is advertising in certain of these newspapers, it is subsidizing vulgarity; and if the Government should withhold its advertisements from such a newspaper, soon and very soon that newspaper would have to go out of circulation.

There is no point in saying that the community has redress. Yes, they have redress in the High Courts. Look how many people have been slandered in newspapers and they have not been able to take the matter to the High Courts! Do you know what the High Courts cost? It does not cost anything for the Government to examine the advertisements which they are issuing to newspapers.

3.10 p.m.

I say that the "Truth" Newspaper is not fit to be carrying Government advertisements unless it is positively a legal requirement which says that every newspaper which is published in this island must carry such-and-such an advertisement. I say repeatedly, no matter how many thousands of people read it, that this Newspaper is a vulgar newspaper which is blackmailing the people of this island, and people are afraid to go into Court about it, because they say that the publisher has nothing. Some of this pussy-footing which goes on is the result of the type of speech which we have just heard from the hon. member; it is indicative of the Goebbels attitude which you get. It is the closest association of the worst type of slime and vulgarity which you get in this community under the guise of water-washed, soap-and-water speech. This is the sort of hypocrisy which is suitable for the wastepaper basket.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to enter into the controversy relative to the *Truth* Newspaper. I am saying that I am not a close friend or associate of the representative of the *Truth* Newspaper. I was speaking purely on the broad principle. I am of the opinion that the Government must be extraordinarily careful when it comes to discipline against any particular newspaper. I regard this as a matter of business. I am not defending anything scandalous appearing in any newspaper. I am not condoning anybody or group of persons who combine to besmirch the character of anybody. I do not have to do that; as a matter of fact, I do not think I will have to do it. My stand is that I intend to vote for this Resolution without any reservation. I was not prodding the Government to withhold its advertisements from any newspaper. That is my unqualified stand in this matter.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the explanatory note to Item 17 "Electricity" says this: "It was necessary to meet from funds provided for the current financial year, expenditure incurred during part of the last financial year. This Item meets the cost of electricity supplied to Government Headquarters....." I take it that some of this money has been spent to offset the money which has been overspent in the last financial year. I would like.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, before the hon. member goes any further, all I would ask him to do is to read carefully the Note which he purports to have read.

Mr. SMITH: The Note says this:

"It was necessary to meet from funds provided for the current financial year expenditure incurred during part of the last financial year....."

If I do not understand it, well, I do not understand it. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how much that amount which was spent is. If the hon. member feels that by jumping up quickly he will stop me from making my point, that cannot happen. The Note to Item 19 - "Government Advertisements" - says this:-

"The increase in expenditure is due to an increase in the number of advertisements, particularly in respect of Tenders, Land Acquisition and other legal matters."

Dealing with this Item "Government Advertisements," I feel that I am entitled to know the amount which has been spent on advertisements. I am entitled to be given a breakdown on this expenditure. Is this something to do with land acquisition? I would not call legal matters "Advertisements". Relative to the *Truth* Newspaper, if I am not mistaken, I think that in the Laws, or in some of the Laws, you are supposed to place so many advertisements in a daily newspaper and so many in a weekly newspaper. I am sure about that. In other words, an advertisement is the people's business, and it is the people's money which we are spending. The law is providing that, rather than advertise in one type of newspaper, you should give the public the chance of reading and knowing what is being done by the Government or any institution which is spending the people's money. If you say that the Government is subsidising a particular newspaper, you can just as well say that anybody who is going into a store is subsidising that store. If anybody is working for my money, am I subsidising that person? I am paying him for services rendered. If that person does not work and I do not get any service from him, I am not paying that particular person. Therefore if the particular newspaper does not do the work which has been given it to do, I cannot see where the Government is subsidising that newspaper.

Sir, I can remember some years ago that we had a newspaper called the *Torch*, and that newspaper used to lambast the Government every Saturday. It had a particular type of writing; the headlines were in red and the other matters were in black. But as I have said, that newspaper used to lambast the last Government. If I am not mistaken, the hon. senior member for St. Peter was a member of that Government at the time, and as far as I can remember,

the hon. member never asked that Government not to give that newspaper any work.
3.20 p.m.

At the time when the paper was lambasting the Government, I think the hon. senior member for St. Peter was a member, but he never made such a suggestion. It is strange, therefore, that he is asking the Government to withhold advertisements from a particular paper; and he mentioned the *Truth*. To me it is not a question of the man, but a question of the people. After all, you put things in a paper where there is a wide circulation. A business house would not give an advertisement to a paper which does not have a wide circulation, because it wants every living human being who can read to see the advertisement when he buys the paper. If the Government wants to see sport, they can do what the member says and ban this paper, because it is the working man's paper. If the paper were no use, the owner would have to shut his doors; but it is clearly shown that people want to read the paper, regardless of what the contents are.

Mr. Chairman, if the paper does anything wrong, the law is there. I see that at Mayers Corner Sir Grantley Adams said something, and the paper took it up and they had the paper to hamstring, whether it was right or wrong. Well then, we can hamstring this paper if it does anything wrong; but do not use our power or ask the Government to use its power by withholding advertisements. How much will the Government withhold to prevent the paper from publishing what it wants? It may only make the paper write more if they try to withhold advertisements. The Government has the power and they can carry out the instructions or the advice of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, but I am sure that would not prevent the paper from being published. It may write more and sell more, but somebody will pay for it, and somebody would not get anything when the time of reckoning comes, regardless of how vulgar it is. If you want to flout the wishes of the people, you can do so. Nkrumah is available, and you can bring him to advise you on how to handle this paper. If a man is trying to make a living and another man wants to prevent him from doing so, that is a serious thing.

It is not fair, Mr. Chairman, for the hon. member to suggest that the Government should withhold advertisements from this paper, because in so doing they are withholding them from the people. There are some people who pay taxes but do not read a daily newspaper. (Mr. WALCOTT: They do not read the Bible either.) But they read the weekly paper. Some people are not in a position to buy a daily paper, but they buy a weekly paper; and as soon as you stop them from doing that, you are flouting their wishes. Are you going to use your power to affect 250,000 people in order to hold up one man? The newspaper might be owned by one or more persons, but it is not owned by 100,000; and even if it had been, you still have 150,000 whose wishes you would be flouting, because they put us here, and they want to read about the tenders and what Government is about to do and what is happening in this country.

I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if we can be as foolish as St. Lucia where the *Advocate* has been banned from circulation. I am not concerned with the paper; I am something to do with the people; if they did not want the paper, they would not buy it, and the owner would have the papers on his hands some Saturdays and would not be able to print any more. If he printed for a month and nobody bought them to provide money to keep the printery going, he would have to stop; so it would be the people to stop him, and not the Government. The Government can, therefore, try if they want to.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate especially after the speech of the last hon. member which I regard in political circumstances as the price you pay for democracy. When he talks about democracy, this is the type of political buffoonery we get. I would not deal with him in the same manner in which the Hon. Premier dealt with him, because I have often said that you should never allow the wicket-keeper to catch you in trying

to hit a six. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has not departed from what I expected him to depart from, because just as I spoke about the vulgarity of the paper, his mind could not get further away from seeing the difference between vulgarity and advertising in the paper, and he said that we want to prevent somebody from reading it because it criticises the Government. What fool would I be to ask the Government to withhold advertisements from a newspaper because it criticises the Government? The hon. member also referred to Nkrumah, but maybe this is a spill over from last night. If any of us had to live under Nkrumah we have disposed of the Nkrumah in Sir Grantley Adams whose name he called, and all they are trying to do is to resurrect him; but he will not be resurrected as long as some of us are alive. The multiple lies they have told up and down this country on people leave little wonder that they want to underwrite vulgarity. This sort of thing is the last vestige of something they can hold on to, because none of the others would hold on to this sort of thing. It is no use appealing to me, because I am one of the few people in this country who sued this newspaper. Even the very speech which the hon. member made today is a good speech for damages since he knows it is the people's paper. Since he knows that the people want it, there is all the more reason that whatever is vulgar in it reaches a wider area of people by whom it is being bought.
3.30 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, more than once hon. members of this Chamber have drawn to the Government's attention advertisements in newspapers, not on the basis of criticising the Government. But the hon. member says he has a right. This is the sort of democracy to which the hon. member would agree. He says a man has a right to make a living, regardless. That is the type of mentality which we have in this House of Assembly. The hon. member is saying that you have a right to make a living, regardless. In other words, you can break in my house; you can rape my wife - so long as you are making a living. The hon. member does not know what he says because his speech shows that he is not yet disciplined to understand. Some of the language which he uses shows that he needs examination.

These are the things which he does not regard as vulgar - the normal communications from one member to another or to his grand children.

Now, Sir, imagine that we have reached the stage where the hon. member is going to tell someone to wait and see. If we are going to wait and see, God help this country. God help this country if it is going to be run by a man without sense, understanding, ability and if he is most ignorant. In no part of the world do you get the most ignorant running the country. Here you get the non-de-script and people say: "Wait and see when the time comes." We have been hearing them saying ever since "Wait and see when the time comes". I only hope when the time comes we do not hear them singing a different tune.

I have spoken about this matter already and I am going to continue to speak on this matter many times again. Whenever it comes up in the House of Assembly I am going to draw to the attention of the Government that no newspaper which aims at blackmailing the community should receive any support from the Government by way of advertisements. There are some people who agree with what I say on this matter. There are still some voices which are as vociferous as mine who is supporting it. The hon. member should know this. He is the junior member for his constituency, and he knows that is one of the things which he has not got over since the elections in 1961. He has been trying to get back to the top of the polls, but he will only know this when the votes are counted again. He will only know where he is when the votes are counted after the next elections; therefore, do not tell people that you have been elected. He says that as if we have come in here on a push cart. If somebody is to be chosen to run the country, they cannot choose the hon. member. You have not reached the stage of understanding the elementary things in life to run a country. That is the first thing you want. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph is now telling people to wait and see. You get him threatening somebody. There is a difference

between addressing people in the Market Square and in here. The difference between the Market Square and in here is that nobody replies to you in the Market Square; but when you come in here, all of us have the right to reply.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is one thing I want to say. The hon. member said that I say that a man has to make a living, regardless.

Mr. WALCOTT: You did, precisely, say so. You said that a man has to make a living, regardless. If the hon. member wants to challenge that, I ask that the words be taken down. If the hon. member does not understand the significance of the words which he uses, do not use them.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Peter opens his mouth very wide and he can talk all over his face. He said that if the people have to choose somebody to run the country, they would not choose me. I am not asking any person to choose me to run a country, but what I am saying is this. If the people want an honest person to conduct their affairs, they want an honest person. In other words, if they want an honest person, I am one.

The question that Head 17 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Head 20 - Town and Country Planning - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under Head 20, Item 14, Incidentals, supplementary provision of \$60 is required, and the note says that this amount is required to supplement the provision under this Item because of a large item of incidental expenditure in respect of a Copying Machine.

I beg to move that Head 20 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: I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$13,160 do now pass.

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

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

3.40 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 49

EDUCATION - ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

A Resolution for the sum of \$3,700 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution to place at the disposal of the Government the sum of \$3,700 to supplement the Estimates 1965-66, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1965-66, No. 49, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. This sum of money is required to supplement the amount of \$6,050 which was provided in the Capital Estimates under Head 4 - Education and Item 16 - Archives Department. The provision originally made has been proved to be inadequate to carry out the necessary work on buildings at the Lazaretto for use by the Archives Department, and it is now estimated that the sum of \$3,700 is necessary to complete the work. It is for this reason that this supplementary provision is required. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to ask the Hon. Minister to tell us something more about the

Leprosarium. I read somewhere of some other use being made of the buildings down there. I would like to know what is the position with the Blocks down there: what does the Government anticipate doing with the various buildings? This is only a further amount asked for to provide space for the Archives Department at the Leprosarium. I noticed quite recently that it was reported in the Dominion of Canada, where there is one Leprosarium, there is only one person inside and other persons are outside. We have the Radio Station, we have the Archives Department and now we are using some of the other Blocks for other purposes. I should like the hon. member to tell us what is Government's plan for these buildings at the Leprosarium.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I suppose the hon. member is going to suggest that some Minister on this side has converted one of the buildings at the Mental Hospital into a seaside house, judging from the previous questions which he has asked. Somewhere around 1905-1906 there was a scare in this island of an inordinate increase in suspected cases of leprosy. It was shortly afterwards that these substantial buildings were designed at Black Rock in the style of architecture which you will see in the Pine Hill. You will also see this kind of architecture erected at the Rectory in St. James, a place where the Conservative Party sold off substantial areas of seaside land some years ago. Those are the three examples of this architecture which you will find in this island. This Hospital was built to accommodate 155 persons, and shortly after this building was constructed it was discovered that what had been thought to be leprosy was no more than an outbreak of Dermatitis. The correct medical term for leprosy is really Hansen's disease. However, Sir, the prejudice against the Hospital remained, and a group of buildings designed with the taxpayers' money to accommodate between 155 and 175 persons was left empty for a number of years. When this Government came into power, we decided, in the teeth of the resistance of the Opposition, to establish a Wireless Broadcasting system in accordance with the promise which we had made to the people. There were other elements on the other side of the House who thought that we could not manage an undertaking of this nature, and put pressure on us that we should hand it over to an organization with which they were affiliated, an organization popularly known as "Barbados Disturbance" and now known as Barbados Rediffusion Limited. They thought we should hand over the broadcasting to one monopoly.

We promised the people that we would build a radio station and not have Barbados Rediffusion merely. The Regional Manager of Rediffusion wrote me a letter and stated that he would like to know the basis on which the Cabinet arrived at the decision to run a radio station for the people of this island by the people of this island as a public entertainment. I am quite sure that the Government did not rush blindly into something which the Public Service was incapable of sustaining. We invited the assistance of two well-known groups - the Thomson Television group and the National Broadcasting System of the United States of America. The Station is being run by Barbadians. We selected that particular site because of the economies of the construction of buildings and the time factor involved, having promised the people that we would have the radio station in operation before Christmas of 1963. About a month or two before that, one of the Leader Writers in one of the newspapers said that we were trying to achieve the impossible, but nobody took it seriously that this station was to be opened before Christmas. Mr. Chairman, we were able to bring to this island the television service, although some people thought that the Barbadian man in the street was not ready for television. The offices of the Radio and Television Stations occupy the long building to the front in which is situated the Records Office and the necessary requirements. 3.50 p.m.

There is a group of buildings at the back, and prominent in the courtyard is a system of pathways laid out in the form of the Union Jack which makes it impossible for you to approach any of the buildings with any comfort. Anyhow, it is somebody's little folly that we have had to put up with. We have a Board Room, Manager's office, a room

for film storage which occupies the whole ground floor of one of these buildings, a room for processing the television films, and then as we journey to the left, we get the Archives Department occupying three buildings. Then there is the Quarantine Station and the Matron's Quarters for the Quarantine Station. There is also a building on the side which is unoccupied - it is the building farthest to the north - which the Minister of Education and I were looking at as recently as Saturday morning, because there is some discomfort being experienced in the situation of the Public Mortuary. These buildings I do not recommend should be used for this purpose, but there is in the compound a building which was used by the Lazaretto and is a dilapidated building and needs burning down anyhow.

Mr. Chairman, there are less than ten patients in the Asylum today, and in the intermediate compound there is a building which would be unsuitable for offices, but which with proper alteration could be made into a suitable Public Mortuary, because, to use a Barbadian expression, only the dead live in a mortuary. It is just like a planter I heard two or three weeks ago commenting on the banners and bunting which had been put up prior to Her Majesty's arrival. He said it was better to put up nothing than to put up the flags we were putting up. When the hon. member asked what we are doing with the buildings, it is just like asking where is the money coming from to build the Hilton Hotel. Everything is an occasion for a probing, because we have not got one of the money lenders in Bridgetown to finance the Hilton Hotel, and we have been carrying out our Development Programme with an expenditure of \$30 million a year without going to the London money market every six months or something like that. As a matter of fact, I do not think we have been there for two years now. The hon. member thinks there must be something wrong; but I will assure the hon. member - and this will give him jubilation - that the money to build the hotel is not anything that has come "From Russia With Love", and I hope that the explanations I have given him will satisfy his curiosity, and he should not at all consider that any member on this side wants to go and reside so close to his ancestral home in Black Rock.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You know, Mr. Chairman, sometimes when you do not reply to these matters, the public thinks you are afraid; but you have to take up some of these expressions. You will recall that I merely asked what the Government proposed to do with the other buildings. When the hon. member opened up by saying that Ministers are not going to build seaside houses, I would say that I have always had a clean mind, and as to my ancestors, it would be no fault of mine if they went to the Leprosarium. The hon. member can pontificate and throw that out, but I merely asked the question because, seeing that it is being used for educational purposes, I saw or read somewhere that some part of these buildings were to be used as a mortuary. I think that the fact that the present Queen Elizabeth would soon be a Training Hospital makes it suitable for having a mortuary there rather than near a place that is used for educational purposes such as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. That is the reason why I asked the question; and if the hon. member has in mind that I am interested in whether he or his Ministers are interested in seaside houses, that is a matter of indifference to me; and when he comes with those arguments, I will treat them with the contempt they deserve, because I am sorry for him at certain times.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$3,700 do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No. 50

Head 4 - Education - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this Resolution is to introduce under Head 4 a new Item - "Publication of Text Book" - \$1,200. The facts are as follows: For some time now, at least for over thirty years, schools in Barbados have been using Professor Hardy's "Some Aspects of the Flora of Barbados". There is a considerable demand for this book, and also to bring it up to date, so that

the Colonial Development and Welfare Minor Amenities Scheme is advancing \$1,200 for the bringing out of a second and more up-to-date edition of this very valuable book. Meanwhile the Government of Barbados has been asked to advance the money to the publishers and be reimbursed by C.D. & W. in the next financial year. Therefore, in a sense, no extra provision is being asked for; it is just a financial arrangement whereby we advance it and be reimbursed some time later this year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1965-66 No.51

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$14,000, and as set out here in the note, the sum of \$1,000 is required to supplement Item 143 - Light, Power and Water of Head 37, Ministry of Health. Provision has become inadequate because outstanding bills, incurred in 1964-65 and amounting to \$1,269.04, have been met from it.
4.00 p.m.

I beg to move that the sum of \$1,000 be voted under Head 37, Item 143.

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

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

Head 38 - The Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a new item and it is for the Conversion of the fuel system of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As the note states, the sum of \$13,000 is required to meet the cost of converting the boilers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to enable the use of fuel oil instead of natural gas. The conversion would serve the dual purpose of effecting a saving in the recurrent costs at the Hospital and in assisting the Natural Gas Corporation to conserve its limited reserves for domestic use.

I beg to move that Head 38, Item 145, (New) Conversion of fuel system, stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$14,000 do now pass.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION BILL, 1966

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No.5 be taken as 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.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That Order stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: Second reading of a Bill to authorise the preparation of a Register of certain persons resident in the Island which would, in due course and after appropriate legal provision, be used as an Electoral Register and for other purposes and for other matter incidental thereto.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the existing Register under which the electorate of this country is allowed to vote was last prepared by enumerators in 1961. According to a provision of the Representation of the People Act, a new Register must be prepared every five years, so that in the normal course of events a new Register would be prepared on the 30th June, 1966, following an enumeration done under the supervision of the Registering Officers of the different parishes.

In the intermediate years the Register is entitled to be revised, and any person of this country who attains the age of 21 between the qualifying dates is entitled in the first four months of the following year to go and have his name added to the list. Similarly, any person coming into the country who is a British Subject has the right.

Over the past two and a half years to three years - I think the Act was passed in 1963 - we have revised the voting age, reducing it from 21 to 18. Since that date other Commonwealth countries such as Jamaica, the United Kingdom - the Dominions of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales - have followed suit and would be reducing their voting age. So, too, the country of Ghana has been long agitating for a reduction of their voting age. Australia is the only country which had a reduction of the voting age before the island of Barbados.

Now, Sir, in 1962 we introduced and passed the Boundaries Commission Act. The Commission was comprised of members of all parties of the House and His Honour the Speaker as Chairman. It was established; and after various extensions, the Commission eventually submitted their report dividing the island into twenty-four constituencies instead of twelve as at present.

A Resolution approving the Boundaries Commission Report had a very unusual passage through this House because it was taken off the Order Paper, at first having been there for the statutory period laid down by Standing Orders, and I had to re-admit the Resolution. As far as I can remember, there was no division on the question of the boundaries although many hon. members expressed some doubt as to whether the single member constituency system was one which should be introduced at this time.

Since the Register was prepared in 1961, many people have left this island. I do not have the accurate statistics of what happened between 1961 and 1965; but I know that the numbers going to the United Kingdom to emigrate in the previous five years was not less than 2,500 Barbadians, and I am sure the names of 75% of those who were entitled to go, were actually on the Register.
4.10 p.m.

The average net emigration figure during the past five years would probably be running into something like 1,800 a year. In addition to that, we have a further number of West Indians coming into this country of probably 900 to 1,000 a year making a total of 2,700 or 2,800 which would affect the accuracy of the register.

In 1963-64 we had 984 people coming to reside in Barbados from British Guiana, and this is the most densely populated island outside of Singapore and Malta. Yet we have a net immigration figure adding to our problem. Last year we introduced in this House a Measure which extended the time within which the registration should take place, and the qualifying date was shifted. The date on which the Register was to be published was 31st August, and the qualifying date was shifted to 30th May. In truth and in fact, because enumerators were not sent out to do a house-to-house canvassing and because several thousands of young people were entitled to be put on the Register, and they did not know that they were entitled to be put on the Register, the actual numbers registered to date - of course emigration was also a contributing factor in 1965 so that in that year the number on the Register was less than the number on the Electoral Register in 1961. It is true that in 1960-61 there had been a drop in the population of Barbados, but the population has been increasing steadily ever since, especially since the restriction of emigration under the Act of 1962. People prefer to be uncomfortable at home than to be uncomfortable in a hostile country.

The effect of these factors was that the number of persons entitled to vote was less in 1965 than it was in 1961. In any event, in 1963 under the provisions of the new Registration Act, a new Register has to be compiled. The Chief Registering Officer would have to publish a Notice in December, 1965, informing people that the Register would be compiled, and enumerators would be appointed and would be doing house-to-house canvassing. The Register would be ready, and people would state their objections to their exclusion from the List, or their objections to the inclusion of persons who were not eligible to be put on the Register. Technically speaking, the law is not being complied with right now. We have been embroiled in this new system of voters' registration which we expected would have been completed late in 1964, or early in 1965. The machinery of the Civil Service was not geared; and because of the fact that we were going into new experiments now, we have had to proceed very cautiously and slowly in these matters, and therefore we did not get all the things done within the timetable which we had set out. That is largely due to the tremendous amount of legislation which has been coming down almost in torrents from the Cabinet Office since this Government has been in power. In introducing any new system, great care and attention has to be paid to the details and the drafting of the legislation.

Sir, you will also remember that sometime last year the House was apprised of a new system of voters' registration, and there was the question of the Social Security System, which, I hope, the Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour will have ready for the House within a matter of weeks from now. In passing, I will say that it is now a matter of public and general knowledge that the Director and the Deputy Director of the Social Security Scheme will be appointed, and within a matter of weeks we shall have the necessary legislation laid on the Table of the House - or rather brought before the Legislature - so as to get the Social Security Scheme off the ground. I should like to compliment the Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour who has taken over in pushing through this legislation, and the only reason why he has not introduced it today is because of the fact that he has been suffering not only from personal illness but also from a shortage of staff in the office.

Mr. Speaker, if I may return to the Bill which we have before us now, I would like to say that I would not like anybody to have any illusions about what the purpose of this Bill happens to be. The qualification is much the same as before, except that it has been widened.

4.20 p.m.

In the Bill provision is made for dividing the island into twenty-four areas. You will notice I said "registration areas" and not "constituencies", because constituencies can only be determined by the Representation of the People Act whenever that is amended. The Registration areas are being dealt with in this Bill; and though it is true that the Objects and Reasons Clause goes on to say that they correspond with the twenty-four areas named as

constituencies, it does not mean that this Bill is going to make the twenty-four constituencies. The Bill makes provision for the division of the Island into twenty-four registration areas, in which registration areas you will have polling districts, and those polling districts are roughly comprised of 500 voters each, and so a polling district in a parish may belong to one constituency or to another constituency. Groups of polling districts comprise a constituency, and the number of polling districts in a constituency should be roughly ten under the proposed system, and it would be about twenty in the average case of polling districts under the old system.

Now the qualifying date of registration is going to be 31st March, so that anyone who is eighteen years of age on or before 31st March, 1966, will be entitled to be registered even if the Registering Officer or enumerator comes around before 31st March. That would be the first registration; but because we are running a Social Security system and the qualifying age is fourteen years, and young people who are less fortunate and do not attend Secondary Schools would go to work at the age of fifteen, there will be the registration of all young people between the ages of fifteen and eighteen. That has two advantages. The first advantage is that all the young people over the age of fifteen will be in possession of their identity cards, and will be eligible for the benefits; and of course the liabilities in the form of contributions to a social security scheme. But added to that is that people between fifteen and eighteen years who are on this register will automatically transfer, on attaining the age of eighteen, on to the voting register, so that it will not be necessary for them to go around and inform the Registering Officer whenever they attain their electoral maturity. So this system will be carried on simultaneously with the registration of voters, and all the processing will be done for the first time in the history of the Island by International Business Machines, so that the registration will not be done by compiling a list in alphabetical order on a typewriter or Justo-writer and then having it printed on a printing machine or done by duplicators, but it will be done electronically. When the enumerators have brought in their punch cards with the names and the different statistics - date of birth, sex, occupation and so on of the registered voter - all the person registering will have to do is to feed the punch card into the tabulator and set it; so the major operation here really is the enumeration.

I hope that all the people in Barbados who are British subjects and who are over the age of fifteen and upwards will co-operate with the enumerators who will be coming around. They are not coming to pry into your business; they are coming to register for Social Security and for Voters' Registration. That is in itself quite a revolutionary change in the system we used to have before.

Now the other innovation is that the register will be a permanent register. It will be a register which does not have to be revised on a specific date every year or compiled afresh every fifth year. It will be a register which will be revised from day to day as people leave the Island and the Registering Officer receives notice, or people become eligible to vote by having attained the age of eighteen. All that will be done as a matter of course and in due course from day to day; so your register theoretically should always be up to date. I said "theoretically", because in human affairs one cannot be perfect, and for a variety of reasons the Registering Officer may not be aware that somebody has slipped out of the Island, or that somebody has come in illegally or something like that; and it may be sometime before the death of a person is officially brought to his notice. It may take monthly returns before he realises that somebody's name has to be eliminated by reason of departure from this human scene. But as far as it is humanly possible, the register will be a permanent register and should be an up-to-date register for all time.

You will also note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in the Bill it is provided that there should be Rules, and the purpose of these Rules would be among other things to specify the type of information which could be included on the Registration Card and matters of that kind. These Rules, as far as I know, are ready and will be brought into effect as soon as it is necessary.

There is one other matter in this which I should like to draw to your attention. Apart from the qualifying date being 31st March - that is the qualifying date for registration - the date on which the Register becomes the Register the Register is one which will have to be specified by legislation which I hope shortly to introduce. We must not confuse ourselves between the qualifying date, that is the date on which you become eighteen years with no limit upwards. We do not go from eighteen to eighty; we go from eighteen until you no longer get out of your bed or house to go and vote, because we do insist that everyone who is entitled to vote must go to the polling station and register his vote; so you will get a residual number of hospitalised persons, who, unless they give the necessary notice to the Returning Officer, will be voteless for the time being. 4.30 p.m.

We must distinguish between the qualifying date which is the date you become 18 years of age and over, and the effective date on which the Register becomes the Register. The Register which we are operating on is hopelessly out-of-date. It is one which was compiled 30th June, 1961, and which was only revised by yearly enumerations between 1961 and 1966. As I have said before, the qualifying date for that Register was the 31st May; but the response was very poor, and the Register was revised on the 31st August last year with less persons on the Register than what was on it at first. If there were an election, let us say next week, we would be using that Register.

The Bill which I am moving is one which will make the Register up-to-date and enable all those persons who have a civic sense and who are willing to take part in the exercises of parliamentary democracy to have the privilege of going and voting under this new system. As I have said before, the Bill serves a dual purpose. It is to be noted that almost simultaneously with the introduction of the Register we hope that the Social Security Scheme will at least get off the ground now that we have a new astronaut in the nose-cone, as it were.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second 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: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 16 were called separately and passed.

The schedule was called and passed.

On motion of hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

PROVOST MARSHAL'S (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1966

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 be taken as the next Order of the day under

Government Business, and I ask leave of the House to take charge of the Bill in the temporary absence of the Hon. Premier.

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

The question that Order No. 4 be taken as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

4.40 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think that hon. members will see the reason for this amending Bill. Under Section 70 of the Provost Marshal's Act, 1904, special Deputy Marshals who are appointed to attend sittings of the Supreme Court are paid at the rate of \$1.20 for each day's attendance. This rate of pay for these special Deputy Marshals has not been altered since 1947; and for this and other reasons, it is proposed to recruit suitable persons for this kind of work from time to time. It is considered expedient that this rate of pay for these special Deputy Marshals should be increased from \$1.20 per day to \$5.00 per day. In Clause 3 of the Bill, it is proposed to make this allowance retroactive as from 1st January, 1966. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there is anything controversial in this matter and I therefore commend it to the House. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:-

2. Subsection (2) of section 70 of the Provost Marshal's Act, 1904, is hereby amended by substituting the words "seventy-two cents and five dollars respectively" for the words "three shillings and five shillings respectively".

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, as one who is working in the Courts, there are certain things which I would see which I know the Hon. Minister would not see, and there are also things which I see which people who advise the Minister would not see fit to deal with. Sometime ago I spoke about the difficulty which is experienced in capital cases where the jury are empanelled and have to sleep overnight. Very often these jurors are over-taxed. You have an accused person and a Special Deputy Marshal put in charge of that Jury - I may say that a question may be raised by people who are affected, and if such a question is raised, then it is my duty to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister. If it is something to be dealt with, then it should be dealt with. In relation to these Special Deputy Marshals, this is an improvement on the past and I see that the Government is keeping abreast of times. When you have to appoint these Special Deputy Marshals, in most

cases they are not going to be men of substance. It may be that there is a man who is seeking to work for a few dollars and you will find that in respect of paying these special men, a man who is being put in charge of these jurors at night may have to work during the day where such responsibility is not called for. You will find that the Senior Marshals who have already been appointed and those who are on the Established Staff - they are the ones who may be called upon to work from the afternoon all through the night, and you will see the number of hours during which they will have to be working away from home and with such a great responsibility. This is a big increase, but is it in keeping with the times? A Senior Marshal - one whose sense of responsibility has already been tested, may have to work from six o'clock in the evening until next morning. A Special Marshal would not be in that position to be charged with that responsibility.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. member for having raised those important points, but I really cannot answer him as fully as he deserves to be answered. If he allows me to raise the points which he has raised with the appropriate Minister, I will do so and I am sure that he will have a satisfactory answer.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 3 was 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.

4.50 p.m.

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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. 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.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.2) ORDER, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John; to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.2) Order, 1966.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking leave of the House to take charge of the Order which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, hon. members will see that this Civil Establishment Order covers the Police, Office of the Premier and the Ministry of Trade and Labour. In the office of the Premier, the Order requests the creation of three supernumerary posts of Permanent Secretary;

in the Police the creation of the following additional posts - one Assistant Director of Music and one Station Sergeant, and the purpose of this is to provide adequate supervision, and to enable the Band to undertake more than one engagement at the same time when necessary.

The Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour will speak after me, Sir, to second the passing of this Resolution because he has, as you will see under No. (3), matters with which he is more intimately concerned.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the passing of this Resolution, I should like to point out that the Labour Department was established in 1940 with a Labour Officer - who was later designated Labour Commissioner - a clerk, a Typist and a Messenger; and with the growth and extension of this Department, the present strength of the staff is now 62 persons comprising 25 Established posts, 25 Temporary posts, 10 Unestablished posts, one Part Time and one Unestablished post. In addition there are a number of people who are employed in this Department temporarily when there is mass recruitment for the U.S. Farm Labour Programme.

In the past two or three years, there has been great concern over the operation of the Labour Department. It has been felt that the short-fall of the Department might have been the result of mal-administration, or it might have been because of many other things. In order to determine what were the causes of the failure of the Labour Department to satisfy the needs of the country, an enquiry was carried out into the administration of the Department by the Adviser on Training and Establishment to the Government, Mr. S. A. Hammond in 1962, and it was discovered that the failure in the Department was not as a result of mal-administration. As a matter of fact, the Adviser on Establishments and Training had nothing but praise for the Labour Commissioner and his staff whom he thought were doing the best job which they could do.

Consequent on my assuming office as Minister of Labour, I busied myself in trying to see what could be done about the improvement of the Department, and I too am satisfied that the Acting Labour Commissioner and his staff are doing the best job they can do under the present circumstances; but a better job can be done, and this job can only be done if the Department is re-organised. In re-organising this Department, the Government has accepted the recommendations of Mr. Hammond, and what we are doing here today is asking for the first step for staff, which will take care of the first step of the administrative changes in the Labour Department.

One of the greatest difficulties facing the Labour Department is the question of trained staff. At present there are no more than four of the 62 members on the staff at the Labour Department who have got more than seven years' experience in Labour Administration, and what has been the sad omen for the Department is the fact that officers who are trained in Labour Administration have been removed from the Labour Department and placed in other offices. We have had cases of five Labour Officers being on the Establishment of that Department, and only two were in their substantive posts. One was transferred as an Assistant Accountant in the Auditor General's Office, and a Senior Clerk has been seconded to the Department of Labour as a Labour Officer, and you found that some of the Labour Officers were Long Grade Clerks.

A Labour Officer should be a man of a higher grade and he should have the ability to get on with people. I am not saying that these officers were not doing a good job in their substantive posts, but there must be an element of speciality in dealing with labour Administration, and this has been responsible for the short fall in the Department.

What is further responsible is the fact that of the number of 62 people employed in the Labour Department, only

25 were permanent members of the Staff. The others were either Unestablished, Temporary or Non-established officers. No department of Government can expect to function satisfactorily when more than half of its staff is in an insecure position. Members who are not on the permanent staff, or the employees who are in temporary posts, cannot have the initiative to do the job which normally members in permanent posts would have and this has resulted in the present Government taking steps to do what it has done.

As early as 1962, Mr. Hammond was asked to investigate and report to the Government on the running of the Labour Department. His Report was submitted and here are some of the results. He pointed out that the Department was badly organised. In the first place, it has a multifarious amount of functions to perform. Some of the functions are as follows:

The enforcement of legislation of regulating conditions of employment;

Conciliation;

Administration of the Employment Exchange which involves the registration, selection and placement of workers in employment locally and overseas;

Administration of the Youth Employment Service;

Training Services, (that is conducting courses in training within industries and classes for persons seeking employment with the London Transport Executive);

Nursing Selection Services for persons seeking admission for training and employment in Hospitals overseas;

Emigration;

Loan Services, granting loans, effecting recovery from persons who have been assisted in employment overseas to the United States Workers Savings Organisation;

Looking after the remittances of Workers employed in the farm in the United States Farm Labour Program;

Finally, Cane weighing Inspection Services for the crop time only.

All these are functions of the Labour Department - and they are important functions in any community; therefore, they should be in capable hands. The Officers must be qualified to do the job and it is advisable to have these posts established.

What also happens is that some of these trained officers are removed to other posts after they are trained.

What is responsible for this is the question of promotion. The Officer may be eligible for promotion; but because of the fact that they have been in that Department, they are removed to other Departments where they can be graded for promotion.

Sir, you will notice that this Establishment Order is graded from the Long Grade Clerk up to the Deputy Labour Officers; so the officers of this Department will now have something to aspire to. Formerly, there was only a number of posts of Labour Officers.

We are having Assistant Labour Officers who would be training so that when the Labour Officers are sent to higher posts, their functions can be undertaken by the Assistant Labour Officers.

It is to be noted that there are very responsible positions in the Labour Department which are held by people who are not appointed to the job. I can give you the instance of a lady who is responsible for the registration of youth in the country. There are boys and girls who leave school, and this lady has to advise them. This young lady is a tem-

porary officer and her position is a very responsible one; yet she is not in an Established post. The post is a temporary one, and I may say that most of the important posts are temporary posts, and that is not good enough for Barbados in this age.

Therefore, Sir, the Civil Establishment Order, which I have here and am asking the House to approve of, is a means of improving the standard at the Labour Department a means of making the Department more equipped to do the job which it was established in 1940 to do, and a means of giving the people of Barbados better satisfaction in that Department. Hon. members would see what changes are made, and what additional posts are created, as well as what posts are abolished.

It will be noticed also that the nomenclature of the Head of the Department would be changed from Labour Commissioner to Chief Labour Officer. Then there is the post of Deputy Chief Labour Officer. There is the abolition of the posts of Manager, Employment Exchange; Youth Employment Officer; Female Clerk; and Stenographer.

Sir, we have been having trouble with the Accounting System, and an Accountant would be appointed. We are in great arrears - something like \$200,000 - where Loan Funds are concerned by people who borrowed funds to emigrate to the United Kingdom, Canada and elsewhere because of the fact that there was not a follow-up, and the fact that there have been no qualified persons in that Department to look after the accounts. We have been running into arrears, and no up-to-date records are kept of these accounts. This has resulted in, as I have said, a shortfall of \$200,000.

Fortunately, the Department was directed, through the forces of the Hon. Premier, to try and get in the arrears, and quite a bit of the \$200,000 has been brought in. Every effort is made to have the arrears straightened up. 5.10 p.m.

The Department will now be operated in three sections. It will have a section dealing with the Employment Services; this will be one section. There will be an Inspection Section and a Common Services section. Each of these sections will be headed by a Labour Officer who will be responsible to the Deputy Chief Labour Officer who, in turn, will be responsible to the Chief Labour Officer. We hope that a better run and a more efficiently run Department will result from these proposals in a few months' time. Another factor which I would like to bring to the attention of hon. members is that this Department will have a Ministry. It is expected that this will lead to greater efficiency in the Department. It is the intention of the Government not only to have this Department with a Ministry, but the title of the Ministry will be: "The Ministry of Trade, Labour, National Insurance and Tourism". That will be the new name of the Ministry after this Resolution has been passed.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there is anything which any hon. member would like to hear further, but if any hon. member were to ask any questions with regard to these proposals, I shall be only too pleased to answer those questions. I take great pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that the Hon. Minister is thinking more seriously about this Department. I am more than proud to hear him say that the Acting Labour Commissioner is doing a very fine job along with his Staff. The Hon. Minister is satisfied with the work of the Acting Labour Commissioner and his Staff. It seems that they are going to change the title of this post from "Labour Commissioner" to that of "Chief Labour Officer" and the Minister says that owing to the multifarious duties which have to be performed by this Department, and they have sixty-two people employed there, it is a big job which they have to do. The present Acting Labour Commissioner has been acting there for a very long time, and the Hon. Minister is quite satisfied with him. I sincerely hope that now they are changing the title of the Head of the Department from "Labour Commissioner" to the title of "Chief Labour Officer", they will not change this Officer. I do not know....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I should like to point out to the hon. member that the matter of making appointments is a matter for the Public Service Commission and not for the Legislature.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I know that, but I am only throwing out a hint. The Hon. Minister may tell us how efficient this Officer is, but he may not do anything at all to show us how efficient this officer is.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Again, on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the hon. member that Section 21 of the Public Service Commission Act, 1961, points out that: "Every person who, otherwise than in the course of his duty, directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person, in any matter whatsoever influences or attempts to influence any decision of the Commission or any member thereof or any authority or public officer to whom any function of the Commission is delegated shall be liable on conviction by a court of summary jurisdiction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment."

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if that provision used to be carried out, there would be very few of us in here. That is my privilege to say what I am saying. This man has been acting for too long and some thing should be done about it.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think that the hon. member, whatever officer he is referring to, is doing that officer a great disservice. By harping on this Officer's qualities he may give the Public Service Commission the impression that he is canvassing the members of this House. The standing Orders have been printed comparatively recently in a new booklet, but, of course, they were there before.

Mr. SMITH: I am saying, Sir, that it is my right and privilege to say what I am saying. No officer has been canvassing me. If an officer in any Government should canvass me, then he does not want any job. If anybody is seen even speaking to me, he wants a job, far more for him to be canvassing me. I think that any officer, if he has any sense, would pass me like Levi on the other side, if he wants to get anywhere in this Government. I am saying that it is my right and privilege to say what I am saying. I was not going to say anything in this matter; but after hearing the Hon. Minister say how efficient this man is, am I to sit here and say nothing? If hon. members do not want me to talk, well then, let them try and stop me from talking. This man was acting down there before I was born.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to point out to the hon. member that he has made his point. He was referring to something to which the Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour referred, that is, the efficiency of the Officer, and the hon. senior member for St. John has expressed agreement with it; therefore do not let us go outside the principle of this Resolution.
5.20 p.m.

Let us go outside what we are entitled to do in respect of this Resolution. We are dealing with the principle of whether this Order should be passed; we are nothing to do with the appointment or confirmation of Officers in posts.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, we are changing the offices...

Mr. SPEAKER: We are changing the office, but not doing anything in respect of the individual officers. Let us try and get that clear. We are dealing with offices as distinct from officers, officers being individuals.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you are re-designating the post of Assistant Labour Commissioner as Deputy Chief Labour Officer, and then there is going to be the creation of one post of Senior Labour Officer and other Officers, which means that we are creating posts in this Resolution, are we not?

Mr. SPEAKER: But we are not filling posts; that is the difference!

Mr. SMITH: We are creating posts, and I am asking to appoint the Chief Labour Officer now, because that will be the new name. I am thinking of the Chief Labour Officer.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is, the post of Chief Labour Officer. I can appreciate that.

Mr. SMITH: I am saying, Sir, that we had one acting for the longest time. Why not appoint him?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has already made that point, even if the point is not correct. He has paid tribute to the Acting Labour Commissioner, and that must be in Hansard more than once. Let us deal with the post as distinct from the personality.

Mr. SMITH: I am dealing with the post. Now, there are 62 persons employed in this Department. Now, the Hon. Premier used remarks to the effect that it looks as if a particular individual is canvassing me, but those remarks do not sound right coming from the Premier who represents people. No one at all has canvassed me, but I am speaking my mind.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I have absolutely no intention of preventing the hon. member from speaking what the hon. member pleases to call the hon. member's mind; but I was merely pointing out that in persisting in talking about this Labour Commissioner and designating the particular officer, he was himself doing a great disservice to that public officer by giving the unfortunate impression that somebody may have been canvassing him to speak in that way. That is all I was saying; but far be it from me to prevent the hon. member from expressing what the hon. member pleases to call the hon. member's mind.

Mr. SMITH: I can and will assure the Hon. Premier that I only opened up my papers this morning for the first time; so I did not know what was going to happen today; and if any person had canvassed me, I would have had to search my papers before. It is only this morning that I opened my papers because I am a busy man and I have to fight for a livelihood, and I have to take time off to search my papers. However, I am not referring to a particular officer by name, but I am still saying that I sincerely hope that these people are going to be made permanent so as to encourage a better service at that Department, because when one is working without any knowledge of what is going to be his reward, he cannot put all his interest in the job because he is not secure. I am very glad to see that Government is going to make these posts permanent, and I sincerely hope that some thing will be done as far as the Chief Labour Officer is concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: That post will be created.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that something new is being created in the Labour Department, because it would be understood that I know more about this and have more dealings with it than any other hon. member in this Chamber, because it is my business to go to the Labour Department very frequently. I should like to say that the integration of the Labour Department into the Ministry of Labour is a modern trend and something we welcome, because it integrates a big Department. In the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Labour is an integrated Department.

Now the Hon. Minister must bear in mind that he precipitates too much argument when he gets up on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph said that he did not open his papers until today; but even if he had opened them earlier, things do not always pass him so easily. When he admits that he only opened them today and that he is a busy man, he is only making the Chamber an area to inflict us with the duties he should perform. In one breath he says that he has been elected by the people to do the people's work, and in another breath he is making the excuse that he is too busy to open his papers before he comes here. Why doesn't he withdraw?

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, If I received my papers yesterday afternoon, what time would the hon. member want me to open them?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is far from being a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Anybody can say that. It is typical of the things people do. If I said I did not see something, who can prove that I did? Or if I said I did not hear something, who can prove that I did hear it? Who can prove when he received his papers until yesterday or today? (Mr. SMITH: I must have robbed you.) You have not robbed me, but I am going to deal with you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is making these loud asides, but when I am finished, his venom will come down and his bubble will burst.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. member to deal with the Resolution in here, but outside does not concern me.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is making vulgar asides loud enough to disturb thunder, and that is why I have to let him know these things, because he thinks that this Chamber is the platform where week after week he can inflict us with his meanderings on every issue, whether or nor he understands it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyhow, I will ask the hon. member not to meander from the Resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT: I will not follow his example which is a very bad one. (Mr. SMITH: I will continue to inflict you.) 5.30 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I believe if you do not hear these asides from the hon. member, I will have to deal with him very caustically because ignorance must be put in its place. This is no Chamber for one to practise ignorance. If the hon. member cannot address his mind to what takes place in Parliament, I do not see any reason why anybody should be inflicted with the monumental ignorance which he inflicts on us week after week. Personally, I am not going to sit down here to be inflicted by his ignorance week after week.

Mr. Speaker, you can see it in his eyes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. senior member for St. Peter to desist from that.

Mr. WALCOTT: You can see it in his eyes and in his face. Why should a face like that inflict this Chamber?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. senior member for St. Peter to desist from that.

Mr. WALCOTT: When he gets on with this vulgar behaviour, it should be outside of Parliament. (Mr. SPEAKER rose.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. senior member for St. Peter to continue his address on this resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT: Each time the hon. member makes these asides, he must be dealt with because I have no intentions to sit here and let him continue with what he was continuing with for the last four years. The hon. member thinks he can abuse that tolerance which we have shown to him.

Mr. Speaker, this integration of the Labour Department is one which I would like to draw to the attention of the Government. This is a Department which I know something about. It is a technical Department, and I would like greater attention to be paid to the persons who are appointed to this Department because they deal with vital

matters, and it is an extremely important Department to the harmonious industrial life of this community. It is essential that all of the Labour Officers must be, or should be, potential men and women capable of reaching the top and capable of maintaining the position which you require from the top.

Unfortunately, in this Department there are lots of young people; and a Department bedevilled by people moving in and out of it quickly - sometimes people coming and assuming responsible positions and not taking too easily and readily to the posts as one would like.

I would like to see greater attention paid to this Department, and that this technical Department gets the sort of officers which it should have. I would also like to draw to the attention of the Government that a Department which is as important as this is unfortunately badly housed. The Labour Department, as a building, is not ideal in its layout. It may have been a good property to buy at a reasonable price, but its suitability in carrying out what goes on in that Department is not easy. I understand that the former Maternity Hospital is being used for part of the business of the Labour Department. When you have these disjointed Departments, it makes the administration difficult to handle.

Sir, what I would like - and this is within the province of the Hon. Minister - is that the Labour Department should have a decent and comfortable Conference room, tolerably furnished, and there should be some ante rooms so that when the Labour Commissioner has a matter to be discussed, people can take over rooms which should be comfortable for such matters to be discussed in. The Labour Department also requires proper furnishing and equipment which is suitable to many of us. You want to be comfortable when you are there to discuss, let us say, a dispute, and I would like to see better furnishing and better facilities provided at the Labour Department. The present building in Fontabelle - Herbert House - as it is constructed, is totally unsuitable for the amount of work which is carried on there. The way how people who stroll about that building go on must militate against efficiency.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleading with the Government to have quarters at the Labour Department which are suitable for the work which has to be done there; and if the Government does that, I think it will go a long way in helping those of us who have to use that Department in getting through with our business when we have to go there.

Sir, my last point is this. I hope, however, that the integration of the service does not mean that the Chief Labour Officer would not be the person holding the same sort of authority which the Labour Commissioner held. The reason why I say that is this. In the United Kingdom, although they have a system which is different from ours, the person who is responsible for this kind of work is a very technical person and I do not like any sort of integration to deprive us of that skill, because, speaking for myself, as the head of the Trade Union, I do not want to go to any Minister with a trade dispute. A Minister is the last resort in reconciling differences. I do not believe in arbitration *per se*; I believe in settlement with the persons concerned. I only believe in arbitration in Government issues or in essential issues where everything has broken down. The employer and the worker are the main partisans to disputes, and these negotiators who are technical people should be given as much scope as possible to do their work; and for that reason, instead of your relying on the United Kingdom, I think the Government should embark on a training programme within its own territory suitable for the training of these people because I would prefer to see these Officers in the Public Service enjoying more precise training within the industry, if I use that phrase, rather than enjoying Leave Passages. Let them become efficient for the job which they have to perform.
5.40 p.m.

I do not believe that training, of necessity, should be confined to the United Kingdom. The Labour Officer should

be a person having broad experience of training in places like the United States of America where industry is advanced, and in certain parts of Europe where industry is advanced, so that he will have a broad concept of what he has to do, I hope that the Hon. Minister will provide the Department with these requirements. There is no point in sitting around a table in uncomfortable chairs. We want to have a Conference Room with chairs which are suitable for the meeting which you are holding. You want to make people comfortable; otherwise they will get nervous too quickly. Very often people come out of the room and have a smoke. I am saying, Sir, that there are not enough seats at the Labour Department and sometimes we have to use a bench. Whenever I see a bench being used, it makes me feel as if I am entering a dormitory. I hope that in relation to what I am saying, it is not too late for supplementary provision to be made in the Budget so as to provide these things because they spell for efficiency. I am satisfied that if that is done, it will be of assistance to this island.

I am glad to see that provision is made for these additional officers. You need a Department which should be able to give of its best. I hope that the Hon. Minister will accept what I say as one who deals with the Department frequently. This is what I would provide for myself. I would like to say that if I had a meeting or meetings at the Barbados Workers' Union and not at the Labour Department, the facilities are better at the Barbados Workers' Union than what they are at the Labour Department, and that should not be the case. I feel that that is something which should be borne in mind. This is becoming a minor function of the Labour Department because some of the Officers are so emancipated today that more agreements are effected outside the Department than what are effected inside. We settle agreements with employers and the Labour Department is the last resort; the Labour Department and the Labour Commissioner are used for other purposes. I hope that the Hon. Minister will regard what I am saying as an analysis of the situation rather than a criticism of it.

When the time comes for me to deal with these things I will deal with them; but when it comes to the question of the posts which are being created, I would like to say that you should get substantive people in the posts which you create. One of the annoying things which you find with people who are in acting positions is that sometimes they are not sure about themselves in their position, whether it be the top position or any other position. A person who is acting in a post does not react in the same way as a person who is holding the post. I would prefer to see these new posts filled with the normal probationary period being observed, but the persons should be appointed as quickly as possible because the Department is in need of technical staff of the calibre required for performing the work which we have to do now. Finally, now that we are in the threshold of Independence, it is important that we have suitable people in these positions, because in Barbados we have a lot of crack pots around this country who are willing to create the slightest area of disturbance, and one of the areas of disturbance is labour. They cannot get to the centre directly but they go into the periphery. We want to have capable and efficient people in the Labour Department. You have people in the community who designedly, day after day, look for every area of disturbance to create in order that they can get an excuse for getting at the Government either in one way or in the other. You see that at every corner and in every pronouncement that these people make. Even in the innuendoes you can see what is operating in their minds. The easiest area in which you can look for these things is in the Labour area. I am bold enough to talk with anybody in the way I do; people do not have the infiltration they would like to have in the Organisation of which I am in charge. This Organisation is in the hands of persons who are willing to go from stage to stage by way of progress and not in areas of discontent.

Mr. Speaker, this Labour Department has to be a very strong Department. People must be trained for this Department so as to make them understand that they have a community job to perform and that they must do it with the understanding that they are doing such a job. When it comes to the question of salaries, I will not deal with that today;

but this Department will be vital to people, where you have people in under-employment and where they can be used as cheap fodder for people who want to create areas of discontent. The Minister should see that this Department is properly equipped with proper personnel.
5.50 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very grateful to the hon. senior member for St. Peter for the observations which he has made. I should like to assure him that it is the intention of Government to do whatever is humanly possible to improve the organisation of this Department. The Government has been worried about the Department for the past four years, and little has been done positively to make any improvements in the Department. It is however our intention to see that it is properly organised in staff because we recognise that it is a Technical Department, one which is very important in a community and one in which the officers must have the necessary technical knowledge if they are to do their jobs as satisfactorily as the people in the community would like to see them done. Government is therefore doing all that is humanly possible to improve the standard of the organisation of the Labour Department.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter pointed out that greater attention should be paid to persons appointed to the post of Labour Officer and Assistant Labour Officer. That is being done. Already my Ministry has instructed the Chief Personnel Department to look out for people who have the necessary ability and are capable of filling these posts, because we want people with a broad outlook, with ambition and who will do the satisfactory job, and the Personnel Department is assessing the area of the Public Service to find the type of persons we are looking for as it is not just an *ad hoc* arrangement. This Department has been a headache for the Government and this matter has been carefully studied, and all that can be done to improve the Department will be done.

On the question of the housing of the Labour Department, Government has been actively engaged in seeing what can be done on this score. Estimates have been had from the Director of Public Works for the construction of a new building to house not only the Labour Department but ancillary Departments, and we have also had a sub-Committee of the Central Planning Committee working on the question of a site for the new building. We know that the present building at Herbert House is cramped and unsuitable for the type of business which is carried on there, and we are anxious to get out of this building because in the first place it is not properly sited, and secondly it does not have the necessary space for such a large Department which deals with so many people, and on which the welfare of the labouring class in this country depends. We have therefore been looking for a suitable place for providing the Officers of this Department with somewhere to work at ease and give of the best of their services.

This matter has been actively engaging the attention of the Government and very soon now we hope to have this problem solved. I think I have answered all the questions raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and all I am left to point out to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is that the question of the appointment of the Chief Labour Officer is not the prerogative of any Government Minister.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TOM BEND TENANTRY ROAD, ST. PETER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day, Order No. 3, stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works; to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Compulsory Acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Tom Bend Tenantry Road, Ashton Hall in the parish of St. Peter.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, some time in 1927 Ashton Hall Plantation was sold out. In 1937 through a

Court Order, some people by the name of Turpin bought some of this land on this road known as Tom Bend Tenantry Road. Apparently when this land was sold out there was a twelve foot right of way so that people could get in and out. Mrs. Turpin bought land on one side of the road and Mr. Turpin bought land on the other side, and they felt as a result that they were entitled to stop people from passing the road. This road was built some time in 1940 by the Vestry, and all attempts were made to see if a settlement could be negotiated with Mr. Turpin, but to no avail. The residents of Tom Bend Tenantry Road complained to the Ministry on February, 18th, 1964 through a question which was brought here by the hon. junior member for St. Peter to the effect that Mr. Eleazar Turpin, a land owner of the district had dug up a portion of the road, approximately 27 feet by 13 feet.

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

The Section of the road dug up by Mr. Turpin was 351 square feet. The entire area of land utilised in the construction of the tenantry road is 5,170 square feet. I might also add, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Local Government and Community Development and myself with the Director of Highways and Transport and the Ministry's staff paid a visit to this area.
6.00 p.m.

We had a long discussion with Mr. Turpin trying to beseech him to be reasonable but to no avail and, as a result, he has written me a letter threatening me that if we do not come to his terms he is going to dig up the road again. As a result of his digging up the road, he irritated some of the residents and some trouble came out of it. We have therefore decided to bring this matter in here and I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, it is with much relief that I take the opportunity to speak on this Resolution for land acquisition. I remember very clearly when I tabled some questions some months ago concerning the inconvenience of residents of Tom Bend Tenantry Road occasioned by one of their members, a Mr. Turpin on that occasion, I received an answer from the Government Minister which in effect said that the matter was under consideration. I knew that could not be the end of the matter.

The position was this. Here was a man owning land in an area digging up a tenantry road which was used by the public and, more particularly, by the residents of that area, and here it was that this man was holding up the community to ransom and doing as he liked with the land in that area -- digging it up, excavating it and making the road there impassable. Sooner or later something would have had to be done.

Sir, I am glad that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works accompanied by another Minister and others as well, went to the area and saw the condition of the road. I am very glad that the Government has now brought down this Resolution which will enable that road to be repaired and rendered usable to the public and residents of Tom Bend Road especially. I hope that the Government will do it in such a manner that we can expect that this Mr. Turpin will no longer prove himself to be an unfriendly neighbour.

One thing must be drawn to the attention of the Government and community. This was a road which every one considered to be a tenantry road built in the usual manner, built by the usual Government funds and of course, used by the public. After some time, we found a land tenant saying that he must be compensated. Then we had the Government in the interest of the community going and negotiating a settlement.

As far as I am concerned, I only hope that no other instance of this sort will happen again. I hope that there will be no other Mr. Turpin to do a similar thing in years to come. This road was used for years and years and was re-

garded as a public road. After many years Mr. Turpin came along and did what he did. He caused a disturbance continually. I am speaking advisedly to the Government. I hope that instances like this of Mr. Turpin digging up the road will not ever happen again. Government should make absolutely certain that all the necessary arrangements, as far as the cutting out of land for a road to be made the necessary width have been gone into and all agreements made secure because I am perfectly certain that if this matter was not settled in the way in which it has been and Mr. Turpin proved to be the unfriendly neighbour which he has been in the past, a circumstance beyond all control would result in the sort of disturbances that no hon. member of this Committee would welcome.

I have nothing more to say but that Resolution is the real answer, not the *pro tem* which I received some months ago from questions which I tabled in the interest of the people of St. Peter.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am glad to see that a Resolution of this nature has come to the House this afternoon. I myself as a member of the Northern District Council have been and examined that road called Tom Bend Road. Mr. Turpin, a blind man who lives there is as fierce as any lion you can think about. You could not even go near his home. However, I have been into his home, and what has caused all this evil is because the people who sold out land in former years, sold land as they liked and without cutting proper roads to them. The real estate agents of that time have left endless work for lawyers and solicitors today and as long as life lasts. That is so in respect of the whole of St. Andrew. They cut up land in pieces and left out the roads for you to get to them.

Now, what is the cause of all that? It is because there was no Town and Country Planning Act at the time. If there were a Town and Country Planning Act throughout the island at the time, all this evil would not have existed today. Sir, you find today in St. Andrew that roads have been left out of certain plots and the people cannot get their canes over the hills. Every now and then I have to be running to the Hon. Minister of Communications and asking him to send a bulldozer to cut a road this place and the next place. If this particular road were there to lead people to the main road, there would not have been all this trouble and it is because of one man who did not agree with the other people.
6.10 p.m.

He blocked the road with soft stone, and after that soft stone was removed, he dug up the road. All of that evil took place because there was no Town and Country Planning provision in existence at the time. I am stressing that before any piece of land is sold, it will be seen that a proper road is cut for the convenience of the people for the future, and we will not have this unnecessary trouble. Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in associating myself with this Resolution and I will vote for it without any fear whatever.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the consideration of that Resolution concludes Government Business for the day.

ANNOUNCEMENT re ITEMS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to make a few announcements at this stage. There are two Items or Bills on the Order Paper under the Head "Private Members' Business" which, I think, ought to be withdrawn. The first Item is that which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter who, I believe, is otherwise engaged at the present moment, and therefore he is not able to attend to the people's business; but in respect of the wealthy expatriate whose interest he is looking after, even now he is

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member just mention the two matters? I will discuss them with the Clerks at the Table.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I did not hear what the hon. member said.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I do not see how the hon. member could rise on a point of order to say that he was not listening to what I was saying.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I was distracted from paying the attention which I should have been paying.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was pointing out that there is a Bill standing in his name seeking to authorise George Sugarman to extend and enlarge a parcel of land between Sand Street and the sea in the parish of St. Peter, and there is another Bill standing in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, seeking to authorise Grace Taylor to erect a groyne and sea walls at "Four Aces" in the parish of Christ Church. The Bill standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter went to Select Committee; as a matter of fact, both of these matters went to Select Committees. Sometime towards the end of last year, by an Act of this Legislature - Act 1965-59 -- the necessity for presenting petitions and Bills on matters of this kind was transferred from the Executive Committee and vested in the Minister for the time being in charge of Lands, and the Minister has a duty once a year to lay a statement as to the number of licences he has issued in respect of the letting of easements, profits or rights in respect of lands vested in the Crown.

I am saying, Sir, that these two Bills should probably be taken off the Order Paper or removed from the Select Committees to which they have been referred. I think we need some machinery for getting Bills out of Select Committees. I suggest that this matter should be investigated by the Clerk as to whether these Bills should not be moved back into the House so that the appropriate action can be taken by the petitioners.

ANNOUNCEMENT *re* ESTIMATES FOR 1966-67

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I also want to make this announcement. On Tuesday 8th March, 1966, I intend to lay the Estimates for this Island for the financial year 1966-67. By the provisions of the Financial Act, 1964, they have to be completed and the Appropriation Bill has to be passed by the 31st March of every year. That means that both Houses of the Legislature will have a matter of about 23 days only to complete the business of the Estimates and pass the Appropriation Bill. During that period the Estimates, which are rather voluminous as they usually are, have to be printed and circulated. I should normally expect that within a week of the receipt of the Estimates, hon. members should be ready to debate them. I do not say that they will necessarily be started on the 15th March. Sometime during the week beginning on the 13th of March, I should expect that we should be ready to discuss the Estimates and pass the appropriate Bill so that the Other Place will be able to give proper and mature consideration to these financial matters.

TELEGRAM *re* DEATH OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather that Government Business has been concluded. Reference was not made by my colleague,

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, of a telegram which I received yesterday because he was unaware of it. That telegram reads as follows:-

"ETATPRIORITE
THE SPEAKER
THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
BARBADOS.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA
HAS THE HONOUR TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN REPLY TO YOUR MESSAGE ON THE DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI.

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, BARBADOS, FOR THEIR KIND MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY ON THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED PRIME MINISTER SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN."
6.20 p.m.

I have the honour to inform hon. members that there was yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the purpose of selecting a delegate to attend a Parliamentary course in the United Kingdom beginning on Tuesday of next week. That body duly met and selected for the course the Hon. and Learned member for St. James, His Honour the Deputy Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. James be given leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House until 31st March 1966.

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

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

OMISSION OF NAME FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER: There was, I regret to say, the inadvertent omission from the names of the members of this Chamber who were appointed to consider and report on the Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association, the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development.

With leave of the House, I beg now to add the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church to serve on that Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th March, 1966, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

6.26 p.m.