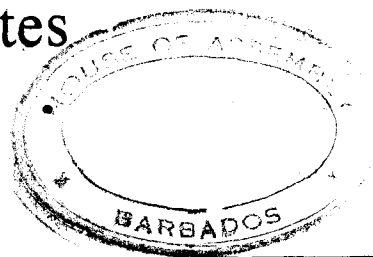


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th December, 1967

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Speaker); Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.

Prayers were read.

Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Messrs. SMITH, ST. JOHN, J. M. G. M. ADAMS and LOWE entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meetings of Thursday 7th, Friday 17th and Tuesday 21st November, I am informed, have been duly circulated. Unless there is any objection to any of these Minutes, I will declare them to be confirmed. There being no objection in respect of the confirmation of the Minutes of any of these three dates, I now declare each of these Minutes duly confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask leave of the House to give notice of certain matters at a later stage, pending the arrival of the necessary documents. There are two or three matters which I shall be asking leave of the House to deal with in all stages today, particularly relating to expenditure for the parish of St. Joseph, and the Shops Act to allow an extension of working time during the Christmas season. I am sure the hon. member for St. Joseph, who is in his place, will not object to leave being granted.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have noted what the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister has said.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: There are certainly no Questions in the name of any hon. member whom I presently observe to be in his seat.

Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grants of sums of money for the service of the Island.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, before we enter into the matters for discussion on the Order Paper, I would beg to move, after consultation with the members on the other side of the House, that the Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of this day's sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Government Business, Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House who, I am informed, is indisposed today.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask leave to deal with the Item No. 1 on the Order Paper which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, due to the fact that the hon. member is not in his place and is indisposed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. and Learned Prime Minister is seeking leave of the House to take charge of Item No. 1, which stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, and, unless there is any objection, he will be granted such leave. There being no

objection, leave is granted to the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

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

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

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

12.25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1967-69 No.31

A Resolution for the sum of \$9,600 was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a fairly simple one, and it is for a total sum of \$9,600. Under Part I. Head 14 Item 31, of the Current Estimates, the sum of \$600 is needed to provide for furniture in the Department of Inland Revenue as a result of the increase in staff authorised by the Civil Establishment General (Amendment) No. 9 Order, 1967. Hon. members will be aware that this Resolution for the increase in staff was passed some time ago, but we could not take advantage of the Order increasing the staff of the Department of Inland Revenue because there was no physical space available until the Department moved into the new Financial Building. They have now moved and, as a result, we have been able to appoint the necessary staff in order to allow the Department to carry out its functions in an efficient manner. We therefore need \$600 to provide for the additional furniture and equipment for the staff which was authorised by the House under the Civil Establishment Order No. 9 of 1967.

The other amount in this Resolution which is engaging the attention of the Committee at this time is for the sum of \$9,000. This is to meet the additional cost of medical treatment overseas of patients of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital whose condition required medical expertise and facilities which are not available locally. Ten cases have been sent overseas during the current financial year, and in view of the fact that one of the cases had to be sent to London and another to New York, the expenses were higher than had been anticipated. I do not think that there is anything controversial about either of these two items and I beg to move that Head 14 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 43 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that a Resolution for a sum of \$9,600 do now pass.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and it is to resume debate on the second reading of a Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754. When discussion was adjourned it was on the motion of the hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas and that hon. member now has, if he is so disposed, the right to continue his speech.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think that on the House resuming, the Chairman reported progress and the passing of a Resolution in Committee. I think that in normal circumstances, we would proceed to deal with that Resolution, and then the Government would be allowed to give the Notices which we intended to give and of which we gave intimation at an earlier stage.

12.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually, the Chairman reported only progress to me and asked leave to sit again. That is my report.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Chairman was requested to report the passing of this Resolution. I think that was the understanding of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would accept that the Chairman reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$9,600 be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a second time.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that this Resolution be now agreed to.

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

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

RATE OF INTEREST BILL 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day - Order No. 2 - stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister.

When the House was previously adjourned the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was speaking on the second reading of the Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On the last occasion, Mr. Speaker, when the House met, in my speech on this Bill in reply to the Prime Minister, I tried to show the House that it was an error to believe that the matter of rate of interest was as simple as the Prime Minister put it. If I may quote from the note I took, the Prime Minister said that the interest rates go up to one-half of one per cent above the Bank Rate. That is the note which I took at the time, and hon. members may recall that I went through the current rates prevailing in England and none of them was in fact one-half of one per cent above the Bank rate.

For example, British Treasury paper, Consolidated Stock had been marked down so that the real rate of interest is 7 1/2 per cent. Bank deposit rates are only six per cent; mortgage interest rates in England have not been marked up, they remain at 7 1/8 per cent; Local authority loan borrowing rate is 7 7/8 per cent and there are in fact no rates which, as the Prime Minister said, had gone up one-half of one per cent more than the Bank Rate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, quoting and citing different rates of interest as I did, it does not give you the whole picture of the inaccurate premises on which this present Bill is based. If we take exactly what the Prime Minister said, that there was some correlation between the rate of interest and the Bank rate, that the Bank rate is eight per cent, and that there is something in England that you can call the rate of interest that goes up to 8 1/2 per cent, we on this side could not quarrel with the banks.

If it is so, why should we lend money out in Barbados at 8 per cent? But, you may recall, Mr. Speaker, I also pointed out that the Bank of England had issued a directive to all English banks and restricted the volume of their lending to exactly the same as it was before the Bank rate went up, except that they may loan to Overseas and exporters at the special fixed rate of 5 1/2 per cent.

If a businessman in England is dealing with an overseas country, far from having to pay anything like the Bank rate, he would not even have to pay what a businessman here has to pay. He is in the position to borrow money at the fixed Bank of England rate of 5 1/2 per cent. That is going on despite the rise in the Bank rate itself.

Your attention now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard every word that the hon. member said until he stopped speaking.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am absolutely sure that you heard every word that the Prime Minister said until he stopped speaking. Your Honour will be well advised not to listen.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a facility and aptitude which matured lawyers possess.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not quite sure what facility Your Honour is referring to, but I shall not pursue the matter further.

As I was saying, Your Honour, there is no Bank rate of any 8 1/2 per cent available to any bank in Barbados which will cause the reduction in the rate available to Barbadians here. Now, Mr. Speaker, let us consider the situation here. Suppose you have \$10,000 which you wish to invest and you want to take advantage of what has been described in the heat of panic as this 8 per cent rise in the Bank rate.

There is no way, Mr. Speaker, except where you can go here and lend \$10,000 out through a solicitor at 8 per cent. There is no doubt about that. There are persons every day seeking a mortgage for one thing or another. But the mortgage rate in England for Building Societies is only 7 1/8 per cent. We have no Building Society system in Barbados; therefore, it only affects solicitors who can sell interest rates; but in England a Building Society mortgage interest rate is the prevailing rate.

12.45 p.m.

You will not go and borrow money at 8 per cent when you can go to a Building Society and borrow it at 7 1/8%. The only immediately available source for a straightforward capitalist investment for money in England is in fact Treasury paper, 7 per cent, and you can buy Treasury paper here in Barbados around 7 per cent or put it on to the Bank at fixed interest rates, on which, if you are prepared to leave it for a year, you can now get 6 per cent in England.

This is a panic absolutely without foundation. Just consider the circumstances in which it came

to the House. One Saturday afternoon, according to the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable James Callaghan told him he was raising the Bank rate. I do not know why Mr. Callaghan would have chosen our Prime Minister to impart this information to him personally. I do not know what exactly Barbados has that makes it essential for a personal notification of a rise in the English Bank rate to be given us. It is very flattering, Mr. Speaker. I only hope we could do as well with the British Treasury if we ever wanted a Development loan. But that may be as it is. I believe personally that the Prime Minister was told by officials in the Ministry of Finance shortly after the announcement came over the B.B.C. That is just perhaps my mistaken belief; but the fact is that he knew on Saturday afternoon, and on the Monday this Bill was evidently being prepared. The model they had to use, as the Prime Minister himself admitted, was a Bill which was prepared and passed by the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1958. They had to use that model, but an emendation was made under that model through which only overseas persons could lend money at more than the then rate of 6%.

Under the present Bill which is before the House, all banks can lend it, as well as those firms whom the Minister of Finance may approve of and may license to lend money at more than the 8 per cent rate of interest available to other persons and institutions. And in passing, Mr. Speaker, I think I can safely say that both parties in the Opposition regard that as an extremely tendentious and dangerous provision. In the Minister of Finance's own interest, he should not be in a position to pick and choose between people and to give people the power to lend money at 10%, 15%, 20% or 30% where traditional moneylending sources can only do so at 8 per cent. It is in the Minister of Finance's own interest not to put himself in a position where people can ever say that he has licensed a money-lender for political or other favour; but there it is, Mr. Speaker, in the Bill.

Now we were told that this was urgent, Mr. Speaker, who could believe, if the Minister of Finance really wanted a Bill passed, that half an hour of a speech on a motion that the Bill be the next item on the Order Paper, would convince the Minister of Finance that the House should be adjourned, not for one or two days, but for two weeks? If this was an urgent Bill as was suggested, the Minister of Finance would have adjourned the House until the next day at 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock in the morning, as was once done, or the Thursday or the Friday - whichever day suited him. The adjournment for two weeks is proof of the lack of urgency, and once you do accept the lack of urgency, we have to look with some misgiving at the cogency of any of the Prime Minister's arguments in respect of this Bill. Of course, Mr. Speaker, no matter how fine a lawyer a man may be - and I must not be taken by that, Mr. Speaker, to be touting for business for the Prime Minister when in a few years he returns to James Street - but no matter how much of a lawyer a man may be, when he is putting up a really bad case, a case he does not believe in, he is bound to put it up with a little less fervour

than something which he accepts, and the Prime Minister is hobbled in this matter.

Indeed this whole issue of the rate of interest shows a rare reversal of form. Reference was made in the Prime Minister's speech to the events of 1958. Mr. Speaker, we can uncover those events a little further. The Prime Minister pressed hard on the point that the rate of interest was then raised to accommodate one firm, the Barbados Light and Power Company. My understanding is that Mr. K. R. Hunte, always the friend of a Government in power - any Government - and always a behind-the-scenes operator and manipulator, pressed the former Minister of Finance, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, for some time - not one or two months, but for a long period - to raise the rate of interest in Barbados, and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph resisted. He would not do it. Came the Federal elections, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was translated to a higher chair, a new Minister of Finance took office, and shortly after that apparently the new Minister of Finance did not have the experience, perhaps, either of Mr. Hunte or of the subject he was dealing with, and the 1958 Bill came to be passed. It is true that the circumstances were then similar to the circumstances prevailing today, in that there were occasions during the discussion on that Bill when the Bank rate in England was higher than the 6 per cent maximum interest rate permitted in Barbados; but the interesting thing then, Mr. Speaker, was that the present Prime Minister, then the hon. junior member for St. John, as he himself has said, took twenty pages in the *Official Gazette* to contain his arguments against the Bill, which he has described himself as being practically identical with the one before the House today. I once heard the Prime Minister say that one day he will write a book about the hon. junior member for St. Joseph which will consist of nothing but quotations from the hon. junior member for St. Joseph himself. Well, if anybody thinks it worthwhile for such a relatively slight subject to be written, when a biographer writes on the Prime Minister, these are the identical details which the biographer will perforce be impelled to put in. In 1958 there were twenty pages against the Bill; in 1967, not quite so long, but the same arguments in favour of it. When you accuse a man of that type of inconsistency, you are accusing him of one of the political sins that I think we would all do well to avoid. The Prime Minister says some very remarkable things from time to time, Mr. Speaker. It is not difficult to contradict what he says. It is not difficult to ridicule what he says.

12.55 p.m.

He is proving to us now that it is not difficult to ridicule and contradict what he says. To quote an example, the Prime Minister made a speech and said that he had visited the house of the senior member for St. Joseph on one occasion and found a pig tied to the table. That could be contradicted by persons who know that he had never made that visit at all, and there was no pig or whatever the situation is.....

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise in connection with the rate of interest. Let us proceed to deal with the matter before the House.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: But on this occasion we do not need to say that he has never come to my house, or he has never lent me \$50 to get called to the Bar and so on. It does not have to be contradicted out of the mouths of other persons. In this case the arguments can be contradicted out of his own mouth. All we have to do is to refer to the debates. He has referred us to them; let him go back and read them.

The situation, Mr. Speaker, is the same. A rise in the Bank rate of England; pressure because the banks here are always putting pressure on people; and persons with money to lend like Mr. Hunte, who has his businesses and has a lot of money from time to time looking for somewhere to invest it, naturally wants a high rate of interest, and pressure, of course, comes from people with money. In our peculiar circumstances, it is the duty of the Minister of Finance in Barbados, in the light of our peculiar circumstances, not to give in to that pressure too easily. It is our view that the Prime Minister is giving in to the pressure too easily on this occasion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are one or two errors of fact which, I think, should be corrected. The movements of the rate of interest during the last three years of the Barbados Labour Party's Government were not precisely as the Prime Minister set them out to the House. The Rate of Interest (Amendment) Act, 1958-26 is not precisely the same as the Bill which has come before the House today. In those days the rate of interest was 6%, of course. But that apart, the two Acts differ in that the power to lend at a higher rate than 6% in 1958 was limited to any individual resident or domiciled elsewhere than within this Island. Banks resident here could no more lend, Mr. Speaker, than Solicitors resident here, and the provision that any firm registered or body corporate incorporated elsewhere than within this Island which was contained in the Act of 1958 is qualified by this Bill by the words "as the Minister responsible for Finance may by Order specify." The words which, Mr. Speaker, we find exceptionally offensive, and will be dealing with in Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Act of 1958 is not by any means precisely the same as the Act at present before the House. I do not want to labour the point unnecessarily but I think that it really must be obvious that the Minister of Finance should not be given that sort of power. That is a licence to print money, as Mr. Cecil King said of his television franchise when it was granted. As far as he was concerned, when he was awarded the franchise for the Television Station, he was given a licence to print money. To give a man power to lend out money at a higher interest rate is to do this - do not forget, Mr. Speaker - it is to give him power to go to a Solicitor, borrow money at 8% and lend it out at 10%. That is what you give him the power to do; that is what you are licensing a man to do - to use somebody else's money, by virtue of the Minister of Finance's 'say-so' to make money for himself.

Imagine a firm with some type of security which it can go and offer; it offers the security; it borrows

\$100,000 at 8% and then it finds other borrowers who are not in that fortunate position - it might even find the Government, who knows? It will proceed to lend out somebody else's money at a rate of interest higher than it borrowed it. That is what we have to look at.

Mr. Speaker, the next Act that amended the rate of interest was the Act of 1959-1 which, in fact, was passed in February 1959 and was deemed to come into force on the 25th August, 1958, the same day as the other Act. That Act was amended only very slightly by adding words to widen the ambit of the Act and to bring it more into line with the original Act which it was seeking to amend.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come to the third of the amending Acts. After listening to the Prime Minister, I must confess that, despite my experience - not as long as your experience or the experience of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph; not as long as yours or his, but, nevertheless, long enough to become aware that there are many statements which the Prime Minister makes which you have to take with a grain of salt - nonetheless, as I listened to him, I honestly believed him. Mr. Speaker, I believed that it was the Democratic Labour Party - I allowed myself to form the impression, from what he said, that it was the Democratic Labour Party that had reversed the Act of 1958. I was surprised when searching the Acts of 1962, to which we had been referred, not to find any enactment amending the Rate of Interest Act.

True enough, Mr. Speaker, when we check back we find that it was the Barbados Labour Party regime itself which reversed the Rate of Interest Act, because it was passed, according to the copy which I have here - it received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 2nd November, 1961. I stand to be corrected, Mr. Speaker, but I believe that that was before the prorogation of this Hon. House, and that was the Act which repealed the 1958 Act, but imposed a new limit of 8% instead of 6%. Well so much, Mr. Speaker, for the legislation.

Now for the context within which this legislation is proposed. All Bank rates in Britain of 7% and upwards are regarded as crisis rates. They are not imposed merely to raise the rate of interest; they are imposed for the purpose of putting deflationary controls on the British economy. When the economy gets over-heated; when there is over-full employment; when there are a million jobs being advertised and only 250,000 people out of work; when imports are rising; when there is pressure on the British economy, and when there is pressure on the pound, you put on a crisis rate of interest of 7% or upwards in order to reduce this.

One of the avowed reasons of raising the Bank rate to 7% last year in Britain was to create unemployment, not to attract money into Britain. It was to create unemployment.

1.05 p.m.

I do not want to create unemployment in the Chair. I will give Your Honour every opportunity to hearken to the words of the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dual employment is second nature to me.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I can only admire the all-round facility of Your Honour. However, Sir, no British Government wishes to create unemployment or inflationary conditions for ever, and these price rates do not stay on in Bridgetown for any length of time. In fact, financial writers were expecting that the eight per cent Bank rate might be removed, if not before Christmas day, by the first Thursday in the first trading week of next year, whatever that date is. In other words, it is likely to go on for only a very short period of time. I am sure that my sources of information are no better than the Prime Minister's. I am sure that in exactly the same way that I can read that this rate of interest is not expected to prevail for any length of time, the Prime Minister can read, and if it is not read, he will be advised by his Economic Adviser that the eight per cent bank rate is not a measure on which to base any lasting legislation in Barbados, because it is likely to be there only momentarily, for a month or six weeks, if as long as six weeks. What I am suggesting is that we have got along very well so far without this Bill. Despite the urgency, three weeks have now passed and we have not heard any bank crying out or any outcries on that side of the House. The period now coming up before us is the Christmas period, and I do not imagine a great deal of financial business of this sort is going to be done. In any case, we will then have a holiday week and then we will be in January.

What I am suggesting is that rather than do what the Prime Minister has suggested, that is, to pass this Bill and repeal it in a few months' time - rather than that, let us give it another breathing space. At the time of greatest urgency, the Prime Minister did not consider that a breathing space of two weeks would do the economy of Barbados any harm; well, let us give it a breathing space now until our first meeting in January 1968. Let us give it a little more time because I feel that if we do that, we will be helping the Prime Minister too. I believe that he introduced this Bill in deference to his advisers, that the panic was on and that this Bill came through the pipeline and that the Prime Minister swallowed his own views, swallowed his previous arguments, swallowed his financial principles and permitted this Bill to come before the House. Well, let us give him a chance to tell his advisers. "I told you so." Let us give the Bank rate an opportunity to come down in England, and then we will see how unnecessary it was for this Bill ever to come before the House.

Mr. Speaker, we have to look very carefully at these promises of repeal. It is known that there is a great volume of legislation waiting to be passed in this Session. It is known that there is going to be the reform of the criminal law. The Jurors Bill is going to be introduced to provide for majority verdicts and women sitting as jurors, and there are other important measures which are waiting to come before the House, but they have not got here yet. We have been hearing about measures months ago, but they have not yet appeared. What chance will the repeal of a Bill

like this have in the clue? Look at the damage which can be done by putting this Bill into effect! Think of the mortgages which might be granted at 10%, and, of course, it is nonsense to say, as the Prime Minister said, that mortgages will not be affected. The Prime Minister may not be aware of the fact that banks lend money on land, and in the case of one English Bank they lent that money in the form of an operating account secured by a deposit on title deeds. A firm has an overdraft and interest is charged, and indeed it is compounded. I have known of instances in which it has been compounded in such a way as to affect even the rate of 1754. What will happen, Mr. Speaker, is that they will not even need to call in the owner of the property. All they will do, if it is in the form of an overdraft - a running operation account - banking practice will permit them to charge whatever the overdraft is. That is the meaning of an overdraft, in fact, and banking practice will permit them, the minute this Bill is passed, to decide that the overdraft rate is 12% and they will charge twelve percent. That is one of the dangers here. It is nonsense to say, in my submission, that mortgages are not going to be affected. There is another note I have here of what the Prime Minister said. If overseas investors intended sending money to Barbados to take advantage of the 8% rate when the Bank of England rate is 5% or 6%, even now, in the United States, what corresponds to the Bank rate, in the Federal Reserve Banks, the re-discount rate is still only five and a half percent. That is, the United States Bank rate today is 5 1/2% and in Canada it is 5 1/2%. If the overseas investors are not flocking into Barbados from the United States when they have a bank rate of 2 1/2% below our rate of interest, what makes us say that we are going to get overseas investors flocking here by taking the limit off the rate of interest? This is a pressurable Bill and it is regrettable that it should have convinced the Prime Minister. It is very regrettable in the circumstances, and I urge upon the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to give this Bill some more time still. In view of the time when he said that it was vitally urgent, he should be able to give it more time, now that it has been recognised, proved, shown and demonstrated that it is not so vitally urgent. There is no question of face or prestige in this; the Prime Minister has backed down already and he can back down again. We will all be with him. After all, we will be the people who will be waiting to take advantage of any backing down, so that if we actually propose the backing down, as we did on the first occasion, so much more can the Prime Minister accept it now, because if we are a responsible Opposition, we will not be in a position to throw it at him on some future occasion.

Mr. Speaker, subject to the fact that I propose to move an amendment in Committee, that is what I have to urge on hon. members in respect of this Bill.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend on this occasion to detain the House for as long a period as the other hon. members who have spoken on this Bill; but it would appear to me that there could be only two reasons why this Bill is necessary. Firstly, either we in Barbados today are not attracting the

capital which we attracted in the past because of the state of our Rate of Interest Act, or money in Barbados which hitherto was invested in one form or another is now leaving Barbados to be sent abroad to receive higher interest rates than are prevailing here.

1.15 p.m.

Now, Sir, I did not have the privilege of hearing the Hon. Minister of Finance when this Bill was introduced, but I heard him on the last occasion when this matter engaged the attention of the House. Nothing that was said then has convinced me that either of the two situations existed.

Now, some people have been saying that if we do not amend our rate of interest now that the Bank rate in England is 8 percent, it would mean that the banks would cease to continue to lend in Barbados as they have been in the past. One of the most remarkable things I find about the banks in this country is that when the Bank rate in England is five percent or six percent, they do not cut down their lending rates to the ordinary borrowers to one-half of one percent or one percent above the Bank rate, but when it goes to 8 percent, they say that they cannot exist; they must lend above the Bank rate, and the Bank rate is 8 percent; therefore, they are operating at a loss. It seems to me, Sir, that they would like to have their cake and eat it too.

I would be glad if the Prime Minister can tell this House of any occasion that he knows of previously that when the Bank rate was as low as 5 1/2% the banks in Barbados did not continue with the ordinary overdrafts, with the reasonable amounts, to lend at 8 percent.

Secondly, Sir, it must not be forgotten that inasmuch as the rate of interest on the Statute Books in this Island is 8 per cent, there is one bank in particular in Barbados that breaks it every day under its Personal Loan scheme. They charge somewhere in the vicinity of 12 to 13 percent interest. There is one bank in Barbados that breaks the Rate of Interest Act regularly lending money to finance your loans and things of that kind.

Another point which we have to take into consideration is that one would think that the banks in Barbados have to look for a major proportion of the money that they lend to Barbadians from abroad, but what is the statistics? According to the statistics as contained in the Economic Survey produced by the Ministry of Finance in this country, the total deposit by Barbadians or the depositors in Barbadian banks is more than the amount of loans and advances made by the commercial banks in the country of Barbados.

Something drastic must have happened lately. Either a general fundamental change has taken place since these statistics set out in the Economic Survey were taken, and the Prime Minister would have this information at his disposal because in the Bank Act certain terms are made. I doubt that the banks in Bar-

bados lent out more money than they have on deposit from the Barbadians in Barbados - deposits of all varieties.

It is not going to affect hire-purchase financing in this Country because these Discount Houses and the rest of them lend now under the guise of hire-purchase schemes at interest rates far in excess of 8 percent. In so far as the mortgage rate is concerned, the Prime Minister himself said that this Bill is not going to affect mortgages. Well, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas pointed out that under the terms of this Bill and a bank is approved in so far as lending by deposit of title deeds, there is nothing in this Bill to prevent them from lending at a greater rate than 8 percent.

Therefore, what is the position that we have in this country? People who invest via Solicitors' offices in this country will be restricted and tied to 8 percent interest for mortgages, but the banks who must be making money in this country - look at the palatial quarters that they have been able to build not only here but all over the world! Look at that and you will see that they are not operating here for sport! - they are going to be given greater privileges than the other investors in this country because it may be theoretically possible for the Government to approve under the second proviso in the Bill any such firms or institutions as the Minister may think fit. It may be possible that some of the money invested through Solicitors' offices by way of mortgages may be approved. It cannot be approved by the Solicitors. Solicitors as such cannot be approved because they are not firms; they cannot do the lending of the money themselves. It is not their money that they are lending; they are lending other people's money. They are pure agents.

Now, I know that there have been a lot of other people for whom the Government amended this Rate of Interest Act, particularly people - I am not going to call names on the floor of this House - who are interested in mortgage finance. There has been a lot of pressure to get the Rate of Interest Act amended here. If we consider land costs and house development costs, if we are going to give to these institutions unlimited power to lend at such rates as they have, then in future many people in this country would be forced into borrowing at a rate which is far in excess of their ability to repay.

The proper method for us to deal with attracting money in this country for housing is not by this Bill, but by an amendment or change of our Housing Incentive legislation. That is the proper way to deal with it, and other countries have found that that is an adequate means of getting and attracting capital specifically for the purpose of housing. After all, if you have to pass a Pioneer Industry Ordinance in order to attract industry, a Hotel Ordinance in order to attract hotels and money for hotel development in the country, it should not be beyond the ingenuity of the draftsmen in this country or of the financial advisers to the Ministry of Finance or of the Minister of Finance himself to de-

wise a scheme of incentives to ensure other people who have money should be giving it.

All of this argument that you are preventing a poor man from getting a loan is absolutely junk because they can go down there and get the personal loans now, and if they compute the interest, they would see that they are paying 13 and 14 percent interest. Go and try. Go down there at the corner near the top of Broad Street, on your left hand side going down, at the Bank of Nova Scotia. See if when you make your monthly repayments, they do not tack on the interest to the loan at the payment. Divide it by the monthly instalments, work it out over the twelve-month or eighteen month period. See if you are not paying much more than 8 percent interest.

1.25 p.m.

If you ever go and borrow by hire purchase or buy a motor car by hire purchase, you will understand the position.

Now, Sir, another point that worries me with respect to this Bill is this: some shopkeepers in this country get credit from wholesalers under an arrangement, as I understand it, that they pay after 30 or 60 days for the balance of their goods that they owe to the wholesalers at the Bank rate, that is, the rate charged by the commercial banks in this country. What is the position with that agreement? Are the wholesalers going to be allowed to pass on the undoubted increase in the rate of interest that the banks are going to charge if this Bill becomes law, to the shopkeepers, who are then going to pass it on to the consumers? That is going to be the logic of the thing. This drastic change in this Act and in our rate of interest in this country could only be necessitated if it can be proven to this House that we are ceasing to bring in money that we used to bring in in the past, or that money that is here in Barbados now is leaving this country; to go where?

The hon. senior member for St. Thomas has outlined the interest rates for a large number of securities that are obtaining in the United Kingdom at the present moment, and one is as high as 8 percent; and if the same banks advised or told the Prime Minister that they are losing money because people are carrying their money abroad to receive better rates of interest, why didn't they in order to stem the tide raise the rate of interest that they are paying to depositors in Barbados? The maximum is still 6 percent for a loan that is agreed that you do not call it back before twelve months. I checked it this morning myself. They still only pay six percent. Why don't they raise it half per cent? This is another feature of this Bill which I dislike and which we must oppose. Why should the Ministry of Finance want to approve the lending rate so as to permit the banks to charge more? Why should they not also seek the power to demand that there must be a relationship between the borrowing rate by the banks from depositors and the lending rate? With this Bill the banks can charge 9%, 10% or 20%, and there is nothing in the Bill that says that the Prime Minister can stipulate that the depositors on long term, that is, six months call or

twelve months call must get a higher rate of interest. In other words, what we have here is a tiny minority exercising complete financial control over credit in this country. If there is a case or need for strong legislation to control a group, it is for the banks in this country. There are three or four of them, all from abroad; they jumble the statistics; they are in a position to do it; they still have Barbadians depositors' money lent to their Head Offices abroad. Are they going to tell this House via any of their spokesmen that when they borrow money from their Head Offices abroad that they are borrowing at the English Bank rate? That is utter nonsense. If any one of them is in difficulty, the totality of the deposits in Barbados is still less than the amount that they advance, unless that has drastically changed since devaluation, and if it had changed since devaluation, the Prime Minister would have used that as one of his reasons for asking us to change this Bill. Bring the statistics, bring the facts to prove to us here that this Bill is absolutely necessary. Now, Sir, such are the views that we have on this.

When it comes into Committee, we feel that this Bill even as it stands will have to be sent to a Select Committee so that we can get all the evidence. If there are people who feel that they cannot come forward and give information on the floor of the House or within the confines of these Chambers, we can get all the information we want, because we have had in Barbados for a very long period of time this Rate of Interest Act. It has been our means of protection against exploitation. We do not feel that this means which has served us so well for so long a period of time should be lightly given up now because of a panic attitude of a small group in this country. They had within their means the power if they say that money is going out. No money is going to go out from Barbados unless it is going out to get more money, more interest rates, or unless they have no confidence in sterling. If they do not have any confidence in sterling, it is not the Rate of Interest Act which is the motivating factor. If it is the Rate of Interest Act, then where and in what investments are they putting it to get a better return than here? If they are getting a better return on the time deposits in England, the Banks have it within their power to change that; they have to "up" their borrowing rate, just as the Building Societies and others have done in England. They have to "up" the rate at which they borrow money from depositors.

When the Bank rate in England was much lower than 6 per cent, they were still charging people in Barbados around 8 per cent. They were still getting their depositors' money at a cheap rate, so now the going is tough, they must bear some of it. We do not want any generalised amendment just to cater for them. In other words, they must at all times be in a position where they can take advantage of any given situation, and this Bill is an improper measure, in my view, of controlling the whole situation. It is a discriminatory Bill, and a Bill which can have a profound effect upon the cost of living in this country, and upon the credit structure in this country, and we cannot on this side of the House approve of it in its present form.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know much about lending, but I know about borrowing and I will be able to speak about borrowing more so than lending. Now the Objects and Reasons of this Bill say that this Bill would amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754, to enable Banks licensed under the Banking Act, 1963, and such other firms or bodies corporate as the Minister responsible for Finance may by order specify to lend money to persons in Barbados at a rate of interest higher than 8 per cent per annum.

Now, Sir, I am very unhappy about this last part which says "at a rate of interest higher than 8 per cent per annum." We admit it will be higher, but how high? It may be too high, Sir. A limit should be set, and I feel that it should not be more than so much - not more than 10 per cent, not more than 12 per cent, not more than 100%: but in this case it is only "higher", and I am arguing that it can be too high. It can go too high to be given such a wide margin. The gap is too wide.
1.35 p.m.

With regard to the Bill, the Hon. Prime Minister has said that the Banks here have to be financed by the banks overseas at a higher rate of interest. That may be so, but at this present moment we have to think about the borrowers. Business places today have to borrow money to carry on their business, and with the high cost of living soaring - it is bound to rise - and with the interest rising, what is likely to happen to us? Everything is going up, and it is bound to hit the small people of this country.

As you know, Sir, I am very interested in the small people. This Bill suits the 'big people'. This interest can go every so high, but it cannot affect the 'big people', in my opinion. The only thing that can effect a big man in this country today is death. When death is ready for you, you cannot hide, no matter how much money you have or how much interest you should receive. When death calls your name, you will have to answer.

When we are thinking of the small businessman, it is already known that we are taxed to the highest and we still have to carry on our business. To agree to increase the rate of interest at this moment, I would be saying "yes" to a rate of interest when I cannot even tell my son or wife what I have voted for today. If my son were to ask me what is the rate of interest I have agreed to, and if he were to call me a fool, I could not send him out of the house because I would be foolish to agree to a Bill to increase the rate of interest while I could not tell my son or the people I represent what is the rate of interest.

I, and this entire House, should be in a position to tell the public - in other words, the Hon. Prime Minister should be in a position to tell the people of this country whether the rate of interest would be so-and-so before we say "yes" to it. How can he expect support from this side of the House on a Bill that he is not sure about? It does not sound good and sensible to me; it may be smarter than sensible because the present rate is 8%.

When you go to a bank tomorrow to borrow money - sign a note - and the Manager tells you that he cannot tell you the rate of interest, would you sign the note? How could you sign it? When you receive your statement, the rate of interest may be more than you could afford to pay. You may have to sell your house to pay the interest. You would not do it, and the Hon. Prime Minister would not do it. Nobody would sign to borrow an amount of money when he did not know the rate of interest he would have to pay on it.

I really thought when the Hon. Prime Minister had adjourned the House for a few weeks, he had done so in order to go into the matter and see whether he could put a ceiling on it or find out how it would operate. He has brought back the Bill in the same way. I am sure he would not borrow money under such an agreement. If the Hon. Prime Minister cannot satisfy us no more than he has done on the last time when he was introducing it, then the Bill should be sent to a Select Committee and the banking people should be called in to discuss the matter so that we can arrive at a proper rate of interest.

I do not want the lenders to lose, and I do not want the borrowers to lose. I want an equitable agreement so that the country can go on as it is going on. I know to myself that the majority of money-lenders would say that if they cannot get the rate of interest they want, then they would call in their money and stop the money wheel from turning. I know what will happen to Barbados. I am not so simple, foolish, or blind, to see that. I know how dangerous it could be. However, I cannot allow advantage to be taken of the people. Let us arrive at the maximum amount of interest.

As I said before, I do not know anything about the lending business; I do not know anything about overhead expenses and so on. The lending houses have to make a profit, and I know that overhead expenses and things of that sort will have to be offset. Everything will depend on the rate of interest, but let us know what it will be.

If the Hon. Prime Minister had told us last Tuesday, when he was introducing this Bill, that he had called in the lending houses and they had told him that they could not carry on unless the interest was so much, then we would be able to understand the Hon. Prime Minister and say "yes". He said that whatever interest was charged by the banks overseas would have to be paid by the banks over here. It would be necessary for us to know what is the interest charged over there. He should not leave it at the mercy of the banks over there to say that the interest would be 20%, or 30%, and the banks over here would have to pay it. We should know what is the interest rate over there.

Now you already have a certain amount of money circularised. The lending houses have the money circularised already; it is in the hands of the borrowers, and it is being spent.
1.45 p.m.

That is in their hands already. Well, then, are you going to tell me that you are giving the lenders the opportunity to put it upon me, to hit me although I have had it for the last two or three years, to increase my rate without knowing really and truly what is the increase from overseas? If the banks here have to take the time from the banks overseas, the banks will have so much in their till over here that they are lending it out; they would never have to apply to the banks overseas for the high rate of interest. They are operating on this; the high rate is in the people's hands over there. It is quite different from when you are paying a sixty-day or thirty-day grace payment. If you have already ordered goods over the last thirty or sixty days, it is just as you have sold the goods at the old prices, but the time was not due to pay up, and now you have to pay on the new prices. That is where a business house stands to lose, but this is a limited time. You would be paying for not paying before and you will have to be satisfied with that. With this rate of interest, we do not know what will be the rate of interest.

As I was saying, Sir - the Prime Minister was not here - I know that he would not go to any bank - he is too intelligent a person - or any money lender and sign a document borrowing a few thousand pounds, not knowing what is the rate of interest. Your Honour would not do it either. You may take the chance to lend it in that way and the Prime Minister might take the chance to lend it in that way, but he is not going to borrow it under those conditions. We are in the dark. We are passing a Bill: but as soon as we get out of the door and we go and meet the people whom we represent, our constituents, and they were to ask us - not the Prime Minister because he may be in the know - but if they were to ask any one of the other twenty-three of us in here, what will be the rate of interest since this Bill has been passed, none of us could say. That is not fair to us. You do not have to go to Harrison College to know that. In that case, you will have to leave me out because I did not go there; but I will wait at the door and when you come back out, I would have some question to bowl you with. You have to consider the borrowers; you have some people today who are operating completely on borrowing. You have some people who are operating businesses and if their guarantor says: "No", business has gone through the eddies. I am not ashamed. I had to go to one whom I thought was my best friend, to pull me out. He appointed a morning to go to the bank to be my guarantor and at the morning when I called him up he said: "No Sonny, I cannot worry." You cannot carry on until you are loaned money. If you have to face extra overhead expenses, that is what is going to hit you. You have to budget to suit. The price of goods is going up and it will appear to me that the higher you go, the lesser the profit will be. I can quite clearly see - I do not know who is responsible for the prices; they are only thinking in terms of the consumer, and they may be right, but they are not thinking of the business person. If it is one half-cent that will make the profit a little too much, they will take it off and make the profit half-cent too little. You stand to lose all around. You are not allowed to make the profit you were making before and now you will have the increase -

Mr. Speaker, I should not be speaking on this Bill because I cannot say what will be the rate. I cannot talk as I would like to talk. Anyhow, you should not try to blame me if I say that twenty-five per cent is the rate of interest. You leave me to say that. I can say that the rate is ten per cent. I can say ten per cent but I cannot say seven per cent, because the Bill says eight per cent. I can say that the rate is nine per cent. That is how I understand the Bill to be. The Prime Minister should try to relieve our fears and let us know, in truth and in fact, what will be the rate of interest and do not leave us hanging on to a limb to pass a Bill of this nature without stating the rate of interest. I cannot vote for it like that because I may be voting against my own self; I may be voting away "Fix-it-Right" Garage, I do not know. I may be assisting to vote away people's lives, properties, and so on.

1.55 p.m.

I hope that the Prime Minister will consider if the increase will be too high. Please do not say it now to give us a shock, but take it back and see if you can fix-it-right and get it much lower. Find out from these people that lend the money what can be done.

Another point is this. The Prime Minister assured us that it would be only the banks and it is nothing to do with the mortgagees. In other words, I take it that not all the Solicitors would be lending out money. I am not afraid to speak my mind. If by speaking my mind it would cost my life, well let me die and go to heaven. It would not be fair to let one money lender with his dollar bill be able to charge whatever he likes on his dollar, and stifle the other one. Both are serving the same purpose.

You are borrowing from the bank to buy a motor car, I am borrowing from a Solicitor to pay for property. We all are borrowing to pay for something. It is not fair. I cannot stand for unfair things. I hope I will not be misunderstood. I do not have any to lend. I said so at the first instance. I will amend that because when you are a politician, you call it 'lend', but you give it away because they will say 'lend', but they never pay back; so it is not lending. If everybody used to lend like a politician, everyone would collapse. To a politician, lending is giving.

I am saying that I do not have anything to lend out; I do not know if the Hon. Prime Minister has anything to lend out. I do not think Your Honour has anything to lend out. I am only saying what I think now. I may be wrong. I dare suppose when I go outside, the Hon. Prime Minister might tell me, "well, boy child, you are wrong; I have some money to lend out." He may, but I am only thinking that he has nothing to lend out.

Well, start and think in a fairplay way. If you are going to allow A to increase his, allow B. In my opinion I feel that the mortgagees, or whatever you call them, are doing a little better job, or they have to hold the strain more so than the banks. I feel so. Well, the Solicitors would know that because with the banks, if it is the end of the month, it is the end of the month.

They give you no more chance, but you have a little chance with the mortgagees. You may get another month's grace afterwards.

They also have to hold the strain a little better, and they should be considered, and given a berry. If you are going to do that and give a little berry, it should be to the mortgagees that have money in people's homes, because if they should just call them in, they would be a pest to the Government to get a house somewhere for them to sleep because whenever you hear that money from the Solicitor is loaned out, the most of it is loaned out for the purpose of buying a home or property - somewhere for people to sleep and live.

The banks are for business. All are important: but the mortgagee A even sometimes lend and do not get back.

There are Solicitors who are treated in that manner too. I understand so. I heard so and I can say anything in here which I hear. I cannot get actioned for anything which I say in here; so I can talk as I like in here. I hear sometime that the Solicitors draw from the vendor or the lender and they do not get it back, but with the banks that cannot happen.

I do not think that the Prime Minister might have been thinking along these lines when he was going into this particular Bill. He might not know that, but it is these little things which would creep in and open up some light, so that he would know how to act.

Anyway, Sir, it is not fair - and I say it again for the second time - to allow one man with his dollar bill to get a higher rate of interest and the other one not to get it. We are all lenders and we are all borrowers; but at the same time do not let us amend this Bill to such an extent that we would be penalizing the borrowers. You could never penalize a lender. He is not going to allow you to do that because if the Prime Minister should fix this rate of interest to such an extent that the lender would lose, he is not going to lose because he is not going to lend anybody anything. I am sure about that; but if we fix it in a way that the borrower would lose, poor fellow, he then has to grin and bear it or lose all of his possessions.

I appeal to you, Mr. Prime Minister, to do the best that you possibly can as far as this Rate of Interest is concerned, but I cannot vote for it until I am assured and until I know what would be the rate of interest.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ever since the 21st November, this Bill was an urgent one. It might mean therefore that it is longer than we think.

I say that this Bill is a privileged one especially because it seeks to give to the Minister of Finance the authority, he and he alone, to license firms, bodies and to give banks authority to lend out money at a rate of interest higher than eight per cent. Now, Sir, we believe that at this very hour the Minister of

Finance would have it before him the number of bodies or firms that he proposes licensing.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: In order to save the hon. member from wasting his time, I have no such list.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order. Therefore, he must only speak of what he has before him. I have no such list of any bodies or firms whom I propose or intend to license at all. I will like to make that clear. I doubt, even if there were such a list before me at this juncture, that they would obtain any such approval.

Mr. HINDS: No one would think that if the Minister of Finance had before him a list of firms seeking a licence that he would set about to license them at this stage. The Prime Minister will have to wait until this Bill is passed.

The Prime Minister jumped to his feet, Sir, and let it be known that he had no list before him. The list, Sir, would have to be something in writing or print.

2.05 p.m.

He need not have it in writing; he need not have it printed; but we feel that the Prime Minister has in his mind some of the firms that he will be licensing as soon as this Bill becomes law. With the speed, with the fleetness of foot of the Prime Minister, I am to wonder if he really jumped up to make us believe that the West Indies Stock Exchange, the Procope Firm, will not be one of those licensed when the time comes. There can be no doubt that this Bill is a 'get-rich-quickly' Bill for somebody, and it would be a good thing if the Prime Minister would set about or if he had set about when introducing this Bill to let this House understand that it is not the Minister of Finance who is likely to get rich quickly when this Bill becomes law.

Now, Sir, we have been hearing about local banks borrowing money from their overseas Head Offices. We know now that this is not true anymore, and furthermore when they did borrow in the past, they borrowed money at 4 per cent, 4 1/2 per cent and possibly five per cent, and that money was loaned out at 8 per cent, and what has happened on the 18th, 19th and 20th November or thereabouts is nothing new to people who have really been studying the finance of this country, and particularly the countries with which Barbados has been dealing.

It was in December, 1965, when President Johnson of the United States warned the U.S. businessmen that if they were going overseas to invest, they should see wherever possible that they used the money of the countries in which they were going to set up their industries. If we were to follow the history of let us say, our Development Board, we would find that the North Americans and others who have

come down here and sought to establish themselves have been doing exactly what they have been told to do way back in December, 1965; so when we find now that it is being trotted out to this House that the devaluation, this increase in the rate of interest, and making more interest available to certain lenders, and bodies or firms are going to bring more capital to Barbados, it is not true at all because if the investor is taking advantage and has been taking advantage of the incentives offered by Barbados and other Caribbean territories, the inducement is already there. For instance, here in Barbados, thousands upon thousands of dollars belonging to the local taxpayer have been taken to build factories for some of these business people who have come down here. For instance, Sir, in one swoop \$126,000 went into one factory to set up a business firm here; so you will see, Sir, that all the inducement and all the encouragement to get these firms to come here are already given by the Barbados Government, and, we believe, by some of the other Governments in the Caribbean.

Now, Sir, we have heard the situation with some of our banks or rather of the commercial banks taking fixed deposits. They take fixed deposits, depending on the quantum, at 4 1/2 per cent for twenty-five years and maybe at 3 1/2 per cent in some cases and invest that money or lend it out at 8 per cent. Are we to understand now that these same banks are going to be allowed by the Minister of Finance to continue to take in money at 4 1/2 per cent and lend it out at an interest rate of 8 per cent? What we need is not removing the ceiling, but if it is necessary - and we see that it is not necessary to increase this rate of interest - let us understand here and now what is going to be the position.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

Mr. HOPPIN: I beg to second that.

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

2.15 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair. He may, if he wishes, now continue.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is continued, I think this is an appropriate stage to lay the various papers and to give notice of the various Resolutions, as was requested earlier at today's sitting. With Your Honour's approval, I am asking for leave to give notice of the various Resolutions and Bills, and to lay the various Papers which have now been sent to this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the fact that permission was asked earlier and there was no intimation of any objection to the course now proposed being taken, as the Papers had not arrived, I will permit the Hon. Acting Leader of the House to give notice, at this stage, and I will extend a similar indulgence to Private Members who were not in their places. I will now call on the hon. member for St. Peter to resume his seat in order to allow notices to be given which should have been given earlier today on both sides of the House.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House and Minister of Caribbean and Latin-American Affairs, to lay the following:-

The Passport and Travel Documents (Fees) Order, 1967.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the leasing of land situated between Prescod Boulevard and the rear boundaries of properties on the West of Fontabelle Road as described in the schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$91,145 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1967-68 No. 35 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Government of Barbados from time to time to borrow sums of money limited in the aggregate to 20 million dollars from any bank, corporation, or other institution for purposes to be approved by Parliament.

Mr. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Petroleum Act, 1950.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Resolution to place the sum of \$4,034 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 37 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Also I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Current Estimates under Head 11, Item 17 - Ex Gratia Gratuities in the Approved Estimates 1967-68.

I am also asking permission of the House to deal with those two Resolutions in all of their stages at today's sitting because these are matters of urgency.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have copies been circulated?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to give sanction to The Shops Order 1967. I should like to ask the House to deal with this Resolution in all of its stages at today's sitting. Copies of the Resolution have already been circulated to members.

ORAL REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Questions are ready:-

Parliamentary Question No. 28 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:

Parliamentary Question No. 24 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James:

Parliamentary Question No. 23 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James: and

Parliamentary Question No. 98 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James.
3.10 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 18, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is ready; also the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 94 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 81, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, is ready.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 87, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, is also ready

PETITION

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition on behalf of Manning & Co. Ltd., The Petition is respectfully worded and it is praying the House to pass a Bill which has, as its object, the re-alignment of parts of the roads and sidewalks forming the boundaries of the buildings known as No. 1 Broad Street, subject to the approval of the Town and Country Planning Officer and in compliance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Regulations. A copy of the Plan is annexed. I ask that the Petition be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Petition respectfully worded?

Mr. St. JOHN: I said that it is respectfully worded.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad for that assurance.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter in respect of Pico Teneriffe.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House desires to see a tangible and meaningful expression speedily given to the Prime Minister's Budget Proposal reference on 30th June, 1967, to wit:-

"to the panorama of Pico Teneriffe";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government be urged to take steps to enhance the panoramic and historic values of this important landmark by constructing an approach road from a point near the 18-mile stone at Boscobelle, St. Peter to a point nearest the said Pico Teneriffe, so as to make this landmark accessible to tourists and visitors to the island generally; and at the same time providing an opportunity for peasant holders in the area to get their produce to market.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member, his Resolution apropos pupils forsaking attendance at schools during the crop season.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS pupils of several private Secondary Schools in this Island forsake attending school during the crop season or part thereof and during such absence from school, are employed for wages on the sugar estates in this island in the harvesting of the sugar cane;

AND WHEREAS that despite such employment on the estates the names of parents or guardians of the said school - pupils are recorded in the estates' books and wages earned by the said school-children for tying, heading and loading canes in the fields are drawn or received by parents, guardians or agents in respect of the said work done;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to investigate the incidence of school-children being employed as labourers as stated above, and seek to take steps to remedy such a situation, bearing in mind the adverse social and economic conditions under which some sugar and estate workers and their children in this new Nation live from day to day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church; his Bill relating to the re-alignment of roads and sidewalks at No. 1 Broad Street.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill authorising the re-alignment of parts of the roads and sidewalks forming the boundaries of the buildings known as No. 1. Broad Street.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Peter. His question re Commercial banks in Bridgetown.

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

1. Which Commercial Bank in Bridgetown received, in terms of money, the most business of the Barbados Development Board's customers in each year 1964, 1965, 1966 and the year 1967 to date?

2. If any one Bank enjoyed business to any considerable extent over the other banks, would Government state which Bank, and what is the volume of business over other banks in terms of East Caribbean dollars?

3. Do any officers of the Barbados Development Board or Members thereof act in any manner as canvassing agents for any commercial bank or banks in this City?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member. His question re loan capital through the Barbados Development Board.

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

1. How many clients or customers of the Barbados Development Board who have established business here or who have received loan capital through the said Board, in each year since 1964 to date, were given the opportunity of alternative Banks in this island with which to deal?

2. If there was no alternative suggestion or arrangement or provision of banking services in respect of negotiations by the Board with a commercial bank or banks concerned, will Government explain the reason for this practice?

3. Does Government not consider such action to be reprehensible and against the best interest of long-term relationships between commercial banks in this Island and the Board?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member. His question re workers employed by International Scientific Limited.

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

Is Government aware of the presence in this Island of a business firm operating under the name of International Scientific Limited?

2. How many Barbadian workers under 40 years of age have been employed by this firm in its first year of operations here threading memory cores or doing similar work?

3. Is Government aware of the highly scientific nature of the work these workers perform?

4. Are they adequately compensated for the type of work they do?

5. Is Government aware that the long hours these workers perform, and the meticulousness and exactness of the tasks involved, impose a considerable strain on the eyesight of these workers?

6. With a view to ensuring whether or not there is impairment to the health of these workers, particularly the eyesight, would Government undertake to have checks made on the eyes of a number of these workers by the Department of Ophthalmology of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

7. If tests reveal the presence of weakness of the eyesight of workers and the presence of myosis resulting from the nature of the said work, would Government stipulate that

(a) regular tests of the eyes of these workers be carried out;

(b) all workers employed by this firm be specially insured against loss of eyesight, impairment thereof, and particularly, contraction of the pupil of the eye?

8. How many workers employed by this firm have been medically advised to wear spectacles since being employed there?

9. How many workers have not been financially able to meet the requirements of the advice given at 8 above?

3.20 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to authorise the Government of Barbados from time to time to borrow sums of money limited in the aggregate to 20 million dollars from any bank, corporation, or other institution for purposes to be approved by Parliament, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Petroleum Act, 1950, be now read a first time.

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: I beg to move that a Bill to authorise Messrs. Manning & Co., Ltd., to re-align parts of the road and sidewalks forming boundaries of the building known as No. 1 Broad Street, be now read a first time.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

DELAYS IN HEARING JUDGMENT SUMMONSES

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare it is now Question time.

Question No. 81 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

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

1. Is the Government aware that delays of up to 3 months are being experienced in having Judgment Summonses heard in the Magistrate's Court of District "A" and that this is causing great hardship to litigants?

2. Will the Government take steps, by re-assignments of Magistrates or otherwise, to speed up the work of the Civil side of the Magistrate's Court concerned?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House I would like to lay the following Replies.

1. "Yes, Sir."

2. "Remedial measures have been taken and the system is now working satisfactorily. No re-assignment of Magistrates has been necessary."

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a supplementary Sir. Since the Minister stated that no reassignment of Magistrates has been necessary, would he explain how is it that since the question was asked, there have been three different Magistrates in the Court concerned, and only this month has a full time Magistrate been finally appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: He would not know that.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: A further supplementary, Sir. Could the Minister say what are the remedial measures that the Government has undertaken?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This matter has been very fully investigated, and it was discovered that applications for judgment summonses were filed at the rate of 60 to 75 a week. Prior to 1966, the date of hearing was fixed at the date two or three weeks from the date of filing.

The particular Magistrate in charge of the Civil Court gave instructions to limit the number of judgment summonses to 40 per week. The result was an accumulation which got bigger as time went on, and the dates for hearing were set further off, until the stage was reached when the date for hearing was fixed at three months from the date of filing.

That went on for sometime. I said that the matter has been gone into and has been remedied. The Magistrate in charge of the Civil Court at District "A", is not overworked, and there has been a reassessment of Magistrates' duties and Magistrates. That question therefore does not arise and he is quite capable of coping with the work.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: A final supplementary. If the Magistrate had not been re-assigned, can the Minister explain how is it that the Magistrate who at the time had limited the judgment summonses to only 40 a week and who was then carrying out magisterial duties at Belleplaine and at Bissex Hill and is now carrying them out in the District "A" Court, if there is no re-assessment, how is it that that Magistrate is not now in that Court?

3.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. and learned member for St. Thomas must realise that there is a Judicial Service Commission as such, and that politicians do not have any control over Magistrates by way of transfer, assignment, re-assignment, discipline or otherwise; so when the hon. member comes in here and poses those supplementaries, I think he is in a better position to answer them because he is a lawyer in active practice and should keep his ears to the ground and find out what is going on at the Judicial Service Commission level and at the Law Courts.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in any case I thank the Government for making sure that there is a Magistrate in that Court who will hear all the judgment summonses, and not limit them to forty per week.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 87 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is Government aware that on 24th May, 1967, a female Nurse attached to the Enmore Health Centre became ill whilst on duty?

2. Is Government aware that the said Nurse was rushed from the Enmore Health Centre to the Casualty Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in search of medical treatment?

3. Is Government aware that the Nurse's complaint was diagnosed as Coronary Thrombosis?

and the Casualty doctor ordered her immediate warding at the Hospital?

4. Does Government know that this Nurse, still wearing her uniform of office was denied admission to the Hospital Ward?

5. Who refused her admission?

6. Does Government consider such refusal in the interest of the Nurse's health and of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in general?

7. Would Government state what effect if any, such cruel treatment meted out to a sick Nurse, and under such circumstances, has had on the nursing staff in general at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

8. Was the refusal to admit the sick Nurse to the Ward an action which can be supported by Government?

9. If the answer to No. 8 above is in the negative, what steps have been taken or does Government propose taking to ensure that there will never be a repetition of such conduct?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows:-

1. "Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. There was no firm diagnosis, but the provisional diagnosis which could only be confirmed after full investigation was coronary insufficiency.

4. Investigation has revealed that while waiting to be admitted to the ward, the patient was induced by someone not on the Hospital staff to leave the premises despite assurances from the Nurse and the Doctor that arrangements were being expedited for her admission.

5. No one.

6. }
7. } Does not arise."
8. }
9. }

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister tell us how many years standing this sick Nurse has in the service of the Hospital?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member wants to know something further about the Nurse in question, he would probably have to pose a substantive question; but as far as this particular Nurse is concerned, she fell ill on 24th May, and she is attached to the Enmore Health Centre. She complained of retrosternal pain which radiated down her left forearm, and she told the doctor over there that last year she had been treated in New York for coronary insufficiency. It is not the first time that she has been

suffering from this particular illness, and after the examination she was sent to the Hospital and dealt with in the Casualty; she was sent on from the Casualty and she was being dealt with by the doctor in charge of a Ward, who was checking on the entire case, since the papers had not come to him from the Casualty, and during that interim, she became restless and was induced to leave. To say that she was not being given admission or they had no intention of treating her is not correct. Those are the bones of the case, and if the hon. member wants any further information, he can pose further questions; but I have all the particulars right here and I have given chapter and verse.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, can the Hon. Minister deny that when the Casualty doctor took this Nurse to the Ward, the doctor in charge of the Ward said he did not give a damn who she was whether she was a Nurse or otherwise, and this was done in the presence of the Nurses and other doctors?

Mr. Speaker, I cannot continue to speak to you in the Chair because I see another speaker on my left.

Mr. SPEAKER: Speaker, with a small "s".

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the doctor's attitude appeared not to be all that was desired. He has been brought before the Public Service Commission. Investigations have been made and the necessary disciplinary action has been taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 18 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware of the necessity for the erection of a fish shed and latrine and the installation of fresh water therein for use of the fishermen and fish vendors at Tent Bay, Bathsheba, St. Joseph?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government take the necessary steps to have same erected without further delay?

3.40 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 18 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is as follows:-

Yes, Sir.

Consideration will be given to the provision of these facilities at Tent Bay, in the near future.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, Sir. Is the Minister in a position to let me know if this shed and the necessary facilities will be implemented by February next year?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a guarantee, but consideration will be given to the matter as soon as possible. I can only make recommendations, and the matter has to be dealt with by other Departments. It is for the other Departments to say how soon it can be done.

Mr. SMITH: Can the Minister tell me whether the water has already been installed in that area?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I can assure the hon. member that there is water up to the Caretaker's house, and that is where the fishermen obtain their water at present. We have surveyed the area, and are considering the building of a shed and other facilities which will extend right down to the beach because that is the only area of land suitable for the purpose.

Mr. St. JOHN: Now that we are talking about fishermen at Tent Bay, one wonders whether the Minister is aware that they have cut off the water at Oistins so that the fishermen cannot get water there. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise. There is a Lobby available for hon. members who desire to pursue private discussions. Question No. 28, page 4, right hand column, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO EMPLOYEES OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is Government aware of the great difficulties and sufferings experienced by former employees of the St. Joseph Highway Commissioners, caused by the long delay in the payment of pensions and/or gratuities in respect of their services with the Highway Commissioners of the said Parish?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister please state why these former employees have been so treated, and when it is proposed to relieve their distress by authorising the payment of such pensions and/or gratuities as may be due to them?

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

No, Sir.

2. Legislation has recently been enacted to include service with the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. Joseph as pensionable service. These employees who now qualify for retiring benefits and have not yet received them will receive them shortly.

Mr. SMITH: As a supplementary, Sir. Can the Minister tell me whether they will receive that before Christmas in order to get a Christmas dinner?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, it must be pointed out that the service with the Commissioners

of Highways for the parish of St. Joseph was not counted as pensionable service before this Government came into power. In reply to the Question which the hon. member has asked, I should like to state that my Ministry does not deal with pensions. Pensions were formerly dealt with by the Public Service, but the Establishments Department is now dealing with Pensions. I think there were five persons involved, and three of them have already received their money. Maybe, they have not yet returned to him. I was trying to get the names of the two people the Department was working on this morning, so that he would know to go and visit them and make his demands.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you will note that I did not ask how many. I asked whether the Minister could tell me if they would receive the little "berry" before Christmas in order to get a Christmas dinner. He gave me information that I did not ask him for.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I think I have made myself clear to the hon. member. Some of the people have been paid already, and two others will be paid shortly.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no other replies laid in respect of hon. members who are in their places.

RESOLUTION re THE SHOPS ORDER 1967

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask that the Resolution of which I have given notice today in connection with the Shop Order 1967 be now dealt with as the next Order of the day.

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

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I only saw two of these documents, and the Shops Order is not here.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am having that attended to and rectified immediately. Let the hon. member proceed. 3.50 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, this matter is not controversial. I think hon. members are aware that for the past two years this has been done. We are having a comprehensive Order, or rather a Shops Act, drafted - as a matter of fact, it has already been drafted - and it should have been introduced in the Legislature before. It was sent to the interested bodies and it was delayed with them, but I promise hon. members to get it introduced in the Legislature as soon as possible, which would make the implementation of an Order like this every November or December unnecessary.

This Order is similar to that which we dealt with last year at this time and the year before. It is making provision for the late opening of shops on Monday, December 18th, on Tuesday, December 19th, on Wednesday, December 20th and on Thursday, December 21st. Shops would be permitted to remain open under

the Shops Order until 6 p.m. on those days, and on the Friday preceding Christmas, the shops will be permitted to remain open until 7.30 p.m. Every Friday between now and Christmas the shops will be permitted to remain open until 7.30 p.m. and this will assist people who have been working during the day and who would like to do their shopping in the early evening. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND NOTE re EX GRATIA GRATUITIES

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution of which notice has just been given - a Resolution that the note to the Current Estimates under Head 11, Item 17 - *Ex Gratia* Gratuities in the Approved Estimates 1967-68 be amended to read as follows:-

"To meet the cost of Ex-Gratia Awards" - 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 Communications and Works:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution that the note to the Current Estimates under Head 11, Item 17 - *Ex Gratia* Gratuities in the Approved Estimates 1967-68 be amended

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the reason for this Resolution is this: I do not think that hon. members would necessarily want me to be lengthy on this matter, but this has occurred because of a worker who was working as a signaller at the Port. He was at the Port for some time but he has reached the age limit and he has to retire. He was an old seaman; he has not got the necessary ten-year period of service with the Government and thus he is not entitled to a pension. However, we had made a decision formerly that if a man has served with the Government for a period of five years or over, although he does not qualify for a pension, we would consider him for a gratuity. As a result of this decision, this Resolution has been brought down here to amend the note so that this worker should be paid a gratuity. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, we, on this side, agree with the terms of this Resolution, but there is one thing which is worrying us. It is this: From time to time there are a large number of people who have been employed with the Statutory Corporations like the Housing Authority who have come to us with this

provision, where they have been working for as long as 9 3/4 years and they have reached the age of sixty years just before they have completed ten years' service and they are not eligible for pensions. As I understand it, Sir, the Casual Employees Pension Act applies to them, so that when the Act says "in the service of the Government", I hope that it does not mean only the Central Government, but also the Statutory Agencies and that these people will come within it.

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

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 of the House while in Committee of Supply, to deal with the Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1967-68 No.37

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT OVERTIME

A Resolution for the sum of \$4,034 was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I must thank hon. members on the other side for being so generous this afternoon. It may be that the Yuletide spirit is prevailing in the House today and we thank hon. members on the other side very much for allowing us to get through with this Resolution. I do not like to come down to the House with these money Resolutions and push them in the hands of hon. members just a few minutes before we deal with them, but hon. members will understand that we really have no control over some things, especially in this case. Hon. members have already been circularised with copies of this Resolution. They will see that it is for overtime pay which arose out of the abnormal situation which took place when we were paying out the backpay from last year, and so on. I do not want to bore hon. members with a long recitation of what took place and of what is to take place.

4.00 p.m.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: I just want to ask the Minister for the assurance that none of the overtime money became necessary consequent upon the Accountant being engaged with certain investigations which touched on work on what is called the Treasury Building; in other words, that the Accountant did not have to work overtime consequent upon certain investigations that were carried on in this connection because, as

you know, the Government has decided to award certain works by contract; we just want to know that nothing was done involving the payment of overtime monies to Accountants or anybody and that no such sum was included in this \$4,034 being now asked for. That is all we want to know.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I really do not think the hon. junior member for St. Peter expects me to answer this because I would not know the question of overtime work or otherwise. I do not think that he is really serious.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1967-68 No.35

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I know that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph will be in his glee since he has been agitating for sometime about this matter; but I want to assure him that it was no indifference on the part of the Ministry or the Government. Since we have been accused - especially my Ministry has been accused, of even wasting the taxpayers' money in the way people work, starting bridges and then having to stop them - and since we want, when we start to do something to see that we have plans and we are doing it well, the matter has been given careful study and has taken some time.

Here is a list of what we intend to do on this occasion. I am sorry that we do not have time to circularise members with the list, but this sum of \$91,145 it is to carry us through from now until the end of the financial year. This money is only to give us a start. We do not want to vote the entire amount now. The necessary amount would be somewhere in the vicinity of approximately \$400,000 and it would be silly for me to come in here in the middle of December and ask us to vote \$400,000 to spend between now and the 31st March, 1968. The only way that we would be able to spend it is if they lend me some of it and that is not going to happen. Therefore, we are asking for \$91,145 that would carry us through from now until 31st March next year.

It is for two good reasons. One is to allay the fears of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and also the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, and in order to find work for the people so that some people would be able to get their Christmas berry, and some people may be able to get a loan too.

The matter for consideration is a request for supplementary provision of the sum of \$91,145 under Head 38, Item 26 and Item 49. The areas to be fixed are as follows:-

Horse Hill, St. Joseph. We are building a retaining wall which would cost \$5,250.32.

Mellows, St. Joseph;
Trio Path and Friendship;

Highway 2, St. Andrew. This is for piling, bridging, re-instatement.

Spring Vale, St. Andrew.

Foster Hall, St. Joseph. This is another place which my friend is always agitating about.

Highway 2, near the Rocklyn Bus Company.
Whitehill, St. Andrew.

King's Street, St. Simons, St. Andrew.
Rock Hall

Rock Hall, St. Andrew. My colleague is always giving me a little prod in my side about this.

Boscobelle, St. Andrew.

Parks Road, St. Joseph.

Melvin Hill to Dark Hole, St. Joseph.

Richmond, St. Joseph.

Road from Freizers Plantation House to River.

Coggins Bridge, St. Andrew. Now, the Estimate for this Bridge is \$43,782, but I must tell members of the House that the bridge when completed is going to cost us in the vicinity of \$105,000. The reason why we did not start the bridge, as members thought we should have started, was because we did not have proper plans at the outset. We had to make sure that there was stability in the area, and we are making a first class bridge now. When you are spending \$105,000 of the taxpayers's money, you know that this is a lot of money.

I will also like to say to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that I hope this would be the last I would hear of him of things being done in St. Joseph, because more money is spent in St. Joseph and St. Andrew from my Ministry than in any other part of the Island. It sounds strange but it is true. A lot of money is spent down there. You have the Soil Conservation Scheme on which we are spending a quarter million dollars.

Everybody is getting their pump stroke except me. I have to get a stroking off my pump too; so I hope when I come in here to do something in St. Thomas I will not hear somebody getting up on the opposite side and criticising me for it because I have done work all over the island.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Soil Conservation Scheme comes under the Ministry of Agriculture - not the Ministry of Communications. Three quarter million dollars is spent on that scheme by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I know that; but I am saying that the most money from the Government is spent down there. I did not say from my Ministry. I said the Government is spending in St. Andrew and St. Joseph the most money.

I can see the senior member for St. Joseph rocking back like a lord now that he has something done. As regards the bridge, we are planning to build a cement wall running right along and going straight to the end in order to check the erosion that is taking place from the river running through there.

Therefore, we are doing a proper job; so if we are taking a little bit longer than you expect, that is no reason for you to believe that it was because of any indifference or because we of the Democratic Labour Party were not supported from St. Joseph. We realise that the people in St. Joseph happen to be Barbadians too, and some day we are sure, may be when you are gone, they will do the right thing.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I thought you were still hearing the name of the senior member for St. Joseph being called in this Resolution. They were calling me out; so I have to answer the call. Well, Sir, it is better late than never. Since you have referred to me now, I just only want to draw this to your attention.

You said "Horse Hill, but there is a road there which we call Church Village Road. I do not know if it is that road which you mean. It has a big drop. I do not know if you mean that road and you are calling it "Horse Hill." That is one road that the people cannot pass at all.

(A VOICE: Yes.)

If it is that, it is O.K. I only want to draw it to your attention. Another one is Fruitful Hill. I did not hear that name called. That is worse. You will remember, Sir, the place I took you when you had to crawl on your belly. It is a good thing that you have a good belly and something good inside there.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I did not call all the names that I have here. I did not want to bore you. That is what I said at first. I called those that I knew you were agitating most about. We intend to do a complete job.

Mr. SMITH: Now that you are working on all, I want you to make sure, if it is not there on your list, that that road must be done before the reaping season begins because it is an outlet from St. Joseph to St. Andrew and canes grow both down and up the hill. 4.10 p.m.

Now that we are giving the green light for the money to be spent, this is another appeal to start on Coggins Bridge, Fruitful Hill and Church Village at the same time. You cannot afford to leave back any, and say: "This gang is to go here" when it finishes. Start on all because this is the month of December and you will be able to catch up before the Christmas season is over and the reaping season is on you. Press all the unemployed up there who were suffering for the last two or three months into work, and have a gang at Church Village, one at Fruitful Hill and one at Coggins Hill and let us get things working right and fix them right.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Before you put the question Mr. Chairman, I should like to say to the hon. member that the reasons why we could not start all these projects as rapidly as we would like are two. We do not have the mechanical skill, that is, qualified engineers to look after these jobs, and the next thing is the supervisory staff. Once we have the supervisory staff, there would be no problem. We will start as many as possible, especially those roads which people use in carrying their canes to the estates.

Mr. SMITH: I know that supervision will be a problem, but I can tell you of a first-class supervisor who has just resigned, who built Coggins Bridge and knows bridges backwards. His name is George Downes. Bring him back in for two or three months and you do not want an imported engineer at all. We bring back in big shots sometimes and put them back in jobs after they have resigned; so you can bring back George Downes and put him on at Coggins Bridge Fruitful Hill or somewhere. He is a first-class supervisor, a man who knows the job, and he will be cheaper than an importee. Bring him back into the job and let us work fast.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this sum of \$91,145 to meet expenditure on repairs to roadways and bridges, I am to wonder if the canalising of the Salt Pond at Speightstown which is going to be bound up with work on the Speightstown bridge is included in this.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, to allay the fears of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I am not completely surprised, but I thought the work on the Salt Pond had been started. The hon. member probably would know that I was out of the Island on Thursday and returned on Sunday night, but maybe he has not visited his constituency recently. If the actual work has not been started, I am sure it will be started this week or not later than next week.

Mr. HINDS: That is all we wanted to hear.

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded in each case by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RATES OF POSTAGE ON PARCELS

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 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.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, hon. members would be aware that by Resolution No. 41/1967 the rates for surface parcel post to the U.K. were increased with effect from 1st July, 1967 in an effort to remove the debit balance under the Post Office Revenue Item No. 2 - Net Credit on Overseas Parcel Post - which resulted from the increase in the United Kingdom Terminal Charges. The debit balance has been reduced but not entirely removed.

The Government has been notified that the Postal Administration of Canada proposes to increase its Terminal Charges with effect from 1st January, 1968.

This Resolution therefore provides for an increase in the rates of Surface Parcel Post to Canada (direct) and via Trinidad with effect from 1st January, 1968 in order to avoid a further increase in the debit balance under the above Revenue item.
4.20 p.m.

As hon. members, who have a copy will note, 2 lbs. will cost 85¢; 3 lbs. will cost 85¢; 7 lbs. will cost \$2.15; 11 lbs will cost \$3.80, and 22 lbs. will cost \$7.75. There is a strange thing that I would like to say for the benefit of hon. members. A number of people seem to think that you can post 22 lbs. of weight to Canada, but this is not so. You can only post no more than 20 lbs. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

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

RATE OF INTEREST (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1967

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at this stage, I think we should resume consideration of the Bill in connection with the Rate of Interest Act.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I will be in order. I cannot speak on this matter because I have already spoken on it. Will I be in order to speak on this motion, Sir? I think it is time for us to go home and have a spree until next month. We have no right remaining here any longer. I think we should leave off the work and go home and start to celebrate from tonight. I have finished working now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually the hon. member did not make a motion.

Mr. SMITH: Let us get it clear. We are not working any more; we are going on a spree now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr Speaker, I am not speaking, I am inquiring -

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not speaking; therefore I cannot hear him.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That shows what a joyous mood you are in. I am wondering, Sir, having heard a ruling quite recently, that if a member who had been speaking on a Bill before the House is not present that that Bill.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member does not have Order No. 2 on the Order Paper.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SAND STREET

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly Order No. 5 is the instant Order of the Day, and that Order stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, who, through his indisposition, is not in his seat today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution in the absence of the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Christ Church is asking leave of the House to deal with Item No. 5, which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. Hearing no objection, I declare leave to be granted, and the hon. member may proceed to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown in right of its Government under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 of parcels of land together with buildings and erections which forms the Schedule to this Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members will recall, there is a strip of land at Sand Street, Speightstown, which is suffering from erosion in that the sea has encroached, and this strip of land in question comprises 10 lots in an area that is badly eroded. It had 8 dwelling houses on the land, but most of these houses have been re-sited and the owners or tenants have been re-housed elsewhere.

It is necessary to have this land acquired, and, in order to have it done as expeditiously as possible, the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act 1949 are being invoked in order to secure a good and marketable title, as in many cases the titles are defective. The parcels of land involved and the description is "All those certain pieces or parcels of land situate at Sand Street in the parish of Saint Peter in this Island together containing by admeasurement 12,130 square feet or thereabouts and abutting and bounding on lands of J. Kidd, on the Sea, on lands of A. Skinner, deceased, and on the Public Road known as Highway 1, or however else the same may abut and bound together with the wall buildings thereon.

The Government is acquiring this land compulsorily in order to make certain improvements and to put up a groin in that area to protect the road and to protect the area generally. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this eroded land in Sand Street, Speightstown, formerly housed some 10 families, but what has been the cause for considerable concern is the fact that the Housing Authority seems to have allowed its good offices to be prostituted by supporters of the Democratic Labour Party in Speightstown.

4.30 p.m.

That is, they opened a tenantry at Church Street Gardens and you will find that known supporters of the Democratic Labour Party at Sand Street have been able to use the land of the Housing Authority at Church Street Gardens to set up houses, not that they have been in the eroded area, but they have taken their houses from where they had them before and they were those who knew that these people at Sand Street would have been at the mercies of this Resolution which is now before the House. We would agree that one object of this Resolution is to give a good and marketable title to some of the land in the area concerned. What has happened is this; these agents of the Government have been able to make some money for themselves by preying on the lamentable situation in which those people who lived in the eroded areas were placed. You will find that it is not a case where the Government, which is now trying to acquire this area of land, has seen to it that the people who were in this dangerous area were first served in the new Church Street Gardens. Not at all; Sir, friends of the Government Party were first served. It borders on the scandalous to know what really went on. It is for this reason that we have got to subject the Minister to certain searching questions on this whole matter. At the present moment one house that remains is partly wall and partly wood and the Government, we understand, has attempted to make a deal for less than \$700 for the house and land. Why is this? It is known throughout Speightstown and St. Peter that a mother and daughter who live in this particular house have been supporters of the Barbados Labour Party in Speightstown, so what do you find? At the last moment this house still remains and at every attempt by the occupiers to get word from the Government as to finality as to price and what not - they are being turned and twisted about, from one week to another. At the same time, people who live on the other side of Sand Street, the Government's agents, have been allowed to go into Church Street Gardens and set up all sorts of houses up there, and they were renting them out and making money; but these people who are threatened by the sea - and you know, Sir, that during the past week with the rough seas around the West Coast, one can imagine the plight of these people. It is a small area of land; it is just 12,130 square feet but nevertheless the people have been living there, I should say, in comparative peace, if not in comfort. So what you will find is this, that the Government has

been reluctant in reaching reasonable conclusions with some of these people - hence the necessity for this Resolution here today.

In a matter of this sort, the Government's policy should have been the same thing which applies to the plantation owner, the big property owner. Whatever it may be, it should have applied in this particular case without favour to any particular individual or without creating any undue hardship on any individual for political reasons. It is a very shameful thing, and I am sure that the Hon. Minister, knowing him as I do, would be glad to know that, with the passing of this Resolution this afternoon, all matters in connection with this plot of land at Sand Street and the settling of it, are carried out or are gone through with consummate ease, and we are confident that the Minister will spare no pains, at this stage, in telling us the names of the various persons who own this plot of land which goes to make up this 12,130 square feet, and what agreements have been entered into so far and what is the true position in regard to the two houses which now remain in the same area.

Hon. E. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I honestly do not like people who try to mislead others - and deliberately at that. Now, Sir, speaking of this land at Sand Street, the last hon. member who has just sat down, spoke of some Party man who was allowed to do this and who was allowed to do that and the other. Nothing could be further from the truth. I would give this House exactly what took place. It is very gratifying to hear that this lady of whom the hon. junior member for St. Peter spoke, whose name is Mrs. Rochester, supported him.

4.40 p.m.

I am glad to hear that, but the hon. member did not say that Mrs. Rochester - he said Mrs. Rochester and her daughter - Mrs. Rochester also has a son who is deaf and a little mentally retarded, but the same Minister of Health has gone out of his way to get medical aid for this child; so it is proved conclusively that the Minister of Health has helped this child.

This lady had supported the Barbados Labour Party; and yet a candidate of the Democratic Labour Party, the Minister of Health, has gone out of his way to help Mrs. Rochester's son. The junior member for St. Peter is talking about the lady; he does not know that I travel and I know things. Now, this Mrs. Rochester's husband left here about twelve or thirteen years ago and went to England. He has not written back.

We did all that was in our power to get Mrs. Rochester to occupy one of the houses in Church Street. At first, we went further out, but then she said it was too far. I agree that she did not want to go there. We had some land which was near to us at Forde's pasture but the lady was adamant. Politics has absolutely nothing to do with it as far as I know. Maybe, the junior member for St. Peter brought politics in it by telling Mrs. Rochester not to move. He has told this House that this lady lives in a boarded

and shingled house, part wall and part board. Anybody who goes down St. Peter can look to the left and see it. It is the only house that is standing on the left hand side now because I think the one in which the sick man lived has been removed; but this house in which Mrs. Rochester lives is nothing more than a hovel.

The sand, the sea and everything comes up to the back part of the house. Of course, that is no house at all. It is only just a little part of the wall in which she can reside, and in my opinion the wall really was something built, maybe, in the fifteenth or sixteenth century because it is one of these plastered things. It is a rubble wall place. The place is absolutely uninhabitable; so when the hon. member stands up in here to give the impression that Mr. Mascoll, the person who went to move this house over to the other site - I know all about this - these people refused to allow Mr. Mascoll to remove the house and said that they will remove it themselves. Furthermore, the land that these people are living on - most of the land belongs to a lady named Mrs. Skinner who lives somewhere up Worthing. Furthermore, Mr. Mascoll had offered to remove the houses far cheaper than anybody else who had offered to remove these houses. This has absolutely nothing to do with politics, but because everybody did not support the junior member for St. Peter, he has come in here and has talked as he did and thinks that he is getting away with it. He came in here to castigate Mr. Mascoll.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. Enough people supported the junior member for St. Peter for the junior member for St. Peter to be a member of this House. There is nothing to worry about.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am worried about is that it is not a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: What I am trying to say is that because the junior member for St. Peter knew that Mr. Mascoll supported us - and Mr. Mascoll is a qualified carpenter - the junior member for St. Peter has come in here to think that he can castigate Mr. Mascoll. It is somewhat tantamount to something that went on in another land problem when I mentioned about someone living in Christ Church, and the senior member for Christ Church thought that he was in a Law Court, and because I said a quarter acre, or half acre and an eight and the other Minister said something, the senior member for Christ Church got up thinking that was a point. That may have been a point in the Law Court, but is not anything in here. I could have said that it was a mile of land and you would have to accept it. That does not matter. However, I do not want hon. members to come into this Chamber and mislead the Chamber by giving the impression that this Government is doing anything underhand. What he did was above board.

These people refused to allow Mr. Mascoll to remove their houses. They removed them themselves and they are quite satisfied. Furthermore, Mrs. Rochester, the lady that the hon. junior member for St. Peter said supported him as well as her daughter

has bluntly refused to move. The only place in the world where I know that one person can hold up a Government's project is here in Barbados. It does not happen any other part of the world.

The land that the hon. member is talking about, he said just now that it was about 1,200 square feet of land. It is 730 square feet - not enough to put a big penny stamp on. Furthermore, the sea is encroaching where this lady is holding up the progress of the country repeatedly, and if the junior member for St. Peter does not go down there this evening and tell Mrs. Rochester to try and get out, one morning he is going to lose two votes. Do not say that I did not warn him. He is going to find that two votes have gone through the eddies.

I am just trying to give the House a true picture of what took place. There is absolutely no politics involved in it. It was only that we saw the sea encroaching on the land - that part of the land in Speightstown, and we decided to buy a strip of land elsewhere. It is just a strip of land; it is not beach land that the Government is trying to rob anybody out of or anything like that because you really cannot get a bath there at all. We are just attempting to save Speightstown from meeting up somewhere by the Police post. Therefore, I am appealing to the junior member for St. Peter to see Mrs. Rochester and her daughter - his supporters - and tell them to get out of this House before he finds out that he will lose two votes because I am sure by the time the sea starts to get rough at that end, what is left of the House would be gone and she would have absolutely nothing to which she can hold on.

Now is a good time for her to go when we are providing somewhere for her to go and live, but do not come into the House and try to give this House the impression that this Government has done something underhand. Mr. Speaker, I was saying that it appears to me that, after these people have cast their vote in favour of the junior member for St. Peter now they have some sort of remorse setting in and they are attempting suicide because they have refused to come out. When some person knows that danger is there and deliberately walks into danger, it is suicide, but the only trouble is that we do not have the power to charge them for premeditated suicide; so maybe, after we find that the sea has come in, we may be able to charge them for attempting suicide, provided that they are living. I just warn the hon. member to help us to help himself.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I understand the hon. member to say that the people who live in this house are the people who are bringing in the sea, or that they bring in the sea to commit suicide?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: No, Mr. Speaker, I did not mean that they are bringing in the sea.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point is that that is not a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Alright, I accept that as an answer too. I do not mind their bringing in the sea; I mind that they are preventing us from carrying those bulldozers down there to drop piles to push the sea back, and through their selfishness, if you do not go and ask them to move, it would mean that you would have no more Speightstown and that the people in St. Lucy would be cut off from Speightstown. If that is what you want, well, that is alright with me, but Government is being retarded in its programme because of misguided politicians. That is all I have to say on that matter, but I would just like, before I sit down, to ask the hon. junior member for St. Peter since for the whole day the spirit of Yuletide has been evident in here, to let it permeate for the entire sitting.

4.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I want to give some information which the hon. junior member for St. Peter requested. In the first place I want to assure him that in employing a private contractor, certain savings were effected, and the job was very much cheaper than if it had been done by the Housing Authority. The various parcels of land and their respective owners and areas are as follows:-

Dr. Sugarman	3,670 square feet of land and dwelling house;
D. Jones	730 square feet of land;
A. Harris	960 square feet of land and dwelling house;
A. Holder	1,240 square feet of land and dwelling house and shop;
J. Rochester	730 square feet of land and dwelling house;
Mrs. Esme E. Atherley	515 square feet of land and dwelling house;
E. Worrell	675 square feet of land and dwelling house;
K. Jordan	2,210 square feet of land;
Mr. Branch	640 square feet of land and dwelling house;
S. Fenty	760 square feet of land and dwelling house.

You will observe, Mr. Speaker, that in every case save three, the area of land in question is under the area as prescribed and allowed by the Town and Country Planning (Interim Control) Act. In other words, only in the case of Dr. Sugarman where you have 3,670 square feet of land, in the case of A. Holder with 1,240 square feet and in the case of K. Jordan with 2,210 square feet do the provisions of the Public Health Act seem to be provided for. The other areas are very small and the whole point is that savings were effected, the people are sited in safety and there is better provision by way of toilet arrangements and other sanitary arrangements, playingfield and so on. In other words, they should be more comfortable for this season than they have been for quite some time, and there is no danger involved where they are living and sited.

As far as the political end is concerned, I do not care to get mixed up in it. I do not see it serves any useful purpose; but we had been experiencing great difficulty in having people to agree to be resited for their own benefit and advantage.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Acting Leader of the House intimate what, if anything, it is proposed further to proceed with?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2, the Rate of Interest Bill which was being debated earlier be the next Order of the Day.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. LOWE; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. WEEKES; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. LYNCH; Mr. MOTTLEY - 11.

NOES: Mr. HINDS - 1.

HOUSE RESUMES DEBATE ON THE RATE OF INTEREST (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 becomes the next Order of the Day, and when this matter was previously being discussed, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was speaking. He may, if he thinks fit, resume.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, there is one point I should like to draw to the attention of this House in connection with this Bill, and it is this. We must bear in mind that when Solicitors for instance, lend out money, they do not lend out the firm's money. Solicitors lend out the money of their clients; so what we are fighting in a Bill of this nature is that Solicitors will have to continue, so to speak, doing the same business as those licensed money lenders, but the Solicitors will only be able to charge 8 per cent, but the licensed firms will be able to lend at an interest rate greater than 8 per cent.

Now, Sir, this Bill can have very dangerous proportions. There are no two ways about that.
5.00 p.m.

While this Hon. House is debating it, no one - except the Minister of Finance, perhaps - has any idea of what interest will be allowed to be charged by any firm, by any bank or any other body that might be licensed from time to time. We are sure, having listened to the Minister of Finance, that he has found himself on one other occasion being unable to make out a case which we feel would convince even his own Ministers and back benchers as to the necessity for interfering with this very dangerous weapon, this

matter of increasing the rate of interest, or making it possible for certain firms, bodies and corporations to lend out money at an interest rate greater than 8%.

Sir, the objects and Reasons tell us that we have had the protection of a Rate of Interest Act since 1754. We have heard here from the hon. senior member for St. Thomas enough of what went on which brought about a change from time to time. If hon. members would look back at this matter of the rate of interest they would see that there is nothing - for that matter, even the urgency that was in this Bill has disappeared; so all of this rush, this fluster, this sweating and generating of heat that went on, all of that has now died down and we believe that hon. members are now in a better position to weigh matters carefully, to think carefully, and see for themselves whether or not this is a dangerous bit of legislation with which this Hon. House is dealing at this moment.

The Hon. Prime Minister tells us that he has no list or, perhaps, names of firms, or bodies of persons, that will be licensed when this Bill becomes law. That might be true, but that is not our main concern in this House. We firmly believe that the best road for a Bill of this sort is that along which the hon. senior member for Christ Church has sought to direct us: that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee. You will agree, Sir, that, as has been said before, this is a question of money - and understand, Sir - big money. This Hon. House has had before it already the case where a firm, just merely trying to find out where money could be got, in one swoop came off to \$135,000.

The Minister of Finance knew all about it, and he agreed to the paying of \$135,000 just for getting money for nothing. Now \$135,000 is money in any of these Caribbean Islands. If, therefore, these firms, these banks, these bodies - that \$135,000 was secured without having this licence to lend. These money lenders are going to be dealing in millions, and the rake-off - what will drop by the side of the table - will be enough for somebody to get rich from a Bill of this sort. There would be no question of paying for a licence, but what will drop from the master's table will be enough to satisfy, perhaps, even some politicians. Even a politician will get enough from the licensing or other transactions from which he would be happy for the rest of his life, after this Bill becomes law. This is what we have to arm ourselves against and guard against.

That is why it becomes necessary for us to get the big financial brains that we have knocking about - all of these bank officials who know about big finance - to put their brains against the brains of our economist, the Minister of Finance. In a Select Committee a lot that is not now given to this Hon. House can be brought out. We feel that the business community, the banks and these firms that will be interested in this licence for money-lending would all come forward and state their claims and enable the Committee to arrive at a decision which could be couched in respectful language and presented to this Hon. House for its guidance in a matter of this sort.

To my mind, Sir, whether the British £ had been devalued or not, the Minister of Finance would have come before this Hon. House with this Bill, but it so happens that he sought to seize upon an opportunity - he acted as an opportunist, so to speak. I am convinced that there are some things which, I think, he should not allow himself to become confused over. We on this side of the House know very, very well indeed that the Minister of Finance would offer every objection possible to this Bill being sent to a Select Committee.
5.10 p.m.

The reason for that is clear, but we can only hope that an opportunity will be given for each and everyone in this Hon. House to be given of the benefit of all the financial brains in this country before this Bill is passed or rejected by this Hon. House. I beg to move that this Bill be sent to a Select Committee.
(ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: That can only be done after the second reading has been passed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is generally felt, that unless you have an opportunity to get some piece of paper to be called an economist, that you cannot speak on a matter of this sort. I consider this a very important matter, and despite what anyone may think, I feel quite confident from my experience to speak on this Bill. Dealing with the Usury Act which was once amended here, I think I said then, and all will agree, that it was one of the oldest Acts in this country and it served the country well. Up to a few years ago, I think the Dominion of Canada had a similar Act. I have been discussing this matter with persons who have had some experience in dealing with this matter. When we amended the Usury Act on the last occasion, we amended it for a specific reason at that time. The reason then was that the Development Corporation, I think it was, was the only person competent to lend money for development. The Electric Company could not bring in money at six per cent and go through all the usual expenses, and so on. We saw reason because we wanted to have the Electric Supply Corporation developed, and all of us agreed at that time. Now comes the amendment which we have been told has come about mainly from the devaluation of the £. I am one of those people who would like to see this Bill go to a Select Committee because of the fact that the Prime Minister has made a speech on the matter, and he is somewhat worried about what you are going to give to the various banks, corporate bodies, etc. We must take things as they appear to be in this Island. People in this country who have to borrow money, borrow it from their Solicitors. With a few exceptions, the Solicitors never have money to lend out, but they lend out their clients' money, and this money is loaned out in keeping with the Usury Act. I can remember only two cases of usury. I cannot charge more than six per cent; I have seen money which was very hard to get. I have seen money being loaned out at four and half per cent. I have seen, even when we were willing to pay six per cent you could not get the money. Now we are passing through a time which I myself am very worried about, as to

whether this Bill could not be further amended to allow money to be loaned out or borrowed at higher than eight per cent. It is for this reason. It is true that we read and heard and know that the bank rate in England has gone up to eight per cent. There has been some talk about banks having to get money in here to be able to lend it out, and therefore they cannot get it in to lend it out in the same way. Let us disabuse our minds of that. On the other hand, as I have said, Solicitors do lend out money. Although - I say this with some authority - money is loaned out and the rate can be eight per cent, some firms have been known to lend out money still at six per cent. Money is usually loaned with a defeasance of three to five years, and I am in a position to say that the people who lend out money, although the Act then has been amended to eight per cent, have allowed their loans to remain at six per cent.

What I am worried about is that within recent years all the banks in this country have started Trustee Departments. I think that you are well aware of that. If we amend this Act, I do not see the Prime Minister granting permission to Solicitors to lend out money at ten per cent, but I do see the argument adduced by bankers to ask to loan money at ten per cent. There is a practice in this country by banks when they advance money for business, for people who import cloth, or for ninety days to pay for these at the commercial rate of seven and one half per cent. Here and there you will find that where they are big business people, the rate might even come down to seven per cent.

I should like to draw this to the attention of hon. members. Do they think that some well-to-do firms in this country take their money and pay for goods at all? This is done through the banks and the rate of interest is charged. If the rate of interest is seven and a half per cent commercial rate, because the Usury Act prevents you from lending out money at more than eight per cent, I am worried somewhat that if we amend this Act and carry the rate to ten per cent, that is going to stop those persons responsible for lending money from lending it at the commercial rate of nine and a half per cent. Can you not see a company or firm buying, say, a shipment of meal, milk or flour and that 1/2 per cent more may be \$300,000 which is bound to be placed on the consumer. 5.20 p.m.

That in itself will carry the cost of living up. I think myself that a very good case would have to be made out for me to support this Bill without its going to Select Committee. Now, on the other hand, I want this to be borne in mind. I have heard it mentioned, and the fears of hon. members were allayed, that it is a question of not giving this to the Solicitors or that somebody has the right to lend at ten per cent. What is going to happen is this. If one has to lend \$100,000, \$200,000, \$600,000, or \$10,000,000, what is easier for me to do? Not at all to go to a Solicitor because he can only lend at eight per cent - the maximum he can lend at is eight per cent because he is not getting in this Act the permission from the Minister of Finance to lend it out at a percentage greater

than eight per cent. But you can put it into a bank which can get that permission, and which has got a Trust Company. You can put it there and lend it at eight or eight and a half per cent. They can even lend it out at ten per cent.

As it stands now today, the banks in Bridgetown have trust funds which they lend out here. That is why I believe myself there is a certain amount of fixed deposits, then they have a certain amount of trust funds which they lend out at six per cent, or six and one-half per cent and they make one and one-half per cent in turn like that.

That is why I believe myself that a matter of this sort should go to Select Committee where, not only the Minister of Finance, but other persons dealing with finance would be able to meet and be satisfied that no undue hardship or burden would be placed on anyone. What I fear, Sir, as I said, is that I know of money loaned in this country by a few persons and the insurance companies, and if you give the insurance companies the right to lend money at a higher rate than eight per cent, do you know what it would mean to those persons who have just built up these various developments and houses, and so on, and who still got mortgages on their property? They knew that they need not be any fear; so long as they continued to pay the interest nobody would interfere; but since you can get interest instead of 6 1/2 per cent, or 7 per cent, you can get 8 1/2 per cent or 10 per cent, do you know what is going to be the position?

I fear the question of insurance companies and banks being given this right. Obviously, insurance companies are going to raise their rates. Obviously, despite all the money that you have been paying towards the loan for probably five years, they are going to come right in and close it and they are going to raise on it. They are not going to tell you that you have to pay them off; they are going to raise it.

Then, as to the question of the banks, they are going to raise it. People are not going to put money into the hands of Solicitors at all; they are going to put it, as it now happens, into the hands of the Trust department of the various banks for lending it. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I have good reasons why I voted on the last occasion for amending one of the oldest Acts in this country - that of the Usury Act - from six to eight per cent, because it was pointed out and the reason made clear. I have seen since - and I am in a position to say this - that money is still loaned out - up to last month - by a leading insurance company in this country, although the rate is eight per cent, at a rate less than that. They always take into consideration the personality, the job, the various surrounding circumstances of the borrower and they would still lend you at seven per cent.

You hear this stupid argument being used about the bank rate in England going to eight per cent, and therefore, they cannot borrow money to come in here and lend it at eight per cent. What about all these deposits being made and the like? You would always hear this about banks; when the rates come down, the

rates of interest come down, but when the Bank of England rate goes up, the interest on deposits never goes up.

Mr. Speaker, it is my considered opinion - and I would like to see - that this Bill go to Select Committee where the Minister of Finance can sit down and give us in greater detail something that would ensure us that it would not unnecessarily increase the cost of living. Mark you this. There are people who may have half million dollars of their own in this country, but they do not take it up so long as they can get things on consignment, and they know that the consignment of goods that they have is already sold in Roebuck Street or Tudor Street or among the shopkeepers themselves.

All of this must be passed to the consumer. If this goes from 7 1/2 per cent, as is now the case to half per cent below the maximum rate which is considered the consumers' rate, I see the cost of living going up further. As we all know, it must go up; it is no fault of anyone that it is going up, but when we do this, we are accelerating it.

I feel, Sir, with these few remarks when the time comes I would support the sending of the Bill to a Select Committee, and I do not think the Government should oppose the sending of a Bill of this magnitude, of this great importance, such a far-reaching Bill, to a Select Committee.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the fact that the Bill has not yet passed its second reading.....

(A VOICE: Oh yes, it is passed.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I apologise to hon. members.

The question that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. ST. JOHN, Mr. SMITH - 4.

NOES: Mr. YEARWOOD, Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPRINGER, Mr. LOWE, Hon. N. W. BOXILL, Mr. WEEKES, Mr. HOPPIN - 9.

(A VOICE: How can it be so? How can the Prime Minister vote when the hon. junior member for St. Peter cannot vote?)

(ANOTHER VOICE: You must be fair, after all.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed by the Clerk of the House that when the question was put that the Bill be sent to Select Committee, the Prime Minister was already in his place, and that, I am told, is the record. 5.30 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out on a point of order that it is incorrect to say that the Prime Minister had actually taken his seat. He was walking across. Just now I was walking across here, and the Clerk is not in a position to say so because he was sitting there.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church has made his point. I am guided by the records of the House.

It has been moved by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and seconded by the hon. junior member for St. Michael that I do now leave the Chair that the House may go into Committee on the Bill.

Mr. St. JOHN: I object to that. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew was about to move the motion. I am challenging the records of this House. It is a dishonest record and we have to partake in honesty, not dishonesty. He was about to move it when I got up and the hon. member did not complete it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for Christ Church is incorrect when he says I did not move the motion. I moved the motion that the House go into Committee on the Bill, and it was seconded by the hon. junior member for St. Michael.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES; Hon. N. W. BOXILL and Mr. HOPPIN - 9.

NOES: Mr. LYNCH; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS; Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. SMITH - 5.

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

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:-

AYES: Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. G. G. FER-
GUSSON; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. SPRINGER;
Mr. LOWE; Mr. CORBIN; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr.
WEEKES; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. LYNCH; and Mr.
MOTTLEY - 11.

NOES: Mr. HINDS; Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. SMITH

3.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to
move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 reads as
follows:

2. Section 2 of the Rate of Interest Act, 1754
is hereby amended as follows: -

(a) by renumbering the section as sub-
section (1) of section 2; and

(b) by adding immediately thereafter the
following as subsections (2) and (3) -

"(2) Nothing contained in subsec-
tion (1) shall apply to any contract,
judgment, bond, assurance, debent-
ure stock or security which is made,
given, granted, issued or created, as
case may be, on or after 21st Novem-
ber, 1967 for the loan whether direct-
ly or indirectly -

by any bank licensed under the Bank-
ing Act, 1963; or

(b) by such other firm or body corporate
or class of firm or body corporate as
the Minister responsible for finance
may by order specify,

of any moneys to any person in Barbados
at a rate of interest exceeding eight per
cent per annum.

Now, Sir, this is a very important Section. I
raised a point just now, and I was expecting the Hon.
Prime Minister who is in charge of this Bill to reply
in some way so as to allay my fears relative to leav-
ing this gap so wide that one could charge more than
8 per cent and we do not know how much would be the
limit.

5.40 p.m.

I expected that the Hon. Minister in charge
would have informed us about things because I still
believe that he knows, and I feel that it is unfair to
members of this House, who do not know, for the Hon.
Prime Minister to withhold such information from
this Hon. House after we have to give the green light
to this Bill. Well, I have now found out why he can
do as he bloody well likes because he has the num-
bers. It is not fair to us, because he has the numbers

to carry the vote and out-vote us, not to let us know
something about this Bill. I do not expect that he
would have pressed this, or would have brought it be-
fore us, without knowing something about it. It is
only because he has the numbers.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Mr.
Speaker, at the time when the Second Reading was put,
I was inside the Members' Lobby and I was not in my
place. If the hon. members had waited, instead of try-
ing to rush the Bill into a Select Committee, I would
have been able to reply to all the queries that had
been raised. I do not agree that I have the information
which the hon. member attributes to my knowledge.
At the same time, all he has to do, in polite terms,
is to say: "The hon. member is not in his place, and I
should now like him to reply to my query." I would
then answer the question. What I do not expect par-
ticularly from that hon. member, at least, inside this
Legislature, although we know that it is nothing un-
usual for him to be using the expression 'The Prime
Minister can do as he bloody well likes' - that lan-
guage is not Parliamentary, neither is it true within
the constitutional framework of Barbados.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, when one is vexed,
one is not pleased. Do you think that I could feel happy
or feel like a bridegroom to see that the Prime
Minister came here, he has information, he was in
time to vote, and, now that the matter is dealt with in
Committee, he says that if I had asked him for in-
formation he would have given it to me? I never ex-
pected that he would want me to ask him to do that.
I thought that it would be his duty to the people of
Barbados. If he feels insulted and he feels that I
should not have used the words "bloody well", I will
withdraw them because it is not my intention this
afternoon to fight the Prime Minister. If it were my
intention, I would have started off in a different man-
ner. It is not my intention because the Hon. Minister
of Communications says that this is a festival spirit,
and we are all very jovial today, and I do not want to
end it up in a different manner.

We are in Committee now, Sir, and I am appeal-
ing now to the Hon. Prime Minister, now that I have
withdrawn the words, to tell us something about this
Bill before we go any further. I am appealing to you
now, Sir.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: It does not appear, Mr.
Chairman, that there are other hon. members who
intend to speak on Clause 2. I understand from the
hon. member for St. Joseph that he raised a query,
because he believes that I know what the rate of in-
terest is going to be, as to what the limit under Clause
2 is likely to be. First, I should like to point out that
Barbados and Canada are two of the only places within
the Commonwealth..... (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like hon. members to
observe Rule 29 (6).

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was just explaining to
hon. members, before I was interrupted by the asides
and not by Your Honour, that Barbados and Canada

were two of the chief countries in the Commonwealth that had a similar provision, although not of the same antiquity. In Canada they have just amended their Rule of 6 1/2%, but that does not prevent certain interest rates in Canada from being over 6 1/2%. The position is that in these other countries the rate is the market rate because the rate of interest, as I have tried to explain in my Second Reading Introduction, is a rent charged for the use of money.

To have a restriction on the rate of interest is just as laudable and has the same kind of efficacy as rent control. That is the closest analogy that I can bring to the attention of hon. members. Everyone knows that rent control is no solution for the housing problem. The solution to our housing problem is that you have to build more houses, and no amount of rent control that you impose can effectively produce more houses for the people. As a matter of fact, it has the opposite effect when you impose rent control. Everyone in this Chamber knows that I have been opposed to rent control for the same reason although in certain countries it has been found necessary. I said the solution is to flood the market with houses, and the supply and demand for housing will take care of itself. The solution to the problems of Great Britain and the problems which confront us in Barbados is exactly of the same nature as the shortage of houses.

The rate of interest is high because there is a shortage of money, and that brings me straight back to what I said in my introduction on the Second Reading of the Bill. It is nonsensical and dishonest for anyone to suggest that the situation which existed in Barbados in 1958, when we first included a similar amendment to the Usury Act of 1754, is in any way analogous or similar to the situation which confronts us today.

In 1958 there was no hue and cry, which the Barbados dialect would refer to as "human cry". There was no hue and cry by bankers, by insurance companies or any other financial business for the rate of interest ceiling to be raised. There was one single company inside of Barbados and one single company outside of Barbados. The one inside of Barbados is what is now known as the Light and Power Company, and the one outside of Barbados was the Colonial Development Corporation now better known as the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and there was no other reason either given or offered, or any other kind of excuse even pretended at that time. It was not even pretended by members on the opposite side at that time that there was any reason other than the Light and Power situation here in this country and the recalcitrance of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, which they have not got over up to now.

As a matter of fact, I will say this: they have been pressing this Government since 1961 to abolish the Usury Act in the same Commonwealth Development Corporation, and they have withheld funds from Barbados. They have withheld £5 million since 1961, long before the ceiling rose to 8%. I have taken this up with the Prime Minister of Great Britain. I told him that I thought it was iniquitous that a Corporation,

which was sponsored and sustained by Her Majesty's Treasury, should be treating the Colonies and Independent Territories as if there were people coming to the money-lenders in the open market.

Maybe, I am too harsh, at this stage, because I have recently been informed that special arrangements have been made by the Treasury for the Urban Development Corporation to get funds from the Commonwealth Development Corporation. Special arrangements have been made in that the Treasury is prepared to subsidise the money which they lend to us, so that we can keep the mortgage rate down to 8% even after this Bill is passed.
5.50 p.m.

I have not seen it on paper yet. They have not sent me this official thing, but the point is this: even then the Commonwealth Development Corporation, may have, since it is long term money, over thirty years, to borrow this money at much more than eight per cent, but the Treasury has promised to subsidise it. Right now the Commonwealth Development Corporation operating in Barbados cannot borrow any money at all for us to get the Cave Hill Scheme off the ground. The British Treasury, I understand from fairly reliable quarters - and I will bring hon. members information as soon as they send it to me officially - is now prepared, realising that this devaluation will cause a hardship on Barbados and other places, to provide some kind of subsidy to subsidise the borrowing rate for C.D.C. in order that they may re-lend through the Finance Corporation to house-owners to keep the rate of interest at a reasonable level. (Mr. MOTTLEY: House owners?) Property owners. The point is that, subsidy or no subsidy, it will still be illegal for C.D.C. to get that money. The subsidy is entirely up to us, in that we keep our rate down, but C.D.C. in these circumstances cannot even borrow the money to be subsidised if the bank rate is eight per cent.

However, Sir, that has not been the reason for the introduction of this Bill, because that information has only come to me comparatively recently. I only quote this as a further example that we should not be doing ourselves a great disservice. Now the immediate reason for the introduction of the Bill was the question of keeping commerce, and so on, and the wheels of commerce turning over in this island. Some hon. members on the other side have a certain amount of business experience like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. senior member for the City and so on. You can ignore the others because they are "theoreticians". (Laughter). They have never done an honest day's work in their lives, but the other two hon. members have some experience and have to do certain things at the bank and so on. You cannot get in here and abuse bank managers, and charge them with being usurious, unscrupulous and that sort of thing. They have to follow the policies of their Head Office. (Mr. MOTTLEY: We did not abuse the bank managers). You were not in here and you did not hear them. That is an aside, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is this, that the bank managers may have been Barbadian, but they have to follow the instructions

which they receive from their Head Offices. I am saying, as a positive fact, that there is a lot of dis-saving in Barbados. We live on the margin. By and large, the average citizen in this island does not have any money to lend; he is a borrower, he is not a lender. The people in Barbados who have money spread their risks all through the Commonwealth, and sometimes in foreign countries as well. In other words, the excess income which they have after they have filled all their requirements, even in luxurious living - some of them make enough money that they have the money to invest. It is not all deposited in the banks of Barbados. Some of it goes into real estate and a lot of it goes into industries, in stocks and shares in countries abroad. There are three firms in Barbados - Mussons Da Costa and Brydens - who act as investment brokers, and these three firms are also very closely connected with the source of capital formation in this island. Let us get the picture straight. The people who make money in Barbados do not put it into the banks. As a matter of fact, in some instances, they themselves attract money which should go in the banks because they pay premiums and they pay interest rates to people who deposit money with them. Hon. members will remember - those who were here in the House and who were not merely debating this thing out of malice but have the economy of Barbados at heart, will remember that during the consideration of the Banking Act, I was constantly urging on the other side not to have too strict an interpretation of the term "Bank" because a lot of business houses in Barbados were now able to finance their operations and not go to these foreign banks - all of which are foreign in Barbados - to borrow money, and that they may be restricted in getting money from well-wishers shareholders and so on who deposit money with them. You cannot blow hot and cold. We said that for the purposes of that Act, they would not be a bank. That is very fortunate, as it has now turned out to be, because had we insisted on describing their operations as banking operations in 1963 when the Banking Act was passed in this House, it would mean that today when we introduced this amendment, they would have come under the same dispensation and they would be able to charge whatever interest rates they wanted if they loaned out money, or they would be able to borrow it at whatever kind of interest they liked. So they are not banks within the meaning of this Act, because they would be specifically - the hon. senior member for the City will remember that they were specifically - excluded under the Banking Act of 1963.

Now, let us be realistic. There are twenty-four people in this Chamber under normal circumstances, including His Honour the Speaker. We are supposed to be the political leaders of Barbados. Some of them have been in politics for a long time and some of them have been in business for a long time. But how many of the twenty-four political leaders in Barbados can honestly say that they are money-lenders? There are none on this side that I know about. There are absolutely none. (Mr. SMITH: The Captain). We are really a borrowing community right here in this Chamber. How many of us can go to a garage and pay cash for a motor car? None of us on this side, and very few on that side. This is not criticism; this

is a statement of fact. The people who run garages in Barbados, as far as I can remember now, are nearly all Barbadian firms and they give a tremendous amount of credit to everybody in the community, except a handful of people who can go in, leaving His Honour the Speaker aside, and say; "Well, I want a motor car. Here is the cash money for it." There are not many people in this island who could do that. There are no garages which are not locally owned - even Mr. Thom, I understand, does not control Robert Thom any more - and these garages have to borrow money when they import cars and they have to wait for two or three years to get paid back. Now the banks in their turn cannot go to any section of the community - there are no Duponts, Rockefellers and Rothschilds in Barbados. If they come here, they only come for a vacation. One Rothschild invested \$15,000 in Barbados and he lost it; so I doubt that he will invest any more. The head of the family invested \$15,000 here and lost it, and he lost his interest in investing money here. There are no people like that who have built up and amassed fortunes in the Oil Industry; there are no Lombards, Morgans and so on, in Barbados, and the Martins who, for three hundred years, have been piling up money and making money out of wars and that kind of thing. Our capital formation in Barbados comes from the people who work in industry and who work in commerce and who may deposit some of their money with the banks in Barbados. They themselves are borrowers at the same time that they deposit money.

I will tell you this, that one of the banks, without calling any specific bank, at one time had 13% more advances in loans than they had deposits (*ASIDES*) - there are deposits of all kinds - cash in hand, money on call and short notice, and Government securities, fixed time deposits and everything, the whole balance sheet. (*ASIDES*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? (*ASIDES*). While an hon. member is speaking, all other hon. members shall be silent. That is what I understand by the Rules. Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: One of the banks had 13% more advances on loans than deposits. Where did that money come from? They had to borrow day by day. We have sometimes to bring in money from London in order to meet the demands of the customers of the bank, and particularly at certain times of the year like at Christmas time. Right now is a time of crisis in the banking world. 6.00 p.m.

Let me explain to hon. members. I heard a lot of propaganda from the other side. I would ignore some of it. I appreciate that a country that has a Central Bank that has a note department and an issue department is free to print money in order to meet the situation in which there is a demand for credit. Of course, if you do it like Brazil, it means that you go on deflating and deflating so that the peso in Brazil is only worth one-tenth of what it was, say, three or four years ago because they printed too much money.

But, I am stating a positive fact here now. At Christmas time when there is an increased demand for credit in the United Kingdom, they do not borrow money from anybody; the Bank of England prints more money, but they call it back in during the first week in January and burn it. But they have that privilege because there is a flow of goods in all services at Christmas time, it can guarantee that it is not just money printed for gambling or something like that and it is printed in order to keep the economy flowing and viable.

In one year I have known that the figure recently published in what you call the fiduciary issue in the United Kingdom - you will find it somewhere three or four pages from the back of the "Economist" - they printed £20 million in notes at Christmas time and burnt them by the 8th January the next year because there was such a terrific pressure on the commercial banks in the United Kingdom for credit to sell Christmas goods of all grades from outside. But they can get around it that way.

Now, here in Barbados at Christmas time unless we have money coming in from abroad - and it does not really come because you borrow the money may be on your Central Bank and you transfer drafts to manufacturers in England. You have a Head Office bank over there.

For somebody to get up in a simple debate like this and say: "Let us go to Select Committee where we will find out everything, I cannot really understand why. Banking in Barbados is not a simple matter. It is very complicated business. Right up to two weeks before the deflation, even the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain did not understand what a complicated thing it was, in my opinion. He did not understand what he was dealing with. It is an extremely complicated business. But he is a first class economist, of course, according to Lord Cromer, who was a former Governor of the Bank of England. He is suggesting that Mr. James Callaghan did not understand what was going on. I read that just to show you that you can go in the House of Lords and oversimplify this thing and say that we can get all the money we want.

If we had a Central Bank in Barbados, at Christmas time we would print money and issue it to the banks and say to them: "pay us back;" we would give the money to the commercial banks and say to them: "Try and get that money back in here by the end of January because we do not want inflation." When more goods are being bought and circulated in the community, you have to have more money in order to purchase these goods. It stands to reason. There is a seasonal fluctuation in credit, quite apart from the normal level of credit, for financing your purchases and that kind of thing.

Now, to suggest that the situation today is not different from the situation in 1958 is absolutely ridiculous and dishonest, because as I pointed out in 1958 there was one firm that wanted this thing raised and one firm that wanted to borrow. Here it is today

that the whole business community finds itself in a frustrated state because we do not manage our own currency and because we do not have a Central Bank and because it is necessary for the banks to operate abroad. I am giving the hon. member the assurance...

Mr. MOTTLEY: Did you say the whole community?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let me put it this way. There is no law in this country which says anything about any rate of interest. They are realistic and they realise that the bank rates have gone up. When they go into the banks to get money, all the banks have to say is that they do not have the money because they do not print money. You expect me to wave a magic wand to print more money overnight; I heard the senior member for St. Thomas talking about Mr. Cecil Andrew King saying that he has a licence to print his own money. He said that Mr. Cecil Andrew King stated that the radio and television licence granted him in the United Kingdom was a licence equivalent to print his own money. Did he say that or not?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. If it is that he has asked me, in fact, what I said was in relation to Section 2 (e) "by any other firm or body corporate or class of firm as the Minister responsible for finance may by order specify." I said that it was wrong to put in the Minister of Finance's hands a licence for somebody to print money. I then said - I would not say Mr. Cecil Andrew King - I said Mr. Cecil King said that the grant of a television licence to him was the same thing as a licence to him to print money, and that is a point, with the few months I have been in the House, it did not appear to me that the Minister of Finance has been controlling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made. Will the hon. senior member for St. John now proceed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I now understand the hon. member to say that he did not say Mr. Cecil Andrew King, he said Mr. Cecil King. Am I correct? That is now on the record of the House. Well, for the hon. member's information, Mr. Cecil King or Mr. Cecil Andrew King never had a radio and television licence. The statement which he re-affirmed had been made by Mr. Cecil King was made by Lord Thomson when he was granted a Scottish television licence.

I opened the trap wider and he walked straight into it. He thought I was driving at something else. I just wanted to correct him for the record that Mr. Cecil King did not have a television licence in the United Kingdom, either through the ladder of the B.B.C., the Scottish Television or Television Wires and West. It was Lord Thomson who made a statement to that effect and it was in fact with Scottish Television. That point having been made, I will carry on.

(ASIDE)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. junior member for St. Thomas addressing the Chair? Let the hon. senior member for St. John proceed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I really, Mr. Chairman, have nothing, despite all the nasty remarks that have been made by certain hon. members, to add to what I said in my opening remarks because I explained all the implications of this Bill to the best of my knowledge and ability - all the background of it, the need for it, and the need for urgency and everything else.

But in so far as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is concerned, he is the only person that raised any view point because he said that he believed that I knew what the rate of interest was going to be. Well, I started off by explaining that interest is really the rent charged for the use of money, just as how we charge rent for the use of a house.

For me to say that I knew what the rate of interest is - does not mean that the sky is going to be the limit; it is going to be a question of what the supply and demand for money is going to be like. 6.10 p.m.

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Roy Jenkins, some time next year reduces the bank rate, since the Bank of England is the lender in the last resort, obviously if the bank rate is 8 per cent, anybody who has to lend, if they have to go back to the bank - as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas himself said, it is a deflationary device. The increase in the bank rate is supposed to discourage people from borrowing, but we are in a cleft-stick here in Barbados, because borrowing in the United Kingdom is usually for the purpose of hire-purchase goods, manufacture and that kind of thing, and they usually have to employ various devices - they have done so three weeks ago - to discourage people from buying hire-purchase items and concentrate on exporting items. So the rate of interest by the Bank of England is a deflationary device to discourage people from borrowing. When the balance of payments is redressed, we all hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is going to reduce the bank rate, and since the bank rate is at an unprecedented height - and it certainly was not at 8 per cent in 1958 because it was 7 per cent for a very short time - a matter of weeks - we do not know until confidence for the pound is restored that money will be available.

There is another side to this that even the people who normally would deposit here in Barbados do not know; it is not 3 1/2% or 4 1/2% on the fixed deposit; it is something like 5 1/2% or 5 3/4% for certain deposits, and for longer time deposits, it is 5%. The other danger, Mr. Chairman, is this - I do not mind asides of a certain quality; it is when they get below a certain level that I think they should not be entertained in Parliament. If it is for the purpose of enlightenment, I can answer any question. I think we have to have a little flexibility in the course of debate, but not abuse our licence.

When you come to this question of the bank rate, that is one of the very reasons why they are only paying to certain depositors five per cent or 5 1/2% on fixed time deposits; but even with the fixed time deposits in the Bank, although you say you are going

to leave your money there for two years, five years or seven years, there is no law to prevent you, if you found that in Trinidad you could get 7 1/2 per cent, 8 per cent or 8 1/2%, from going and saying you want back your time deposit and that you are going to deposit it in Trinidad. This is what the Bank Managers are really fearing. They want to hold what depositors they have and they want at the same time to be able to attract money from their Head Offices and from other places abroad.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Prime Minister must really be careful. Is he in fact saying that the fixed rate for Trinidad is 8 per cent or 8 1/2 per cent?

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say the fixed deposit rate. I do not know what the deposit rate in Trinidad is. I can tell you that the hon. senior member for Bridgetown reminded me that some rates of interest in Trinidad are as high as 10 per cent, and a man who has money is not concerned about whether he is getting 10 per cent on fixed deposit, or getting it from what you get down in Trinidad called a way-way game; he is not concerned about whom it is coming from; so for the purpose of illustration, all I was saying was that if a man has a fixed deposit here in Barbados and he knows he can get a greater interest in Trinidad when taking everything into consideration, he would play about with 3/4 per cent or 1 per cent, and if other people in similar institutions are in a position in other territories now to increase their fixed deposit rates and Barbados is not in a position to increase their fixed deposit rate, it is very simple; you transfer from one account to the other. I am saying that the Bank Managers in Barbados are concerned about the outflow of money which up to the time that I invited them to have a certain amount of control, although it is not sanctioned by law yet, something like \$500,000 a month was being transferred at the time when I introduced this Bill. I am saying that as a positive fact. Even before devaluation there was a strong feeling in the United Kingdom, and there was a flight, money being transferred from one place to the other long before the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his announcement, and in Barbados it had amounted to \$500,000, not as a result of anything we were doing here in Barbados or not doing, but as a result of people's anticipation and people's fears about what was going to happen.

I will say this now: I was seriously considering about three or four months before this, and I think I intimated to hon. members before that I had written off to get a full list of the market values on the up-to-dateness of our stock and so on so that I could join in the flight too and transfer some of Barbados' securities over to the other side. I do not mean Peking; I mean the United States or Canada. I was in the process of doing that. In other words, if you have securities which have a market value of, let us say, \$10 million, and you are getting a yield on those securities of 3 1/2% or 4%, you do not lose anything

if you sell those securities and get \$5 million of stock or gilt-edge to get 7% or 8% because your yield is the same. The total volume of income coming in is the same, although you now have to pay twice as much for it. Similarly, if there is any devaluation and you transfer money over the other side, although the rate of interest in America was 5 1/2% or 6% and you had bought American securities with that money, you would be in a much stronger position today. My little exercise did not come off because I did not know the day nor the hour, and we had just been working on it as a normal sort of routine matter. I do not have the gift of prophecy. I have never claimed that. The members over the other side claim they have the gift of prophecy. Let them when they come to control the finances of the country go ahead and do these things. I can only make intelligent guesses about what is likely to happen.

As far as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is concerned, I would just like to say this: I cannot tell him that the rate would be 8 1/2%, 8 1/4% or 10%. It does not mean that people who have mortgages in this country will have to pay higher rates of interest. I do not intend to allow any Solicitors, because they are firms, or any group like insurance companies lending money to call in their defeasances and put up the rates of interest. They would have to get authority to do it. We have specifically excluded Trust Companies from this and they know it. (A VOICE: The Banks lend on mortgages.) The Banks do not lend on mortgages; you owe mortgages to a particular person or a particular firm or insurance company, and the Trust Companies are not going to be exempted either. I am saying that I am not going to allow any mortgages to go up. Even the mortgages of U.D.C. will not be over 8%; it has got to be subsidised by the British Treasury. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Well, put that in the Bill.) I tell you that as the person who is responsible. I do not draft Bills on my feet. We go through a tiresome exercise on this thing. Do you think I am not aware of the Trust Companies? I am ready for the Trust Companies whenever they come. The Trust Company is a separate and distinct entity from the Bank. I am aware of the existence of Trust Companies in Barbados, and I am aware that the Banks do trust business. 6.20 p.m.

But the very nature of their being a Trust means that they are trustees for somebody else's money, and not trustees for their own money. It may be Roy Best of Nassau, or somebody who died and left a lot of money, or somebody like that. All I, as Minister of Finance, can do is to tell members what this Government intends to do. That is all I can do. If you do not agree with it, you can try and get me out of here. I cannot amend a Bill here to dot the i's and cross the t's. The Bill is drafted in such a way that we have to watch the situation.

Now, as I said before, this may be a measure, I hope, that we may only have to keep in force, maybe, for three or six months. It is unfortunate that, at this particular time of the year, all of these things have happened all of a sudden without any jurisdiction or control by any of the Overseas Governments. It is a

situation which has been thrust on us. I think that I have explained to hon. members what the position of the Government is in this matter. I do not think that hon. members have anything to fear if I say that mortgages cannot and will not go up.

The only mortgage work that has been held up up to now is from C.D.C. I understand from very reliable quarters; but I have not received the letter in my hand, that the Treasury is going to subsidise the C.D.C. and the Cave Hill Development; so that my reservations will be observed, and we do not have an overall rate at Cave Hill which will exceed 8% even independent of devaluation. They have committed themselves before devaluation; they have withheld the letter, but I now understand from reliable sources closely connected with the Treasury that, even despite the new bank rate and despite devaluation, they intend to stick to their word. I would like to give hon. members this assurance.

Having told you about C.D.C., it is not generally known or understood that our launching the project is delayed because of straightening out these financial difficulties. We could not take money which was devoted to the Development Plan to finance that. We have always felt that the financing of the building of approximately 5,000 houses to house, maybe 25,000 people should be a separate and distinct financial undertaking.

A few years ago we had down here Mr. Charles Abrams of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology one of the foremost housing experts in the U.S.A. and a man whose services are frequently used by the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme. Now on what did Mr. Abrams and I arrive at the same conclusion, and he included it in his report? It is this: in a country like Barbados it is all very well and good to build houses because we need them. It is laudable for Government to acquire land, as we did for this purpose, in that you can do proper planning, laying out of all of your community centres, your services and so on. We have done all this. On paper we have bought the land; we have built the feeder roads; put in water; we have built a new reservoir at Cave Hill and so on; the Light and Power Company is now ready to move in and so is the Natural Gas Corporation. The infrastructural arrangements have been completed.

That is all very good, but you have a situation here in Barbados where mortgage money is at a premium. Mr. Abrams and I agreed that when the Finance Corporation was set up which would underwrite the mortgages for the Urban Development Programme - I should like to remind hon. members that whereas 60% is about the maximum that one can expect to get from any lender in Barbados for a housing mortgage - so you have to acquire the land and find 30% to 40% minimum of the cost of construction of your house; the store, or the lumber yard, or whatever you call them, or the bank will give you bridging financing until you complete the house and arrange a mortgage - we are ready for 90% at the U.D.C.

Now what Mr. Abrams and I agreed on and the Cabinet has accepted is that once we put our hands on this money - that is, we get the Finance Company set up to give the Government-guaranteed mortgages - the money should be available not only to people who buy houses in Cave Hill, or in any other areas specifically allocated, but there are a lot of people in Barbados - Civil Servants and waterfront workers, who have a piece of land but do not have enough money to buy or build houses and who do not have the 30% of their own money - a lot of them are still paying on the land after acquiring it ten years ago. The hon. member for the City can tell you about that. They will pay a few dollars when they get their bonus and so on. The land is not theirs and they cannot get the money.

We decided that the Government will guarantee mortgages not only - (*Asides*) - If the hon. members would listen, they would not make stupid pronouncements from time to time; they would be educated and edified. (*Asides*) If we are now getting subsidised mortgage loans through the British Treasury and C.D.C., and we are making money available not only to the people who buy at Cave Hill, but to anybody who has a piece of land and who is going to erect an edifice or house which conforms with certain minimum requirements, then we would be able to stabilize the mortgage rate outside as well. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Not chattel houses.) Not chattel houses, because you have people in Barbados who are making a living out of selling chattel houses to insurance companies; so we cannot take the risk in chattel houses. We lend people through the Housing Authority, or General Workers Loans, or Agricultural Workers Loans. We loan out a lot of money on very heavily subsidised rates of interest for chattel houses to people who would normally be living in chattel houses, but we are talking about the man who has a piece of land of his own.

The only reason why we have a lot of board and shingle houses in Barbados is that the people do not own the houses. On a Friday night, before we passed the Security of Tenure Bill - now that you cannot throw a man off like a hoe handle - he had to fold up his house like a valise and walk away with it because he did not own the land. They could get notice at any time before this Government gave them security of tenure. (*Asides*) There is no six months' notice out of any tenantry in Barbados - that is agricultural tenancies. They can give you notice to give up the land, but they cannot give you notice to give up the house spot. We had a case up to last week in St. Philip. They cannot make you give up the house spot; but they can make you give up the agricultural land with a six months' notice expiring on the 31st May. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like hon. members to be silent.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: There are people in this country, Mr. Chairman, who would like to tell you that a certain law is not a law at all; "Do not worry with what you see there, because that is not law"; so, even

if you pass a Security of Tenure Bill, there are people on the other side who would want to tell you that they passed it, or it is no kind of law because they believe that somebody will be evicted. Name one case in which a tenantry of more than five houses in which a man has paid his rent has been evicted since we passed that Act!

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. Several cases have been before the Supreme Court where an eviction order has been made.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Obviously, the only cases that can go before the court are cases where people do not comply with the provisions of the Act. I do not have to go into that. You would not have to go into Court if you have paid the rent, unless the land was needed for public purposes. What kind of nonsense is this? The reason why I have gone to great length to explain the position - not of the position of the economy of Barbados at this juncture - quite apart from any personal undertakings which I may give, is to assure hon. members that movements are already in train to make sure that people outside will not be depending on the normal lending institutions for mortgages. We have a scheme right now where, instead of getting 70% only of the cost of the house, people will be able to get up to 90% depending on the value of the house. It is 90% of the first \$12,000; 80% of the next \$8,000, and I think 70% on the last \$4,000 up to \$24,000; so the people in Barbados never had it so good.

6.30 p.m.

They did not have security of tenure; they did not have this Scheme about to be launched. The Government did not have 600 acres of land to build a satellite town, and they had no assurance for anybody that they could get up to 90% mortgages on their houses. Now how could anybody in his right senses, in a situation of crisis like this, try to make political capital out of a Bill which his own Party in less justifiable circumstances, pushed through this House - I would say in non-justifiable circumstances - is beyond my comprehension.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the longer the Prime Minister speaks, the more it appears to us that what he tells us is not always in accordance with the facts. I do not want to go over the period when the Act was amended by the former Government: I do not want to go over that period because the Prime Minister will remember that, not so long ago, he told us that if one looked at the statistics of banking in this country, he will see that one of the essential differences between his period of time as Minister of Finance and previously, was that previously the banks used to lend out more money in Barbados than there were deposits; but now in his Ministry of Finance, since he has stimulated the economy of this island, there were greater savings, and now the banks actually lend out less money in Barbados than is saved by depositors. He said that - I heard it with my own two ears - in his Budget Speech. He said that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. That was 100% correct, but in June this year there was no

devaluation of the pound or increasing the bank rate to 8%. I was trying to explain to the hon. member - it is hard to penetrate his consciousness - that this is what the Managers of the banks fear, that this whole situation will not be reversed and put us back in the bad old days of the Barbados Labour Party. Can I try to make it more clear? How dishonest can people be in Barbados? I do not know of any other country in the world where you get this kind of dishonesty going on.

Mr. St. JOHN: Now you see, Sir? I am not going to get annoyed. The Prime Minister of England would not be able to rattle me either, because I know the point I am making. I am making this point: the Prime Minister is saying that the circumstances in 1958 were not such as to justify a change at that time; there was only one firm in question. I am saying that in Barbados now, the banks are not lending out the amount of money which they get from the depositors in Barbados, so that the argument that they had the opportunity to borrow the money must have the same force as today, or the statistics are wrong. Obviously, if you are not lending out now as much money as you get from Barbados, you cannot go and argue and say: "Look, we have to go abroad to borrow this money at more than 8%; how can we go abroad and borrow it at 8% and come back here and lend it out at 8% too?" That is why the Prime Minister put in the little "slip in" in his speech, the little point about an individual bank of which he is not calling the name, that loaned out 13% over its deposits. But let the banks tell you this: I make no apology for saying it. I did not curse bank managers or accuse them of being unscrupulous, I never said that. What I said was that I cannot understand the psychology of the banks. When the bank rates comes down, they do not reduce their overdraft rate to the extent as they ask us now to give them permission now that the bank rate is up. They are either maintaining a relationship of 1 1/2% or 2% or whatever it is in relation to the bank rate. When the bank rate is down, let them reduce their overdraft rates. When the bank rate is up, then they have a justifiable cause for coming and saying that they want to raise their interest rate.

The second point that we have been making here and we will continue to make is this: if this flight of money took place as it is alleged by the Banks to the Prime Minister, why don't they raise their deposit rate to try and keep some of that money in Barbados? But no, they did not raise the deposit rate. What assurance does the Prime Minister have under the terms of this Bill, what powers have been granted to him to ensure that having allowed them to lend money at a higher percentage than 8 per cent that they will raise their deposit rate in Barbados? Absolutely none. The only thing is that if they do not raise it, they will go abroad and get some; but the point made about moving the money, which the Prime Minister talked about before devaluation, was because we do not have any confidence in the pound. It was not transferred out of the sterling area; it was transferred outside and the Prime Minister has the Exchange Control Regulations with which he can deal with that.

As to the position in Trinidad, only this week I heard from there that an Exchange Control movement even out of the sterling area, is in force in Barbados, so that with this Bill here, the point which we have been making is that there is no specific amount, and what the Prime Minister has done now is to allow the mechanism of the demand and supply to regulate it, when all of our tradition has been that, as the Prime Minister himself has said, we have been a nation of borrowers, and we need the protection of the Government. Just as the Prime Minister has to get up and say that he has got to protect the consumers of Barbados, because a few control the distribution of goods in this country, and he has to protect the public from being exploited by them, we say this: a few banks control the money supply in this country and the Government's duty is to protect us too. It is illogical and farcical to suggest that you are going to allow the mechanism of demand and supply to regulate your interest rates when you are dealing here with people because you say that you have to control it. A few banks in 1966 - one of them was named by the Prime Minister - and if these figures have been radically changed, where are the figures? The Prime Minister has them in his possession; let him deliver them - sixty-six million dollars in loans and advances and \$82 million in deposits. That is what the figures say, so that when they come and tell you about this 13%, that may be one isolated bank, but let us deal with the totality of deposits in the banks in Barbados. Again the Prime Minister repeats that the Government does not intend to allow this to happen to mortgages, but the banks themselves lend money on mortgages by equitable deposits. Well, Sir, last week in the Supreme Court of Barbados, the Royal Bank of Canada brought a foreclosure action in execution of an equitable mortgage; so to suggest that, in this Bill, the Prime Minister has any power to prevent a bank from lending at a rate greater than 8 per cent on a mortgage is, in my opinion, the conduct that he has accused us of, intellectual dishonesty and an attempt to mislead this House, because the Section says quite clearly: "Nothing contained in Subsection (1) shall apply to any contract", and the Prime Minister will know that a mortgage is a contract; "judgment", that is another means of lending money on mortgage in Barbados; "bond"; well we cannot say that a bond is a mortgage, but "assurance" goes with it as a wide enough term to include both a legal and equitable mortgage; and "debenture" which is a known means, where you have a company, that you have a debenture on your floating stock, and that is a mortgage. You can execute it like a mortgage specifically under the Companies Act; so it is only an attempt to mislead this House to suggest that this does not apply to mortgages.

6.40 p.m.

It does apply to mortgages and what we are saying is that you place the small minority who have control over the majority in this country, in a better and more advantageous position than anybody else. Why should they have this preferential treatment in this country? If the Prime Minister is not going to arm himself with powers to ensure that the rights

that you give them cannot be used to exploit the public in this country, you should have taken powers to deal with the relationship between the deposit rate which they pay to our customers in Barbados and the lending rate. That is why we say that this Bill is defective.

The other point is this. He says that he does not intend to give the insurance companies permission with respect to the mortgages. Let us look at the position. When the insurance companies go for bridging finance, when they know that they have a certain amount of securities becoming due or investments to hand and they want to lend it out, mortgage transactions may be right, but do they come and borrow from the bank?

The financiers are now going to be in a position to lend at a greater extent than 8 per cent, but the Prime Minister says that they cannot lend at more than 8 per cent. Absolute nonsense. I do not believe it. The Prime Minister knows within his conscience that he cannot resist the pressure that is going to be put upon him to allow a general all round increase in the rate of interest.

This is not the time to fool us in this country. He knows that he is not going to be able to resist the pressure; he would have to back down. It is like Bank's Beer. The Prime Minister knows that the pressure is going to be put on him and that is why we say that there is no need for this Bill. There is no necessity for this Bill.

We do not believe these statistics given by the banks. Why they say that \$500,000 a month or week was leaving this country? That would have left this country, anyhow, because that is money and people do not believe, or are speculators - one or the other. We all heard the Prime Minister say that he never went in for the speculating game. That was speculating; but the point is that this is speculating money, and whether you had this Bill or not, they were still using their economic judgment to try and switch from sterling to dollar to make money. Therefore, Sir, to say that this Bill would stop that is a joke.

As to the position of attracting Trinidad money - and you hear that we have a high rate of interest - Trinidad has currency control; Trinidad has resisted transfers even within the sterling area. Only last week some payment had to be made here in Barbados so that the situation tonight in Barbados is far different from what it was in 1958. The banks do not lend out as much money. The banks now in Barbados are getting more money out of Barbados than in lending to Barbadians. Do not mind how they juggle with it, your statistics are nonsense - one or the other.

There was no need in truth and fact for this Bill. It is much wider in scope. It introduces a preferential element in this community, and I am surprised at the Prime Minister who repeatedly declared against the small minority exploiting the large majority of this community, now bringing this Bill, endorsing the small minority in this country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister was not in here when I spoke. There is one note I made. He said that the commercial community wanted it. I think that I have made myself clear when I was dealing with the matter. In a matter of this sort, you say that the commercial community wanted it. Unlike 1958, there was a hue and cry. Well, I think we have differing information on this particular subject.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way. I explained that it is not that they said it because obviously they have to pay more for their money, but they know that the wheels of commerce would probably grind to a standstill if they do not have a similar position to that. That is what I explained.

Obviously, nobody likes to pay more for anything - not even the importers in this country like paying more. I see their advances and their sight drafts, and so on. That is how I qualified it. It is not that they desire this or that this is something which they are anxious to have. Oh, no! They prefer not to have it at all. The peculiar circumstances is that they cannot get along unless something is done.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When I heard that at first, I understood the commercial community wanted it. There was this hue and cry. The position is unlike that in 1958. I remember there was a meeting of the Manufacturers' Representatives in Barbados one day when a big dinner was given. He was invited to this dinner and he sat next to the manager of the Bank of England. In his speech, he said that he was pleased to hear that it was said that Barbados negotiating with commercial houses abroad was second only to Finland in that they never had anybody in Barbados falling over the whole period, going bankrupt and owing them money.

I have said that for this reason, to point this out. The Prime Minister might not have been in here to hear what I said, I said that the commercial community wanted what amount that they have agreed to but we have different information from this point of view.

As far as I know, and I believe the Prime Minister should know this. Manufacturers' Representatives in this country order goods on consignment and as long as the leading firms have been doing business - I am talking more of eatable stuff than anything else; I am not talking about motor cars because I am not interested in that; I am talking about food because I believe that the idea of the Prime Minister himself is to keep the cost of living down and the most important thing which they would go up on today is food.

6.50 p.m.

As far as the Trust Companies are concerned, the Hon. Prime Minister said quite clearly that he would in some way assure us that this would not happen, but I want to assure him today that banks have taken a different turn in Barbados and are lending on mortgages, and whoever tells him not is just lying. (Hon. E. W. BARROW: On long term mortgages?)

They are lending on mortgages. I have studied this very carefully, and I believe it should be left alone. I do not think there should be this unnecessary and undue haste. I thought myself when the Prime Minister did not accept the suggestion that it could not go through that he had a reason for postponing it until now.

The idea of telling us that money must come in or that the banks will not be doing this business is incorrect. The business which we must do is in edible stuff. It does not matter to us about the cars which we are ordering. The Prime Minister has the right to control the exchange of money and the importation of goods from certain countries, but this does not matter at all. What matters to me is the consignment of a shipment of flour or meal. I know that we get these items from West Germany, but some must come from within the area for which we have to pay in dollars. When it comes to talking about the commercial community desiring it, I am prepared to say that this is not correct. In any event, with respect to the Manufacturers' Representatives or agents for goods here, the Prime Minister rightly explained that they will transfer monies to their Head Offices, banks and so on; but what we have got to do whether in the Opposition or Government is to keep the cost of living down as much as we can on essential items. You are going to amend this to allow any bank to be able to charge Manufacturers' Representatives more on their sight drafts for goods which the manufacturers have given to the agents for a certain period, and the agents then give to the wholesalers for a certain period, but no period is given to the shopkeeper, retailer or the man who buys it in the street.

If you put on one cent more interest, it is passed on. I took pains out yesterday to discuss this through and through, and while I am on this, I will say now when I heard the Prime Minister on the radio and on television mention that those persons who were hoarding would be prosecuted, I was very pleased; but since that I was in Roebuck Street, and I was told that there was no milk. I will say further to the Hon. Prime Minister and to the Minister of Agriculture that I am told that originally 40 cents a case was made on the very milk that is imported here by the Pine Hill Dairy, and today \$3.00 a case is being made on it.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think the hon. member should know by now that when I spoke about hoarding I particularly had the Pine Hill Dairy in mind, and the Minister of Agriculture as well as the Minister of Trade have made statements to the effect that evidence had been collected against the Pine Hill Dairy for hoarding milk, and that we were in the process of having the necessary summonses issued when they sent a message - not by jet plane, but certainly by motor cycle - to say that the merchants were happy; they were releasing the milk. So do not let anybody in Barbados feel we were afraid to get evidence against the Pine Hill Dairy and deliver it in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecution. We have always made our position clear. It is true that we are a 25 per cent shareholder in the company,

but the company is run as a private company and we intend to be as vigorous with them as with anybody else including the banks and Trust houses.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thank the Hon. Prime Minister, but I would like to say this: I know that part of what he said is correct, but I also know of a Roebuck Street merchant who went up with cash and a policeman, and that is why they sent down to the Ministry of Finance to find out what was the position. What I want to make clear is that the Pine Hill Dairy like other businesses imports milk. Before the milk was imported by the Pine Hill Dairy, 40 cents a case was made by the representatives who imported it; today \$3.00 a case is being made on it, and I challenge the Minister to get up and deny this. Ten thousand cases are used each month in Barbados, and I challenge the Minister to say that if this is raised now, since they in turn pay their bills like any Manufacturers' Representatives, this will not go up.

Mr. Chairman, I saw you meditating when this statement was being made, because you know above all people that this is true. As much as I would like to see the wheels of progress move, Mr. Chairman, I am not satisfied that any commercial community wanted this, and even if the commercial community wanted it, I think what we should hear from a Socialist Government is that their intention would be to keep this down even if they were amending this in respect of luxury goods, new motor cars, new refrigerators and so on. But that is not what I am thinking of; it is food. This is the important thing. If you want a refrigerator, a car, a television or a radio, pay for them, because you are not bound to have these; but not so with food. I am not quite satisfied that there is this hue and cry, nor am I not satisfied that money will not be found to pay for goods coming into this country.

Mr. Chairman, how is the Prime Minister going to amend the applications from banks to say that the rate can be 8 per cent, 9 per cent or 10 per cent? I suspect it is going to be 10 per cent, and I know that the idea is to press the Prime Minister into making it 10 per cent. I do not know if it has been put to him yet, but if this goes to 10 per cent and 9 1/2 per cent is being paid as the commercial rate, how on earth are you going to be able to keep the cost of living down? This might be all right in respect of luxury goods, but not in respect of food. People are really drawing their belts as has been suggested by the Prime Minister, but I do not think they can draw them anymore. You might be able to keep it down now, but I know all that went on about it, though I am not prepared to represent it on the floor of this House at this juncture; but it is bound to come. The Prime Minister knows about it too. It is a good thing that he stopped this at the time, but do you know that flour for bread has gone up by \$2.00 a bag, and do you know that at \$2.00 a bag more, if you are going to get the same loaf, it is going to be reduced or the loaf is going to cost more, and you say the bank is going to be allowed to charge more interest on this money. I am not satisfied, commercial community or commercial community. What you must hear from

is the edible stuff, and I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will go and get off this \$3.00 and let the price of milk come back down.
7.00 p.m.

The price of milk had no right up there.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. If the hon. member will give way, I will make a statement. As far as we are concerned, the Milk Plant is the sole distributor of milk in this country. When the Milk Plant made representation to us to increase the price of milk, after devaluation, by 4¢ a tin, we said "No" because we were satisfied that what they were making on milk now is sufficient profit from the consumer in this country, and this Government has no intention whatsoever of increasing the price of milk regardless of what the Pine Hill Dairy says.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I know that the Government has refused to increase it, but they are still making \$3.00 on each case and that is wrong.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: They are not now getting \$3.00, because since devaluation they have to pay more for it. They take the milk through the 90-day or 30-day draft system in the same way as..... (Mr. MOTTLEY: That is wrong.) It is not wrong. It is correct when I say that they use the same system as is used by Commission Agents in Bridgetown in bringing in this milk. They said that they are paying more money now, since devaluation, for one case of milk that they were paying before, and they thought that 4¢ a tin would compensate them for the additional amount of money which they had to spend on milk.

We told them that we were not allowing any 4¢ a tin or not even a 1/2¢ per tin increase in the price of milk because we were satisfied that what they are paying for it now and selling it at the same price as it had been before devaluation would still give them a small profit, and we were not interested in carrying up the cost of living to the consumer in the country. That is why we denied them an increase in the price of milk.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Let me make a point. They will not make a big profit now because they do not have to import at that price. They are making the profit on what they have up there. After all, 10,000 cases of milk in this country is something that the common, bare foot man has to put in a saucer and put in a box or larder. Everybody cannot buy milk by the box, and we have to think of those people. They are selling the milk that they have to the public now, and that is what I want you to understand. This is the milk they have been hoarding and selling at the increased price, and I say that is wrong. When they are going to import a fresh stock of milk, they will import like the ordinary, normal importer.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. The milk which they have in stock now is milk which they had on credit and for which they have to pay an increased price.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It cannot be at the increased rate from New Zealand! New Zealand has not devalued her currency.

Several hon. members rose..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three hon. members are on their feet.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, prior to devaluation most of the milk that arrived in this country was drawn from most of the importers from alongside the Wharf. To the small retailer it is usually stocked at the Pine Hill Dairy. This is why you will find that it is the small retailer who would be short of milk, because he usually receives his milk from the Pine Hill Dairy. (Mr. MOTTLEY: That is wrong.) It is not wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I am telling the hon. member that I saw the invoices for the milk. The milk came in from Belgium on a 60-day Bill of Sight. About thirty days had elapsed out of the sixty days before devaluation took place, and that is why the Pine Hill Dairy started to hoard what milk they had in hand so that they could get increased prices to suit the devaluation. Their argument was that they had lost money because most of the goods had been sold at the prevaluation rate, and now they had to pay Belgium on the exchange rate because Belgium is one of the countries which had not devalued its currency.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am only saying that the percentage of profit which was allowed to the importers was 40¢ a case. Why now allow \$3.00? That is wrong. I challenge anybody to deny this. If you do this, they will make \$2.40 a case.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON rose.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: No, no, you cannot get up like this all the time!

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order. Prior to the Pine Hill Dairy being the sole importers of milk, they started to produce milk there and we had to import small tins of milk because the Pine Hill Dairy did not make small 6-ounce tins, and we had to import milk. They were given the sole.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, that was not a point of order. All of this I know, and I have kept very quiet on it. All I am saying is that they should look into the matter. If the Pine Hill Dairy must make money, do not let them make it at the expense of the ordinary, common consumer in this country. This is not something like a motor car, or a radio, that you are not bound to have. Ten thousand cases of milk are imported in this country per month. To make \$3.00 a case on milk is exorbitant and unreasonable. This is not something to do with tourists; this is not something to do with the well-to-do people; this is something that 98.9% of the ordinary working men in the street must buy. I am not taking up any more time on this, Sir.

I feel that the commercial community wanted this, and I feel that as soon as you allow the banks to

increase, then what the hon. Minister said is right. As normal importers they have to get the 60-day, the usual fee and so on; they have to give the man in Roebuck Street 30 days. The bank will put on more on them. What do you think will happen? Up goes the cost of living. I am not talking about rum; I am talking about milk, a most essential item, not rum.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, sometimes it is very hard to take part in a debate in which the Prime Minister has treated us to one of his discourteous, roundabout speeches, full of big words and big concepts. If the truth be told, when he is on his feet, he understands as little as the Hon. Minister to whom he is trying to explain something at the moment. It is very hard to reply to his sort of speeches.

The things that the Prime Minister has said here in support of this Bill are only really explicable on the grounds that his heart is not in it. They can only be explained when you look at their deep confusion by realising that the Prime Minister does not really want the rate of interest in Barbados to go up. Even though it has been pointed out to him by other speakers on this side - a most vital and significant point - that these banks are going to put up their lending rate without putting up their borrowing rate, he does not see the point.

In other words, they are going to charge people more for overdrafts, more for commercial credit, more for mortgages, even though the Prime Minister is the only one who does not know that the banks lend money on mortgages on land. The very fault that the Prime Minister is saying that this Bill will remedy - money fleeing to Trinidad - nothing will be done about it. The Prime Minister is not in the House, and there are several things he may not know.

The maximum fixed deposit rate of the banks in England is two points below the bank rate, so that the fixed deposit rate in England is 6%. If the banks in Barbados want to follow the universal banking practice of the English or Northern American banks, it is open to them to put the rate of interest on deposits at 6% now. In Trinidad no bank has been made to pay 8% on any fixed deposit. That is just a lot of nonsense.

7.10 p.m.

If in Trinidad people are paying 6 1/2% on fixed deposits, in Barbados they can do it too; they can raise it to 8% if they want. That argument, I cannot say, is not worth the paper it is printed on, because people do not even reduce that argument to paper. The Prime Minister knows that when the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was Minister of Finance, the identical argument which he has come and put before the House about their paying a higher rate of interest in Trinidad so that we have to have a higher rate here to keep the money in Barbados, was put to that Minister of Finance and he refused to accept it. When the Prime Minister was in opposition, the same argument was used to him and he refused to accept it, and he comes into the House now and tells us the same old foolishness about money going to Trinidad, the same

nonsense. If money was going to Trinidad, it should have gone to Trinidad when the bank rate was 7 1/2% last year. It should have gone then: but that is the very period of which, in his own Economic Report he is telling us that bank deposits in Barbados exceeded bank lendings. He talks about this, that if a man has money at 6%, he may want to lend it out at 8% or 8 1/2%. What is this? A man who has money is not concerned with whether he is getting 10% from a fixed deposit rate or from a wey-wey game! It is just amusing childishness. The same argument that he applied about a man putting money in fixed deposits at 6% in Barbados and paying Trinidad at 8% applies right here. You could as well ask why would anybody put money on fixed deposit or put money in the Savings Bank when he could carry the money and ask a Solicitor to lend it out for him at 8%? In fact, people do that. The Prime Minister knows the word; it is liquidity preference. He knows the phrase - liquidity preference. When you put money in the Savings Bank at 3 1/2%, you can get it out when you want it; when you put money in a fixed deposit for a year at 6%, you can get it out at the end of a year. When you put money out at 8%, you may take a long time to get it back, and that is why they have different rates of interest. That is the reason why money is lent out and borrowed at different prices, because some forms of investment are safer and more liquid than others, and forms of investment which are very safe and very liquid pay and carry a low rate of interest. As to Treasury Bills in Barbados at 5% or 5 1/2% or whatever they are issued at now, you get your money back in three months, whatever the particular terms of issue are. Five and a half per cent is all the Government has to pay to borrow money on Treasury Bills. Why is that? Because at the end of three months you will get it back. They have to pay more than the bank pays, because you cannot get it back at a day's notice, but you do not have to pay as much as money loaned on land, because they would get it back at the end of three months. The Prime Minister knows perfectly well that the reason why some people choose to invest their money at 6% rather than get more is because they want to be certain that at a certain time they can get their money back. The Prime Minister knows that quite well, and it was only misleading the House to say that money is loaned to Trinidad at 8% and 8 1/4%, that a man who has money is not concerned with whether he is getting 10% from a fixed deposit rate or from a wey-wey game. That is the greatest economic nonsense that even the Prime Minister has ever talked in this House or elsewhere, and I can only assume that deep down in his heart he does not really want this Bill to be passed. He cannot find in his mouth arguments good enough to convince anybody even at rudimentary standard what interest means and what rates of interest really are.

Mr. Chairman, on the last occasion when the Prime Minister talked about this Bill, and he promised that this Bill would only be an interim Measure, and he held up to the sky a comprehensive Rate of Interest Bill which would give the Minister of Finance general powers over rates of interest at that time, he did not give a date as to when

this Bill would be repealed if we pass it now. I think he mentioned February, but he just talked about if the bank rate changed down in England. Suppose the bank rate comes down in the first trading week of the New Year! On any argument, this Bill should be repealed at once. What would be the point if the bank rate comes down from 8% - it would probably come down to something like 6 1/2%; but what would the point be of keeping this Bill in being? Where is the talk about three months or six months? This Bill really seems to become a Shibboleth of the Government. They can pronounce the word, and they want this Hon. House to pronounce it law ineffect. But the very fact that the urgency that the Prime Minister himself did not believe in, has proved not to materialise, should persuade us not to go on with it at this stage. What possible use can this Bill be other than the occasion on which the English bank rate is at a crisis rate, 7% 7 1/2% or 8%? It seems to have mattered nothing that it has been shown that the Prime Minister's talk about when the bank rate in England is 8% the other interest rates are 1/2% and more, is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I have often said in this House that we did not come in here to listen to economic lectures, but it seems that the Prime Minister has not understood, or if he has understood, he does not want the members on his side of the House to know. The bank rate in England is a penal rate. By that it is meant that bank rate is always above the commercial interest rates. That is what is meant by bank rate, because it is a penalty which commercial houses have to pay to the Bank of England when they loan out more money than they have. That is the bank's way of keeping the English discount and commercial houses in order. They are now discounting Bills of Exchange at 6 1/8%, I think. They do not raise it the full amount. What is meant by bank rate is this: 6 1/4 per cent is now the ordinary discount rate and these are importers and exporters. We are hearing a lot about 60, 30 and 90 days. Let me tell the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture this; they have it in England too. The exporters who send out here do not themselves carry the credit. When goods come here from abroad on a certain credit, the exporters do not keep cash in the bank to carry that credit to their suppliers any more than the importers here keep cash in the bank for that credit. They do not finance all their dollars out of the floating fund of cash; they have to get their 30, 60 or 90 days financed, and they get it financed by discount houses who buy their bills of exchange suitably discounted. In other words, with three months' credit, you take 1/4 of the year's percentage rate, of whatever year, they - borrow money on the security of their bills of exchange - and pay the discount rate, which, at present, with the bank rate at 8%, is 6 1/4%, and they only worry their heads about the bank rate if, for some reason or other, they have loaned out more money than is available to them, and they need to go to the bank and ask for more money.

All the while that they are borrowing money from the Bank of England, that money is being loaned in Britain on bills of exchange and other bills of security, at 6%, while they are paying bank rate at 8%,

and the bank operates this service and keeps this control for the purpose of stopping discount houses from overstretching themselves.

7.20 p.m.

Because all the time they are paying that 1 3/4 per cent to the Bank of England, they are losing 1 3/4 per cent on whatever goods they have loaned out. Therefore, there is no question of the bank rate being used as a guide to commercial rate. By definition that is what the bank rate is about.

If the Prime Minister does not understand that, he does not understand anything about economics. This is the point. When you come in here and you use the similarity of eight per cent bank rate in England and eight per cent rate of interest in Barbados, you deceive persons who are not thinking it out into believing that the two figures are in some way comparable.

Business is not done at eight per cent in England. Mortgages are not effected at eight per cent in England. The Building Society mortgage rate is at 7 1/8 per cent. It has not been even put up with the rise in the bank rate. There is no demand, Mr. Chairman, except a long standing generalized demand with banks in Barbados who find that they are dealing with a different kind of economic animal. The Barbados economy is not an economy within reach. The banks which operate here are accustomed to operating on their own basis. They have certain rules to follow. Their deposit rate is put at so much below their overdraft rate, and so on, and so on. All these things demand flexibility of the rate of interest.

This is what the banks have in mind and they continually pressurize those in power, not for ten or twenty years ago, not in the life time of the Minister of Finance or of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; that is something which has been going on in Barbados ever since the Rate of Interest Act was passed. Politicians of forty years ago, people who remember political issues of that period, will remember, when there was a boom in sugar in 1917 that all of this was going on then as well. This was during the First World War. This is a perennial thing in Barbados, that the owners of money want to be set free from a fixed rate of interest; but we are a nation of borrowers and for that reason we cannot afford a situation in which the bank rates are allowed to run fun and fancy free.

Again, I return to the original point. You will see overdrafts going up and I would put anything on it, Mr. Chairman, you will not see your deposit rates going up in the same proportion as you will see overdrafts going up.

The first argument that was pressed on the Prime Minister was that devaluation and an eight per cent bank rate by itself meant urgency. The Prime Minister thought about it. He heard what we had to say about it and he realised that it was nonsense.

Another argument has now been pressed on him. In their brand new argument - he must have got it

this afternoon - he said that since this is the Christmas season that this makes things a little worse than otherwise. Well, in that case, every year when a financial crisis has been striking sterling close to the Christmas season, the Prime Minister ought to bring one of these Bills in here to raise the bank rate. That was an afterthought.

Clever men - probably cleverer men than the Prime Minister down in the one single bank in Barbados which has lent out more than it deposits - just one, only one - the one bank which has made a valiant effort to get established here has made a lot of advances, some of them political. One bank in Barbados is in this position and it wants to have this whole argument revived again about raising the bank rate, and any excuse that comes along is used by that bank. It is regrettable that it can convince the Minister of Finance of the Government of Barbados. It is very regrettable.

Mr. Chairman, we are looking for the constructive measures. If the Prime Minister cannot at the moment see his way to the operation of a Central Bank, we are looking for the type of measures that he promised in connection with the operation of bank rates. We are not looking for an open licence to the banks to jack up their interest rate and do as they like with the people's overdrafts, with merchants' credits and with such mortgages as they control, and it is significant that the Prime Minister talked about it not affecting mortgages.

The particular bank whose advances exceed its deposits and which I understand it has falsely made a representation that it has even to borrow money at eight and one-half per cent to lend out at eight per cent, that particular bank is the chief bank that lends money on mortgages - short, medium and long term. They are now trying to make sure that all their mortgage business is transferred to a Trust company. They are now trying to do that, and this particular bank has many mortgages on its books, but not in the form of operational accounts that can be charged up, and not only in that form, Mr. Chairman. That is why this argument about more money in Trinidad and so on was being employed.

Mr. Chairman, there is a text book I remember when I first started to read economics that discussed rates of interest then, and this was a few years after Dr. Dalton had tried to bring the rates of interest in Britain down to floor level. He had tried to bring Consols, -Consolidated Government bonds - up to par, £100 Consols would sell for £100. That does not mean that the economy was in a good state; it meant that you were trying to bring the rate of interest down to nothing. He was trying to bring ordinary Treasury rates down to 2 1/2 which would have meant that a commercial rate of 1/2 per cent was operating. By the time I came to read economics, the text books that had been written, commenting on this, were remarking that the commercial rate operating in Britain was two per cent.

Barbados is in the sterling area. Money could be loaned in Barbados at six per cent. There were no

political troubles in Barbados at the time such as to distract investors and yet there was a flight of money from England to Barbados because you could only get two per cent on the commercial loans in England and you would get six per cent in Barbados. Was there any flight of money here and this state of affairs has been going on all the time?

I have had to say before that there was a time when the bank rate in the United Kingdom was 5 1/2 per cent. Were the Americans queueing up at Seawell to invest money in Barbados? These things, Mr. Chairman, are being fogged on us because the Prime Minister believes that all of us in here are like the majority of those whom he is depending on votes to pass this Bill. They are so foolish that they cannot understand economic arguments. He feels that he needs not bring any argument, and he feels that he has the majority who would not only pass this Bill but would say these things and repeat his arguments as if they understood them, believed them and accepted them.

I would say this, I was looking at one or two Cabinet Ministers whom I have heard comment on this Bill for Party loyalty. Instead, I find acceptance and it disappointed me. They actually believed that we are not supporting this Bill as a matter of Party loyalty principle; they were supporting it as a matter of economic ignorance which, as the Prime Minister said, took twenty pages of the *Official Gazette* of 1958 to report him.

Now, this business of \$500,000 monthly leaving Barbados even before the devaluation - well, a figure like that you have infected into the debate. It is like red lights; it is like the Brazilian cable of 1946 to Barbados. It is like the Post Office - Saving Bank scare in Barbados in 1961 and in England in 1931. It is one thing that certain political parties have a keen eye for. It is all disreputable political racket that has disfigured elections in other countries, and coming and talking about \$500,000 a month is leaving Barbados! What is that \$500,000 a month, Mr. Chairman? I have been searching here for figures of invisible exports; they are not published in the Economic Survey, but let us consider. There is a Hilton Hotel, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Callaghan wants some money. There are other hotels on the West Coast owned by North Americans. They want some money. There are investments in Barbados. All that is money that leaves Barbados. Barbadians invest abroad as well. There is \$75 million in Barbadian money invested abroad according to Mr. Douglas Lynch, who, I believe, does have some access to these types of statistics.

7.30 p.m.

The Government has to repay loans. Where has this \$500,000 a month suddenly just arrived from? In any case, as the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the learned members on my right, pointed out, if there was a flight from Barbados in connection with the impending devaluation, it has absolutely nothing to do with the bank rate, because that is not any transference looking for a better interest rate;

that is a transference looking for a safer place, and the Prime Minister knows this too. When the flight from London was on in late October and the beginning of November, rates of interest in London were extremely high. Money was running from London to places where it was getting half the interest it was earning in London. Interest is not all. There was a flight from sterling. That was what it was. People were trying to get out of pounds, irrespective of any question of rates of interest, and get into dollars or, in fact, get into even harder currencies like the Swiss franc and the German mark. That is what the \$500,000 could have been about, or part of it, in addition to ordinary remittances. They are not interested in Bank rates and interest. When you believe that your money is going to be devalued 14%, you are not fiddling around with any one per cent, one and a half per cent or two per cent in interest rates which in any case only materialise over a year. If you are gambling that in three weeks' time you are going to get a 15% capital increment, you are not going to waste time thinking that in the meantime the money is only 4 1/2 per cent instead of 6 1/2 per cent, and that is only trying to pull the economic wool over the eyes of the economic children when the Prime Minister drags that into a debate.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that in many ways he may feel he does not get the help or understanding in his Cabinet that he would like to expect. That is his worry and his 'dead', but he should have some respect for hon. members of this House and not bring in a lot of irrelevant, nonsensical arguments that if there happens to be any visiting economist listening to this debate, he would have to say that if he is as good a pilot as he is an economist, he had better increase the insurance rates all around. The Prime Minister is a man of many parts: a musician, pilot, band conductor, horseman. I look forward to the day when he tells us how to race horses around the garrison, and what is more, the Minister of Agriculture is going to sit down next to him and treat his words as being words of wisdom. That is all I can say even in these circumstances.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I should like to draw your attention to the irrelevancies being raised by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, and according to Standing Order No. 32, I beg to move that the question be now put.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is the first attempt at the closure of debate. I have not been in Parliament long, but I have to tell the Minister of Agriculture that he is a political tyro.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion we have had a lot of latitude on this Bill. From the Prime Minister back down has been allowed too much latitude, and I now have the right to put the question according to Standing Order No. 32.

The question is that Clause 2 stand part.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, with great respect I am on my feet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am at the stage putting the question according to Standing Order No. 32 which says:

"After a question has been proposed, a Member rising in his place may claim to move 'That the question be now put'; and, unless it appears to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the Rules of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question 'That the question be now put' shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover has had no opportunity to make his reply.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:-

AYES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. LOWE; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. WEEKES and Mr. HOPPIN - 10.

NOES: Mr. LYNCH; Mr. HINDS.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, let us have a little respect for parliamentary procedure. When even in your experience have you seen a motion put when a member was rising on a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the point of order which the member is now making was called since a division has been called, I would hear him; but I am of the opinion that that point of order did not take place when the division was called for. Let the Clerk record the vote.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Following what Mr. Speaker has done wrongly, a point has arisen that if a division is called, before the voices are taken, any member may rise on a point of order. I have nothing more to say on the Bill; so I will record my vote; but I do not like you to make a joke of this House, and you are the biggest joke in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are no jokes in here at this particular moment.

NOES: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. SMITH - 5.

On motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

7.40 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be now read the third time.

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

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon'bles E. W. BARROW C. E. TALMA, A. DaC. EDWARDS, G. G. FERGUSON N. W. BOXILL, Messrs. SPRINGER, LOWE, CORBIN, WEEKES and HOPPIN - 11.

NOES: Messrs. LYNCH, HINDS, J. M. G. M. ADAMS, St. JOHN and SMITH - 5.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare that the "Ayes" have it, and this Bill is duly passed.

Now the next Order of the Day is Order No.3.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the next Order of the Day under Government Business will be a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921, to make provision for the taxation of unit trusts and so on.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. and Learned Prime Minister is asking that Item No. 4 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that the only remaining Order was Order No. 4. I am sorry, Sir. The remaining Orders are Nos. 3, 4 and 7. In any event, what I have risen in my place to say is that I do not intend to proceed with Orders Nos. 3 and 4 at today's sitting. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is not proceeding with Order No. 9 at today's sitting, and therefore the only outstanding Orders will be Orders Nos. 7 and 8. We understand that some members on the other side would like to get away.

Mr. St. JOHN: You mean, members on your side. That is a false statement.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: My information was incorrect. Some hon. members feel that they have been sitting long enough, and I would like to accommodate them. I am merely indicating the Orders that I am not prepared to go on with today; Orders Nos. 3, 4 and 9. I beg to move that Order No. 7 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. and Learned Prime Minister is seeking to proceed with Order No. 7 as the next Order of the Day. If there is no objection the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister may proceed. I hear no objection and, therefore, the Hon. and Learned Minister may proceed.

7.50 p.m.

RESOLUTION re "CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.11) ORDER 1967"

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Order arises from the regrading of the post of Magistrate from x3 -x1 (\$5,580 - 9,000) to X.2 - 1 (\$6,300 - 9,000). This is because of the difficulty which is being experienced in recruiting and retaining personnel in the Magisterial service at the existing salary attached to the post of Magistrate - (\$5,580 - 9,000). What we are doing is leaving the maximum where it is, but shortening the scale from - I think there were something like 13 increments; but there was a very long scale, and there were a lot of complaints about the length of this scale by judicial officers, and therefore the scale is being shortened so that the minimum salary is \$6,300 and the maximum remains where it is

As to the Crown Law Officers, the post of Assistant Crown Counsel is being regraded from G. 6A (\$4,320) to G. 6A: G. 5-4 (\$4,320 - 4,680; 4,860 - 5,940). The post of Assistant Crown Counsel (\$4,320 - 4,680) was recently created to replace the post of Cadet/Administrative Assistant (\$4,320 - 4,680; 4,860 - 5,940) formerly assigned to the Legal Department, and it is now proposed to restore the parity with the post which existed before.

The third part of the Order is in relation to the upgrading of the post of Steward of the Prisons from \$2,880 - 3,960 to \$2,880 - 4,680, and to upgrade the post of Chief Matron from \$3,420 - 3,780 to \$3,960 - seek to correct two anomalies arising out of the 1966 Salaries Revision. It is proposed to restore the pre-revision relationship between the post of Steward and Chief Officer and between the present holder of the post of Chief Matron and the post of First Class Officer. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, while we on this side of the House recognize the difficulty that has been experienced in Barbados in attracting Magistrates at the Salary Scale with its long grade service, what has happened now is that, as a result of the juggling with the number of points in the scale, and by reducing the scale with respect to Magistrates, you are creating another anomaly. The other anomaly is that you have your Crown Counsel and your Deputy Registrar to the same grade, all requiring basically the same qualifications; but the people who drafted the Order did not realise that if you do not change the salary scale with respect to these officers who were on a par with the Magistrates, you will not be creating a shortage in the Attorney General's Office, in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and in the office of the Registrar. What will happen now is that these officers will apply for transfers over to the Magisterial Service. That is exactly what is going to happen. The people who have been Crown Counsel in the past are now going to apply to go over to the Magisterial Service and therefore your shortage will be

there. As a result of this Order, you may alleviate the position with respect to the Magistrates, but comparable officers in the Attorney General's Office and in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, - these Crown Counsel will still have the same long scale; they will still have to start at the bottom and go right up, and they will want to become Magistrates. Therefore you will have that difficulty.

I cannot understand how the Attorney General and the Cabinet approved this when their own Legal Officers, people who were acting as Magistrates before, who moved from the Magisterial Service into the Attorney General's Department as Crown Counsel, will be worse off than when they were in the job they have left purely because this Order only applies to Magistrates in the Judiciary. What about the Deputy Registrars? What is going to happen with them? They have to go through the whole long scale. Another anomaly will be created because the people who are responsible for this Order do not seem to understand fully the implications, that if you have (*ASIDES*)... I am talking about the post of Crown Counsel, the Officers who are on a par with the Magistrates. If you look at the back of the Estimates you will see that Magistrates, Crown Counsel and Deputy Registrars were all on one grade, and when it was proposed to shorten the scales for the Magistrates, everybody understood that they were going to be a generalised shortening of the scale so that you would not seek to create an anomaly. You would find it in the Estimates. If you look at Appendix B in the Estimates 1967-68 at page 5 you will see from X.3 - X.1 that Magistrate, Crown Counsel and Deputy Registrar, the same type of people are attracted to the same office. What they have done is that they have created a differential there, so that all the Deputy Registrars will want to become Magistrates and your Crown Counsel will want to go over. It is realised that the Director of Public Prosecutions' Office and the Attorney General's Office seek to attract to the posts those who have talent. Mark my words; you will get protests and dissatisfaction. There will be a wave of applications from the Office of Crown Counsel to go over to the Magisterial Service.

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

8.00 p.m.

WIDOWS AND CHILDREN PENSION BILL, 1967

Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is a very short Bill, Sir, which affects some families of Local Government Officers and it is Order No. 8 on the Order Paper. I am asking leave that Order No. 8 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Automatically, it is the next Order of the Day and it is in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister. It is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Widows and Children Pension Act, 1963.

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Bill affects the dependents of Local Government officers who on the 1st day of April, 1966, became employed in the Public Service and liable to make contributions under the Widows and Children Pension Act of 1964-5. Contributions have already been deducted from their salaries.

But these officers have elected not to come under the provisions of the Pensions Act of 1947 by virtue of Section 93 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1966-5 and they are not therefore entitled - let us say, their dependents are not entitled - to such pensions by virtue of the operation of Section 6 of the Widows and Children Pension Act of 1963.

There are two fairly short sections to the Act. The first one is the citation and the second section makes provision that if any person to whom this Act applies by virtue of Section 3 (1) B, if under Section 9 (3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1966, elected not to come under the Pension Act of 1947, then, in the case of any such person, references in this Act to the Pension Act or to the Pension Regulations, shall be construed as references to the enactment in relation to any pension, gratuity, or allowance which may be granted to or in respect of such pension applicable to such persons immediately before the 1st April, 1966, and references to the particular provision of the Pensions Act or the Pensions Regulations shall be construed as references to the corresponding provisions of such enactments.

Although this is a long section, it is a comparatively simple one. According to Section 2 (1B) of the Widows and Children Act, 1963, although these officers have elected not to come under the pension Act of 1947, by the 1963 Act they will still be required to pay contributions to the Pension Scheme, yet according to that Act they still do not become eligible for pension; so this Act is in truth and fact differing from that as far as these officers are concerned. They are quite a few of them.

We are amending the 1963 Act to make it possible to pay pensions to the widows and the dependent children surviving any such officers. It is simple and straightforward, and this merely corrects an anomaly which existed as a result of the taking over of Local Government in 1966. I therefore beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

SEASON GREETINGS

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, that closes Government Business for the day.

Before I formally move the adjournment of the House, I think it is customary at this time of the year for the person responsible for Government Business to lead off a round of congratulatory and felicitious remarks to Your Honour and the members of the staff who have served us so well during the past twelve months.
8.10 p.m.

We have had our differences. When I say "we", I do not mean that I have engaged in any personal attacks either on the Chair, and, I hope, not on the members of the Staff of this Chamber, but there have been differences over matters of procedure across the floor of the House, over the heads of the Officers of the House, through the minds of the Officers, never, hope, over the head of Your Honour or the Deputy Speaker or the Chairman of Committees. Everything has been noted, and we have managed to keep the ship on even keel although we have been through some very stormy waters.

I do not want to introduce anything acrimonious. I think I am entitled to be heard even on an occasion like this without unnecessary interruption from either side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

There is a lot that one could say on a different occasion. We have our opinions on certain matters, but there is one characteristic of all democratic Christian communities such as ours, and it is that at one particular time of the year we do manage to see some saving graces even in those persons whom we may not only not entertain within our concepts of friendship, but even whom we may actually dislike. Such a stricture, of course, could never apply to Your Honour or any of the Officers of this House, because you and they have all been trying to do a job under the most trying circumstances the Legislature has ever perhaps encountered; and it is in that spirit and in appreciation of the long and arduous hours which have been put in in this Chamber in the conducting of people's business, that I have very great pleasure on behalf of the members of the Government in offering the compliments of the Season to Your Honour and to the members of the Staff of the Chamber.

I hope that at a suitable time before the Season is passed, the members will have the opportunity for some conviviality either at Your Honour's expense or at the expense of the Staff or both. We are not often the recipients of the benefaction of members of this community, and I think the members here assembled will all appreciate if somebody remembered us at

Christmas time and entertained us 'for a change', and we are looking forward for such an invitation either from Your Honour or from the members of the Staff or from both jointly or separately. Having thrown out that invitation to be invited, I think I can do nothing better than to assure Your Honour of the utmost co-operation from our side of the House in the coming year, and of strict observance of the Rules and procedures by which our deliberations are ordained, and we hope that we will have a much happier time both inside and outside of the Chamber in the year 1968.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th January, 1968, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted we on this side of the House would like to extend to Your Honour and to the Staff of this House all that is customary at this time of the year. We do so sincerely. We even would like to extend the same thing to the other side. I notice that was a significant omission by the last speaker, but we on this side are accustomed to that. As next year, I understand, is a Leap Year, I do not know whether between now and then there may be any change in the status of any of us, but in case that should occur, we on this side of the House would be extremely happy, and we look forward next year to Your Honour and the other members of the Staff coming here with renewed energy and renewed stimulus to preside over our proceedings and to see that the Rules are carried out by all and sundry.

I beg to second the motion for the adjournment.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I must rise, Sir, to congratulate you for the splendid way in which you have conducted the meetings of this House over the last twelve months, and now that we are coming to a very joyous time of the year where each and every one of us will be expected to make full use of something or another in a liquid form, whether it be alcoholic or otherwise, I congratulate you beforehand, and as my colleague has referred to next year being a Leap Year, I am quite willing and I am offering my services to be named godfather for anything that concerns you during the year. I am wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and I am going to do something for the Government that they have not done for us, because the Hon. Prime Minister did not mention anything about the Opposition by wishing us at least the compliments of the Season. I am going to wish them all that is good, and I am thanking them ever so much for granting me my request through which we can become happy citizens on Lammings Land. On behalf of the people of St. Joseph, I thank the Government for what they have done with respect to the purchase of Lammings and giving us a small City in the North. As soon as Coggins Bridge has been erected, I will myself carry down the champagne and burst a few bottles on that bridge. (Cheers)

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation, it is not customary and I would not like members on the opposite side to think that I do not wish them too a merry Christmas, and I was making a motion on behalf of the House towards the Staff and

yourself; but I should like to assure both hon. members on the other side who have spoken that such felicitations extend to them equally as to the members of the Staff and to Your Honour.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this section of the Opposition, I would very much like to felicitate you and to wish you the compliments of the Season. I would also regard it as a pleasure and a duty to extend the same compliments to the hard-working Staff of this House. You can be assured, Mr. Speaker, that any attacks upon you from this quarter of the House would be only on your hospitality. 8.20 p.m.

On behalf of my colleague, who is not in his place, and myself, I would like to extend the compliments of the season to all members of this House, and we do hope, Sir, that you will return like a giant refreshed with wine to preside over our deliberations when we return in the New Year.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I could not go home tonight without congratulating you for the patience you have endured in this House of Assembly for the last year. I thank you for your hospitality, your aspiration and your generosity. I must say that at certain times your passion may have been strained, but you would not allow it to break the bonds of our affection. You try to stand in this House as a father who has children. I know how much trials you have had from time to time. We have come to the end of this year; we have to depart from one another for a few weeks. I trust, Sir, that you will enjoy your stay, and I also trust

that the peace of God which passeth all understanding will keep your heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am more than grateful to hon. members and almost overwhelmed by their kind wishes. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister, and the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, that very senior member of the Opposition, who has already completed 21 years' service as a member of this House, and the hon. junior member for Bridgetown. I shall convey to the staff the good Christmas wishes and wishes for the New Year which have been expressed and, on their behalf, I thank hon. members who have expressed those good wishes.

In view of what has been said tonight, and in view of the general manner in which we got on today, at least when I was in here, it makes me wish that Christmas would come more often - the spirit which has in the main prevailed today.

Again I thank hon. members. But, before I adjourn the meeting, I want to discharge, with my thanks, the members of the Select Committee who were appointed to consider and report on the Bill to revise the statute law of the Island by repealing obsolete, spent, unnecessary or superseded enactments. I thank those hon. members for their services on that Committee, and I now formally discharge them.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th January, 1968, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.25 p.m.