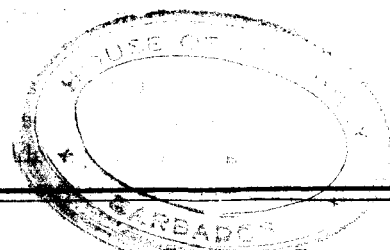


House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15th August, 1967

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock (Noon) today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S.,
(Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and
Community Development); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON,
(Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fish-
eries); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE;
Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and
Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, (Chairman of Committees);
Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, La-
bour and National Insurance); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN,
J.P. and Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS, Messrs HOLDER and
CRAIG entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to have once again to
announce that there are no Minutes available for con-
firmation. I am advised that that is no fault of those
who presently sit as Clerks at the Table.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to announce the
receipt of the Accounts and Statement for the month
of January, 1967, as prepared by the Accountant
General.

I also have the honour to announce that I have
received the Report of the examination of Accounts
of the Island as submitted by the Auditor General for
the year ended 31st March, 1966.

BILL RETURNED FROM THE OTHER PLACE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the
House that I have received from the Other Place a
Bill which has been passed with certain amendments
that is, the Law Revision Bill 1967. The Message which

accompanies the Bill has been signed by the President
on the 11th August, 1967.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE LAID

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform
the House that the Select Committee appointed to con-
sider and report on what provision, if any, should be
made for the payment of pensions to members of
Parliament and Ministers of the Crown, past and
present have completed their report; and I have the
honour to direct in my capacity as Chairman of that
Committee, that that Report be laid and subsequently
printed and circulated amongst hon. members. At-
tached to this Report are the Minutes of the meetings
of this Committee.

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 Customs Duties (Barbados Family Planning
Association) Order, 1967.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am com-
manded to lay the Reports of the Waterworks De-
partment for the years ended 31st March, 1965, and
31st March, 1966.

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 Resolutions:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$300,640 at the
disposal of the Government to supplement the Esti-
mates, 1967-68 Part 1 - Current as shown in the
Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 13 which
forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$68,817 at the
disposal of the Government to supplement the Esti-
mates, 1967-68 Part 1 - Current as shown in the
Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 14 which forms
the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government of a loan not exceeding \$1,000,000 and the interest thereon, by the Barbados National Stadium Corporation from Barclays Bank, D.C.O.

A Resolution to approve an amendment to the Note to Item 49 of Head 46 of the Estimates 1967-68, relating to the allowances payable to Pupil, Midwives and Ward Assistants at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

A Bill to revise the Statute Law of the land by repealing obsolete, spent, unnecessary or superseded enactments.

Messrs SMITH, SPRINGER and HINDS entered the House and took their seats.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$300,640 with the Resolution for the sum of \$68,817, and also with the Resolution to approve an amendment to the Note to Item 49 of Head 46 of the Estimates, 1967-68, all of which notice has just been given. I think that copies of these Resolution are available. The matters are all straightforward and they are not particularly controversial.

REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS LAID

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

The Oral Reply to parliamentary Question No. 34 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

The Oral Reply to parliamentary Question No. 54 asked by the same hon. member.

The Oral Reply to parliamentary Question No. 56 asked by the same hon. member.

The Oral Reply to parliamentary Question No. 63 asked the hon. senior member for St. James; and

The Oral Reply to parliamentary Question No. 52 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. 12.25 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice was given today.

QUESTIONS

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: To enquire of the Minister of Trade:-

1. What representation has the Minister received from business operating in Barbados in respect

of the incidence of increased Package Tax Charges on goods imported into Barbados intended for re-export?

2. Will the Minister agree that there are many items forming a part of Barbados' export trade especially to other Caribbean Islands on which increased Package Tax charges are absorbing a great proportion of present operating margins?

3. Is the Minister aware that unless a refund of part or all of the new Package Tax charges is made on re-exported items the export trade in these items will cease altogether in the very near future?

4. Will the Minister treat this as a matter of the greatest possible urgency and make immediate representations for the purpose of obtaining refunds of Package Tax on items *bona fide* imported for re-export?

Mr. CRAIG: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is Government aware that the residents of Pile Bay District, St. Michael, suffer great inconveniences and hardships due to the absence in the said district of proper roads, water and electricity?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government take the necessary steps to alleviate the inconveniences and hardships complained of?

Mr. CRAIG: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that the residents in the districts known as Rick Gap, St. James, are unable to enter and/or leave their respective homes during and immediately after a heavy rainfall, due to the present unsatisfactory drainage system?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government take appropriate action to remedy this state of affairs?

Mr. CRAIG: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the great inconvenience suffered by fishermen at Pile Bay, St. James, due to the absence of a communal bath and latrine in the said district.

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government take the necessary steps to have a bath and latrine erected in the said district?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DAVE EDWARDS, the Bill to revise the Statute Law of the Island by repealing obsolete, spent, unnecessary or superseded enactments, was read a first time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, while there is a respite, I should like to enquire from Your Honour if you enquired from the Clerk what time those questions by the hon. senior member for St. James was handed in?

Mr. SPEAKER: All things are assumed to be rightly done when they come before me. If the Clerks at the Table have informed me that the questions are ready to be asked, I have to assume that they are ready. I have to assume that they are alright. I have to assume that the Clerks at the Table are not failing in their duties and are complying with them.

As to whether there was notice of these questions on the Notice Paper, the hon. member's name and questions were not on the Notice Paper, but the Clerk informed me that the questions referred to were handed in two weeks ago and asked me to call the hon. member's name.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker -

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. CRAIG: Do not anticipate me. I rise on a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of explanation only arises under Standing Order 26 (16):-

"A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to offer explanation of some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood; but he shall not introduce new matter."

MATTER OF GREAT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if I can deal with the matter of great public importance of which I gave your Honour notice earlier today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition has submitted to me in writing, a matter for discussion under Standing Order 16(1) and (2). 12.35 p.m.

I, as Speaker, do not refuse to allow the claim, and therefore the matter might be given notice of in accordance with Standing Order 16.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I think that I have the leave of the House to deal with this matter. Your Honour not having disallowed it, as a matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I interpret Standing Order 16 (3), "if the Speaker is so satisfied." I am satisfied and accordingly I do not refuse to allow the claim;

but "if the Speaker is so satisfied and leave of the House is given, or if such leave is not unanimously given, at least nine members rise in their places to support the request." If the hon. member will give notice of the matter now, it is then a matter of leave of the House to be given or if such leave is not unanimously given, at least nine hon. members must rise in their places.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I take it that the House will agree to this matter being dealt with, because I see no signs of dissent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, how can the House agree to something when we do not know what is going to be discussed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition give notice of the matter?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in this letter which I wrote to Your Honour, I gave notice that I intended, with Your Honour's permission to raise, as a matter of urgent public importance, the question of the Government's intention on the proposals to send a "peace-keeping force" to Anguilla. My reasons for deeming it a matter of urgency are patent. I deem it a matter of great importance inasmuch as the landing of such a force may provoke violence, in addition to the other complications.

I do not think it necessary to point out to hon. members of this Chamber that this is a serious matter, a matter of urgent public importance, and that the House should express its views and ask the Government's intention about it. I do not want to say anything more now, but I do appeal to hon. members to see that this is a matter of the utmost importance. We know what the opinion of the Government of Jamaica is in this matter; we do not know what the opinion of the Government of Barbados is, and it is for that reason that I raise the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that this is not a matter on which debate is permissible. The question is now whether the leave of the House is given, and if it is not unanimously given, at least nine members rise in their places to support the request.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have a perfect right to make an early submission at this stage. I am submitting that, as the matter is *sub judice* this is not the proper time to deal with it.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a matter for the consideration of the House. It is a question as to whether the House will give leave or not to discuss the matter. The question is

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: May I suggest that Your Honour rule whether this matter is *sub-judice*, because that would rule out any question about the leave of the House being given. If it is *sub judice*, I do not think that Your Honour can put the question. Perhaps Your Honour will rule as to what *sub judice* is.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not have any facts. I will put the question as to whether the leave of the House is given. Hon. members who are in favour of leave being given will please say "Aye", (MEMBERS: Aye) and hon. members who are against that will please say "No". (MEMBERS: No) I have heard voices on either side, and therefore I declare that the leave of the House is not given. The alternative is that at least nine hon. members rise in their places to support the request.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order. Until Your Honour began to give Your ruling I was about to call for a division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Order 16 (3) (b) says this:-

"If such leave is not unanimously given, at least nine Members rise in their places to support the request;"

It is not unanimous in that there are a number of "Ayes" and "Noes". I declare that the leave has not been unanimously given. It is a question now of at least nine hon. members rising in their places to support the request. (*Seven hon. members rose in their places*). I am instructed by the Clerk that less than nine hon. members — that is to say, seven hon. members have risen in their places to support the request. Accordingly this matter lapses.
12.45 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee of Supply to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice has been given earlier today.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Have copies of these Resolutions been given to hon. members?

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, precisely less than a minute ago, this Resolution was circulated. We on this side of the House object to their doing that now.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Sir, it has become increasingly difficult for us in this Honourable House. This is not a matter that the sum must be voted immediately. It seem as if we come here to do what the Government tells us to do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I agree with something which the hon. member has said, but it well may be that this Resolution may be dealt with last. They can discuss this money Resolution some time later this evening. Some of the equipment provided for by this Resolution we need urgently, and some of the money is needed for back pay to local Government employees. We need this money as early as possible. I suggest we could deal with it later this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Hon. Acting Leader of the House may move the motion that I leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and leave out the latter part of the motion until later. The House can then go into Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution on the Order Paper. The hon. member said that the matter which was given notice of earlier can be dealt with this afternoon. Let him leave out the latter part of his motion, and then after dealing with the Resolution on the Order Paper report progress and then come back and deal with the other Resolution later. I do not know if the Hon. member has that in mind.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I will give the assurance that the Resolution on the Order Paper will be dealt with now, and then ask that the Committee report progress and ask for leave to sit again to deal with that other Resolution later today, possibly between five and six o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply. That is the instant motion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I thought that I had made myself clear. I want the motion as I put it, to stand with the assurance that I have given.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply. There are no instructions.

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1967-68 No. 12

UNESTABLISHED STAFF FOR SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$4,414. As the Addendum sets out:-

"The sum of \$4,414 is required to meet the cost of wages of Unestablished Staff recently approved for the Service Commissions Department. The unestablished Staff consists of one Cleaner/Maid, one Gardener, one Watchman and one Relief Watchman."

This Resolution is necessary on account of the re-organisation of the two Departments which we made provision for quite recently - the Personnel Department and the Service Commissions Department. In the Order, the matter was set out quite clearly and it is necessary to have this additional staff.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND NOTE TO CAPITAL ESTIMATES re MEDICAL STAFF QUARTERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

A Resolution to amend the note to Capital Estimates, Head 103, Item 3 - Medical Staff Quarters - in the Approved Estimates 1967-68.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum to the Resolution sets out, the original note envisaged the construction of six staff Quarters, but it is now proposed to acquire the property known as "Lady Meade Gardens" comprising 182,000 square feet of land exclusive of roads, and eleven buildings thereon, situate at Jemmott's Lane, St. Michael, and to use these buildings as Staff Quarters. Legislative approval is therefore being sought to give effect to this proposal.

In the Development Plan 1967-68, Chapter 14, paragraphs 2 to 8, the construction of quarters for Medical Staff is set out, and in these paragraphs the sum of \$540,000 was inserted for the period. In this Resolution it is proposed to acquire this property known as "Lady Meade Gardens" comprising 182,000 square feet of land (exclusive of roads) and eleven buildings. In some cases, one building can provide three separate rooms. I think that I will give the whole breakdown. The buildings were inspected by the engineers and checks have been made. "Myrtle Villa" consists of three main floors and is being utilised at present as follows:- The bottom is a flat, the middle has a living and dining room and the top has two bedrooms. Each floor space has approximately 1,300 square feet. The ground floor is of concrete and the other floors are of timber. There is kitchen, toilet, bath and other amenities. The roof is covered with galvanized iron. There is a timber verandah in addition, forming the entrance to the middle floor. The condition of the roof and timber floor is very poor, and a great deal of reconstruction is needed. Now we can come to "Myrtle Villa Cottage". The floor space is approximately 1,052 square feet; two bedrooms with timber floor; Dining room, kitchen and corridor of concrete floor, Everite, asbestos gallery, galvanize in

the main roof. Condition of floor and roof fair. Next, "No. 1 Railway View": Three bedrooms, masonry walls, concrete floors. Building space approximately 1,500 square feet, new and recently reconstructed building. "No. 2 Railway View": Three bedrooms, timber floors, everite roof, floor space approximately 1,700 square feet; in fairly good condition, but maintenance of floors necessary. "No. 3 Railway View": Three bedrooms, timber floor in living room. Concrete floor in dining room and Kitchen; floor space approximately 1,650 square feet; general condition fairly good. "No. 3 Lady Meade": Three bedrooms, floor space 1,500 square feet; Timber floors, one bedroom concrete floor; toilet and bath; concrete gallery, condition seems good. No. 4 "Lady Meade". Similar to No. 3 "Lady Meade"; floor space approximately 1,450 square feet; good condition. "No. 5 "Lady Meade": Three bedrooms, floor space 2,000 square feet approximately, timber floors gallery in masonry and concrete galvanize main building; fair condition. "No. 2 Lady Meade": Two bedrooms, timber floor, main floor space, 1,140 square feet; gallery floor space, 315 square feet; main roof galvanize, good condition. "No. 1 "Lady Meade" Bayridge; two bedrooms plus a small extra room, gallery, everite, roof galvanize; floor space 1,100 square feet; gallery 252 square feet, timber floors, good condition. "Clyde Bank". A very large house similar to "Myrtle Villa". Basement, first floor, second floor, timber floors, fair condition. Three large bedrooms, large living and dining rooms, galvanized roof, floor space of each floor approximately 2,550 square feet; fair condition and can be converted into three flats. The timber floors need minor repairs. Walls generally are in reasonable condition.

In two cases, two of these buildings can provide for three flats each. It is felt that the money will be beneficially spent and a substantial saving can be effected in that the price which is being agreed to for the purchase of "Lady Meade Gardens" comprising these eleven houses is \$240,000. The six maisonettes to be constructed would cost \$194,612.70. That sum of money quoted is for the buildings, not the land. "Lady Meade Gardens" includes a large area of land and all of these buildings. As I have already said, there are eleven houses comprising 182,000 square feet of land. A saving can be effected and the junior staff of the Hospital will be within walking distance and easy reach of the Hospital, and this will accommodate them in many respects and in getting the work of the Hospital done. The junior staff will be on call and at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have fully given the reasons for amending this Note in the Capital Estimates for 1967-68.
1.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to answer any further questions. I have given a broad outline on this proposed question to provide medical staff quarters.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I mention in connection with this Resolution that I have given instructions to cor-

rect the final line of this Resolution by supplying the word "concur" for "Concurr". That word does not have a double "r" at the end.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in this matter another hon. member of the Other Place is dealing with a property known as the "Eyrie" mentioned in this matter. The matter we have before us is that the Government intends to use "Lady Meade" for Officers of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If you look at the Addendum to the Resolution, you will see that this property comprising of 182,000 square feet of land is exclusive of roads. I am not one who is trained in the law, but for such an area of land such as this, with eleven buildings on it and having a total area of 182,000 square feet of land, exclusive of roads, to my mind this is something that wants an explanation.

In any case, we would be asked at some future date to vote money for the completion of roads to these buildings. Our feeling on this side of the House, is that in purchasing this property there are lots of things which should be taken into consideration. As far as we know, "Lady Meade" is presently tenanted. It may be well that the Hon. Minister will tell us what is going to be the position with these persons, some of whom may have been living at "Lady Meade" for a number of years.

The Hon. Minister has told us that the engineers have carried out a thorough inspection of the property. We have great respect for the ability of the engineers; but, Sir, we are now told that some of these buildings in the year 1967 are still comprised of wooden floors.

We are to ask if it is the intention of the Government to buy "Lady Meade" and then for these Officers to occupy these buildings as they are at present or if the Government has any plans for the demolition of any of these buildings or if it is the case that they are going to carry out renovations generally. In such a case, it would be a good idea, if the outer walls are as the engineers say they are, to get rid of the wooden floors once and for all and do not have these Officers occupying these buildings with such floors.

I might say also that the buildings there, I feel, were constructed many years ago and it might be a case where the material generally used in flooring a building may be even better than what you get today from the lumber merchants. We notice many of the poor people buy their lumber from lumber merchants; they carry it home and lean it up against the house and by the time they get the money to pay the Carpenter to put it on, termites have stepped in. It may be that at some future day termites would have taken possession of these buildings and the Government should have the wood replaced in these buildings by stone and concrete.

Sir, there are some eleven houses at "Lady Meade". We are told in the Addendum that the original note "for the construction of six quarters for

Medical Staff", is to be replaced by the words "For the provision of medical staff quarters". It would be a good idea if the Hon. Minister would avail himself of the opportunity to tell the House how many Officers the six quarters for the Medical Staff would house, and, though it has not been told us, if more officers are to be housed than originally planned, and if that is one of the reasons why the switch has been made to purchase "Lady Meade".

We on this side of the House has got to be very careful. A lot of people seems to be anxious that the Government present these grandiose schemes. We know of cases where the Government bought properties just for the sake of buying them. I should say at this stage that it was not a case of the Government buying property; it was more a case of people relieving their friends of their property. You would understand that hon. members who ought to know have been explaining that Government has not yet decided as to who they may put in these properties. We are not against the Government purchasing "Lady Meade" especially if the price is good; but we want to make it abundantly clear that we do not want the purchasing of properties just for the sake of people relieving their friends of their properties.

1.15 p.m.

We hope that when "Lady Meade" is acquired, as I have said earlier, those persons who have been living there for a considerable number of years will be given ample time for removal, and that the Government will use its good offices wherever possible to provide suitable accommodation for the tenants at "Lady Meade". I am not suggesting that these tenants are entitled to any more consideration than that to which the tenants at Cat's Castle are entitled but in any case, in whatever category they might find themselves, it is just this; if the Government is acquiring any property today, and people have been housed on it, it is reasonable to suggest that in the Government taking over the houses, some discomfort must be occasioned to the tenants at some stage. We would like to know that the Government is doing all that lies in its power to see that the tenants are properly accommodated.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as to this Resolution I only rise to make my position clear, because one can find himself in a very difficult position in having to sign a cheque for property and he does not know the property. I do not know the property. I am not in a position to tell the Minister if, in my opinion, the price which is being paid for this property is too much or too little. That is the position in which I find myself at this moment. I cannot say "yes" or "no" to this Resolution because the Addendum is not clear enough. The property is set out in this Addendum and the Hon. Minister has read out something; but I cannot grasp too quickly when any one is reading anything, and digest it at the same time. However, Sir, in the Addendum to this Resolution there is not noted the various properties, the size of the buildings and so on, and if all of them are permanent structures or wood structures. If all of that was in the Addendum,

although not knowing these properties, my common-sense would lead me to value them. I am wondering if these buildings which are now occupied will be occupied by the people who are supposed to be living in them as soon as the Government buys them; that is to say, I will understand that you will have to renovate these buildings and so on; but I am wondering if any of them is to be demolished and a new house built in its place. I believe that these buildings must be very old, and as to buildings today, especially when you have to accommodate technical staff doctors and so on, you cannot expect to put them in fowl coops. You will have to make proper homes for these people. Having regard to the old-time way of building houses and how the present people occupying these houses have to live, you do not expect that a doctor or even an orderly will go and live in these houses so long as they are Government Properties.

I would like to know if these buildings are subject to being cleaned up and people can live in them or if they will have to do some replacements, that is, to take out and put in or demolish and replace. Even the name is an old name and I would expect that the buildings are also old. I hope that the Government will not only be buying the site, because some people have to buy property only to get the site, and then call Mr. Bowen to relieve them of the rubbish. I sincerely hope that the Government will not find themselves in the position of only buying the site. If that is so, the price sounds alright. As I said in my opening remarks, I cannot say if the price for this property is too much or too little; but hearing the buildings being mentioned and the land and that we are not concerned with the roads, I still feel that the price sounds right. It creates a doubt in my mind, however, that there is the possibility that we will be only giving the green light for acquiring the site only. I hope that the Government will not find itself in such a position. I do not know the condition of the buildings, but the Minister will be able to tell me if the people whom we expect to occupy these quarters will be able to move into them and live happily.

1.25 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Peter seems to be a little confused as to the area of the land. I thought I made myself perfectly clear. I said that the area of the land on which these houses stand is 182,000 square feet exclusive of roads. It does not include roads. Therefore, we are paying for 182,000 square feet of land on which these properties stand. The owners of the land cannot stop any one from walking over the roads which surround these properties. I repeat that we are just paying for 182,000 square feet of land on which these buildings stand.

The Hon. member also asked if more people would occupy these buildings. These buildings are to be occupied not only by doctors but medical students. We expect to have some medical students coming here in large numbers all the time for training at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The hon. member also asked what would happen to the present tenants of "Lady Meade". As far as I know, the existing tenants have been given due notice by the present owners of "Lady Meade" - not by the Government. I think they were given six month's notice, but that is not the Government's business because the Government has no tenants in "Lady Meade". That is no business of the Government. If there were any difficulty in finding alternative accommodation, they would be assisted by the Housing Authority.

The hon. member also wanted to know something else, but he more or less answered that question himself. He wanted to know why was the Government buying "Lady Meade". We are buying it for the use of doctors especially because it is so near to where these doctors have to work.

The hon. senior member for St. Joseph more or less wanted the assurance that the houses would not be demolished if they were in fair condition. I can give that assurance. There are one or two things which would have to be done. I think hot water would have to be installed in some of them to bring them up to the standard of efficiency for the use of a doctor. The hon. member also said that "Lady Meade" is an old name, I agree with him, but it is a very popular name. The hon. member also wanted to know whether all these buildings would be required for this purpose. The Government is buying this whole site, and it would certainly need the whole lot of buildings to provide accommodation for these officers and medical students. Not only that, "Lady Meade" is within walking distance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and many of these students may not have transportation, and they would not have to provide transportation from this distance.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In this question of 182,000 square feet of land, I wonder if the Hon. Minister could tell us if all this land including the roads is for \$240,000 and if the Government is buying the entire compound.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: We are buying the entire compound and all the land; but we want to bring to the attention of the House that the land on which the houses stand is 182,000 square feet and the roads are not included in that area. However, the roads and everything would be the property of this Government, if this Resolution is passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I should say in connection with this Resolution, when it was proposed to be dealt with, that, I drew the attention to the Acting Leader of the House that in line five there appears: "Concurr". It is not part of my duty to do any proof reading for the Government Printery, but the word should be "concur".

DEMONETISATION (UNITED KINGDOM COINS) BILL, 1967

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 Standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: This Order stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; second reading of a Bill to provide that United Kingdom coins shall not be legal tender as from a day to be appointed by the Minister responsible for Finance.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Object and Reasons of this Bill set out clearly what are the Objects and reasons of it. I want to make it clear that in 1961, Barbados agreed with the other territories in the Eastern Caribbean participating in the agreement under which the British Caribbean Currency Board was set up for the demonetisation of United Kingdom coins in this area. However, for some reason or other there was no proclamation in that respect. In 1964, the participating Government reaffirmed this agreement. However, up to today, no proclamation has been made and United Kingdom coins are still legally tendered in the Island. 1.35 p.m.

It is now necessary for Barbados, as an independent country, to provide for demonetisation of United Kingdom coins by legislation, and the matter is being considered by the Crown Law Officers. The actual date for the demonetisation will be fixed by the Minister of Finance after consultation with the East Caribbean Currency Authority. The East Caribbean Currency Authority has arranged for notices to be issued advising the public of the intention to demonetise United Kingdom coins. This is a matter which has been done before Barbados became an independent territory, and having to be done by proclamation, it is necessary to institute this change. That is all set out in the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it is surprising that this Measure has taken so long before it was brought before this House. I would be glad to know what becomes of these coins when they are demonetised. Many years ago, certainly not within the last ten or fifteen years when the United Kingdom coinage was replaced in Barbados by the decimal coinage, it was discovered that, apparently, Barba-

dos was the great dispository for shillings. I remember that in the time of William IV Barbados had a very high proportion of shillings and many of its coins in circulation. When the United Kingdom Currency was replaced, the Bank of England sent out here and bought from the banks of Barbados shillings by the ton, and they were disposed of at a profit. Apparently, a number of Barbados shillings bought from the commercial banks here subsequently found their way into the shops and were sold for their commercial value by collection. I do not know if any large number of old United Kingdom silver coins are still found in Barbados, but I think one will only have to go back to 1947 to find that silver coins exceeded their face value. If they are melted down, they are worth more than their face value.

I hope in so far as it lies within the power of the Government, that the Government will not allow itself to be taken by the dispossession of silver coins at prices which are much below market value. I do not know if the Hon. Minister can throw any light on the situation; I can well remember the occasion when eleven tons of silver came from Barbados to England and they got so much silver for so little money in terms of its true value.

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

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

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

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

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

The four Clauses were called and passed.

The two Schedules were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee. 1.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one and a half hours.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Standing Order 5 (3) says: At 2.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker, shall suspend the sitting until 2.30 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the difficulty is just this. What I think I would do at this stage is to move the suspension of Standing Orders. (A PAUSE).

Mr. Speaker, I am going to let my original motion stand.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member means by my original motion.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Is the Hon. Leader of the House finished with Government Business?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is -

Mr. SMITH: I would like to hear from the Hon. Leader of the House if he has finished with Government Business for the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed that the Clerk has put the motion. I will ask him to put it audibly.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question I want to be clear on this point. Would this motion be in order if the Standing Orders say that this House should be suspended at 2 o'clock by Your Honour? Standing Order 5 (1) says:

"The first sitting of every session shall be on such day and at such hour as the Governor-in Executive Committee shall appoint."

5 (2) says:

"After the first sitting, unless the House otherwise decides, the House shall meet on every Tuesday at 12 o'clock noon, and unless previously adjourned, shall meet until 9 p.m.

5 (3) says:

"At 2.00 p.m., Mr. Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 2.30 p.m."

I want to know if the hon. member is in order when he moved that the Sitting of this House be suspended for one and a half hours.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion, as I understand it, is that the Sitting be suspended for one and one-half hours and Standing Orders will not have to be suspended in order to move that question. I do not really think that the motion is out of order at this stage for the sitting to be suspended for a certain period.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member did not give his reasons for the suspension. He should have given us his reasons. They still have Government Business on the Order Paper.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I did say that I think we should have a longer period for lunch, and the hon.

member asked that I give the assurance that they return to do Private Members' Business.

Mr. SMITH: We do not want any longer period for lunch. If the hon. members over on that side want more time for lunch, say so; but do not come in here and tell us that that motion was put for that purpose. 1.55 p.m.

We only go outside and talk and sometimes we talk too fast. Why do we interrupt the Government Business to suspend the sitting?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. I should like to move that the question be now put. (MEMBERS: Oh, no!)

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member is so far out of order (ASIDES). An hon. member is on his feet and speaking to Your Honour and the Hon. Minister gets up and says that he wants the question put? That is the type of Minister whom we have to deal with matters. How can he control things?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not concern us.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member must learn his rules.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly the hon. member has left that behind him for a long while. I understand that the hon. member was speaking against the motion for the suspension of the sitting, and therefore the hon. member is out of order to speak on a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: You have already ruled on the matter: I am speaking on the motion for the suspension of the sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any hon. member is entitled to rise on a point of order if another hon. member is speaking.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I made my motion in accordance with Standing Order 22 on page 29 of the Standing Orders.

At this stage, it now being 2 p.m. of the Clock,

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 p.m. of the clock, this sitting automatically stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

This sitting now stands suspended.

On resumption:

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that the Reply has been laid to Question No. 34 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for

St. Peter. I observe that the hon. member is not now in his place.

BETTER GARBAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR ST. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am further advised that the Reply has been laid to Question No. 68, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Would the Minister care to explore the possibility of instituting a better garbage disposal system for the residents of St. James.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

"The possibilities of instituting a better garbage disposal system not only for the residents of St. James, but for the whole island are already being explored and plans to this end are being formulated.

As far as the Northern District in particular is concerned, the Schedule of scavenging work has been re-arranged, and the provision of additional refuse collectors is planned in order to provide for the better service for St. James and the other parishes in this area.

CEMENT ILLEGALLY TAKEN FROM LODGE HILL SITE

Mr. SPEAKER: I am further advised that the Reply to Question No. 54 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, has been laid.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. What quantities of cement, if any, have been reported stolen or illegally taken from the Lodge Hill site?

2. Is it a fact that a sum of \$700.00 or thereabout has been the cause for some enquiry at the Housing Authority because it was found that giving and recording of wrong measurements of wells was being indulged in at Thorpes, St. James?

3. Will Government institute an investigation into the working of the Housing Authority, especially with regard to the disposal of building materials, and such matters as are at No. 3 above?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

"1. There is no record of cement stolen or illegally taken from the Lodge Hill Site.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. No, Sir. The system used in the purchase and control of building materials is satisfactory.

Steps have been taken to improve methods of recording measurements of wells."

DIRECTIVE TO CHIEF WORKS OFFICER OF HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. SPEAKER: I am further advised that the Reply has been laid to Question No. 56, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Has a directive been sent from the Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Authority to the Chief Works Officer, effective 12th June, 1967, concerning the entire works programme of the said Authority?

2. Is the Minister aware that the said directive holds out a threat to hourly-paid workers by stipulating they should work 44 hours per week inclusive of Saturdays failing which they run the risk of being dismissed?

3. Is this threat at dismissal any part of Government's policy in dealing with hourly paid workers?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. and 3. No, Sir. The circular in question was a restatement of the conditions of service of the workers. It was issued because production was seriously affected by the loss of man hours which occurred when workers frequently absented themselves on Saturday mornings. In the Public Service absence from duty without leave may entail summary dismissal."

REFUSAL OF RESIDENT PERMIT TO Mr. BATCHELOR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am further advised that there has also been laid the reply to Question No. 52, standing in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Prime Minister:-

1. Is the Prime Minister aware of the fact that Mr. Batchelor the W.I. representative of Reuter's Agency, recently refused a permit to reside in this Island, was prevented by Immigration and Police Officials from leaving Seawell Airport recently?

2. Is it a fact that Mr. Batchelor made it clear to these Officials that he was merely on a visit to Barbados in the course of his business activities?

3. Is Mr. Batchelor a prohibited immigrant?

4. Was the Prime Minister informed of the arrival at Seawell Airport of Mr. Batchelor before he was prevented from leaving the Airport?

5. Is the Prime Minister aware of the fact that Mr. Batchelor was in effect in the custody of the police until he could obtain a plane flight back to Trinidad from where he had come?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

- "1. No, Sir.
2. No, Sir.
3. No, Sir.
4. No, Sir.
5. No, Sir."

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Will the Hon. Prime Minister explain rather than just say "No, Sir" as regard question 4 and 5?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the answer is "No, Sir".

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am utterly and completely dissatisfied with these answers.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member asked certain specific questions and I said that the answer is "No". Should I say "Yes" when the answer is "No"? I suggest that the hon. member should move the passing of a Resolution for a vote of censure for being told the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I suggest to the Hon. Prime Minister that he may not suggest but merely reply? 2.40 p.m.

EMPLOYEES OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDING ACTING POSTS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 34 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that a number of employees in the service of the Northern District Council have held acting posts for many years, rendered satisfactory service during such periods but have not been confirmed in the said posts, nor have they been paid wages or salaries commensurate with the services they render?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The answer is as follows:-

There are a number of employees, mainly on the staff of the Infirmaries, who hold acting appointments in the Northern District. This situation arose from the decision of the former Northern District Council to suspend the making of permanent appointments to the staffs of the Institutions until the completion of the re-organisation of the services arising from the

amalgamation of Infirmaries and the establishment of Children's Homes. The re-organisation is expected to be completed in the current financial year.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next is question No. 55 which was not completed at the last meeting. Supplementary Questions were being asked before the expiration of Question Time at 3.15 o'clock p.m.

(No further supplementary questions were asked)

There are no more supplementary questions and accordingly, this brings to an end Questions and the Replies thereto.

The House resorts to Private Member's Business.

The first Order under Private Member's Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown whom I observe is not in his place.

REPLY TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition: To resume debate on the passing of the following Resolution:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House note the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the fiscal Year 1967-68 contained in a Statement made in this Honourable House on 30th June, 1967, by the Minister of Finance."

When the motion was debated on the last occasion, the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition moved the passing of the Resolution which was seconded by the hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SMITH: It was said, Mr. Speaker, that this Budget is a free one - free from everything. But before going further, I have noticed that the speaker, for the purpose of broadcasting the speeches of members, is not in here and I would like to know the reason for removing it before the speeches end. The Hon. Prime Minister had the opportunity of using it and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, and I do not see the reason why the senior member for St. Joseph should be deprived of using it also.

Now, Sir, when it comes to the Budget Speech or Budgetary Proposals, even the dead that are in the graveyards look forward to listening to it, and how nice would it be for every living human being in this country to sit down and listen to it. But instead of that, the people of this country are deprived of this privilege.

I do not think, Sir, that we should tolerate this one-sided operation and action. It is not fair that the Government of the majority can do whatsoever they think fit and deprive the people of the country of what-

ever they think fit. This is done with the people's money.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Leader of the House is not in his place; I am sure it was agreed by this House to broadcast one speech from each side of the House and the hon. member should be so aware. Therefore, there was no deprivation to anyone. We were the first to have introduced broadcasts of what took place in this Chamber. At no time have we ever tried to censor the amount of time spent broadcasting that is supplied to the Legislature. Therefore, let us not hear the hon. member further on that point.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made his point.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Prime Minister says that it has been agreed with the Leader of the House, it has not been agreed upon with me, and I am speaking. I will not forget last year when the Leader of the Opposition was allowed to speak over the broadcasting system and I was told that I would be allowed to speak as well on behalf of my Party because the Leader of the Opposition last year was the leader of another Party, and I was told that I would be allowed or in other words my speech would have been broadcast.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, if the hon. member would give way, this situation prior to November 1966 was not the same as the situation here today. At that time there were four members of each of the Opposition Parties and the Hon. Leader of the House thought fit that with the numerical strength being the same the hon. member would be given an opportunity. The hon. senior member for the City had made representations to the Leader of the House, and I am sure that the same proportion of time for broadcast would have been accorded to the Opposition now as it was accorded to the Opposition last year.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, I was thinking that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would have contradicted the statements made by the Prime Minister that there was an agreement as regards time. So I did not then rise; but I rise to say most emphatically that there has never been any agreement and furthermore, when another point was raised by the Hon. Prime Minister on his point of order, that a suggestion was made by the Opposition that the broadcasting should be of all the speech. At least they should all be recorded, I wish to emphasise that even now in view of the fact that the undertaking made by the Leader of the House was specifically disregarded, and the speech of the Prime Minister was not only broadcast live but re-broadcast while the speech of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was only recorded and broadcast and cut off because of the time, it is not right to suggest that this Opposition has ever had any fair deal from the Government on the question of broadcast.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this debate (A VOICE: Is he on a point of order?)

I am on a point of order, and when it comes to parliamentary procedure or good manners, there is no one on that side of the House qualified to speak. The position of a Minister of Finance, whether a speech is broadcast live or whether it is recorded or then broadcast obviously the whole country has to know immediately about the imposition of new taxation at the time it is imposed, because the law which this House unanimously passed said that these matters take place as from the time that the Statement is made in the House. Whether the speech was re-broadcast I really do not know, and it is a matter for the radio stations. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition would like the radio stations to rebroadcast the speech which the person replying to the Budget Speech made, I am sure they will accommodate him, and this Government would have no objection; but this distinction between broadcasting a recorded version - I do not know that it came out any different in the long run; there is a reason, since they waited about five to six weeks to make a reply at all. I do not think that the question of broadcasting is so significant, but it must be impressed that the speech by the Minister of Finance has got to be known and broadcast far and wide at the time when it is made.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to tell you what to do in your capacity as Speaker, but, Sir, I am speaking on the floor of this House, and if an hon. member gets up to a point of order, he must not make a speech. Should it happen again whilst I am on my feet, now Sir, look out; the sport will start.

Now, Sir, as I was speaking, Sir, I am nothing to do with any agreement made; I did not make any agreement. I am a representative of the people and have been sent here to represent them on the floor of this House regardless of how any other person may think, and the people of this country are looking forward, after they have heard the hon. Prime Minister's speech - and I may add abuse too - they expect to hear other speakers, whether it may be abusive or otherwise. Now, Sir, it looks to me that that is the speaker they are broadcasting, and I feel like going around there and throwing it through the window. No one can ask me anything; this is the House of Assembly. I will leave here now and go and throw it through the window.

Now, Sir, here it is. I am speaking in the interest of the people of Barbados and I am speaking through an ordinary microphone and they have one down there in front of Ministers who are not speaking. Now, Sir, we are doing the people's business. I have already said on the floor of this House that when we are out campaigning when elections are on, we will go throat to throat, with hands, knives, hatchet or anything else, even guns; but if the people elect us in here we should come together as one and do the people's business. That is what I am saying. After we find ourselves in here elected by the people, we

should come together as one and let us do the people's business. The Prime Minister can only do the people's business; he may try to do his own in a different way, but inside here he can only do the people's business; I can only do the people's business. Prime Minister is only a word, and it can drop off as quickly as it can go on; it can be licked off as quickly - even before you call it; so there is nothing to hold on upon, and it is going to get licked off, must be licked off; so long as it is put on, it will be taken off. Anything that is put on can be taken off. I cannot say that I am pleased; I am not pleased to see that the apparatus is inside here and yonder in front of a Prime Minister for him only to look through it with dark glasses, and I am speaking here on an ordinary microphone. I am saying that it is not fair, and the person operating it should have asked me. This is the people's business; this is a reply to the Budget Speech; this is some important matter, and only one man can get up and say 12 cents more on gasoline, \$100 more on milk, \$10.00 more on whatever he cares to put it and it is law. One man can do it, and then he is afraid to let people know how we feel about it. It is not fair. I am not saying that I feel happy about it. Here it is: the apparatus is in this room, and I as a representative of the people am deprived of my rights and privileges. The people in this country are deprived of their democratic rights.

3.00 p.m.

We were told by the Government that we would have broadcasting of speeches, and now what have they done? They have not broadcast any; they are allowing only two speeches to be broadcast and they are those of two member, that is, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition; they are the representatives of the island the other twenty two members are what? They are some of the twenty-four, but not all of the twenty-four. How could the people feel that only two people are representing them? The remarks of the Prime Minister are telling the people that only two people are representing them because he is only allowing two members to represent them. I do not say that they intended to do it, but it is a serious thing; it is a breach of the privilege of this House. This same broadcasting matter is going to bring down this Government. It is not fair. It is only because the people are keen on hearing a particular member and they are not too keen on hearing another member; but that is their democratic right. Who is responsible for my speech not going on the air? What am I in here? A ten-cent boy? Am I representing monkeys? I am entitled to my right and privilege. The Prime Minister represents St. John and the senior member for St. Thomas represents St. Thomas, and whom am I representing? I did not come in here by any stretcher; the people sent me in here. I have so much privilege in here that the Governor-General cannot come in here and sit down in this seat. You must be elected by the people and for the people; and here it is that someone is responsible for depriving of their right, these poor people who are out in the field working so hard. Those who have to fork out money by way of taxation to contribute to this same system are being deprived of sitting down at their radios and listening to how the mem-

bers of the Opposition feel about this taxation being levied upon them. The people have heard some remarks from the Prime Minister relative to this Budget and it was lambasting some people. I could not say that it was abusive, but it should not have come from a Prime Minister who is delivering a Budget Speech. The Prime Minister must be modest; he must be calm and tender and put over his speech in such a way that the people would not even know that it has gone over. However, the Prime Minister put over his Budget Speech in the way he did. That sort of speech should be left to somebody else, but it is not for the Prime Minister to start off a Budget Speech in the way in which he started it off. I feel that the people should have the opportunity and privilege of listening to hear how we are replying to it, but instead of that, we have "No can do."

Mr. Speaker, too much power corrupts. Even here this morning that has happened if you have a big stick and you continue to use it whenever you feel like using it, some day that same stick will be used upon you too. It is a disgrace; it is appalling and heart-breaking to see how I have been treated, and the members of the Opposition on this side of the Table have been treated, as if we are wild boys. We have been treated as if we are boys who are accustomed to gambling under the tree. We have been treated as if we are thieves and robbers.

3.10 p.m.

We demand the same respect the people gave to us, and we should share in it. But, no we are deprived of the speaker. I am sure that their money would have to pay for it in some form or the other. Whom would that money be coming from: the taxpayers; the same people who are deprived. The Good Book says that you should not muzzle the ox.

I am saying that it is not fair to us at all. Where is the broadcast system that was used by the Prime Minister? Where is it? I know that there are some people who when they are telling you anything of milk, you can expect it to be tar, and when they are telling you it is tar, you can expect it to be milk.

The agreement with respect to the use of the broadcasting equipment was that it was to be used for only two speeches - the Government and the Opposition. What is it over on that side for? Why bring it back inside here? The Prime Minister said that the agreement was for two, but only two speeches would be relayed. Well, then, what is it in here for now? The Prime Minister and the senior member for St. Thomas made their speeches over it already. If there is any reply to be made, it should be made in the same way as how I am making my speech.

Sir, must I take it on my shoulders and go and tell the people? Must I tell them that it is unfair to only let the people hear one side of the question? We are representative, just as they are the representatives of the Government. It was said some time ago that only one Party would be considered. Anyhow, the other that was thrust aside is yet represented in here. We are thrust aside, but we are demanding our

democratic rights. Sir, how can hon. members feel good. This is something which makes one resort to something wrong. Show me in your cheque book where you bought your seat in this House of Assembly. Show me the receipt with which you bought it and the price which you paid for it. You only came in here by a vote of the people. All of us came in here by a vote. Are you going to make the worst out of a good market?

Sir, it is not unity. Can you call this unity? We are all representatives. We would talk and we would laugh, but when we come together in here, let us be one; let us work together as one. I do not have any bad feelings for anyone and no one should have any bad feelings for me. The same way that you would like to be a top notch, I would like to be a top-notch the same way. I would not prevent you from being a top-notch. As a matter of fact, you are one already. I would be silly to think that I can do the Prime Minister any political harm. I would be foolish to think that I can do any of the Ministers any political harm, because they are Ministers already. I would be foolish to do that because I may want to be a Prime Minister; so let us work together for the good of the people. I think that at any time any one of us gets up in here and talks, we are talking for the people; therefore, why should we try to cut each other's throat?

I still maintain that it is not fair to us that our speeches would not be broadcast to the people and I am going to say here and now that this is the second year, the second time that it has happened and I am going to appeal to the Speaker not to allow any more broadcasting equipment inside here. If it is to come in here, before you bring it in, you must put the matter before the House: but do not expect it any more.

I can remember the first time that they brought it in here, your humble servant was on the floor and the people commended me on the speech which I made on that occasion. From that Tuesday on, they said "No, no; we had too much of Lloyd Smith." I am glad to say that I was commended for the speech even up to today. I was commended for the way I put it over to the people. If I had made a fool of myself on that occasion, they would have wanted to put it before me now; but because of the way I was representing myself before the speaker on that occasion, I was debarred. I think on that occasion that I acquitted myself as a representative of the people, and I am paying for it today. The people know it and they know the reasons. They have the matter to decide.
3.20 p.m.

Yes, I was referring just now to the fact that if the Government or whoever is responsible for it did not have something to hide from the people, they would allow us to broadcast too; but they have something to hide. I am saying that they have something to hide; they do not want the people to know; it is something that they feel to themselves that may be exposed, and rather than take it on a platform it would be more effective from the floor of this House through microphone. I will have to say, and I will continue to say, that an honest servant has no need to be afraid

of his master; so long as the servant is honest, the master could call his name hard or he could call it soft, whenever he calls it he can answer and face him. You know why? Because he is honest. But if he is a dishonest servant, the master may not know that he was acting in any way dishonestly; but when the master calls his name, he feels that the master knows; and rather than going to the master, he may run from him. That is the meaning to an honest and a dishonest servant. An honest servant can go to the master; a dishonest one runs from the master.

If you have nothing to hide, come out in the open and allow us to tell it all over the country; but he told his over the mountains and does not want me even to tell mine down in Frizers River, and yet I am a representative of the people. I have the same qualifications as the Hon. Prime Minister, and yet I do not have the same authority in here. I only want it in here; I do not want it in the Government Offices; in here I should have the same privilege; I should be speaking from the microphone; my people should be hearing - whether it be good or bad - my people should be hearing me telling it over the microphone; but I am debarred. I will have to walk up on Chalky Mount Hill if I want it to be told over the mountain. I am saying it is not fair.

Now, Sir, the Prime Minister in his speech - and I expected that he would have mentioned something about Local Government - I thought he would have told us by now that he has his Boards and everything set up and ready to work. Now, Sir, the people are paying the taxes; but up to now, as far as Local Government is concerned, they do not know what is happening.

You may be surprised to hear that daily people come to me asking me certain things relative to Local Government, but I cannot tell them anything. All I can say is that I am being left out; I am being dropped like a hot brick; I know nothing about it; I cannot tell them anything; I cannot tell them who to go to; I do not know who is operating it; I only know of an Interim Commissioner, and by now something should be done. It is overdue.

Nothing about this was mentioned in the Budget Speech. Whenever you want money to spend for the Government and for the country you must tax for it; but you must tell the people what you are going to do. Right now you have people knocking about the country, and it is not fair to make any Civil Servant a Quarter Master General over the taxpayers. I do not have anything against the Civil Servants; some of them are very nice, and some are to the opposite; but they must come down to poor, ugly people, poor, hungry, bare-footed people and listen to their needs and try to relieve them. Even if they are sympathetic, they are governed by rules and regulations; they cannot go outside their boundaries to do anything; the Civil Servant can be sacked if he goes outside his boundaries; he can only do what he is being told to do. The representative of the people, the representative of Local Government does not have to look up in anybody's face to see when they are vexed or pleased; but

the Civil Servant will have to please his boss, whoever his boss may be.

What is happening now is that I am called upon to pay taxes; I have to pay my taxes as a taxpayer for Local Government; but I have to go and talk to whoever is the boss of the country. A civil Servant now is the boss of the country, the boss of the taxpayers as far as Local Government is concerned. I think the Councils were abolished since January or February, and this is August. Budget comes along; taxes are increased; we are paying the taxes and still do not know what is happening. I can only think; and I know if and when these Boards or the members of these Boards are appointed, I know who they will be; I know only too well; and if I want one I will have to be a supporter of the Government, and if I just switch my tail I will be a top notch in there. One or two people never have to switch so as to be Quarter Master Generals in these armies that are about the place, and the people liable to suffer are old people. Those are the ones I am talking about, and nothing has been said by the Prime Minister about Local Government in these Budgetary proposals, in this speech of his, and the people are looking and waiting, and it is not fair.

3.30 p.m.

I can understand the ones who are penniless who may have to wait their chance because they are penniless, but we who have to pay taxes have to put our hands deep down in our pockets. Must we wait on the Government too? Must we be grinning and bearing it? I hope that the taxpayers of this country will open their eyes. We are paying the piper and we cannot call the tune. Well, Sir, this is going too far because, from the time when I was a boy, I always heard my old people and other old people say that we who pay the piper must call the tune. Are we turning that around? Must we nurse our fingers and wait on one and only one person? That is too much. The Prime Minister has a big job; I wonder if he knows that he is responsible for a country. I wonder if he is thinking seriously of the fact that he is responsible for lives. I wonder if he is thinking of those persons in the country who have to work hard and are bending down and cannot find anywhere to live. I wonder if he knows that? There are some of these pensioners who do not have any means of repairing the homes in which they live, and they are not qualified to get any loans from the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority cannot lend them any money because they are not working; they cannot measure up to the qualifications necessary and I am wondering if the Prime Minister knows that these things are existing in the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is of no use telling these people that they must go into an Institution because they are not going. Forasmuch as they are poor, they still respect themselves. They feel that they will be doing the worst thing to themselves to go into an Institution, and so they suffer. The homes in which they are living, they were living in them for the last 60 or 70 years. I hope the Prime Minister will take particular note of this part of my speech, and go into the ques-

tion and see how many of these people are suffering in the country districts and, in fact, all around - those who cannot qualify for loans - and try and find decent places somewhere for them to live in. I do not know if the Prime Minister is sleeping, but I can only sound a note of warning. This note can be responsible for the breakdown of any Government. I sincerely hope that the Prime Minister will take a note of this and see to it that these poor, old people who cannot and who will not be able to qualify for loans are able to help themselves. These people are responsible for the wealth of this country; these people have worked, they have been living off nothing and now they should be looked after.

Do not tell me anything about National Insurance. The only persons who can be of any use to the people whom I am talking about is the Central Government, and after the Central Government, then the Local Government. If we, as a body of people, are claiming to represent our people, then we must keep our ears to the ground and we must listen. The Prime Minister has not told us anything about this; since the month of November when we had those heavy rains, the roads in the country slipped away and they are out of repair. We find that roads and bridges are impassable, and are you telling me that since November last year, and now this is the month of August, nothing has been done to these roads and bridges? What are we paying taxes for? We have a bridge called Coggins Bridge, and it was out of order since November, and the poor people from Chalky Mount have to go all around and go down through Braggs Hill, and St. Sylvan's Village so as to get to St. Andrew's Church. If they do not use Bruce Vale Road they will have to use the East Coast Road, and it is only a question of setting up a bridge. Only a few days ago I met a motor car from Sugar Hill going to Chalky Mount to take some folks to St. Andrew's Church. All of these things are taking place and we have to pay taxes! I am wondering if the Prime Minister knows that this bridge is out of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member should know better. I was in his district three evenings ago. If we want to put up the kind of bridge which the last Government put up, they would be washed away altogether. I have travelled through the Spa and Melvins Hill within the last 72 hours; these roads have been completed, and all that needs to be done is to surface them. The bridge has been washed away because it was done negligently, but we want to put down a proper bridge. We are waiting to get girders.

3.40 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order. Would Your Honour rule in what respect was the senior member for St. Joseph out of order?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. The hon. person who was speaking asked the question: would the Prime Minister say so-and-so? Well the junior member for St. Joseph found the facts not to his expectations.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad if when I ask the Prime Minister a question, I would get an answer. In this particular case I said that I wondered.

Now, Sir, the Prime Minister said that he traversed these roads within the last 72 hours. He called the Spa, and he mentioned Coggins Bridge. He said that Coggins Bridge was done. This is what I am going to tell the Prime Minister, and I know that he does not know it. Coggins Bridge was built, according to the old lady, firstclassly. It stood up in any weather. It stood up in the 1939 rains and that was a rain-storm that moved good things. Nothing happened to Coggins Bridge on that occasion.

What has happened? It was neglected. They allowed the river running underneath to rub out the foundations. There was no one to inspect repair and rebuttress the foundation of it. I can tell the Prime Minister that I think Bruce Vale Bridge was rubbed out in that way. The Prime Minister was responsible for it.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would tell the hon. member that if it were they, they would be no rubbing out and rubbing in, because it would not have had any foundation like that.

Mr. SMITH: That is what the Prime Minister knows of bridges in St. Andrew. He may be there if I were talking of a law book; but I am talking of St. Andrew where you get rain that would rub out anything. Are you going to tell me that any inspector anywhere at all can come here and go down St. Andrew and say that he is going to prevent the river from rubbing out the foundation? These Government Ministers listen too much to experts. No expert could tell me anything about down there; I would be able to tell him if he asks, the bridge that would not rub out the river.

(A VOICE: You are contradicting yourself.)

Mr. SMITH: Is it your duty to look over it and, if you like, appoint a Bridge Inspector. I will bet you that if you go and look at it now, you will see that the foundations are rubbed out.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am not like the hon. member. I am just expressing myself. I doubt that you can tell what would happen at any time in the world. What I was trying to explain was that putting columns in it, sticking up in the middle, would not be the right thing. I was trying to help.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir, you are going to put expanding girders up there. If you do that, you have to look for support from one way or the other. It is going to expand somewhere or the other. I do not know if the Prime Minister is going to work miracles and support the bridge from the sky. If you do that, I am going to join the D.L.P.

This is St. Andrew that we are talking about. After a heavy rain down there the earth sinks. Do you know that there was a place in Boscobelle that one morning the people saw the mill and during the day they never saw the mill? If a whole mill and a whole plantation went under the earth, are you going to tell me that you are going to put something up there to keep up the bridge forever? That cannot happen. You have to put those girders down there where the water will not get a chance to get at them.

Anyhow, Sir, you mentioned the Spa and Coggins Hill. You did not mention Fruitful Hill, Parks, or Vaughan's Land.
3.50 p.m.

People are suffering, cannot get out, and the Government has money. I believe so. The sun is shining, we cannot get rain to grow the canes; now is the time to do the work. Now is the hour. Mr. Burnham says now is the hour, and I am saying now is the hour for erecting these roads and bridges. Now is the hour for coming together, and he is right. and I am saying now is the hour for erecting those bridges at this time. If you never finish the Victoria Bridge, will you never do any more roadworks? You are awaiting girders. Why would you not repair the Vaughan's Land Road and Fruitful Hill and Parks? Why would you not do that? I will sit down and let you answer me.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member merely sits down like that without any other member rising on a point of interruption, the hon. member would be deemed to have concluded his speech. If the hon. member gives way when he sees another member about to rise on a point of interruption, I may concede that he may rise again.

Mr. SMITH: I am not sitting down now because I may lose my rights.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I was misunderstood. I said that if the hon. member sat, unless an hon. member rose on a point of interruption, then and only would the hon. member lose his right to speak again.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of explanation. First, I would like to know exactly what the hon. member is referring to. I did not attempt when I was speaking before to give him a list of all the roads in St. Andrew that I have been through at his invitation, but Vaughan's Road forks at a certain point. Which one of the two roads now is Vaughan's Road? My recollection about Parks Road is that some work has started on Parks Road and as I said - I do not know, but it appears to me that some gobion work will have to be done on Parks Road. There is no road in St. Andrew which was damaged by flood - I want to make this clear. The hon. Minister of Communications is not here, but I am almost certain that there is no road on which some kind of work has not been started. As to completion, that depends on the single road-paving machine. There is one at Seawell

and one at Hastings; when all the necessary gabion work is completed it will be surfaced; but because the road is not surfaced, I respectfully submit to the hon. member, it does not mean that the road works have not started on that road. I passed through Vaughan's Road up to Sunday last; I do not know to which of the two roads the hon. member is referring, because the top road is alright and I did not pass through the bottom road.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I just observe here that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has certainly appeared to me to be going beyond and outside of noting the Financial Statement. Another point impressed me is that he was noting, as he might regard, not the errors but the omissions when he refers to various places in St. Joseph which, he complains, lack bridges and all kinds of things. The hon. and learned Prime Minister, on points of interruption to which the hon. senior member gave way, has been explaining about these bridges and roads; but because the atmosphere has so far, and I hope will continue, to be reasonably pleasant, I have allowed both hon. members to more or less attempt to satisfy each other about these alleged omissions in the Budget. But as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph gave way each time the hon. senior member for St. John gave his explanation of elucidation on his point of omission, let the hon. senior member for St. Joseph continue to note the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. "To note"

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you will also note that just now when I refused to sit down you told me to sit and let the hon. Prime Minister get up. You did that, Sir. I refused and I asked if I could sit down and you said yes, and now you are telling me that I am departing from the subject. Well, it is some departure, but it is not I who am departing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret the misunderstanding. I told the hon. member for St. Joseph that he had stated that he would sit down and wait and see if the hon. and learned Prime Minister made any comment. I advised the hon. senior member for St. Joseph not to sit down unless an hon. member rose on a point of interruption, because if he sat down without such a rising, he would have been deemed to have concluded his speech. And then when the hon. and learned member for St. John rose and said "On a point of elucidation, would the hon. member give way", I said that the hon. member might sit down, because he could afterwards resume his speech. I am sorry about the misunderstanding.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has replied and said about certain roads. Well, I do not know anything about Fruitful Hill, but I am going to say here and now, Sir, regardless of what may happen, these are Budgetary Proposals; these are asking us - in fact asked us already; everything has gone through. Anyhow, we are to give the green light on spending money and taxing people; and anything pertaining to taxation I can talk on it this Budget because we are being taxed.

Well, Sir, I am right, and I maintain my right. I can never depart from these Budgetary proposals this afternoon; it is too wide and broad. This is the lifeline of the people. You cannot pin me down to this this afternoon; I am not going to sit here and allow anything to slip through. The sound on the microphone is too deep and too broad; this is too deep and too broad this afternoon. I am talking about taxation. The hon. Prime Minister increased the highway taxes and I am trying to get the Prime Minister to understand that if he gets the taxes he should do the roads.

If I were a Minister, I would not sit here and say nothing about these roads, because the Prime Minister is liable to forget. It is true that I am a mock Minister of Communications; but if I were the real one, do you think that I would sit back in a swivel chair to a desk and see that August, September, October coming and no roads and bridges have been done? 4.00 p.m.

I know that the months of November and December is not the time for building roads because you will have heavy rains around those months; but in April down to the month of June is the time for building roads. I do not expect the Prime Minister to know that; he will drive across the roads, and when his expert tells him anything, he will believe him. I know that during this year money lapsed, money which should have been spent on tenantry roads and the reply given to me here was that after the rains came in they could not work on the roads. Nothing has been done yet and they will start to repair these roads when the rain comes. I want to help the Government; I want them to do something for the people. If I did not want to be honest, I would not have said a word; but I want the Government to do something for the people, and these roads are very essential. I do not know if the Prime Minister knows the roads that I am talking about. When it comes to spending money, the Prime Minister must not bring down this Budget speech (ASIDES)

Mr. Speaker, I like to be heard when I am speaking, and there is a standing Order of this House which says that any member who contravenes it should be punished.

As I was saying, Sir, when it comes to this time, this is our time for explaining things to the Government. We do not get any other time to do this; when we ask a question, it will be answered in another hundred years. If a Resolution is put on the Order Paper, it remains there until it is struck off, but this cannot be struck off. This is in my hands now and I will have to work now, otherwise I will not be of any use to my people. Someday the Prime Minister will answer my question, and I hope he will pay me this compliment. I want to know if he knows that the people at Mellowes and Parks live on the brink of a hill, and they will tumble down the gully if we were to have a heavy rainfall. I hope he will reply to me when the time comes. He makes me to believe that he is doing his job in driving around. I see that he likes the parish of St. Joseph and I am wondering if he

would come at me. However, I think that he is too late in visiting St. Joseph. (ASIDES) Mr. Speaker, will you speak to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas and let him know he is interrupting me?

Mr. SPEAKER: At the moment I will leave the Chair for two minutes, but it will not be any recess. (AFTER A PAUSE).

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, when I was making my remarks just now, I had got to the very sore spot which everybody knows is the resiting of these poor people in the parish of St. Joseph away from the disastrous circumstances in which they are living down there.

4.10 p.m.

Now, Sir, I would be glad, and I was listening to hear when the Hon. Prime Minister will say that his Government would soon be buying some land to re-site those people down there. A lot of people just stand by to make fun and joke at others. We are not making any fun or joke. This is something which this Government should not be doing. This Government is penalising these people down there. These people are living with their hearts in their hands and going to sleep saying their prayers because it is more than possible for them to wake up in the morning and find that their houses have tumbled down the hill. There are Ministers and other people who are all for themselves and they have little or no sympathy for others. However, someone is responsible for the holding up of this thing. I make bold to say that the majority of the Ministers are that way. However, something should be done for these people and should have been done for them already, but up to now nothing has been done for them.

These people have to pay increased taxation. They have to pay Package Tax and they have to buy gasoline. If they have to contribute to the taxation of this country, cannot this Government see that if they are paying taxes in the same way as those who live in St. Michael that the Government should re-site the houses of those people in St. Joseph?

I do not think that the Hon. Prime Minister is taking this seriously, because if he did, something would have been done long ago for them. The people in St. Michael are not paying all of the taxes; the people in St. Joseph are paying some and the Government is concentrating on St. Michael. They are doing nothing in St. Joseph; there must be some reason and I would like to know the reason.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot sit back here and do not make mention of it to the Government. I have to do so every time I get up because it is not fair to them. I read in the newspapers - I think it was the *Sunday News* - how many houses were removed from St. Andrew. If I am not mistaken, mention was made of some forty houses being re-sited elsewhere. Do you mean to say that because I am not a Minister, I cannot get a house moved from where it is down there?

Do you mean to say that because there is a Minister in St. Andrew, the people down there can get something done but because there is no Minister in St. Joseph, the people in St. Joseph cannot get anything done?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I had nothing to do with the removal of people from St. Andrew.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not deem that to be a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. I know the Minister would get up and make himself small.

Now, Sir, this is a small item. This is some person who you would call a water carrier. She came from St. Joseph. This is what I was told. I was told that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew told her that she would have to go home, that is to day she would have to stop working, so that he could take on somebody from St. Thomas. He took on a girl from St. Simons. I was told that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What is wrong with that?

Mr. SMITH: You are trying to starve one from St. Joseph. The Minister is not even ashamed because he said, "What is wrong with that"! She is a poor woman. You sent her home and offered her work to someone else. You are starving one for the other to work. You should give each three days.

Sir do you think if I were a Minister that I would dismiss one to take on another? I would not do that because the people would not have any respect for me if I had done that. When you are a Minister, you have to live above board. Only because the poor woman came from St. Joseph, she had to go home so that the other woman could work. That is not fair.

The Prime Minister is responsible for what the Ministers do. Therefore, when you get there and do anything that is wrong, he should chase away all of you.

I told the girl that I did not think so. Now look what he says: "What is wrong with that."!

Mr. SPEAKER: I assume the hon. senior member for St. Joseph does not mean an hon. member here.

Mr. SMITH: I am talking about a Mr. Edwards up there. Sir, I can see that the hon. member's spirit and mind have met today.

It is not fair to be penalising some of these people. There is nothing to hard the body more than fright, and these people whenever they are going to bed at night have to say their prayers twice because they do not expect to wake up next morning.

4.20 p.m.

If he had any say, or in other words, any guts, something would be done up there, because the same way that he can say: "If this man from this place does not leave I am going to leave" - and the man had to leave - he should be in a position to say. "Well, if you do not do something for these people" the same thing - and it would have to be done. The hon. Prime Minister will tell anyone he can take no chances now with the Ministers because he has no replacements. If he had replacements they would be replaced already: so this is the time now that if any of them has anything to be done, fix-it-right. The Prime Minister has no replacements: so he is in a funny position: he knows that there is someone checking out, and

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I do not think that it is in accordance of the rules of the House that members should be allowed to advertise on the floor of this House. I do not have to advertise.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that is judicial notice of Fix-it-Right.

Mr. SMITH: If something is to be done for these people, you could call me and we could discuss it: but as long as you do not do something for the people, you will hear me and I will talk. From November the Minister paid these visits - I am not sure that the Prime Minister did - but I took them all over the parishes and now nothing has been done. The election has come and gone, and it is coming again. Help the people. Tell me about the owners of Lammings asking too much money. Are they asking for more than what was taken away from the Marketing Corporation?

I am talking for the people who have to pay for increases on gasoline, because the man that I am referring to, that poor fellow, his W.C. has gone completely, dragged away; part of his place has been dragged away and he is still drawing up. He has a motor truck and he has to pay the increase on gasoline and an increase on his licence. These are the people I am talking about, I am not talking because I have a mouth. I am saying that unfair measures are being meted out to these people and something should have been done for them already. You have housing areas in most parishes; none in St. Joseph. Why can you not establish one? It is time to establish one in St. Joseph. Merely talking is not sufficient.

Something will have to be done as long as I am alive: and as soon as Government takes it into their hands and establish a housing area up there, the better it will be for everybody. I am surprised to hear that I am fighting for a drawback from the owners of Lammings. I do not know them. I understand that they are absentee proprietors. If it is that I am getting a drawback, what I hear now is backdraws. I hear that some others are getting their backdraws now, Sir. Well, Sir, really and truly it is hard, and that is why they do not want my speech to go over the air because the people in St. Joseph will hear me this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now after 4.30 o'clock p.m., and automatically there is the reversion to Government business.

AMENDMENT OF THE SENATE TO LAW REVISION BILL, 1967.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there are certain amendments of a very slight nature which have been sent down from the Other Place in connection with the Law Revision Bill of 1967. They relate to section 11 and I think that the Leader of the Opposition is fully aware of the nature of the amendments.

The proposed amendments to Section 11 are: Delete the word "Seven" in line 1 and substitute the word "nine" therein, so that the section will now read: "Notwithstanding subsection 1 of section 5, the Commissioners -

- (a) shall cause nine copies - "(instead of the revised edition to be bound etc. etc. etc.

There will be now nine copies instead of seven, and the second proposed amendment is, subsection (3) (c) insert the words "to the Public Librarian to the Librarian of the University of the West Indies" immediately after the word "Commissioner" in line 4 at page 12, so that the proposed amendment would read "shall cause one such copy to be delivered to the Governor-General, to the Clerk to the Senate, to the Clerk of the House of Assembly, to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, to the Attorney General, to the Law Revision Commissioner, to the Public Librarian, to the Librarian of the University of the West Indies (these are the pertinent words) "and those officers shall respectively retain those copies for the purpose of record."

Mr. Speaker, there are only two amendments, and I beg to move that the amendments be now read a first time.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I am not taking any objection to the amendments as have been recommended. It has been the custom that when copies of the laws of Barbados are new in circulation, every sitting member of this Chamber gets a copy of them. I am wondering if the Minister who is responsible has that matter very foremost in his mind. We have voted money in connection with the delivery of these laws and I am not aware of what is in circulation. It has been proposed by the amendment to this section, that the Commissioners shall cause copies of the revised edition of the laws to be issued to the public Librarian and to the Librarian of the University of the West Indies. Well, Sir, I do think that you yourself as an old member of this Chamber and other hon. members like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and other members of this Chamber, are well aware that the custom has always been that sitting members are in receipt of new copies of the Laws of Barbados as soon as they are in circulation. I do hope that that custom will be maintained. I do not know if the Hon. Minister will give me any sort of assurance in this connection. As I said, Sir, as soon as these new copies of the Laws of Barbados are put in circulation, I hope that every sitting member of the Legislature will be in receipt of a copy as has been the custom heretofore.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I know, Sir, that members were given copies of the Laws of Barbados in the past and they took them home. I am suggesting that one set should be kept marked with the respective constituencies to which hon. members belong. We, on this side of the House, try to trace something from the laws, and the particular volume is not here. I see that there are two lots of Law Books on the other side of the House. I do not think that it is too much to ask for so many copies for sitting members and that members should also have copies which they could take home, because that used to be the old practice. I daresay that the older members of the House have their copies too.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, is any hon. member suggesting that it not the intention of the Government to allow members to have copies of this legislation? I think it is an act of supererogation on the part of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to mention that at all. I have heard the hon. member say that lawyers should buy their own books. In my opinion, hon. members should have their copies of the law. Provision has been made in our Estimates for this; we have ordered about 300 or 500 copies and the publishers have suggested that we should not order too many copies. One volume cost over \$30.00, but hon. members are assured that they can have the first copies.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order. All I said was that in the past - I have a faint recollection of that - the practice was for hon. members to have copies of the Laws to take to their homes. I said that, because I have come across some old books in that way. There has been the system of giving copies to hon. members and I was asking that in addition to that, we have copies to which hon. members could make reference here.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: If the hon. member says something, I have to reply to it.

The question that these amendments be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.
4.40 p.m.

EXCHANGE CONTROL BILL 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 is the next Order of the Day and it stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister. It is to move the second reading of the Bill, relating to exchange control.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of this Bill are rather short but I would like there to be no confusion in the minds of hon. members on the history of exchange control.

Prior to the Second World War in 1939 there was no exchange control; but from the commencement of

the Second World War in 1939, there was legislation introduced restricting the free movement of bank notes, and security and matters of that kind. We do not have to go back of course to the violent troubles that took place in 1925, but we remember October 1929 when nearly four thousand banks closed to business in U.S.A. one day.

It was not until practically 1939 that we had some legislation as to exchange control, and that was as far down as to the commencement of the Second World War in 1939. Since then, countries all over the world have tried to control their currencies.

At that time, the territory of Barbados although not being a Crown Colony in the full sense of the term, yet in reference to our relations in Barbados and the United Kingdom, the Imperial Finance Control Act was passed in 1939 and it was made to apply to Barbados by virtue of financial control imposed by the Imperial Parliament. As a result of that, we in Barbados passed our Local (Defence Control) Act in 1939 and it was not until then that we had all our Exchange Control Acts.

This is no new restriction imposed on the movement of currency in Barbados. The reason why Governments have to do that is that if there is unfair balance in currency, Government has to take measures to restrict the movement of its currency so that imbalances do not become inbalances.

There is of course, the second reason why Government on the positive side, like to step up their reserves. We all remember, the internal control which we had here during the years of the Second World War and which existed until after the war on account of the necessity to rehabilitate the reserves of the colony. Securities which had been deposited outside had undergone changes which did not strictly conform to the aspirations of the country, and it was found necessary to continue under the United Kingdom Act of 1959. By that time, most of us reached the age of discretion.

Since we have become independent, it is now necessary for Barbados to have its own Act. From 1939 to 1950, we found it necessary to comply with the Imperial Finance Control Act. Of course, we have our own Defence Emergency Powers Regulations in which we controlled our currency from 1939 until 25th March, 1959. When we repealed the British Act in 1959, we passed legislation regarding the use of currency, making it necessary for people to make applications to the Controller of Currency if they wanted money to travel or to do things like that.

That really is what Exchange Control is. The transactions which we have to deal with in the Ministry of Finance relating to exchange control are only part of the inconveniences which we have to endure from time to time. So, Mr. Speaker, it is now necessary for us to exert our position and not to continue to operate on those emergency provisions which we have and which we passed in 1959.

This Act is designed for the purpose of regularising our position so that we should continue to have some control over the movement of our currency, payments, valuable securities and debts and even the import, export transfer and settlement of properties. All that is regulated in the Act which we have before us.

Part I deals with the interpretation and the Control Authority.

Part II deals with exchange and so on, and described the manner in which it should be done. It is very important.

Part III deals with payments in the Island, outside the Island and with compensation deals. 4.50 p.m.

By the "scheduled territories" we mean territories which are in the sterling area. Part IV of the Bill provides for the control and the issue of transfer securities, and the payment of capital moneys outside the island; Part V deals with the restrictions on the importation and exportation of goods; Part VI deals with miscellaneous provisions, non-scheduled territories, foreign currency, etc.; Part VII provides for the issuing of contracts, etc. and the authority to make exemptions to persons leaving the sterling area.

There are, of course, in addition to the seven sections which I have enumerated, five Scheduled territories, accounts, legal proceedings and enforcements. I shall, of course, deal with these when I come to them, except that in so far as recent developments in the United Kingdom within the past eight or nine weeks no longer make the legislation relating to accounts as binding as it was three months ago, but at the same time the Chancellor of the Exchequer is invested with authority in the United Kingdom, in dealing with the Sterling area, to reinvoke the provisions for dock accounts. This is one of the matters which I think will be discussed at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference on the 21st September, 1967, that is about five weeks from today.

I think that it is necessary to elaborate a little on the Bill because it is a fairly long Bill and the Objects and Reasons are fairly short. Now that hon. members appreciate the financial and economic background of this Bill, I beg to move that the Exchange Control Bill be read a second time.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister had made an interesting speech on the history of exchange control and its relationship to the great depression, and we on this side could in no wise disagree with him on the imposition of exchange control in the industrialised countries as a means of retaining sources of investments within their shores which might otherwise have fled in the upset conditions that have occurred in European countries.

Since 1929 the management of currency was first thought up by Dr. Hjalmar Schacht in Germany, and there are many countries which are still controlling currency in the same way. As far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the situation was, I would respectfully suggest, a little different because sterling was a world wide currency.

In 1940 it was necessary to conserve sterling and the currencies which were depending on it and to impose other restrictions, and those restrictions have continued right down to the present time. I am sure the Prime Minister agrees that essentially this is a Bill for preserving the structure of the sterling area, because in the industrialised countries of Europe, the reason that it is necessary to restrict the exportation of notes, the exportation of securities in any form except under limited conditions, is to prevent the flight of cash which would flee from its own country into another country and there provide work for foreigners rather than work for the people of the country it left behind.

Anyone who has travelled to Europe should be aware of countries for example, Russia which maintain the full rigidity of this system. Even today the Russian currency cannot be changed outside the Soviet Union as the Russians do not allow their money to leave the country. It is as if you have given a ruble to the Soviet Government, and in this Bill, Sections 24 and 25, we find that a similar condition is to be imposed here. I do not anticipate that we are going to have sections 24 and 25 applied in all its rigours, but this point, Mr. Speaker, of an industrial country has a certain meaning because in Russia - I am using the Russians as the most ready example - when Russian currency notes cannot leave the country, and a Russian Tourist going abroad leave with the currency of the country to which he is going, it is easy to see that there can never be any question of investments abroad, as Russian savings have to stay back in Russia; and that is the purpose of their particular exchange control restrictions. But this Bill does not, in our view, really deal with that situation in Barbados.

It is widely said - and I have seen figures from persons who are connected with the distribution of wealth in large quantities in this country - that a lot of money leaves Barbados, that a lot of rich Barbadians invest their money in London, Canada, and America, so that any future economic disturbances in Barbados will not affect their investments.

Mr. Speaker, that basically is what exchange control is about. You control your currency and you control the movement of money out of your territory for the purposes of getting it for investment, to create jobs in the territory for nationals of that territory rather than the rich man in Barbados sending his money to London to invest to give work to English workers. Exchange control is normally thought of as applying some restrictions to the free movement of money from the island, and it is also used for the pur-

pose of retracting that money into productive sources in Barbados, to provide work here in the island.
5.00 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we look at this Bill to see if it is aimed at that sort of control, we find that the true purpose of this Bill is to act more in the interest of the United Kingdom Government, more in the interest of preserving sterling as an international currency than it is in the interest of preserving the wealth of Barbados and retaining the wealth of Barbados within the island. It may well be, Mr. Speaker, that one of the fundamental freedoms for rich persons in whatever territory they live.....

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: As I was saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the true purpose of this Bill appears to me to be the preservation of the sterling area and the protection of sterling and the continuance of a state of affairs in which Barbados will not embarrass the sterling area, rather than any idea of the protection of the currency of Barbados as an independent entity. I imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the argument can be used that since Barbados currency is itself protected by sterling - because in the last analysis it is not the investment of the Barbados Government, or the stability of the Democratic Labour Party or the prospective policy of the Barbados Labour Party regime - it is not that although that will give an investment confidence in Barbados at present. It is the knowledge that Barbados currency is tied to an international currency which is the final analysis can be mobilized to protect any drastic destruction of its profits. In return for shelter under the umbrella of sterling, we must give some shelter in order to make sure that Barbados will not become like a drain for the reserves of the sterling area. It is significant that the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill state that this Bill is based on the exchange control legislation in force in the United Kingdom and in Jamaica. Granted that we have to bow the head in some degree to the demands of the United Kingdom and the demands for sterling to be protected, we all have to welcome this Bill. We are not in the position of the Bahamas or even of the British Virgin Islands where it has been possible, because of American investment, for those countries to enjoy the currency of the American Government; but the day may come when we are given that status and the Government will seek a little more financial independence for Barbados.

We, on this side of the House, would welcome an assurance from the Prime Minister that the problems of the movement of capital by Barbadians who wish to invest their money abroad - as they may continue to do under this Act - will be dealt with. We will welcome an assurance from the Prime Minister that a proper balance will be struck between unreasonable restriction and unreasonable liberty. We are not satisfied at present that there is a sufficient sense of responsibility in the ranks of those who prefer to invest their money outside of Barbados. We are not satisfied that sufficient guidance is being given to

them. We are not satisfied that sufficient study is being made of the problem. In the same way that we have a "Buy Local" campaign I would be glad to see an "Invest Local" campaign. We have a 8% rate of interest which is a great deal higher than that which could be got on most investments on the London Market. There is a consideration for suggesting that in economic terms Barbados is an attractive place for Barbadians to invest their money.

The maximum rate of 8% is a high rate, and it becomes a minimum rate for most purposes, and it is an attractive rate; but nevertheless we still find that there are movements of capital outside of Barbados. We hope and assume that Exchange Control will be used as a weapon against this type of activity as well as a weapon against the dissipation of sterling and hard currency which would be in breach of the normal rules of the sterling area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Prime Minister has said, this Bill is a long one and no doubt the different points will be made in Committee for the Prime Minister to take up. I imagine that hon. members will take them up and the Prime Minister will enlighten us on them, and I do not intend to go into any length on the individual Sections of the Bill at this point. But I would like to suggest that Parts V and VI of the Bill, especially Sections 24, 25 and 27, do in fact give very great power to the Exchange Control Authority who will be the Minister of Finance. I have thought of Section 24 and I can say that it is all very well for the United Kingdom and Jamaica, who do not share their currency with any other country, to have Sections such as these in their Acts.

5.10 p.m.

However, in Barbados we share our currency with St. Lucia, St. Vincent and other such places in the Eastern Caribbean: and since you are using a common currency, you should keep files to check on it.

It seems to me that this Section was drafted, perhaps forgetful of that purpose. There is no means now that you can know. If that is the case, what happens to a St. Lucian who comes here with \$50? Perhaps, he would have to declare his \$50. As a type of common courtesy coming into the colony. For that type, I suggest that you could as well not have any restriction on common currency. Perhaps, this section is meant to remedy some abuse. I do not know of any abuse. I cannot see that the movement of common currency notes from one colony to another should be made a matter of legislative control.

These are points to be aware of, but they have numerous conditions in them. The conditions in the United Kingdom legislation was the duty on collecting debts. All these provisions have been put in the restrictions on exchange control. People go to foreign countries to collect their debt. I do not think any hon. member of this House has a bank account abroad which is not known to the Minister of Finance. It would be an interesting exploit for the Minister of Finance in this colony. I am sure the Minister of Finance has all these things in his home.

Sir, if I may sum up, we regard this as a Bill which closes any Exchange Control gaps around Barbados. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will have to consider our balance of payments in a more serious way than we are now considering it. It is all very well to say that Barbados has an adverse balance of payment and leave it at that, for it is impossible as yet in Barbados - as it is possible in the United Kingdom and the United States - to know how adverse balance of payments occur. We do not have as yet many of the factors which would inflate our money, but that day will come if the tourist expansion continues. All of these things are in a state of flux.

However, we welcome this Exchange Control Bill, and we hope it will not be applied too restrictively. I hope the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister, will remember that control of money which they need to control under this Bill is only part of the work which they have to do. Let us hope that with the passing of this Bill, we would see that state of affairs improve. Let us hope that the Ministry will work to improve the economic position of Barbados.

I had a discussion with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on the question of the restrictions which were carried out in the United Kingdom on the particular things that I had in mind. The situation arose when the Barbados Light and Power Company actually issued a prospectus in the United Kingdom to carry out the electrification which we now see going on around us.

5.20 p.m.

And, of course, if they had consulted the Ministry of Finance we would have told them how to go about it, but they were advised by their lawyers in the United Kingdom and Canada; and after they issued their prospectus they were nearly prosecuted for issuing a prospectus without the permission of Capital Issue Committee, and after that they then came to the Ministry of Finance and complained about it. I was highly annoyed about it; I blamed them, of course, because they thought they could go independently and do these things.

I took the matter up with Mr. Harold Wilson, who immediately took it up with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and he informed the Directors of the Company of the outcome. The hon. member has made a point that while we are part of the sterling area, we cannot afford to allow people who are far removed from the economic sphere of Barbados to invest their money elsewhere, and we would only invoke the provisions of this Bill to prohibit a free investment of capital both inside and outside the island.

Whether we consider it necessary at the present moment, I would say this week and this month sterling is freely convertible currency all over the world except for the few restrictions which still exist in the United Kingdom on United Kingdom nationals and residents taking money outside; so as far as sections 25 and 26 of Part V of the Bill are concerned, I do not think that anyone can make a single case in which anyone can be prevented from taking Eastern Caribbean

currency outside or inside the island. The bank deposits here in Barbados went up about 2 1/2% three years ago as a direct result of the transfer of British as opposed to Eastern Caribbean currency notes from one of the neighbouring territories, and this has been done to the credit of the total volume of deposits in the banks in Barbados which now stand, as far as I can remember, at well over \$89 million; and although all of that money is still being repatriated without restrictions out of Barbados, although there is provision there in Part V of the Bill to control the importation or exportation of notes in the same way you control transfer of securities and bullion - because one must convert into the other - as far as I know it is not the intention of the Government to impose any such restrictions imposed on the importation of pound notes sterling from the United Kingdom would only be done after consultation and at the request of the appropriate body.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 were called and passed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the members on the other side will consider doing the Bill Part by Part. If any hon. member has any objection to a particular part, then he will be free to get up and speak, because there are 47 sections and it is not intended to curtail the debate, only to expedite the business of the House. We are coming to clause 8 which is the beginning of Part III and therefore the Acting Leader of the House proposes to move that Part III stand part, and at that stage any hon. member may get up and speak on anything he considers not acceptable.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am sure that what the Prime Minister has said would be an expeditious way of dealing with this matter.

Part III was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part III stand part of the Bill.

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

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

Part IV was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Part 4 stand part of the Bill.

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

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

Part V was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part V stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we welcome the assurance given by the Prime Minister in his reply on the second reading of this Bill that it is not intended that the movements of notes to and from the Caribbean, and in and out of Barbados will be restricted. That is a most useful assurance in the circumstances, certainly since the expansion of note issues. Mr. Chairman, these Clauses in Part V of this Bill are very restrictive indeed. I wonder if the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works can give us any assurance in this matter. We are, in fact, issuing British Postal Orders under contract and by agreement with the British Postal Authorities, and I wonder how far these agreements are infringed upon by section 25 (1) (b) dealing with the exportation of postal orders from the Island. When you buy a postal order, the Minister of Finance will be taken to have given his permission to export that postal order to whatever territory you are sending it. I wonder if the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has any information that he can give us on the agreement. The agreement between the British Post Office and our Post Office in respect of the issue of postal orders is complete; in other words, our post office must be allowed to issue a postal order free to be despatched to the United Kingdom and elsewhere. I would be glad to hear something about that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The only case which I can remember was some years ago when the question was asked about local residents answering advertisements coming from the United States, as regards job opportunities in the United States, and those persons were prosecuted for contravening the regulations. That was about ten years ago. As far as I know, speaking off hand, any restriction on the exportation of currency notes to any of the contributing territories to the Currency Board Agreement would be ultra vires to that Act which was passed by the Legislature and ratified by the Legislatures of all the contributing territories. That is why I said that I cannot envisage that Clauses 24 to 26 were intended to mean that if you want to send out a postal order, you will have to get permission to do so. It was not intended to be that, and we certainly do not impose any such restriction; neither do we intend to put such a restriction on the passing of this Bill. I have been searching my mind and documents for an explanation as to whether at any time it has been suggested by the United Kingdom Authorities that there should be a sort of back prop for sterling except in a very serious situation. I do not find any such evidence. I do not find that it was so intended and there are no such regulations either in the Ministry of Finance or in the whole Currency Control Office. That is the most that I can say.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have no reason to disbelieve either the Minister of Communications or the Prime Minister, but the Act says that the exportation from the island of any notes of a

class which are or have been at any time legal tender in the United Kingdom, or any postal orders is prohibited except by permission of the Minister of Finance, and if things fell to rock bottom in respect of trade with the United Kingdom, he might not allow any postal order to come out of Barbados. It seems to me that it must be difficult in any agreement with the Barbados Post Office to say that the export of postal orders is prohibited, because these postal orders are British Postal Orders. At the head of the postal orders is shown written that they are British Postal Orders, and I do not see that you can say that the export of these postal orders is prohibited without a breach of the Agreement. I quite appreciate what the Prime Minister has said. It cannot be envisaged that this Act is intended to be in breach of this agreement. I wonder if the Prime Minister will not reconsider this matter with a view of eliminating this provision altogether. The provision about the notes is only appropriate in the United Kingdom or in Jamaica.

I have observed the silence of the Hon. Minister of Communications. Of course it is not expected that the Minister would have any knowledge in connection with the matter when he does not have the file before him. The Minister went to St. Thomas and took away some newspapers from a man and told him he was robbing the Post Office. I want to say this, that if this Act prohibits the exportation of postal orders, the Minister of Communications should have raised the matter with the Prime Minister instead of going around with a police officer on a particular Saturday in St. Thomas.

5.40 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would not be talking about any dispute between the two hon. members for St. Thomas; I am sticking strictly to restrictions with respect to what the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said of postal orders. It is necessary to have a search sometimes because if there is a leakage in postal orders, let us say, from a territory like Barbados to Venezuela, that can be a serious loss on the resources of the territory. That is the only reason why the exportation of postal orders should be prohibited except with the permission of the Authority. Permission can be a means of safeguard in the Bill. Let us say that sterling crosses these areas. The Minister of Finance would not have to come to the Legislature to pass a special Bill to provide for the stopping of the leakage. He would be entitled to claim on the restrictions.

I give the hon. member the assurance that in respect to the scheduled territories, there are no restrictions; but I do not think it would be well for us to take out this section.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: It is not really necessary for this, I would say. You say that you cannot export a postal order without the permission of the Authority.

The question that Part V stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part VI was called and passed.

Part VII was called and passed.

The First Schedule was called and passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

The Third Schedule was called and passed.

The Fourth Schedule was called and passed.

The Fifth Schedule was called and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that this Bill be now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO FIX RATE OF INTEREST

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is Order No. 3 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and it is to move the passing of the following Resolution:

"A Resolution to fix the rate of interest to be paid by the Barbados Development Board on a loan of \$500,000 from Barclays Bank D.C.O. at one half of one percent below the prime commercial rate."

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this deals with a Resolution, No. 9/1967 which was approved by this House and concurred by the Other Place and assented to on the 6th February, 1967.

There was a slight mistake in the wording of that Resolution. That Resolution said that this loan was to be made at the time of the making of the loan at the rate of six and one-half percent per annum. It should have been stated "by half of one percent below the prime commercial rate." This is a very straightforward measure, and I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Addendum to this Resolution reads as follows: "This Resolution seeks to regularize arrangements made with a Commercial Bank concerning the interest rate to be paid on sums borrowed by Boards and/or Corporations and which must be approved by both Houses of the Legislature. The existing convention is that such sums borrowed by Boards and/or Corporations and approved by both Houses of the Legislature shall

bear an interest rate of one half of one percent below the prime commercial rate."

Now, Sir, these Boards and/or Corporations. I am not going to vote against this Resolution, but I am going to advise the Government to pay more strict attention to these Corporations and Boards relative to spending Government funds. We are giving the green light; we are approving the interest rate and things of that sort. After it has passed us we have no more control; but it is the duty of the Minister in charge to keep a sharp lookout, keep a close watch on these Corporations and Boards which I was hearing so much about, and so many cheques can be written, flying about the place. I think that it is negligence on somebody's part - I do not know who it is; but it is not fair to the taxpayers of this country to allow anything of this sort to exist.

I may be wrong, Sir, but I feel that checks should be made - I mean a check upon the signing of cheques should be made more regularly, if possible weekly. We cannot allow these cheques to be flying about. It is not good enough that these Corporations and Boards can do as they like, spend as they like, whenever they like, and I will go further to say if a Minister is responsible for these Corporations or these particular Boards, and things of this sort should exist, the Minister should be called upon to resign, and the person involved locked up. These are public funds and we cannot allow such things to happen.

Sir, I would not say any more yet, I have something more to say when other things come up. A cheque for \$14,000 is not 14¢.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The resolution before the House is for \$500,000 and not \$14,000.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not say any more, but I am speaking on a Resolution to give the O.K. to pay a rate of interest. I am not speaking about \$500,000 or \$100. The Resolution calls for this House to approve the rate of interest, and I am only drawing to the Government's attention - you may make one to think differently if you try to stop me on this particular point. I do not have anything to hide; so that is why I will talk. But if I am being stopped when I am right, well, anything that happens - I read the Addendum before I started, and it is to give the green light and, Sir, you are telling me that the Resolution is not for \$14,000. I know it is for the rate of interest; you might not have seen that.

Well, Sir, it is my duty to help protect the purse strings of the taxpayers of this country. I am a watchdog too. I am responsible; do not think that the Government alone is responsible; we are as much responsible as the Government, because we are to tell the Government if anything is going wrong. What is the meaning of the Opposition? The Opposition does not need to get up and oppose because they have mouths; the Opposition is to keep the Government on its toes; and when I hear about these \$14,000 cheques, must I not say something about it, Sir? It is not fair to the taxpayers; it is not fair to me; and I hope before too long that we may get somebody behind closed doors.

Some time ago I was being threatened that I would have been put behind closed doors, although I am a representative of the people, and I did not do anything; I did write cheques, but my own, in my name. If there are others that were written and signed in the Board's name or the Corporation's name, but are not going to the Corporation's funds or to the Corporation's account, must not I speak? This is the place to protect every taxpayer, and I am only asking the Minister in charge to be more careful, make more periodical checks on these Corporations. It can be done daily; every afternoon it should be checked after the cashier is finished with it and everything, before you close down and pass it on. Check tickets and everything. I do not think that down at the Customs where you have so much money collected daily - and I still believe a check is being made every day - that we hear about these big cheques flying about from the Customs Department; only when you come to these little Boards and these little Corporations. Do you know why, Sir? Everyone that is being sent there feels that he is a Government supporter and can support himself out of the Government. That is what happens.

I am appealing to the Government, whoever is responsible, to look at this thing carefully, and do not put a person there because you know him; try to put people that can be trusted, even if they are not your supporters.
6.00 p.m.

That is the trouble we are heading for and that is the trouble that any Government will be heading for. You can shout D. L. P. or B. L. P. and you can get through regardless of how much money you are in charge of. That must be stopped; you should put in these positions people who can be trusted. If they are not even your supporters, and you put them there, you stand a chance of getting their support. You should not put them there just because they have a name. There are people, it appears, who if you have to address a letter to them, you do not know where they are. That is what I have heard. I do not think that an individual of that type should be in charge of public funds. I want the D. L. P. to keep their name up, and let it be said that if you are an honest, nice and pure official you will get a job; not that so long as you are a yard fowl you can get a job. In that way, we will not be hearing about these losses.

I do not know how the Prime Minister feels about it; I do not think he can feel too happy. The talk alone is sufficient to disturb him because he cannot do anything. I think that they should tighten up and do not let the people's money be frittered away down the drain like that. The only thousands I know about are the thousands in the Mellowes river, but not when you come to money. As I say, if you are in charge and if I am a Minister - Well, I hear that every Minister is responsible for his Department. The Minister is not going to his Department and take out a dollar bill; but if a dollar bill is taken out by the Department, then he is responsible for it; and if he is honest and things of that sort should happen, all he should say as a mark of his disapproval of such actions in that he will resign. Up to now I have not heard anything like

that, and I am warning the Government that in paying this rate of interest they should do everything to carry along the rate of interest and also do everything to protect the taxpayers' money.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution is one which calls for very careful study by members of the Opposition particularly. One has got to wonder in the case of the Barbados Development Board, whether or not the Board will have books at this stage, particularly since the fire which occurred at the Hilton Hotel. I am wondering if the Board will have books to submit to the appropriate Minister as to what is the true financial position in respect of this \$160,000. It is very strange indeed that the Addendum to this Resolution tells us that this Resolution seeks to regularise arrangements made with a Commercial Bank, concerning the interest rate to be paid on sums borrowed by Boards and/or Corporations and which must be approved by both Houses of the Legislature.

This question of Boards and Corporations is not one, as we have seen during the recent past, to be taken lightly at all, and any Minister, whether he be Prime Minister or otherwise, must have a lot of guts to come before this House with matters of this sort and make mention of Boards and Corporations. We know that the names "Boards" and "Corporations" and especially the Development Board and the Barbados Marketing Corporation - these are names which now begin to stink when we hear them mentioned. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we have got to consider is this; this is a matter of the Barbados Development Board, and it is one which is of great concern because, while a Minister is enquiring as to whether somebody smells ash, what this House should be concerned about is this: that it has so happened that the fire at the Hilton Hotel occurred less than 48 hours after a decision had been taken to have the Auditors of the Barbados Development Board audit the books of the Board.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I hate to disappoint the hon. member, but if he is insinuating that it was a deliberate act on the part of some person who was interested in seeing that the books are destroyed, according to my instructions, the books were already audited. Therefore the hon. member has misfired.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister has thrown a lot of light on this matter. The Prime Minister has told us, if I understand him correctly, that an audit has been carried out at his request. It would be better for him if they were dealing with every Board that an audit was called for. Some responsible persons have reasons to believe that at that particular time, there was the necessity for having an audit.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member. I believe that it was the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who spoke on the question of an audit. Audits are necessary all the time whether you sus-

pect something or not, but especially when some matter is in dispute. I would like to see audits carried out every day if it were practicable to have an audit, but that does not necessarily mean that the Minister of Finance or anybody had reasons to call for an audit. So, do not put two and two together.

Mr. HINDS: Sir, all that the Prime Minister is doing is confirming in the minds of each and every hon. member that all is not well with the Barbados Development Board. As we know Barbados, there is a very serious omission on the part of those who carry out their duties, especially in this respect when the Board finds itself in the position of telling the world what sums the Board intend to spend to encourage a particular industry. But the Board has not found itself yet in the position to tell the workers or the Barbados Labour Force what are the minimum wages or salaries that the workers who are employed in a particular industry should get. In other words the Barbados Development Board would spend any sum to encourage any industry, but has never concerned itself with the people who are to be employed in a particular industry, and whether they are adequately compensated.

We know that in addition to that, there are some industries being established here - and it is strange indeed to find that some of the king pins - the bosses, the people who hang around, or some of them - are such wanton businessmen that they enter into their own industry importing machinery costing thousands of dollars, imported with money from the Development Board. But what you know is this. The businessmen are so ready, they are advised how well they can import that machinery and then pay for housing that machinery.

Mr. Speaker, we know that it is going to be brought to daylight sooner or later how well these businessmen are advised. There is one thing which I am keeping my eyes on. We in this country always employ auditors that when they have, let us say, a manager on an estate that cannot get on with the workers, they always try to promote that manager. They promote him to the management of another estate. I am watching the Hon. Prime Minister. He might, let us say, call upon the Minister of Agriculture to resign, or it may be that the Hon. Minister may find himself in the position where he will be calling upon quite a lot of people to resign. You see, the Minister might feel that he is acting in the public's interest; but there are times when the public's interest can have the interest of members on this side of the Table.

What we are doing in this Resolution is this. We are making sure that the existing fund is that sum which is borne by your Boards and your corporations. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture was pleased to inform this House, in reply to a question which was asked about cheques being written for monies belonging to the taxpayers, that the sum was \$14,500. We are concerned with making provision for repaying interest and the like on money which was borrowed from the Bank, but we are not told that large sums

of money like \$14,000 was borrowed from the Marketing Corporation without any interest being paid on this money.

6.20 p.m.

I will tell you, Sir, from what I can gather, the soil in St. John happens to be very fertile, very productive, and our information is that it was not impossible that this \$14,000 cheque from the Barbados Marketing Corporation could have been invested in the parish of St. John.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have got to look at things in general at the same Marketing Corporation. Car loans have been made to officers who were not entitled or are not entitled to do travelling at all at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. At the same Corporation, a cashier was found to have committed an offence, an offence which merited dismissal, but, Sir, do you know what happened? The Manager of the Corporation, instead of taking the decision to put the cashier before the Courts or dismiss the cashier, the Manager found it necessary to report the conduct of the offending cashier to the Assistant Manager, and the same cashier is still employed by the Barbados Marketing Corporation today. She cannot be punished; so you will understand that when these incidents occur, they lay the foundation for others to follow. I should say no more on that score, but Sir, it is no denying the fact that there is a lot which could be put before this House. At this stage we do not propose opposing this Resolution, but there must turnover in our minds one or two things which we find it difficult to understand.

To suggest that the hon. Prime Minister is not honest would be to contravene the rules of this hon. chamber, but at the same time what do you find? That people who can commit crimes - \$14,000 worth at a time - can still find a place. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that there has been a change of a member from the Other Place, and believe me, there must be a very great strain on some people before such a change was brought about, evidently on the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister. The situation, as I said, at the Hilton, at the Housing Authority - all these are Boards, and these are Corporations. At the Housing Authority, what you would find is that houses are now being built, and any real estate man can look at those houses and see what they are worth at face value. But what do you find? An examination of the books of the Housing Authority will reveal some very shocking evidence. In other words, I would like the Minister of Housing to know that some of the officers employed by the Housing Authority are not at all satisfied with what they see and know going on there. The Housing Authority is a Board, Sir. Because some poor worker at Grazettes has a little two-bedroom house, he finds himself charged on the books of the Housing Authority full value, but it is not so with everybody who has a house at Grazettes.

6.30 p.m.

It is not so, and the strange thing about it is that the people who get houses for one half of what they really cost the Housing Authority to build them, hap-

pen to be the people who were jumping up on the platforms of the D. L. P. at the last election, and who were abusing everybody on this side of the House. That is a pay off and a reward for the stand which they took during the last election, but we have got to take note of these things now. Somebody says that Sydney Walcott has got money. I am not calling his name at all, but these are the things which we have got to keep before our minds' eyes when Resolutions of this sort come before this Hon. Chamber. You see, Sir, the Resolution says: "Be it resolved that the rate of interest to be paid by the Barbados Development Board in respect of the sum of \$160,000 and guaranteed by the Cabinet by Resolution of Parliament numbered 9/1967 be one-half of one per cent below the prime commercial rate." The rate of interest ought to be of some concern to us, and I say that as to sums of money of this magnitude, ways and means should have been found to borrow it at a cheaper rate. I say no more about this.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are two of these Resolutions before us this afternoon and what I say on one Resolution applies to the other. I am most concerned with the rate of interest for the simple reason that one of these Resolutions is for the sum of half-million dollars, and the other Resolution is for the sum of \$160,000. We must work in the interest of the ratepayers. The Addendum to this Resolution states this:-

"The existing convention is that such sums borrowed by Boards and/or Corporations and approved by both Houses of the Legislature shall bear an interest rate of one half of one per cent below the prime commercial rate."

That is the convention and custom, but it should not be the custom at all times depending upon the cheapness of money or the dearness of money. The existing rate was six per cent before the Usury Act was amended, and that means that you borrowed at 5 1/2%. This one-half of one per cent means that you are borrowing money at 7 1/2%. I am concerned with this matter because I notice that this business is done at all times with Barclays Bank. I am wondering if the Prime Minister can tell us if steps have been taken to bring these banks together. I understand from reports which I have seen that the Royal Bank of Canada is very strong in Barbados, and I am wondering whether anything has been done to bring these banks together instead of paying this 7 1/2% interest. That is a lot of money and I do not see why we should be paying at this rate. I have had to deal with the question of borrowing money for the Bridgetown City Council; I brought four managers together and went into the matter with them. It was a question of what I could get best for the municipality. It is not a question of an English Bank saying: "This money is loaned at 7 1/2% interest or you cannot get it." Do you think I would agree to pay 7 1/2% interest because Barclays bank is saying: "We are not lending you this money at less than 7 1/2%" without making other efforts? The rate of 7 1/2% is a lot of money for us to pay at this time with the market as it is.

I hope that the Prime Minister will answer the point as to whether the Government is making the negotiations or if this will be left to the Development Board. The prime commercial interest rate as we understand it - I am sure that the Prime Minister has been dealing with this matter long enough to know that you can barter with these people - since the Usury Act was amended, went to 8%. I do not like the idea of this one-half of one per cent for the simple reason that if you pay a deposit of 5%, they drop the deposit at 4 1/2% and it must be apparent that they should be lending money at the lower rate.

There is one point which I would like to get clear and it is a question of the money which is owing to the Development Board. There are people who have had money from this Board, and if payments are being made no interest is being paid. I say this as a matter of fact. No money or interest is being paid, and I would like to know what is being done about it. The third point is this: I have had several people coming to me whom I have advised to join the Union in respect of work being done by them at some of these new industries, and I think the Government will appreciate the fact that it was not anyone who hopped on the industrial development van.
6.40 p.m.

There are some workers and some people who complain that they cannot make \$10 a week at the best rates that some of these industries pay. I am advising that this matter be taken up by the Barbados Workers Union to see what could be done about it, but I think that the Development Board should have something to do in this matter. I would like the Hon. Prime Minister to enlighten the Chamber on this matter.

As this matter rightly deals with Corporations and Boards, there is only one point which I would like to make initially. Some of my friends approached me and said to me: "Is it because of a white merchant being mixed up in this affair that you are silent on it?" I should like to say here and now that it is my considered opinion that the Chairman of the Marketing Board should be prosecuted, and it is the duty of the Attorney General or the Director of Public Prosecutions to see to it that no one can take up public money and use it for his own purposes. People are saying that just because it is some white merchant that I am helping the Party to say that you should not prosecute him.

This reminds me of a celebrated case in this country between a white cashier and a black coachman and when the matter came before the Court, the Judge said "Where is the culprit?" Let it appear that justice is done and let it be done. It is universally known what has happened at the Marketing Corporation. The strongest supporters of the Government are saying how displeased they are in your having one who is high and mighty not being prosecuted just because of that. They are saying that if it were some lowly person you would have had him prosecuted already. I am not saying that if it were some lowly person that he should not be prosecuted, but I am saying that anyone who is in a high position should also be prosecuted.

I want to let it be known what is my position in this matter, because I was not here when this matter was discussed.

Sir, I want to say one more important thing as to the matter of the interest payable on money borrowed. This interest rate is one-half of one percent below the prime commercial rate. I do feel that the Hon. Prime Minister would be able enough to handle our affairs about rates of interest and about these people and what they are doing. There is only one aspect of this matter that I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister. It is the question of controlling different corporations.

To be correct, I have discovered that the latest report which has been issued of the accounts of the Barbados Development Board is for the year 1964-65. The accounts for 1965-66 have not yet been laid. We regard this as a very serious breach of the Act. The object of putting it in the Act that the Report of these Corporations should be laid on the Table of the House at a particular time is to allow members of the Public to see how the affairs and finances of a particular Board have been run. We know what happened with other statutory Bodies and Boards; it was only after questions were asked here that the Reports were laid. And when those Reports were laid, a very serious state of affairs was disclosed.

What we want to impress is that they owe a duty to the Registrar to see that their accounts are laid on the Table of this House at the required time. This is now 1967 and we cannot get the Report of the Development Board for the financial year 1965-66. How are we to know what the Development Board expended on the supervision and construction of the Hilton Hotel, as well as the Caribbean Industries and all those other places which had been opened up since? Part of this money would no doubt be spent in this manner.

Expenditure on travelling has been going on by certain members of the Development Board. The reason why they did not lay their Report on the Table of this House is because they do not want this matter to be exposed. We know that they are constructing these things in a manner which cannot face up to public scrutiny.

Another report to come before the House is that of the C.B.C. Radio and Television. It is the duty of the Government to see that these Boards comply with the laws of this country.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Before I reply, in view of the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 5. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move that Standing Order No. 5 be now suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.
6.50 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I would draw to Your Honour's attention Standing Order No. 62. I do not know that the hon. Prime Minister has got a point, to start with, nor as he suggested, that any Notice has been given, and notice on the part of a Minister would have to be 24 hours, one day, and in addition, it will have to be with the discretion of the General Assembly. I submit to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that is out of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. Leader of the Opposition expressed something which we all know to be so. I have made a motion, and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Labour has seconded it. If the House is not agreed, then the Standing Order is not suspended. We have not had any vacation from the Legislature within the past 15 years. My motion is the substantive motion which is being adopted, and the motion for the suspension - I started to move the motion for the suspension which, as I understand it, it is really a motion for the discretion of the House.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, again I ask Your Honour to rule whether order No. 62 is specifically the standing order for the suspension of the House. It is clear as daylight. I say again. I do not know that up to now Your Honour has been asked -

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker....

Mr. GRANTLEY ADAMS: The hon. member must not interrupt, even if he cannot help it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member will give way.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: No. I will not give way.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I have risen to withdraw the motion.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Does that mean that the hon. Prime Minister's original motion is dropped also?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will try to explain the difficulty which has arisen. The Speaker was consulted, the Deputy Speaker who is now replacing the Speaker was not, and this is the difficulty.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: All the functions and duties of the Speaker are in the hands of the Deputy Speaker. There is no difficulty, I do not understand why the hon. Prime Minister said there is a difficulty, there is absolutely no difference between the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker when they are sitting in the Chair. I thought the hon. member said he had withdrawn the.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Rule 62 Suspension of Standing Orders, a question the object of which - this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the point of order of the Leader of the Opposition, and rule 62 for the suspension.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That motion has been withdrawn.

Mr. HINDS: It has already been withdrawn; so it is no longer before the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is.....

Mr. HINDS: The substantive motion before the House is a Resolution.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass.

(SHOUTS from the Opposition,)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Standing): Please sit.
The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. HINDS: You cannot do that in here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not be dictated to. It is now 7.00 p.m. and this House now stands suspended for three-quarters of an hour.
7.00 p.m.

(On re-assembling)

RESOLUTION re INTEREST RATE ON LOAN TO DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister:-

A Resolution to fix the rate of interest to be paid by the Barbados Development Board on a loan of \$160,000 from Barclays Bank D.C.O. at one half of one per cent below the prime commercial rate.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard Your Honour say that the next Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister, to move the passing of this Resolution. I want to say that before the suspension of the sitting I had risen to speak on the Order in respect of money to be borrowed by the Development Board. Has the question as to the passing of that Resolution been properly put?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question has already been dealt with by this Hon. Chamber. The Resolution which is now before the House is one dealing with the rate of interest to be paid by the Barbados Development Board on a loan of \$160,000 from Barclays Bank.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: At what stage was the question put?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question was put, there was no division and it is no longer before the House.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that at the time when the question was put and the Resolution passed, as far as I remember, I did not hear it, but I have had the opportunity to check

with the Clerk and the Official Reporter and I gathered that the Resolution was passed. I would like to assure hon. members that since the Resolution with which we are now dealing has the same content, I am prepared to answer those questions. I did not exercise my right of reply on account of the confusion which took place, but I am prepared to answer these questions now. The subject matter is the same as that of the last Resolution. Due to the uncertainty of the bank which is advancing the loan there is a misconception in the wording of the Addendum to the original Resolution which was passed in 1966. Certain questions were raised during the passage of the last Resolution which I will anticipate at this stage.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of privilege. Before the Prime Minister introduces this Resolution I want to say that I listened to find out if, immediately before I entered the House after the suspension, the question was put. Every hon. member has the right of free speech and I rose to speak before the question was put and Your Honour could not rule in these circumstances. It was a question of the privilege of free speech. No question was put at the stage at which I rose. The "Noes" were never called for and reference to the Shorthand Writer's notes would reveal that. I take it to be an oversight on Your Honour's part. It is the privilege of every hon. member of this House to have the right of speech on every item which comes before the House. I very much appreciate what the Prime Minister has just said. I believe that what he has said is a forthright attempt to correct something which he knows was wrong. I do not expect him to agree with me, but I am convinced that the Prime Minister offered to deal with the questions which were raised because he did not have a chance to reply to the remarks made on the Resolution, and that is as much his privilege as it is mine.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of privilege, I must make this point. I do not believe that there is any hon. member who could say that he heard "No" called for or that there was a proper passage of the Resolution which was before the House. I will make a point, but I appreciate what the Hon. Prime Minister has just said. I am sure that no hon. member would permit in any circumstances other than this, what I am going to say as to the immediate events at 7 o'clock. There is not an hon. member in here who could say, when he left the House, that the Resolution was properly put with the "Ayes" called for and the "Noes" called for when the hon. mover of the Resolution was permitted to make his reply. If the Prime Minister would join with me perhaps we will get something. In the circumstances, I will accept his assurance and look forward to what he says on the Resolution which he has to introduce.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church was the last speaker. The Prime Minister rose and instead of addressing the Chair on the Resolution he asked for the suspension of Standing Order 5 and immediately after he withdrew. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew then made an application for the suspension of Standing

Order 5. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph rose to his feet and after speaking for some time, said that the senior member for St. Andrew had withdrawn the motion. Immediately after that the junior member for St. Peter rose to speak on the point that was withdrawn. They took their seats; I looked at the Prime Minister to see if he would speak on the motion and I put the question quite rightly. I called for the "Ayes" and for the "Noes"; there was no division and the Resolution was correctly passed.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not rise to speak on the withdrawn motion; I was standing on my feet for a short time and Your Honour started to put the question. I said that I wished to speak. At one stage three hon. members were standing - the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. Peter and I.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The notes of the Clerk testify undeniably that the Resolution has been correctly passed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that Your Honour's recitation of events is in order. I think there were not three, but five hon. members on their feet and they rose after Your Honour started to put the question. I did not add to the confusion and to say that I sat down, was not an indication that I did not want to reply. I wanted to see what would happen. If there was a breach of privilege, it was not a breach of privilege of one hon. member but of the whole House, and if I am competent to waive my privilege, I waive it. However, Sir, we are all here to do the people's business and I am anxious to answer any questions on this Resolution.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, do I understand Your Honour's ruling to be that if the notes of the Clerk clash with the recollection of hon. members Your Honour will now go by the notes of the Clerk? I know that I never left being on my feet at any time when some other hon. member rose to speak. I tried to point out to you that several hon. members were on their feet. I must ask whether Your Honour will rule as an absolute guide that you will be guided by the notes of the Clerks as they are sitting. I have absolutely nothing against the Clerks because they cannot always see who has actually rise, and their notes may clash with the memories of the other members. Their notes cannot then be absolutely accurate not because they are officials, not because they do not write their notes, but at no time was there not one of us on our feet. When hon. members say that such and such is their recollection, their words ought to be taken as much as anything else. I ask Your Honour to say that it is not your absolute ruling that you will go by what is the recollection of the Clerk or the notes of the Clerk or even the notes of the Short-hand Writer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not consulted the Clerks at-the-Table of this Hon. House. I stated exactly what happened in this Hon. Chamber. I said that a check can be made with the Clerks at-the-Table in order to verify what I said.
7.55 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Resolution which is before us now has the same background as the Resolution which engaged the attention of the House before the suspension. The principle of the Resolution is the same as the last, and the only difference is the sum which we are discussing.

The hon. senior member for the City raised a few points about the interest of these rates. I am not criticising him for not agreeing with the interest of the Usury Act nor in their devices or charges. The Usury Act was amended some three years ago.

The rate of interest at which we now lend is eight percent by law. The bank rate is regulated by the rate of interest in the United Kingdom. The rate which the Bank of England is prepared to lend to the clearing houses, is another rate altogether. This is the rate which usually covers commercial houses. The buying price and selling price on money is a different thing altogether. There is a different rate which people are prepared to pay those who have fixed deposits and that rate of interest is 4 1/2 percent.

I am only giving an illustration to show that there are several rates of interest. However, when we talk about prime lending rate, this is the rate which commercial banks are prepared to lend people for overdrafts and also for their own advances from the banks. The prime lending rate is the bank rate.

Unfortunately, I find myself agreeing with one or two points of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas who said that they should keep their prime lending rate not more than one percent above the Bank of England rates. They are always anxious to carry it up when the rates go up, but they are never at all anxious to bring it down when the rates are lowered. That is my experience. We have had discussions with the Banks on this.

There was a time when people here were borrowing thirty percent of their loans from outside, but now there are valuable imbalances for local debentures. Banks are made up of several things. These are their assets. They should retain a cash reserve: but what they do is to lend money on assured rates. It is like any person who is buying and selling goods.

All the confusion started because we borrowed at 6 1/2 percent, because the lending rate was 7 percent. There was no difference between the banks in October last year from the fixed rates at that time. The prime lending rate being seven percent, the commercial rate should be one-half percent below the prime lending rate.

The Bank of Nova Scotia rate was 6 1/2 percent. The fixed rate of 6 1/2 percent was the same thing as what the Bank of Nova Scotia was, but not the same as the Barclay's Bank because Barclay's proposed that it be a one-half rate from time to time. The reason why it is from time to time is because this is the normal practice on short term loans. In other words, if they have the rate going up to 8 1/2 percent it would

be one-half percent below that. If it comes down to 6 1/2 percent it would be one-half percent below that. 8.05 p.m.

If we leave it as it is, it means that we have to pay 6 1/2%. If it goes up we will be gaining; if it comes down we will still be on a level and we can go to pay 6 1/2% over a few months or a couple of years as the case may be. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Prime Minister has said some very heartening things. As I said earlier, this rate of interest has got to be watched, an 8% maximum can become an 8% minimum, and when the bank rate in England comes down, you see very little corresponding pressure in Barbados; but when the bank rate in England rises to 7% the banks put up their overdraft rates.

The Prime Minister introduced the Resolution, if I may say so, almost along the lines that we stand to get a benefit, and there are two things we have to consider, one, that there is a fall over the period covered by these overdrafts in prime commercial rates, and two, that the Government will be able to persuade the bank to bring the interest down. I would like to be assured that these Resolutions are not conceived by the Bank as being principally to enable the Bank to charge 7 1/2% should the bank rate in England go up.

I hope that the Prime Minister's financial judgment and the judgment of his advisers is sound, because it seems to me to remove a fixed rate of interest is a straightforward gamble. I do not know if the Prime Minister is going to reply at any length, but this is really a long-term transaction. I would like to know what positive information he has that the Government will not suffer.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps we can avoid the confusion that arose subsequent to my contribution on the last Resolution, but I was requesting certain information with respect to the accounts for the year 1965-66. I wonder if the reply of the Prime Minister would deal with this.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If I may deal with the question of the bank rate first, the commercial banks in Barbados do not normally pay long term loans. They are commercial banks in every sense of the word. The hon. member asked for the period that this Resolution is for, and I think it is 10 years; this is because of the very favourable position of the deposits. I said I believe the period is the same, subject to correction. I know the other one positively is 10 years.

The hon. member asked about assurances. We have one assurance; we take a calculated risk on the bank rate. At the present moment this is to our benefit; some of this has been drawn already or about to be drawn. It may go into the reverse. But if Barbados - as far as we are concerned, we will not have to pay

any more than 1¢ more than we are paying now, and invariably the prime rate has been below the maximum rate charged. I agree that the maximum appears to be the minimum. But there is one further qualification, that the maximum and the minimum coincide as far as solicitors and money lenders are concerned.

The loan for \$160,000 has not less than five years; so I believe it will be negotiable after five years if the money has not been paid back. There is no reason why this money so invested should not be paid back within that period.

In so far as the accounts of the Development Board are concerned, I am just as anxious to see the accounts, not only of the Development Board, but from all Government institutions within the time stated by the particular law or financial regulations which control the auditing of the accounts of the particular institution or department. All I can say is that the situation has considerably improved during the past four or five years, because some of the Government departments when I assumed the responsibility for finance, were four and five years in arrears. 8.15 p.m.

There are a few of them more than one year or two years in arrears. Sometimes the accounts are ready, but they have to wait on the Auditors. There are two sets of Auditors, and the accounts have to be audited by the Department, which is required to be done under the legislation. We are very anxious that all the reports from Government Departments should be on time because it is of more than academic importance to this House if they are reported out of time. I do not think that there are any other points which were raised.

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

ORDERS POSTPONED

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker today an indication was given that there were certain Resolutions and, I believe, one Bill which the Acting Leader of the House wanted to have dealt with in all of their stages today. In view of the contretemps which arose at the time of the suspension of the sitting, hon. members have not been able to regale themselves at the customary hour and in the customary manner, so that the Government does not intend to proceed with these matters today. I propose to conclude Government Business at this stage.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next 22nd August, 1967, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 22nd August, 1967, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.20 p.m.