

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th April, 1967.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health and Community Development*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries*); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance*); Sir G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., D.C.L., (Hon.), (*Leader of the Opposition*); and Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.

Prayers were read.

Mr. SARGEANT, Mr. ST. JOHN and Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meetings for the 17th and 18th January of this year have been circulated, and if there is no objection, I will declare them confirmed.

There being no objection, I declare those Minutes now duly confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I am in receipt of a letter from Lady Worrell dated 29th March, 1967, conveying to the Speaker and hon. members of this House the gratitude of her daughter and herself for the Resolution of Sympathy and the tributes paid to her husband, and expressing her thanks also to the Officers and Staff of the House for their kind message.

I have the honour further to inform the House of my receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of September, 1966, as prepared by the Accountant General.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1967.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1967.

The Customs Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order, 1967.

Statement of Loans and Credit guaranteed by the Government and outstanding at 31st March, 1966.

Statement of Expenditure to be met from Loan Funds as at the 31st March, 1966.

Statement of Public debt of the Island and the Sinking funds as at the 31st March, 1966.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at the 31st March, 1966.

Annual Abstract Account of Receipts and Payments for the year ended on the 31st March, 1966.

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

Report of the Sugar Factory Smoke Control Board for the calendar year, 1966.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Employed Persons) (Appointed Day) Order, 1967.

Twenty-fifth to Twenty-eighth Annual Reports and Statements of Accounts of the Agricultural Credit Bank for the years 1961-62 to 1964-65.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Tourist Board for the year 1965-66.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1967.

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1967.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulation Act, 1904. 2.50 p.m.

REPLY LAID

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 14, asked by the hon. junior member for St. James, is now ready.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S NOTICE POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a Notice standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James. I observe that the hon. member is not now in his place.

QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Question standing in the name of the honourable and learned senior member for St. Thomas re Street Lighting in St. Thomas.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Is the Minister aware that a petition has been submitted to his Ministry bearing the signature of more than 100 residents of Porey's Spring, Dr. Moore's Woods, Spring Farm, Bakers Corner, Content Tenantry, Dunscombe Tenantry and Fortress Hill in the Parish of St. Thomas, calling for improved street Lighting in these districts?

2. If the answer is Yes, will the Minister take immediate action to provide the street lighting called for?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulation Act, 1904, be now read a first time.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be now suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I am in order, but the hon. member has moved the suspension of these Standing Orders. I am objecting to that for the simple reason that I see there is one Bill here under the heading of Government Business and I do not think it is controversial. As to the reasons for the Hon. Minister moving the suspension of these Standing Orders - well, he did not let us know his reasons for so doing, but I feel that now that the Government has not got any business to do and there is Private Members' Business here to be done and this is the time for doing Private Members' Business, I do not think we should be deprived of it. If the Minister presses for the suspension of these Standing Orders now, I can quite clearly see that the Government does not want hon. members to do any Private Members' Business at all. As far as I am concerned, we could have done without assembling here this afternoon, and to suspend these Standing Orders will make me and the public believe that the Government members do not want Private Members to do their business for the people of the country.

Sir, I am objecting to the suspension of these Standing Orders because it is not fair for the Government to do that. The Government members are trying to suspend these Standing Orders only because they have the numbers. That is not fair to us and I am objecting to it. We have more here under Private Members' Business than the Government has. This is our time; we do not have to beg for it

and they should not try to cheat us out of it. This is our time and we are demanding it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, we are not trying to cheat anybody out of his time. It is more a question that Government Business would be regarded as more important perhaps than Private Members' Business. All we are saying is this; let us proceed with Government Business and then we will proceed with Private Members' Business and they will have a lot of time to devote to their business and probably they will be able to do it more satisfactorily.

The question that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be now suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:-

AYES: Honourables C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSON, A. DaC. EDWARDS, N. W. BOXILL, Messrs. LOWE, SPRINGER, CORBIN, SARGEANT, WEEKES and HOPPIN - 40.

NOES: Messrs. HINDS, ADAMS, SMITH, ST. JOHN and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS - 5.

Mr. CRAIG entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been reported to me that ten hon. members have voted "Aye" and five hon. members have voted "No". I declare that the "Ayes" have it. I further declare those seven Standing Orders to have been duly suspended.
3.00 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am informed that the reply to Question No. 14 has been made, and that stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. James who presently I do not observe to be in his place. I will allow that to stand over until the next meeting of this House unless I have an assurance from an hon. member that he has been asked to put the question on behalf of the hon. junior member for St. James.

(A PAUSE).

The question will stand over.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before proceeding with the business of the day, I think it is my duty, a very sorrowful duty to perform here this afternoon, to pay tribute to the passing of the late Prime Minister of Jamaica, Sir Donald Sangster. He has aspired to the highest role in his country and one of the highest in the entire Caribbean. He was well known and well-beloved by most of us throughout the length and breadth of the Caribbean for his genial, amiable and astute manner in politics which caused him to be not only well-known, but endeared in the hearts of all who met him.

Sir Donald was a Solicitor by profession. He received the post of Prime Minister at the very end of his career, after having acted as Prime Minister for two or three years in the place of Sir Alexander Bustamante, and he displayed loyalty and devotion to duty, apart from his natural ability. He was Minister of Finance for many long years and he has set an example to those who entered the political arena throughout the entire Caribbean area.

Sir Donald Sangster was born on the 26th October, 1911 and was educated at Monroe College from 1921 to 1929; he

became articulated and was admitted as a Solicitor in 1937. He was Minister of Social Services in 1950-1953 and Minister of Finance and Leader of the House of Representatives from 1953 - 1955. Sir Donald has represented his country at many conferences in all parts of the world, and he did so with distinction. He represented Jamaica as a delegate to a conference in New Zealand in 1950; he attended the conference in Barbados in 1951; he also attended a conference in England in 1951 and also in Canada in 1952. He represented Jamaica on the Regional Economic Committee, and as Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1964. I remember that well, Sir, because he was one of the Co-Chairmen when I had the good fortune in attending a conference in Kuala Lumpur in October 1963. He was then Mr. Donald Sangster, and at that Conference when ever he was called on to conduct the proceedings of the conference, he did it with great satisfaction and with the dignity to demand respect. Speaking for myself, I felt very proud of him in that he caused the fair name of the West Indies to be looked up to.

There are many others who are more competent to make greater speeches, but I think of his loyalty and devotion and his knowledge of politics, apart from the long years that he gave personal sacrifice. He was one of those people who went into politics when he was only 21, and he gave of his best and gave early. He has been a politician with a long background and long experience; it is only a great pity that he did not live to enjoy the fruits of his labour, and was called to the Great Beyond just when he achieved his knighthood.

With these few remarks, I would like to tender the condolence of the members of this House, the Government and people of Barbados to the relatives of Sir Donald Sangster and to the Government and people of Jamaica on the passing of such an honourable son of the Caribbean, and trust that he may rest in peace.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I do not make a long speech it does not mean that I do not feel as deeply as other honourable members about Sir Donald Sangster. I first met Sir Donald in 1951 when he came here to the Regional Economic Committee meeting, and after that meeting I told several people, and I have often told people since, that I heard one of the best speeches that we have ever had either in the Regional Economic Committee or in any other conference gathering of West Indians.

What struck me most about Sir Donald was that he had a style of being firm with regard to his own convictions, but always saw the other man's point of view, and as I have described it, having a modifying influence at conferences, making those sort of political compromises that any answer given by him would not end in a general scramble or a free fight. He struck me as being a sound politician, but obviously suffering from the fact - as probably anybody else in Jamaica was suffering at that time - that he had in the background a very electrifying influence, that very astute politician, Sir Alexander Bustamante.
3.10 p.m.

It was inevitable that anybody who was second to Sir Alexander would not shine as much as he deserved by his status to shine, but Sir Donald's affable spirit both in the Conference Room and outside - because he was a very charming man socially - made him to be most fitting as a model of young politicians, as to being a sound man with strong views, but causing no offence. I do think without reference to any Island or any individual politician that the West Indies will miss him greatly, because he was a politician whom the West Indies need very much now - the West Indies with a growing sense of intense nationalism and intense desire apparently to have a scrap, because other people in the outside world are having scraps. He was the type of man who would always hold the ballast fairly among rival policies and rival politicians.

I met him subsequently at other meetings of the Regional Economic Committee and he was always sound in his suggestions. He was particularly good at financial matters, and I think that in that respect too Jamaica will miss

him, because although he became Prime Minister, he was still there to influence the financial outlook of the Jamaican politician and the Jamaica Government as if he were still Finance Minister.

As I said, Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech simply because I would be only repeating what so many of us who knew him have felt and still feel about his passing. I, too, hope with the Hon. Minister who moved this Resolution that posterity will pay the regard that is due to Sir Donald, and that he will rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to associate myself with the tributes so forcefully and so eloquently moved by both the hon. Acting Leader of the House and the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition. In order that the feeling of this House may be taken, I am asking hon. members to signify their approval by standing in their places for two minutes, thereby indicating assent to the passing of this Resolution.

Hon. members stood in their places for two minutes.

I declare this Resolution unanimously to have passed, and I direct Mr. Clerk to act as expeditiously as possible in forwarding this to the appropriate authorities. This is a matter which naturally brooks of no delay.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in moving that Government Business be now taken, there is only one item on the Agenda for today's Sitting, and I think we can proceed with this Order now.

I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

HOUSE RESUMES DEBATE ON HOTEL AIDS ACT, 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business will now be taken and the only matter under that Head is apropos the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and revise the law relating to the encouragement of the development of hotels and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

When discussion on this matter, which was started on 20th February this year, was adjourned, it was so done on the motion of the hon. and learned member for Christ Church, and if that hon. and learned member sees fit, it is his option now to resume his address.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, since the adjournment of this Bill, we have had an opportunity on this side to consider more fully the implication of the Bill. Although, Sir, we do not on this side oppose the extension of the facilities being granted to existing hoteliers and to future hoteliers, we do feel that in this Bill there is a fundamental lack of incentives being granted to encourage local people in particular to participate in the development of the tourist industry in this country. Experience has proven since the first Hotel Aids Act in 1956 that the incentives that are granted are of such a nature that they encourage investors who are interested in capital gains rather than those who are interested in income and dividends. The effect of this has been that most of the new capital that has been provided for the building of the hotels that has taken place since 1956 has come from people abroad, and when the incentives are near their end, the tendency has been for the owners to sell and make a capital gain.

It is true, Sir, as has been said at the opening, that Barbados has got to rely very largely on the tourist industry for the advancement and improvement of the *per capita* income and economy of this country, but what we on this side would like to put forward and to draw to the Government's attention is that if the incentive legislation in this particular field is so framed that the effect of it is to encourage a greater part of the capitalisation in the industry

in the hands of people abroad, it means that in the future we are laying the foundation for a certain amount and a definite amount of trouble in Barbados.
3.20 p.m.

It is useless for us to say in this country that tourism has improved by leaps and bounds and that the gross income coming in is improving year by year if, at the same time, the full benefits of this income is not being received by as large a number of people in Barbados as possible. We must consider in our incentive legislation the question as to whether in the future because of the ownership of capital or the majority of capital abroad - we must consider whether this is not going to lead unduly to too large a proportion of the profits being remitted abroad. What has happened in Barbados lately? The St. James Coast is almost certainly owned by people abroad. On the South Coast, which used to be regarded as the coast where most of the Barbadians capital is invested, it seems that the foreigners, because of the present backing of the Hotel Legislation in this country, have also invaded there and people who have been following the transfers of Hotels and the sales of hotels lately, will notice that a number of South Coast hotels have been sold to Canadians of late.

In this Bill there is a specific section in which certain privileges are granted by the Government to companies or individuals who operate hotels owned by the Government and leased to them. The distinction between the incentives granted generally and the incentives granted to these bodies is that the dividends paid to shareholders, in the case of shareholders in certain hotels, are almost exempt from taxation under the same principle as pioneer industry legislation, whereas the incentives, the ten-year incentives, being granted generally to companies who own hotels is only a writing off of their profits. The dividends are taxable in the case of the shareholders. We feel that the incentives should be so adjusted that the same privileges which are granted by the Government to people and buildings leased from the Government - the same incentives granted to shareholders should be granted to hotels and companies which are controlled by Barbadians. That is absolutely necessary if we are going to get a greater number of Barbadians participating in the ownership of hotels in Barbados. It is not difficult to understand the reason why Barbadians prefer to invest in companies which pay large dividends, particularly this exemption tax. Not being rich people, they cannot afford to depend upon capital gains. People who have money in this island to invest would be regarded as small investors who are dependent upon income. If the same privileges are granted to the Hilton Hotel in this Bill - the operators of the Hilton Hotel are being granted the privilege of distributing to their shareholders tax free, any dividends on the profits they make on the operation of the Hilton Hotel, why is it that the Government can see fit to grant this privilege only to companies or individuals who operate in hotels owned and constructed by the Government? Why can't they go further and extend the privilege to pioneer legislation whereby the profits are exempt from taxation by 40% in the case of companies and hotels controlled by Barbadians? That is the basic point which we, on this side, have, and we hope that the Hon. Minister on the other side will look into this matter and at the third reading of this Bill state what appropriate amendments would be made to ensure that the facilities granted would have the beneficial effect of increasing the ownership in Barbados by Barbadians of hotels and other structures in the tourist industry.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I have heard and noted all that the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said. If the hon. member will realise, this Bill has been standing on the Order Paper for a few weeks and the reason why it has been there is that I have been considering more amendments for the introduction of aid to private enterprise, to Barbadians as a whole to invest in the tourist industry. I have been watching very carefully the trend in tourism in this island. Most of the beach lands, most of the coast lands, have been falling into the hands of foreigners and Barbadians are holding very little, and there is something in this business which I have been watching even greater than what the hon. senior member

for Christ Church has mentioned. With foreign investment there will always be this trying to amortise over a short period, and the same thing will cause rates to go up higher; there will be people who will push the rates up considerably higher. I have been watching this matter too and I have started to consider it very carefully. After going into the matter thoroughly and examining it with all the experts and people who are interested in this business as well as the financial implications, it is not so easy as I thought it would have been to implement the changes in this Bill. While I have been trying to get on with this Bill, I have also been trying to hold it up for further amendments.
3.30 p.m.

I would like to assure the hon. senior member for Christ Church that there are essential things that cause me today to be going ahead with this Bill rather than delay it much longer for amendments before the third reading.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at this stage I think we will not proceed any further with the passing of this Bill, but we will continue with it at the next sitting in Committee. By the way, we have not appointed anyone to deputise as Chairman of Committees in the absence of the Chairman. It was not really necessary in that we did not intend to complete this Bill in all its stages here today. At this stage Government is concluded.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may point out that although it may not be deemed necessary, yet we have granted leave and we have met and we have not appointed a Chairman.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would suggest, Sir, that in view of the fact that Government business has been concluded for today's sitting, and as probably no Bills may be dealt with in Committee - there is one on the Order Paper moved by the hon. senior member for Christ Church in respect of family planning. We would hardly get to that because that is Private Members' Business and the Bill has been duly gazetted and this has to be considered by Cabinet. I am afraid this particular one has not yet been considered: so the Government is not ready to deal with it; therefore we would hardly need a Chairman of Committees as such to conduct the business of the House in Committee, and although it can be considered a little irregular, there is no necessity to appoint a Chairman of Committees today.

Government business at this stage is concluded and the private members have a full opportunity to deal with all their matters subject to an undertaking which has been given to me before the sitting of the House.

Mr. ST. JOHN: In connection with the Bill on the Order Paper to which the hon. Acting Leader of the House referred and which has been gazetted on the 17th April, 1967, I would appreciate that as a Private Member's Bill it has to be dealt with by Cabinet for them to indicate their attitude to it, but I have been impressed that one of the reasons that they want to get it done is because of the fact that the Bill is only to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association to allow them to become a legal entity. It is preventing us from dealing with a certain organisation upon whom they are dependent.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would appear to me that the senior member for Christ Church has been speaking on the Bill. As I understand it, Government Business has been concluded and Private Member's business would be the only Order of the day. Alternatively, the motion may be made for adjournment of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Member's Business be now taken.

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

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

RESOLUTION re ACQUISITION OF LAMMINGS PASTURE

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Business is the instant Order of the day, and the first item under that is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph; to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relating to the necessity for the establishment of a Housing Area at Lammings Pasture, St. Joseph. When this matter was discussed on the 31st January, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph moved, seconded by the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition, that the Resolution do not pass. Then it was moved and seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and the hon. junior member for St. Michael respectively that further consideration be postponed. Subsequent to that, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, the hon. junior member for St. Peter, the hon. junior member for St. Michael and the hon. senior member for St. Peter spoke.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, did I understand you to say only the Leader of the Opposition has the right to reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph who initiated the debate.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I just want to make it clear that I have not spoken yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: Every hon. member may speak except the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, although my name does not appear on the Order Paper, I have a distinct memory that I spoke before the motion of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, and certainly I shall not be exercising any right to speak again.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is not even any mention of the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. Thomas on page 10 under Private Members' Business; therefore he would be perfectly entitled to speak. It is a matter of regret that we do not have our Minutes up to date.

Mr. ST. JOHN: As I was saying, Sir, it is really regrettable that three months have passed since this matter was started and a decision cannot be made up to now on this. It appears now that after three months the Government is anxious to give their point of view, but of course the force of the arguments advanced by the Hon. Mover of the Resolution and by the Seconder of the Resolution was so irresistible that it is not surprising that they are anxious to state their point of view. St. Joseph is an area in this Island which is suffering from the effects of the rainfall which we had last year, and this is a very good opportunity to acquire this level area of land to provide a proper Housing area and Social Centre for these people. Up to now there has been no Housing area as such established there, and again this is another good opportunity to remedy that difficulty. I therefore willingly give my support to this Resolution and I am anxiously looking forward to hear the Government's spokesman speak on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. senior member for St. Andrew desire now to catch my eye in view of the attempt he made earlier so to do?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to let hon. members know that even before this Resolution was first dealt with, investigation had been carried out in the St. Joseph area with respect to the acquisition of land for resisting people. Actually the Minister of Housing is more qualified to deal with a matter like this than I am, because he has been working on it. He has had negotiations carried

out with respect to the acquisition of Lammings Pasture, and he is the person who will be able to give the House the information which it needs on this matter. I just want to make it abundantly clear that we are not opposed to the acquisition of land and the proper resisting of people who have been affected by the November and December rains. As a matter of fact, the Government deems it its right and a matter of policy that these people should be looked after, and the mechanics of the scheme can be gone into by the Hon. Minister of Housing who has been on the ball with this subject.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this question of the acquisition of Lammings Pasture has been engaging the attention of Government for quite a number of years. I well remember when I was a Minister in 1955/56 in the first Ministerial experiment that we contemplated buying the same Lammings Pasture either for a playing field or for housing. That matter has been engaging the attention of the Housing Authority and other Government Departments for quite a number of years, and it may well be that the price which was offered years ago may serve as a stumbling block on this occasion, as far as the easy acquisition is concerned. When I say "Stumbling block", I mean in order to have the matter finally settled as compared with the matter going to arbitration and compensation being paid after three years. In 1957 the price offered by the Housing Authority to all intends and purposes was very exorbitant for this land, and at present, although there is no title to the land the owner himself tells you that, he wants more money than what was offered in 1957 by the Housing Authority. Having cleared the air as far as that point goes, I want to bring to the attention of this House that one may say the Government is doing nothing in connection with trying to resite people in their own parish - the people from St. Joseph in St. Joseph, the people from St. Andrew in St. Andrew and the people from St. Thomas in St. Thomas and so on; but it was before the hon. senior member for St. Joseph gave notice of this Resolution, on the 20th December, 1966, that I gave a firm directive to the Housing Authority and to the Crown Solicitor and the Standing Valuation Committee to proceed with the necessary negotiations for the acquisition of Lammings Pasture for the purpose of resiting certain of the residents of St. Joseph who had been affected and whose houses had been damaged as a result of the heavy rainfall. I have here copies of correspondence and Minutes which prove that the five acres of land at Lammings, although generally speaking considered suitable, yet certain portions of the land were not regarded as being ideal for this particular purpose.

Now the Standing Valuation Committee has actually visited the area and made certain recommendations to Government as to price. The Standing Valuation Committee is comprised of the Chief Agricultural Officer, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, the Manager of the Housing Authority and the Director of Public Works, and the price which they have recommended to Government is very far removed from the price which the owner of the land is asking for it although there is no title to this land; so that we have to invoke, if we agree to buy, the Land Compulsory Acquisition powers under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949. All along these negotiations have been taking place, and the matter is now at the point where the Government will have to acquire the land compulsorily under the Land Acquisition Act, in that there is no title, and there is such a great disparity in price. Unless other suitable land can be found at a reasonable price in the area and regarded as suitable for the particular purpose, we will have to pursue this matter further; but these are Government matters and not personal, private matters, and they take time. All I want the Hon. Mover of the Resolution to know is that the Government has gone further and gone through the necessary red tape in this particular matter, and were seeing after it many weeks before it ever dawned on him to move a Resolution of this nature.

3.50 p.m.

The Government is just as interested - and even more interested than the hon. member - in trying to see that the people in St. Joseph are re-sited and given all assistance in the earliest possible time.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no other hon. member who desires to speak on this subject, the hon. proposer of the Resolution may, if he thinks fit, exercise now his right of final reply.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to hear today that the Government is beginning to wake up to its responsibility as far as its duties are concerned with the poorer class of people in the country. Now, Sir, the Hon. Minister has told us that they were working on this matter somewhere in December, around the 20th December. Today he has told us, and I believe he is speaking the truth, that the price of the land is what matters. However, Sir, on the 31st January, we began to debate this matter and the Minister, or one of the Ministers, moved the postponement of the matter. I argued against the postponement and wanted to find out the reasons for the postponement and the Minister could not tell me the reasons for it at that time. Now the Minister is telling us the reasons for the hold-up. That made me believe that at that time the Government did not make one start whatsoever on the 31st January. That is how I look at it and it is so. They started working on the matter in December and on the 10th January I brought forward this Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member is accusing me of being an absolute liar. That is what he is saying. I will read from the file the directive which I gave to the Permanent Secretary in order to initiate this matter. I have a perfect right to read the directive which I gave in getting this matter initiated. This is the Minute which I wrote:-

"I further direct that the parcel of land should be acquired compulsorily under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949. I would like to take immediate action so that we may soon re-site the damaged houses in the St. Joseph area."

That was signed by me on the 20th December, 1966. That is the directive which I gave. If the hon. member.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made his point of order with great clarity.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the hon. member was listening to me at the time. I said that I believe the Minister and that he was speaking the truth. That is what I said. If the Minister wants to tell me now that he was telling lies, then it is up to him; but I said that I believe he was telling the truth. I would never call him a liar. There are some lies in this matter, but not from his end. The hon. member did not move the postponement of the Resolution; he was very silent on the matter at the time. The Minister wants to get away with me, but he and I have been friends for years and I cannot afford to lose his friendship at this time. (Laughter) I said I believe that the Minister did his part on the 20th December. I will tell the Hon. Minister this now and I cannot expect him to say "yes" to it, but the matter went so far that it was said that if they were to do this thing too quickly, Smith would get the praise. The Minister was working so fast that it was said that if they were to work on the matter so fast, Smith would get all the praise. The Hon. Minister must remember that I can dream. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The House of Assembly is no place for that). I do not want that kind of behaviour. Mr. Speaker, I heard a wild boy's voice.

Mr. SPEAKER: I always listen to the speaker who is on his feet.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I know a wild boy's voice as soon as I hear it. I am very pleased to hear what the Government has done for us. So long as they give us this land at Lammings I am thankful for it, no matter how long it takes to do things. I live in St. Joseph and I will tell the Hon. Minister this. Not so long ago an approach was made to the authorities of Mount Wilton for that same place. I am telling the Minister this and he knows it. He knows that I was in here long enough to know things. We can give the green light to take possession of people's land before one cent is paid for it, before it is valued and we can have it. The same thing which was done to other people, you can

do it to the owners of Mount Wilton. You can go and take this land tomorrow. That can be done because the law is there for it. We know that we will be butting up against snags of this sort and that is the reason why the Government had to get away from snags of this sort. I do not think that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works would know about this because he has not been in here long enough. He has not read all of his books yet. However, Sir, I am saying that the Government can take over Lammings pasture and then proceed to deal with the owners of it, and those owners cannot prevent the Government from taking possession of it.
4.00 p.m.

The people are suffering; they are wondering what is going to be done. If I am not mistaken, I think I had to ring up one of the Ministers and ask him if he could tell me anything about what is happening. I would not call his name because I know what could happen; I may have to employ him.

Now, Sir, up to last week a woman went to me with a notice which the Court has given time for the ejectment and which expires on the 31st May. She cannot get a spot; she came to me. She might have seen the people go to Lammings and she said that she heard the Government had acquired Lammings and she came to find out if she could get a spot. I told her she would have to wait a little; so hurry up at once. There is another woman who got a notice and she is living practically in a water hole; those are the conditions that people have to exist under up there, and I hope that the Minister will go and take Lammings and also Tamarind Hall. Do not delay any longer; provision has been made long ago by the law; so let us work on it. We believe you to be true; but if you should continue to mark time we will think that you do not want to do it because you have the sword in your hands and you do not want to use it.

Do not tell us you have to take the land by acquisition; we know that that is likely to happen and that is no excuse for me. The law is there for it. Let me hear by tomorrow that you instruct the Housing Authority to lay out the spots for these people and give them the green light to go on. The people want somewhere to live; so work - and work fast.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands in the name of the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of certain arrangements which have been made between the hon. Leader of the Opposition and myself as Acting Leader of the House, it was felt that we should just consider this one item under Private Members' Business and adjourn at this stage of the day's sitting, and in keeping with this arrangement, I beg to move, subject to what the hon. member has to say.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: In the first instance, I do not think that with the Prime Minister absent we should continue with this; so I spoke to the Hon. Minister who just spoke and I hope that what has happened today is a precedent that is going to be followed, and that there will no longer be a question of the Jews having no dealings with the Samaritans. I am in agreement with what the Hon. Member has just said.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am very grateful for the explanation made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition; therefore I beg to move that this sitting do now adjourn for two weeks until 2nd May at 2.30 p.m.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, there is more business on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that there was a gentlemen's agreement not to proceed any further, and as it was

fu ther explained, the Jews and the Samaritans - or in this case, the Dems and the Barbados Labour Party - agreed that no further business under Private Members' Business be proceeded with this afternoon. That was my understanding.

Mr. SMITH: Well, if that has been done, I do not know anything about it. The Leader did not tell me anything; so I am very sorry that I rose. But I will make my Leader to understand that he must let me know these things because I am very quick to get up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Day by day it becomes necessary for me to say that the system of Parliamentary whips is desirable in the Parliament of this nation. I have already so advised.

Mr. SMITH: Very well, Sir; I will not worry any more.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put this motion, I would let hon. members know that I have been asked by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to warn members that they will soon be in receipt of invitations from that Ministry to visit with him in the parish of St. Joseph, to proceed, if hon. members are so disposed, to tour the Soil Conservation Scheme. It will be recalled that there were similar tours during the 1961-66 session of the House at the invitation of a certain Minister, and it is proposed to re-institute this system of tours so that such members as care to avail themselves of this opportunity may do so.

The tour takes place on Wednesday at 9 o'clock a.m. and the Minister is arranging a break at 11.00 a.m. and

one at 1.30 p.m. so that members will be thoroughly invigorated to proceed on their tour during the afternoon.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if it will be a tour like the last one held, I will be very proud and happy to make it because it went very well, both up top and underneath.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what is the hon. senior member for St. Joseph speaking?

Mr. SMITH: I am speaking on the motion for adjournment, Sir.
4.10 p.m.

Things were very good, and you were there too.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the matter to do with the adjournment until today fortnight?

Mr. SMITH: I am to remind the Minister that we are not using Banks; we want Amstel.

Mr. SPEAKER: People would be ill-advised not to keep their money in Banks.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 2nd May, 1967, at 2.30 p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.13 p.m.