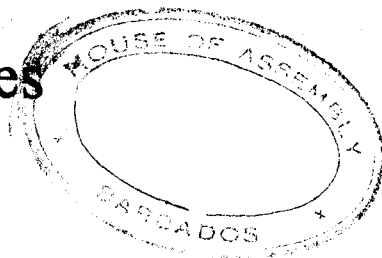


THE

House of Assembly Debates



(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th July, 1967

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

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that there are yet no Minutes for confirmation, and this is in no way due to the present staffing of this Chamber as is instantly constituted.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$19,800 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 4 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$4,129 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 5 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next Sitting to deal with these two Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Joseph. His Question re beach land.

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

1. Is it the intention of the Government to acquire beach land at various sites in all the parishes where sites are available, for the purpose of building resort houses for the workers?

2. If the answer is "Yes", can the Minister take immediate action to buy land and erect such houses?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member. His question re a Loan Board.

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

1. Will the Minister consider the advisability of establishing a small Industries Loan Board, for the purpose of assisting small manufacturers with small loans especially artisans, cabinet makers, upholsterers etc.?

2. If the answer is "Yes", can the Minister take immediate steps to implement the scheme?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member. His question re a bridge at Coggin's.

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

1. Is Government aware of the hardship caused to the people of St. Andrew by the long delay in reconstructing the bridge at Coggin's, St. Andrew? Is Government further aware that this bridge was out of use since late last year?

2. If the answer is "yes", would Government expedite the reconstruction of this bridge in an effort to alleviate the hardship caused to the people in the area.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member. His question re telephones in outlying parishes.

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

1. Has the Government's attention been drawn to the great necessity of having telephones available in the outlying districts or parishes?
2. Is Government aware that a notice is posted on the Highways and Transport Office at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, forbidding the use of the telephone, while private persons are often making their telephones available to their neighbours and general public?
3. If the answer to question 2 is in the affirmative, will Government cause such notice to be taken down, and to permit persons to make necessary telephone calls?

NOTICES

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, I declare those seven Standing Orders duly suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.
12.25 p.m.

RESOLUTION *re* CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CANADA

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with the business of the day's sitting, I would like to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS the citizens of Canada have celebrated on July 1st, 1967, the centennial anniversary of the Union of their country; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Barbados and Canada have long been bound by the strongest ties of friendship and co-operation to their mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS the people of both countries cherish and maintain the principles of free Parliamentary Institutions;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House warmly congratulates Mr. Speaker and other Members of the House of Commons of Canada on this significant event and sends through them its best wishes for the continued prosperity of the people of Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker be requested to convey the text of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the people of the whole Commonwealth and other countries have rejoiced with the people of Canada on the occasion of their Centennial anniversary. Here, in Barbados, where the warmest ties of friendship and affection are held between the Canadians and the citizens of our country, there has been no less rejoicing even if somewhat subdued. I think it is very fitting on this occasion that this House should, in some measure, pay tribute to the people of Canada by way of congratulation on this important landmark in their history and to send to them on this occasion our very best wishes for their continual advancement.

The ties of friendship between this country and Canada are long standing and they have been very valuable on both sides. There has been the utmost co-operation of more than a century between us particularly in the matter of trade between this country and Canada as well as between Canada and other parts of the Caribbean. Perhaps, more important than trade has been the co-operation which has been forged between individuals and institutions; and in recent years the people of the West Indies, Barbados included, have had very much to thank the Canadian Government and its people for. There has been massive assistance in exportation, in the training of various personnel, in scholarships awarded to Barbadians in many fields as well as hard, solid cash donated by the Government of Canada to various projects in this island and in other parts of the region. The hon. member, who, I believe, will second the motion for the passing of this Resolution, will have his own examples to draw from all the co-operation which has existed between the Government and the people of Canada and this region, Barbados included. More especially in recent years there has been the warmest advantage heaped upon this country certainly by the opportunities which have been opened up in Canada for workers, particularly domestics, from this country and the advantages reaped in many homes by this emigration, not to speak of the advantages for self-advancement which those young men and women leaving this country to seek their fortunes in a bigger country afieid.

Apart from all this, the Canadian people have, by their own example and exertion, shown to the world that great and powerful countries which are economically viable are, in a large measure, the best friends of poor and undeveloped countries. The reputation and prestige which the Government and the people of Canada enjoy in the outside world are deservedly high, and no appeal for help or co-operation from other parts of the world have gone unheard or unheard in the Government Service. They have lavished their wealth, devotion and co-operation in all international endeavours in many countries and millions of people have much cause to thank the Government and people of Canada in recent years. Inside their own countries they have maintained with some distress from time to time, their institutions, their parliamentary system, like ours, is well established

and they have managed to weld together several countries into a single nation which has lasted for 100 years, and whatever their problems, and there are many, they have shown to the world that the basic unity among them and the Caribbean, between the separate countries and Canada is something which exemplifies their basic unity. Sir, for all of these reasons, we warmly congratulate the citizens of this great Commonwealth country on this very historic phase in their lives, and wish them good fortune and prosperity in the centuries to come. Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in moving the passing of this Resolution.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I regret that it was only after I took my seat that I realised that this Resolution would be passed, otherwise, I would have drawn from my memory the outstanding events which have taken place between Canada and the former Government of this Island and the Federation of the West Indies. I think very highly of Canada and I make no secret about expressing my views about our duty to look to Canada as a foster-mother as regards the ties, commercially, at any rate, which have existed between us for a long time, and which still exist. There are some advocates of West Indian unity who advocate and try to persuade the Canadian people to accept us as a new political unity with the West Indies, but the Canadians on the whole felt that they had enough headaches already without adding the problems of the West Indies to their headaches. 12.35 p.m.

I have very fond memories of my contact with the Canadian Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Diefenbaker, whom I admire very greatly and of whom I have had many contacts, including the contact when he visited here on holiday not so long ago. I have also had contacts with the Canadian Government when we were discussing aid to the West Indies. At that time Mr. Diefenbaker was the Prime Minister and I had the opportunity of an interview with him. That was the time when Canada gave us \$10 million for the Federal Ship.

Sir, all my experiences have been pleasant with Canada. I have always on my travels to London used to go through Montreal because of the closeness which Canada has for the West Indies and I have always travelled by Trans-Canada Airlines. That is by the way. I cannot stress too highly my personal regards for Canada and I do repeat that they feel, so far as I myself have seen, that the future aims of the West Indies should be closer ties with Canada than anybody else.

To one of the staff of a Canadian overseas newspaper - I believe the Toronto Staff - in his representation of Barbados, he thought that I was a Canadian. I always feel that our future lies with the closest possible contacts with Canada. The Hon. Leader of the House would receive more benefits if his contacts towards Canada and the West Indies were more.

I repeat, it will be of great benefit to us if our contacts with Canada and the West Indies were more

and it is my only hope that these ties between the West Indies and Canada will continue and it is not too late that we have taken steps to see that we continue what I feel is in our best interest by aligning ourselves with Canada rather than anybody else. If there had been delay in taking steps to strengthen those ties, it is not too late to retrace our steps.

I think it is unfortunate that I have to state that in such a serious thing as the recent local celebrations by Canada, Barbados got let down by not including members of the Opposition. I do not know if the way in which the Government treated the Opposition is becoming epidemic, but I know it was an incident which the Canadian High Commissioner would deeply deprecate. However, I think that it is honest to mention that without that blemish, we of the Opposition are more willing than the Government to acknowledge the greatness of Canada.

It needs repeating, speaking on behalf of members on this side and I, how glad I am indeed of seeing Canada go on from strength to strength.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I preface my remark with remarks made by both the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in supporting this Resolution.

Hon. members who are in favour will please say "Aye" and hon. members who are not in favour will please say "No". Methinks the "Ayes" have it and I declare this Resolution to have been carried unanimously.

In connection with the last paragraph of the Resolution that Mr. SPEAKER be requested to convey the text of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, I as chief servant of this House am willing to do all that I can personally and otherwise that the House is of the unanimous opinion that I should do.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

FINAL APPROPRIATION (1966-67) BILL, 1967

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 be taken as the first Order of the day.

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

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

12.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 is the instant order of the day and it stands in the name of the hon. and learned Prime Minister.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave of the House to take charge of this Order. If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted to the Hon. Leader of the House to move the second reading of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ended 31st March, 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think hon. members will see that this Bill is in its customary form. It has to do with the supplementary appropriations for the last financial year which according to law have to be consolidated into a supplementary Appropriation Bill. This Bill is therefore the final Appropriation Bill in respect of that financial year which ended on 31st March, 1967. The Schedule gives all the information of the supplementary Resolutions which have already passed this House in the last few weeks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Preamble be postponed.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

The Preamble was called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me the passing in Committee of one Bill.

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly I declare this Bill duly to be passed and be cited as the final Appropriation Bill, 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

12.55 p.m.

BARBADOS CITIZENSHIP BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the Day is now Order No. 1 under Government Business, and it stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister:- To move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the acquisition, deprivation and renunciation of citizenship of Barbados and for purposes incidental to or connected therewith.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted. (*After a pause*). There being no objection, leave is granted and the Hon. Leader of the House may proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I do hope that by now all hon. members have had a good opportunity to study the provisions of this most important Bill. It arises, as you know, Sir, out of the provisions of the Constitution of this country. Chapter 2 of the Constitution of Barbados, as hon. members are well aware, is the Chapter which deals with citizenship,

the terms and conditions upon which persons in Barbados are or can become citizens of Barbados, persons who were born in, and who became citizens of Barbados, on the 30th November 1966, persons entitled to be registered as citizens and persons born in Barbados after the 29th November 1966. The conditions covering all such categories of persons are laid down in certain sections of the Constitution as well as persons who were born outside of Barbados after 29th November, 1966. However, Sir, it is this section 9 of the Constitution of Barbados which specifically empowers Parliament to make provision for the acquisition of citizenship of Barbados by persons who do not become citizens by virtue of the provisions of Chapter 2 of the Constitution; and, of course, there is also provision made for depriving of citizenship of Barbados any person who is a citizen of Barbados otherwise than by virtue of sub-section 1 or sub-section 2 of section 2 or section 4 or section 5.

Since it devolves on Parliament to make specific provisions covering this very wide and important area, this Bill makes provision and sets out the terms and conditions upon which citizenship can be gained or under which it can be deprived or set aside. The Bill makes provision for the acquisition, deprivation and renunciation of citizenship of Barbados. The first part of the Bill deals with preliminary matters such as the interpretation of various expressions, and, of course, the application of existing laws in relation to the citizens of the republic of Ireland, which is not a Commonwealth country, as hon. members know.

Part 2 of the Bill deals with the acquisition of citizenship and provides in Clause 4 for the registration as citizens of Barbados of persons who are citizens of the Republic of Ireland or of any of the countries mentioned in the First Schedule, and people who have been ordinary residents in Barbados or have been in the service of the Government of Barbados and so on. The details of registration are set out. It would be at the discretion of the Minister except in certain cases of certain persons who are entitled to register under Sections 3 and 6 of the Constitution. Provision is also made in the second part of the Bill for a person to be registered as a citizen of Barbados of the minor child of any citizen of Barbados and for the acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation of aliens and British protected persons who satisfy the responsible Minister that they are qualified for naturalisation under the provisions of the Second Schedule as laid down.

Part three of the Bill deals with the loss of citizenship, whether by deprivation or renunciation. In the case of renunciation, that is covered by a certain provision in section 7 of the Constitution and deprivation, as hon. members will see, is covered by the order of the Minister. Clause 9 of the Constitution sets out the grounds on which people who become citizens by virtue of Section 2 (3) of the Constitution or by registration or by naturalisation may be deprived of citizenship. There is quite a lot of detail about the rights of persons to be observed before deprivation Orders are made and certain safeguards

are written which hon. members will have studied very carefully.

Clause 10 also empowers the Minister to deprive of his citizenship of Barbados any person who is a citizen by naturalisation, and is also a citizen of a Commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland under certain conditions. This is probably one of the most important bits of legislation which this House will have to consider for some time and I know that hon. members will give the minutest and most scrupulous attention to these provisions. Since this Bill has been introduced, there are some amendments which the Government would like to put in at the appropriate time, and it is also possible that members on the other side may wish to draw to our attention certain things on which clarification or elucidation might probably be made, so that I think it would be appropriate for me to say no more at this stage, but to await the appropriate occasion for the introduction of our own amendments and the further passage of this Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, we, on this side, appreciate the necessity of this bit of legislation and we have given very careful scrutiny to the suggested proposals. There are a number of matters which we feel should be incorporated in the Bill and there are a number of provisions in the Bill which appear to us, on examination, to be in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution, and we would like to draw them to the attention of the Hon. Minister at the appropriate time. In part 2 of this Bill which seeks to deal with the registration of a class of person who is constitutionally entitled to register as a citizen, I mean those Commonwealth citizens who were residents in Barbados immediately preceding the 30th November, the appointed day. In all Constitutions special provision is made to ensure that they have what is known as constitutional entitlement to registration and in the Constitution of Barbados it makes that provision. 1.05 p.m.

Under the Constitution of Barbados, it makes such provision that the Minister may refuse to register as a citizen of Barbados any person who is entitled to be registered as a citizen of Barbados or applies to be registered as a citizen of Barbados if he considers that it would not be in the interest of National Security and subject to such regulations as may be prescribed in the interest of public policy.

We are unhappy about the persecution which is taking place, under sub-section 3, of Section 4. We feel that just as in the deprivation sections the Minister instituted to hear complaints has to set out the circumstances under which he deprived a person of his rights of citizenship, we feel that a similar provision should be incorporated to deal with those people who were constitutionally entitled to be registered and that the matter should not be left to the whims and caprices of the Minister.

We do not agree that by Section 12, decision of the Minister cannot be questioned. There is a number of other details which we feel would better be dealt with in Select Committee appointed on the clear understanding that this is a matter of urgency and should be dealt with as quickly as possible.

There is also another class of people about whose position I would like the Hon. Minister to inform the House of today because that particular practice in other Commonwealth Countries, is to have a class of people who are not citizens but people who have permanent resident status. This is something which has been dealt with to a large extent in Canada.

This Bill does not now deal with that; as I understand it, if they lived here for a particular period of time. They are deemed to be natives of Barbados and they cannot be deported. The Trinidad Government has a Bill to deal with all of these people in one comprehensive body of regulations. Perhaps, it might be the policy of this Government to deal with these people by allowing these people to await the comprehensive regulations consequently to be introduced, but I would draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that notice has been taken by another state to that body of uncertain status who happen to be residing in the country. It is to clear up and clarify any uncertainty with respect to this body resident in the country for a number of years but have not been successful in making application but who know their status is of permanent residence.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that in this House it is an appropriate place to deal with the necessary amendments which we want to put forward to sections four, five, eight and twelve.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, we are very glad that the amendments to the Constitution of the people who would qualify for acquisition, deprivation and renunciation of citizenship of Barbados were largely agreed to between the Government and the Opposition at the London Conference. However, there are certain aspects of this question which have been dealt with in other countries, Canada and other Commonwealth Caribbean territories.

There are parts of the Barbados Constitution law which were strongly opposed but I am glad to say that some of them dealing with this matter have found themselves in this Bill to a large extent with many of the views expressed by the Opposition. For example, there are applications of many persons for citizenship which we saw no reason why they should be abrogated. We are glad that people in other countries who have applied for citizenship will be able to do so without let or hindrance.

There are one or two points of discrimination which the London Conferences viewed with suspicion and which Commonwealth citizens have to do in part. We find it amusing that the Government agreed to a slightly shorter period and the Government which was arguing for a period of seven years is prepared to accept a provision for a period of five years. I say,

Mr. Speaker, we find it amusing and it has been somewhat already recognised by the Government of other territories. I am in agreement with the hon. senior member for Christ Church in deploring the provisions in one or two of the Clauses of this Bill.
1.15 p.m.

Speaking for myself, I certainly find section 4, subsection (3) to be unconstitutional in so far as it purports to apply to Commonwealth citizens who have been resident in Barbados for seven years. I would support most warmly the suggestion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, but I think it my duty at this stage to say that I hope we will never see another Bill which places the Ministers' consideration - as section 4 subsection 3 does as being one of the matters which the constitution says must be prescribed by positive law. In London we fought to make it clear that any Commonwealth citizen who has been resident in Barbados for seven years is constitutionally entitled to be registered as a citizen of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I have some hope that we will have, those of us who are interested, an extended opportunity of analysing the provisions of this Bill. Therefore we do not at this stage intend to go into the details but when the Schedule comes to be discussed, I hope that the Government will consider very seriously whether it is satisfied that the Emigration Act which is substantially amended by this Act - because the whole concept of a native of Barbados will go altogether if this Bill is passed. I hope the Government will consider whether there are enough persons who understand how to construe an Act of Parliament and that a sufficient amount of legal advice is being given to the Emigration officers who at present administer the Emigration Act.

We in the Opposition hope very much that the whole resource of the Ministry of Home Affairs will be available to the Police Emigration Department to assist them in those difficult cases where they do not always understand how to apply the law where mistakes are made, where persons who may be entitled to reside here are harrassed by the Emigration Officials and are afraid to leave the Island because they do not know what their position will be when they return and also find themselves in many cases worried about taking jobs, because they think that they may be required to apply for a work permit first.

Mr. Speaker, they are my comments on the Bill at this stage and its passage through this House.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: I beg to move that this matter be referred to a Select Committee.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a suggestion to amend the motion by adding that the Other Place be asked for a joint sitting of both Chambers because this is a very important matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, but in any event, I would like even if there is to be such a motion, to put the motion of the Hon. and Learned member for Christ Church that this Bill be now referred to a Select Committee.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: This Bill will now be referred to a Select Committee, and to serve thereon I invite the following hon. members:-

The Hon. Leader of the House, the Hon. and Learned member for St. Philip, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the Hon. and Learned senior member for Christ Church, the Hon. and Learned member for St. Thomas, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

I am willing to be associated with the hon. members whom I have just named and each of whom, may I assume, is willing to serve. I accordingly declare that those hon. members along with myself constitute the Select Committee.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the very interesting suggestion made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition - I do not of course know what Your Honour's ruling was, - but surely there will be no objection to the Select Committee co-opting any person whether or not a member of the Other Chamber to assist in its labours, but I do not know if the Other Place could take part as such because the Bill is not yet before them. If there is any way where they can assist hon. members, I do not think there will be any difficulty.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would not like to have to rule off-hand as to whether we can appoint as members of a Select Committee of this House hon. members of another place, particularly of a place which has a higher jurisdiction but surely, we might, as a Select Committee, notify the Learned Attorney General and members of that legal Department, who are not members of this Chamber, to be associated with our Committee in its deliberations.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if I am in order, would it be *infra dig* for us to invite the Attorney General if the Other Place could invite us if they would like us to join them in a Select Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Leader of the House had not stated that this Bill was not yet before the Other Place, I would suggest that we pass a Resolution inviting the members of the Other Place to be associated with us in our labours, but the Bill is not before them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, a Bill can only get before the Other Place when we pass it here in all of its stages. We have decided to send this Bill to a Select Committee of

certain hon. members of this House; therefore, there is no way in which the Other Place could be seized of the Bill until we have finished with it. I was wondering whether there was some informal way in which the Committee of this House might co-opt persons who are not members of this House, to join in the deliberations of the Committee. Provided that our rules do not exclude that, I think that is the way to get around the position so as to co-opt whoever we like when the Committee meets.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we cannot co-opt these members. We can follow the usual practice. It is absurd to say that this Bill cannot come before members of the Other Place until we deal with it. The practice is here in "May's Parliamentary Practice", page 659, in my Edition, which is the fifteenth Edition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I had in mind Standing Order 56 (1) which reads as follows:-

"A Select Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records and shall have leave to report its opinion and observations, together with the Minutes of evidence taken before it, to the House."

If the Select Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records, surely it has the power to invite the aid of the Crown Law Officers in any of its deliberations.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, in the 16th Edition of May's Parliamentary Practice" under the heading "Appointment of Joint Committees", this is what is stated:-

"Joint Committees composed of an equal number of members of each House are appointed from time to time at the instance of one House or the other.

A joint committee may be appointed to consider a particular matter or bill, or to consider a number of bills, or to consider all matters of a particular class arising during the course of the session or such of them as are referred to the committee by either House. The proposal for the appointment of a joint committee on a matter, or a standing joint committee may originate with either House, but a proposal for the committal of a bill to a joint committee can regularly originate only with the House in which the bill is pending.

If either House considers it expedient that a joint committee should be appointed to consider some matter, or that a Bill should be committed to a joint committee, it passes a resolution to that effect, and sends a message to the other House to inform it of the resolution and to desire its concurrence. If the other House concurs in the resolution, it sends a message to that effect to the first House which then appoints a committee informing it that it has done so, and requesting the other House to appoint an equal number of its members to join with this request, and sends a message to the first House to inform it that it has done so."

Mr. SPEAKER: That is one of the things which was passing in my mind when it was pointed out that this matter was not yet before the Other Place. It might well be quite within the power of this Chamber to pass a special Resolution apprising the Other Place of what we are engaged upon and what they would have every reason to believe would come before them. I would not rule that to be out of order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, we, on this side, would not resist that. The only thing is that, according to this procedure as pointed out by the hon. member on the other side, it involves the passage of four Resolutions and the sending of three Messages. That is about two weeks of exercise. I was wondering if we could not short-circuit that by the simple, if allowable, method of co-opting members.

1.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that we have the power to co-opt members of the Other Place to a Select Committee on this matter. We can only by a Resolution of this House to the Other Place invite members of the Other Place to a meeting with members of this Chamber to resolve these differences.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as regards that we have precedents on the question and that is when those members were members of the Legislative Council.

I would therefore say that we can do it by Resolution such as:-

"RESOLVED that this House invite the Other Place to appoint a Committee to meet a Committee of this House as a joint committee to consider and report on the Bill to provide for the acquisition, deprivation and renunciation of citizenship of Barbados and for purposes incidental to or connected therewith."

I think that is all that is necessary.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution would normally be by message to the Other Place and the message will then contain the Resolution as has been passed by this Chamber.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a message be sent to the Other Place embodying the terms of the Resolution now passed.

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

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

RATES OF INCOME TAX BILL, 1967

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 9 be the next Order of the day.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House that I take charge of this Item in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: This order now stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: Second reading of a Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year 1967, and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said Tax.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, hon. members would see that this Bill is in its customary form. It is required to be passed every year although there has not been any change in the rates of Income Tax.

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

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we are aware that these rates of income tax for the year 1967 have not been increased. However, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister think this Bill requires coming before the House every year? We were much happy when the Prime Minister said that the rates of Income Tax do not require revision taken of them for this financial year.

We are told that much valuable time is taken up of the legal draughtmen to get this Bill ready for the Minister to put before this House. We hope that the future income tax revisions will leave the Rates of Income Tax alone when the rates are not to be changed so that every single word of the Bill would not have to be repeated every year.

It will be interesting to work out how much money has been spent since 1943 on the annual passing of this Act, when you think of the time taken by the legal draughtsmen, the time of the Ministers and the other details necessary to bring this Bill before the House.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House does not remember that this is just an imperialist practice. I thought the new dispensation, the colonialism gone, the Hon. Minister of Finance would have got the idea.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 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 without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 8 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, the instant Order of the Day is No. 8 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Minister of Finance.

The Hon. Leader of the House rose to seek leave to take charge of Item No. 8, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, again as hon. members will recall, the provisions of this Bill were imparted to the House in the Budgetary Statement given by the Hon. Minister of Finance last week. It amends the Act dealing with the same subject which was passed last year and therefore it reduces from 5 cents to 3 cents the duty which was paid in respect of bingo tickets and from 20 cents to 12 cents in the dollar or part of the dollar which is usually payable in respect of the tickets.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.55 p.m.

Clauses 1 and 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a quarter.

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a quarter, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On re-assembling,

CARIBBEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION BILL

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister:—To move the second reading of a Bill to make provision for matters arising out of the establishment of the Caribbean Free Trade Association or otherwise out of agreements relating to trade with members of the Association.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, two years ago, on the 15th July, 1965, the Prime Minister of Guyana and I met in Barbados to discuss the feasibility of implementing a Free Trade Area between the Governments of Guyana and Barbados. As a result of these discussions, on the 16th of July we issued an invitation to the Chief Minister of Antigua, Hon. Vere Bird, to join us in this Caribbean Free Trade Area, which he did shortly on behalf of his Government. We

had various meetings throughout the course of that year culminating in a meeting at Dickens Bay, Antigua, early in December and the Free Trade Area Agreement was signed on the fifteenth December 1965, at Dickens Bay, Antigua. As I have informed this House already, it was a remarkable Conference in that there were 38 Ministers and Government Officials, representing almost every race under the sun, whether African, European, Chinese or Indian, but certainly every race comprising the West Indian population, and every single one of the representatives at that Conference was a West Indian. There were 38 of them and in a remarkably short space of time, within three days, we were able to arrive at a Convention to establish the Caribbean Free Trade Area, unique in every respect, in economic development of this area, borrowing, it is true, to a large extent from the experience of people in the European Free Trade Area, Scandinavia, Great Britain Switzerland for periods of seven and eight years. 2.00 p.m.

It is true to a large extent that two of the leaders of the Free Trade Area have been experimenting with it for a period of seven or eight years, but to the extent of revising formation and institutions. In the short space of time which the three members of the area have been together, we have been able to arrive at a convention to establish the Caribbean Free Trade Area. We are now to the position which we hope to build more substantially in the next two or three months with our colleagues in Trinidad, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean. They have already agreed that we get together and discuss this membership.

It has taken two years to implement the decisions which we arrived at but when one realises that by the Treaty of Rome in 1958, the six European countries subscribed to the European Common Market and up to today more than eight years later, they have not been able to reach the constitution which they envisaged by the Treaty of Rome and all that they have arrived at is their Common Market policy in 1960.

I think the countries of the Caribbean Free Trade Area have made remarkable progress. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that two short years ago, I myself suggested that the economy of the Caribbean was something to which this Government was striving.

The Bill which we now have before us, Mr. Speaker makes provision for the changes which are necessary in our Customs Tariff Act and other incidental legislation to make it possible for us to trade with our neighbours in the Caribbean on the basis which we require. The legislation to a large extent has been offered and accepted by those islands with which we are in agreement and they are served with copies of the legislation and of the agreement which we arrived at from time to time. I am very happy to say that around this time two years ago this Free Trade Area was first discussed between the Prime Minister of Guyana and I, and within that time, it has become an accomplished fact.

It is not necessary for me to go into the details of the twelve short clauses in this Bill. In my last discussion with persons representing the oil interests in the neighbouring country of Antigua, they have expressed the hope that they will be able to resolve all their outstanding points of difference with the distributors in Guyana by July 15. Knowing how oil companies operate, I believe that they are too sanguine in their expectations. The Guyana Minister of External Affairs have projected the end of the year for the implementation of CARIFTA. Again I join issue with him in suggesting that the Agreement cannot be filed in Parliament before the end of the year but if I take some way between the two times suggested, I would say around the middle of September.

The time we expect to hold the Heads of Government Conference which is Scheduled for Barbados is the end of this month or the month of October. We had originally intended to meet here on the 17th July.

The time which I think the neighbouring territory of Trinidad and Tobago will be making their final bid along with the Associated States of the West Indies to enter the CARIFTA have not been fully circulated. In the recent discussion I had with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, he said that they have not yet finished all of the demonstrations in Canada. He suggested that after that would be a suitable time.

Happily, we had restricted the Heads of Governments conference to start towards the end of September or early in October. We have expressed the view that the time is ripe for bringing the leaders of the territories of the Windward and Leeward Islands together. We have expressed the hope that they all would be present and would be welcomed here in Barbados. This would give the lie to all those who have expressed the idea that we are not interested in regional integration.

The provisions of the Bill will, so to speak, clear the ground for the implementation of a conference of the leaders of the various areas which have to meet here for the caucus. For the moment this Bill is to provide for the establishment of a Caribbean Free Trade Association between the three territories of Antigua, Barbados and Guyana.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. ST. JOHN: We look upon this Bill as merely a piece of legislation which seeks to provide the machinery for bringing into force the agreement which was laid before this House previously and which was debated in here. The views of our Party on the Caribbean as a whole are well known to everyone here in Barbados and we believe we will continue to believe as long as we are alive, that the only hope for the full improvement of the economic and social

conditions in this area can be realised in some form of association and integration between the territories in the area. Looking at the agreement that was signed, we on this side feel that the leaders, the signatories to the agreement will sooner or later impetus to further development in a wider field of all aspects of trade, that very little progress would in fact be made in stimulating the economic development that is necessary. We welcome the fact that the leaders in Jamaica and in Trinidad are showing some interest. The passage of time must have convinced them now that in spite of the fact that they have larger populations than we in Barbados and in the other territories these are only relative matters in terms of the demands needed to stimulate the kind of economic developments that is necessary to really improve the standard of living in this country. Sir, we will always give our support to any measure which seeks to bring territories of the Caribbean areas together and we will be watching and suggesting as we regard it as our duty not merely to take the suggestions as they come from any department but as a responsible party to initiate and educate the public in the need to be aware of Caribbean integration and Caribbean development as a whole.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman has reported to me the passing of one Bill.

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 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 without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly I declare this Bill duly to have been passed.

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to sanction the Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Rules, 1967.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I gave notice during my Budget Speech that we intended to make certain amendments to the Merchandise Marks Rules in order to provide the Government of Barbados with legislation relating to the registration of Trade marks.
3.40 p.m.

I indicated in the course of my address that the effect of the Bill would be to double the fees which are payable and hon. members will find that that is exactly what is being done in the Schedule to the Bill which is now before us. I think that hon. members will agree that when salaries and wages in the public sector have been more than doubled in five years, it is ample time that overseas firms, most of whom are involved in the registration of trade marks, in fact, there are few local firms which will be called upon to pay this increased tax. Some 45% of my budgetary proposals will be coming from firms overseas and not from local people at all. I think that that is what has got a lot of people surprised, that they did not see how we would get \$6 1/2 million without an exorbitant increase in taxes of various kinds. Of course, we have held something back and I still have something more up my sleeve for those who think that I have exhausted the resources of taxation. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it is only to be expected in the course of figures that such things as trade marks, company tax, patent application fees and the like are being increased so that they bear some relationship with the matters of which the Hon. Prime Minister has spoken, namely, increased fees of Secretarial Staff and the money values which we have experienced in these last 25 or 30 years. I cannot say much about the cost of registered trade marks in other territories in the Caribbean, but we can presume that this tax will not be like some of which we will be hearing more, in that it should not cause any shrinkage in the number of applications which are made under Merchandise Marks Act generally. If a businessman is registering a trade mark, he will have to register it whether the cost is \$30.00 or \$50.00. At this level one might imagine that there is some prohibitive amount charged for any particular aspect of trade mark registration.

The Hon. Prime Minister made an interesting point when he said that this proposal will hit particularly overseas firms. While it is true that nearly all trade marks are registered on behalf of overseas holders, there are a certain number which are registered locally, and we cannot help wondering whether, in fact, if there was a differentiation between a local

application and an overseas application, whether it would cost the Government a great deal. It might be a great boon to local people to know that they will not have to pay the same amount. I have no doubt that when the Prime Minister has gone into the financial aspects of this matter, he will be able to say how much this particular piece of legislation will bring in. I could not help observing between Friday night and today that the Prime Minister was able to give exact figures over the yield of particular taxes. It would seem to us that this tax is such a simple one because there cannot be much shrinkage in the number of applications under the Act, that the Prime Minister should be able to tell us exactly how much he expects to get from this particular piece of legislation.

Perhaps the Prime Minister will be able to give us that information during the course of his reply. There was an interesting passage in the Prime Minister's speech when he said that between 40% and 45% of the budgetary proposals would fall on persons overseas. I am perfectly sure that the Prime Minister is not suggesting that 40% or 45% of the increase in value will be felt by persons overseas. Who overseas will feel the effect of the Consumption Tax or the Package Tax or the driving licences and motor registration fees? If there are a large number of overseas persons who will feel the effect of these taxes, it would be interesting to hear. The statement therefore that 40% or 45% of the budget will fall on persons overseas, should be qualified, if not taken with a grain of salt. Whatever that statement might mean, it cannot mean that the Prime Minister is hoping to raise \$3 million from overseas sources as a result of this budget. Nevertheless, I believe that the Prime Minister will find some way of explaining that statement in a manner which would support its truth.

3.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there are other speakers on this side who have some comprehensive remarks to make on this Bill, therefore I confine my remarks to this aspect but it would be interesting to me to know what the Prime Minister means by 45 per cent.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this Bill dealing with Trade Marks gives us the opportunity to draw to the House's attention certain matters which many people who deal from time to time with the Trade Marks Act feel should be brought before the attention of the authorities.

The Trade Marks Act in Barbados, as we understand it, is particularly an Act which was circulated by the Colonial Office to all the colonies of the British Commonwealth and it contains a number of paragraphs which are detrimental to the local businessmen in Barbados.

I hope when the new revision of the Laws of Barbados are taking place - although I understand that this is not a revision of revising all of the laws - particular attention will be taken to revising certain portions of the Trade Marks Act. There are provisions in it that a person who has registered a trade

mark in England that his trade mark cannot be used to certify certain things by people here in Barbados.

Now, people in Barbados may be using a trade mark over a number of years and there is great doubt as to what is their position when they apply for registration and the registered holder of a trade mark in England produces it and places it before the Registrar here.

A lot of marks which we have here are registered by people abroad although they do not carry on any business here in Barbados. We on this side do not agree that the very fact that because a mark has been registered in Britain it should not be registered here, therefore, we hope that in the course of the revision of the Laws of Barbados, this hardship that is going on will be removed and that all classes of applicants for marks will be placed on a respectable footing.

We hope too that as there are other provisions of the Trade Marks Act which need revising that when the Act is to be amended that the authorities will at least, at this stage, invite comments from people of the Law Society to any amendment which they have to make to the Trade Marks Act. I know myself that at least on one occasion, the Law Society was invited to comment on a draft Bill arising out of some matter that came up before the courts.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if I might remind the hon. member of my inability to give statistical information relating to the Bill, it is because I did not want to ask for it. I make it a practice for at least one, two or three days before I present the Budget to do nothing else than the normal shopping. I try not to do so within two or three days of the Budget.

I certainly never ask any question from any Government Department. I learnt this not only in Barbados but even as a matter of principle, I do not ask those questions even on matters to which by international agreement you should have some consultation, such as an increase in the landing fees or such as the Cable and Wireless Act, before you introduce any budgetary change. Therefore, there is no need for me to go into the statistical facts of the change of the fees payable for legislation.

I am sure that this information is readily available as to the average amount of revenue that is earned. I cannot speculate and I can only make a certain amount of conjectures.

On the question of re-registration, I think there is provision in the Schedule in the proclamation Clause for the registration of persons who want to be registered for a Trade Mark. At that time, you only paid ten dollars, now you have to pay twenty dollars. I do not profess to know the answers to the effects of the Resolution which we now have before us. I can only make certain conjectures as to what have gone on before.

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

THE PACKAGE TAX BILL, 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands also in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Package Tax Act of 1941.

4.00 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Bill before us is one to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941. You will remember that in 1941 the British Commonwealth was engaged in a state of hostility against the Government of Germany. This was a measure which was very difficult to repeal because at the cessation of the hostilities there was a general agreement on tariffs and trade signed by most of the country with whom we are associated in trade matters and to which we acceded as a dependent territory shortly thereafter. It was not therefore easy to repeal the provisions of the Package Tax Act which was a temporary measure, and we have gone on collecting revenue.

Mr. Speaker, it is now generally known that in the Western Hemisphere particularly they are moving towards what is described as Reporters have found that by bringing goods in sealed wagons from the warehouse to the Port and lifting them on board ships and delivering them sealed at the port of importation that the insurance rates are considerably reduced and also that the effect of pilferage and loss is considerably minimised. This is a very welcome development in the transportation of goods between one country and another. It is now accepted that sea freight is a thing which is here to stay. Under the provisions of the Package Tax Act goods which may be of \$2 1/2 million can come into the country as I explained on Friday, for one importing heavy goods into this country would pay the same package tax as someone importing silver-buttoned shoes. This is obviously wrong when one considers the value of the goods and the utility to the person who is importing them. People who import heavy machinery usually do that for commercial purposes whereas people who import a parcel at Christmas time containing items of foodstuff for their families sent by their relatives in the United States. They should not have to pay the same package tax as those who import the equipment. Quite apart from that, Mr. Speaker, we have had here in Barbados people tying packages together so that they pay one tax and avoid paying 10 or 11 taxes on the various packages.

The position is, that when we say we must pay 25 cents for every 56 pounds it means less than half a cent a pound. There is hardly a commodity imported into this Island which is not worth at least 10 cents a pound, so this is 1/20 of a cent upon any commodity imported into the island. This could not amount to any increase in the cost of living to the average person in this island, and furthermore I see absolutely no reason why a tax like this should be passed on. There

is no reason why the retailer or wholesaler in this island should pass on the 1/20 of a cent increase to the consumer, and we have the means of preventing them from doing this, because I am sure that the Ministry of Trade will make sure that this does not happen.

There is another difficulty arising. Yesterday we collected less than \$1,000 in the Customs, and this is because of some confusion in the wording of the Act. They spent so much time working out this. A lot of time is spent in the Customs with the passing of Warrants, and this is an old procedure which I should like to rationalise, streamline and computerise if necessary.

4.10 p.m.

What has been happening in the Customs is that they have been holding up the delivery of goods from the port by trying to weigh each and every individual package. The Government is not concerned with the weight of the package, but with the revenue which is brought in. Every single item has to be declared on a bill of lading. They used to take the items on the bill of lading and multiply by 2¢ per 56 pounds, they feel that they must weigh each individual package. That is nonsensical because if you consider that the person who brings the goods into Barbados has more of a vested interest than the Government in seeing that the goods are properly set out in the bill of lading, the separate owners ought to know whether it is 40 cubic feet to the ton. The shipper is concerned with the rates paid for every ton of goods. All you have to do is to charge 25¢ on each package and take the total gross weight and multiply that by 25. It shows the responsibility which we have in this country that they want to create some kind of confusion that because the Package Tax has gone up, it is difficult.

I do not mind how they arrive at the total amount of taxation provided that the Treasury gets the money which is due. You multiply the total by 25 and divide it by 56. When we were in the second standard in school we would understand that, but nowadays people leave the high school with one certificate in scripture, and feel they are smart. I think hon. members will generally agree that this is one of the Measures by which we will be able to cushion the exorbitant increase in Government expenditure without in any way affecting the standard of living of the average person in the community. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read the second time.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we have had a speech in which the Prime Minister has attempted to anticipate the speeches of members of the Opposition. While we admire his enterprise and initiative, let us assure him that the trap to which he has referred is not a trap into which the members on this side of the House will fall. We have just heard him say: "Do not mind the laws of Barbados, you will not find it in the Customs Tariff Act." He is wrong: it is the Package Tax Act: He is wrong

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member may not be aware that the Resolution with which we were dealing has already been passed. Any remarks which I made like that were in respect of that Resolution and not in respect of this particular item.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would be most obliged if Your Honour would assist me with what item we are dealing with.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are dealing with the second reading of a Bill to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: When the Prime Minister said: "Do not look in the laws of Barbados, you will not find it there", I thought he meant the old volumes. When he is referring to the Customs Tariff Act, I did not mean to interrupt him, but to assist him. Not only did he have it wrong, but when it was pointed out to him that he is wrong, he said that he was not referring to that at all. I was reading this Act since Friday afternoon and seeing what items are not included in the First Schedule to the Act. If the hon. member talked about the First Schedule to the Package Tax Act and he is now talking about the first Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, it has only one Schedule which gets amended every month or so. I speak now from memory. This Package Tax seems to be one of the things which the Democratic Labour Party is determined to make a big money-earning business. In 1962, it was increased from six-pence to twenty-five cents and now it is being increased in a different way, or it is being extended to units of 56 pounds each, except for those items which do not appear in the First Schedule to the Package Tax Act, 1941, which we were studying until a late hour this morning. As far as the trap is concerned, the House will be the judge as to who has fallen into whose trap.

There are a number of items which will come under weight of this Bill. The First Schedule of the Act itself now includes Asbestos Cement corrugated roofing sheets, Butter and Butter substitutes, Cattle and Animal foods, and it goes down the line to condensed milk, and so on.
4.20 p.m.

Package Tax were doubled by the Democratic Labour Party in 1962, and the tax is calculated at fifty-six pounds now. In the Schedule units are set down in the Package Tax Act of 1941 and they all pay a package Tax. Now, when you look at the end of this bill as amended, you will discover that you will search in vain for "meat". There is no item we have been able to find called "meat." We look into the Acts and it says "Chicken parts" or "Chicken". I think that they are items which would figure largely in the Prime Minister's basket.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. That is the time I think I should rise. That remark seems to cast some reflection.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, my only regret is that I did not hear what the Minister said. Would he make his joke outside?

But, Mr. Speaker, listening to the Prime Minister one would think that we of the Opposition do not have access to the Laws of Barbados, or cannot read, or we do not know how to do our business. One of our first duties is to read the First Schedule of the Package Tax Act or the Customs Tariff Act which we know as the Package Tax Act for the word "meat" but it is not shown there at all.

There are some interesting items there.

We see also that Cocoa, raw, and coals are exempted items and we cannot find the word "meat" anywhere and nowhere can we find it in the Schedule under the Package Tax Act.

Package Tax is essentially a means of bringing in revenue and to say that this is not going to affect the cost of living is to make a joke of the questions of hon. members of this House. The Budget was introduced on Friday last but there are reports already of rises of the prices of many commodities in the shops.

I am glad the Prime Minister is aware of what is going on down at the Customs. It is only last night that we had complaints of the Customs now wishing to open every package and add up the weight of every item.

Quite clearly a larger revenue would be gained if you made up each package separately. I foresee that other legislation will have to be introduced to regulate this measure at a certain stage. Avoirdupois weight is the case in point the case in point but you also ship things by shipping tons, therefore you have avoirdupois tons and shipping tons. If the Prime Minister thinks otherwise, a Customs Officer need not consult a shipper. I am glad to see that he is getting some advice from another Minister but I do not think the Prime Minister takes a great deal of advice anyhow. I am glad he is getting advice from his own side.

It is a pity that we are only at the beginning of this because we really cannot tell what is happening at this stage in the absence of a period of time for working knowledge. We cannot really tell what effect on the cost of living this matter is going to have. Maybe, in a year's time, if we come back, we will see the disadvantages because I have never heard anything more absurd in my life than that the Prime Minister can give some figures on other things and cannot give any on this. In the same way the Prime Minister could have found out how much the increased tax on cigarettes would bring in, he could have found out how much the increased tax on Trade Marks would bring in.

4.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot find if any calculation was made by the Prime Minister as to the effect of the increase of package tax. I suppose he has already

anticipated our query and his answer will be that he did not wish to alert the Customs to the possibility of an increased package tax. Although when, Mr. Speaker the budget was being prepared to face the deficit of \$6 1/2 million, certainly make our estimate of the competence of the Finance Minister.

Nevertheless, although I have little hope, if the Prime Minister is consistent, of getting an answer on this question of package tax, I will yet ask him to search into his files and see if he has been able, since Friday, to discover or to tell us how much he expects to make from the increase in package tax. Time will tell the effect on the cost of living.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is based on certain things revealed in the recent budget speech made by the hon. Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, already we have heard hon. and learned members tell this House they had to do research on certain Acts. Although I know the Government must get through their business as expeditiously as possible, these papers were handed to me by a policeman last night when I was leaving home, just as I was driving off in my car, through my gateway, a policeman stopped me and handed me these papers, I did not turn back, I went straight on to my destination.

The hon. Prime Minister has informed the House that the shippers have found a way of evading this tax by putting smaller parcels into one larger parcel, and now the Prime Minister has told us that the tax is going to be put on on every 56 pounds. On the last occasion that a proposal came to these honourable benches relative to the increase in package tax, I told the then Minister of Trade, a former Minister no longer in this House, a former member for the parish of St. Philip, that shippers were finding a way to get around this tax. The merchants in Bridgetown would inform the shippers what was happening, and a way could be found to avoid this Government getting into its coffers the amount of revenue that might reasonably be expected. I told the then Minister that and he laughed at me, but the hon. Prime Minister must admit that it happened.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister anticipated we on this side of the horseshoe will fall into the trap of accusing the Government of incidentally raising the cost of living, but it is not a question of that. Do not let anybody fool you, if you put a tax on the merchants and the shippers, this tax will not be absorbed by them, it will be passed on. Let us face facts. The tax on gasoline must raise the cost of living because people's food travel on wheels. At long last it has been discovered that the shippers have discovered a way and now we have to tax by poundage, not by individual package.

4.40 p.m.

As far as we know, those who are going to judge the weight of these parcels and weigh every individual package, as to these persons the Government may find itself with a big charge for overtime. A lot of money will have to be paid for overtime. That is not

my job to go into. However, I hope that the Government, in the interest of the community, will be able to find ways and means to prevent any undue extension which will ever cause the cost of living to rise. I see men of the long robe (Mr. SPEAKER: Gentlemen of the long robe) having to do research. I mean gentlemen of the long robe because we have no ladies of the long robe. Although the Government's business may be held up, it is not good enough for a person to be leaving his home, a member of a particular distinction and a particular business, with a police constable stopping him and handing him these papers after sundown. That is not good enough for me. I do not think that members of the Government bench would think so either.

If the Government has been successful enough to discover that the shippers notified by the merchants, have been able to discover ways and means where what is now proposed to be done will not entail any rise in the cost of living. I hope that sufficient tax will be reflected by this Measure because reference has been made to the first Schedule of the Act which excludes items which happen to be every day found on the table of the working class man and woman, and the Government has to watch that. I had really come here today thinking that I would have been making a different speech, but this has come out from the budget. As on a former occasion, I said that people would find a way of getting around this tax. I do not represent business. Generally, it is the mass of people, the wage earners, who have sent me to this House. Mr. Speaker, I have nothing else to add in this matter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, there has been an increase in the Package Tax, but we find that there has been no corresponding issuing of price lists, and they will be none. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that a number of commodities and those used by the mass of people to a considerable extent, will be affected by this increase in the package Tax. Twenty-five cents on a single package to a limitation of 56 pounds and 25 cents for every additional 56 pounds can mean a considerable sum, when you take into consideration the fact that there has been employed by the importers what is known as the container system. That system of America. It has been held out that the container system was found to be much more convenient for handling purposes from the point of view that that may be true, when it is considered that a container might have weighed thousands of pounds and you only paid 25 cents for package tax, it may be argued that a case might be made out. In our view, the present method employed by the Government cannot be said to be either sensible or just. We must bear in mind that these items can come from Canada and the United States of America and for the most part — I hope the Prime Minister will have his figures — there are foodstuffs. That is what we ought to concern ourselves with, we, on this side of the Table, more than anything else.

4.20 p.m.

Now, Sir, we understand that the same container system is in use in Jamaica and in Trinidad, but we

have not been informed until this very day that either Jamaica or Trinidad have found it necessary to introduce any more additional tax in their Package Tax Act. Perhaps, we should try and understand the desperation of the Minister of Finance to raise the additional revenue we need for good purpose or for frittering it away on unessentials.

Whatever is the situation, the cost of living must now increase by the present system instituted by the Prime Minister in his Budget Speech and which we are asked to pass here in this Bill. We have got to bear in mind one or two things. We have heard the Prime Minister say about a shirt being sent to somebody here that one has to pay a package tax but we know that the people who send a shirt here are people of very limited means, the small people, so to speak. We know that in the case of the Post Office, there is a limit of twenty-two pounds for a package, so in that case a package of 66 pounds weight does not apply.

We have, Sir, before us this trade list which brings us into appreciating some of the difficulties which now affront this country. You will find that items such as bacon will be increased and why I make mention of that is because I am keeping before my mind that this item is one of the items that helps a housewife to prepare her breakfast. There is also chicken parts which are much used by the poor people and there is barley which mothers have got to depend on to assist them in the rearing of their children.

The Package Tax is going to affect all these things. Cocoa beans and things like that are going to be increased. Even the ordinary belt that some men and boys wear around their waist, is subject to be increased by this Package Tax. You will also find that a bicycle which boys ride to school and workmen have to depend on to take them to work, these people will have to be told that the price is going to go up.

Biscuits are to some extent being used for medical purposes. The Package Tax is going to bring about an increase in these biscuits. The very razor blade and even the pair of scissors which the poor clerk in Swan Street and the young nurse use, you will find, Sir, that they have all gone up.

Whatever we think of this Package Tax, there is no gainsaying the fact that the importer is going to be faced with a new situation such as you might find that he is going to have an increase in his overdraft. You will find that when he expects that a certain sum of money would do for him to clear certain things at the Customs that sum might be increased ten-fold or twenty-fold. There is no doubt that the importer is going to pass on this increase to the wholesaler and that the wholesaler is going to pass it on to the shopkeeper and the supermarket and it is true to say that not one of these individuals is expected to bear what is involved as a result of this Package Tax.

The Prime Minister can say that they can employ means that can see to it that there is no increase in this or that. It is perfectly easy to say that. We on this

side of the Table know different from that because already there has been increases in some of the commodities which the Public buy. These increases have come about since the Prime Minister delivered his no freeness budget, what he calls a freedom budget. 5.00 p.m.

Sir, the Prime Minister should bear in mind the limited opportunities for the mass of working people. Take boots and shoes, these rubber-soled shoes. Wherever you go about the country districts, the mother of the school child has still got to buy herself and fit her children out with pairs of these canvas shoes, and those are the things to which we have got to address our minds this afternoon. I am to tell you, bottle corks - I am a teetotaler myself - but bottle corks, I see some hon. members now trying to uncover their faces, but they must bear in mind that as soon as the corks of bottles are increased, the contents of the bottle must also carry a corresponding increase. We bottle here soft drinks in imported bottles, we bottle here such items as bay rum and that type of thing. All of these things carry their corresponding increases, however one may look at it. I have often heard it said that short trousers require long braces; even a pair of braces now must cost more as a result of this package tax. Those of us who have an automobile - and you have got to apply your brakes time and again - the brake fluid, you have got to get it fixed right, but now I am to wonder when some of the ladies really learn the truth about certain matters, their brassieres, I am to wonder what the situation is going to be. It must cost them more, but our cereals, our foods for the children and old people depend on all of these things. The price of them must be increased. We have got to let the Prime Minister understand that his mention of a trap - somebody falling into a trap - there was never a trap set for a single member of this side in this exercise, in this matter of package tax.

I want to let the Prime Minister know that we on this side know one businessman who calls it the most equitable way of applying taxation. Believe me, Sir, I have been listening very attentively, and I really expected that I would have heard the same words repeated by the Prime Minister, but he has been wise enough not to repeat apparently what has been told him. He will understand that we know where he got his advice. It is not altogether unknown to us in this matter.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, of the occupational hazards of being in public life in an independent country is that whatever is brought in to this Chamber one normally has to tolerate. Is the member for St. Peter suggesting that I took somebody's advice?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker,

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. and learned Prime Minister make the point of order?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member..... Will you tell him to sit down?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister came into this Chamber the same way that any other member came in.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not come in the same way you came in. You came in with your rotten wicked mind.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two hon. members on their feet, will both hon. members sit? May I mention this, the sitting is not suspended, but I am retiring for not more than one minute.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I rose, the hon. and learned Prime Minister had risen and he prefaced his remarks by saying "on a point of order". I will ask the hon. Prime Minister to proceed.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member for St. Peter suggesting that I got my advice..

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order....

Mr. SPEAKER: There cannot be two hon. members on their feet. The hon. and learned Prime Minister has risen and he has said "on a point of order". I have requested the hon. and learned Prime Minister to proceed directly with his point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Before the hon. and learned Prime Minister makes his point of order, I must ask the Prime Minister to withdraw his remarks, Sir. 5.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister has said that he is making his point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker,..... (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like hon. members who are not on their feet to observe the Standing Order in respect of the behaviour of members who are not addressing the Chair. The Hon. Prime Minister has risen on a point of order. I am asking him to make that point of order and for the purpose of making that point of order, by virtue of the relevant Standing Order of this House, he may proceed to make the point of order as concisely as possible.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister made reference to me and used the words "A wicked mind" man in respect of me. I am asking that the hon. member be called upon to withdraw those remarks.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am making my point of order.

Mr. HINDS: There is no question of making a point of order when the Prime Minister is carrying on like this. He has to respect the Chair just as any other hon. member in here.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Not in here, somewhere else.

Mr. HINDS: I know that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not need any exhortation from any side as to whom I am to tell to sit down or how to make a point of order. (ASIDES.) I would again remind hon. members who are sitting as to how to conduct themselves by virtue of the relevant Standing Orders. The position is this: The Hon. Minister has risen on a point of order and I am going to hear him, and him only, on the point of order. In the making of this point of order, he, like any other hon. member, must conform to the Standing Order in respect of a point of order. It cannot be a speech; it can only be a point of order made as concisely as possible. I will not hear any other hon. member until the point of order is made.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I shall also address Your Honour on the rules of procedure of this House and of the duties of members who come in here. During the course of his remarks, the member for St. Peter who was addressing the Chair at the time, said: "We know where the Hon. Prime Minister got his advice from relating to budgetary matters." In that there is an innuendo that I consulted somebody from outside my own conscience and mind, and shortly before I came into this House, my colleagues on budgetary matters. That is the foulest insinuation which could be made of a Minister of Finance.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I take objection to that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: You can blackmail Grantley Adams.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chair is being addressed but the Chair has never blackmailed anybody.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: And the Chair has not got a wicked mind either; therefore, that could not be in relation to Your Honour. When the hon. member says of a Minister of Finance that he knows where we get our advice from, suggesting that somebody has advised me, I am asking the hon. member to withdraw that imputation because it is a slur on the Minister of Finance, and I will not stand it from him or anybody of his ilk.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has ceased to make his point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: He is imputing improper motives to a Minister of this Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: What has the Hon. Prime Minister risen on?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am objecting to the hon. member saying that we know where he gets his advice from. I do not consult anyone except my own intelligence and common sense on budgetary matters. The hon. member made the implication that it is somebody who pays me, perhaps.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am getting the exact words which were used and have been taken down by the Official Reporter. I have sent for them.
4.50 p.m.

I am afraid that what I have received is not intelligible and I would have it typewritten which is an ordinary procedure.
5.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The words which have been handed me are as follows: "We on this side know one businessman who calls it the most equitable way of applying taxation. Believe me, Sir, I have been listening very attentively, and I really expected that I would have heard the same words repeated by the Prime Minister, but he has been wise enough not to repeat apparently what has been told him. He will understand that we know where he got his advice. It is not altogether unknown to us."

I do not regard these words as contravening Standing Order 26(7), but I do regard them as contravening 26 (5) in that it shall be out of order to use offensive or insulting language about members of the House, and in my view it is offensive language about a member of the House if he is Minister of Finance to say that in this context "one businessman who calls it the most equitable way of applying taxation. Believe me, Sir, I have been listening very attentively and I really expected that I would have heard the same words repeated by the Prime Minister, but he has been wise enough not to repeat apparently what has been told him. He will understand that we know where he got his advice. It is not altogether unknown to us." I will ask the hon. junior member for St. Peter to withdraw the words "he will understand that we know where he got his advice" because of the context in which those words were used that "I really expected that I would have heard the same words repeated by the Prime Minister", meaning the words which I have heard one businessman use. I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, during the course of his point of order, made reference to me accusing me of committing a criminal offence, blackmailing Sir Grantley Adams, the Leader of the Opposition. I take objection to those words. I took it already and I am asking Your Honour now to rule on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: As my recollection goes, the hon. and learned Prime Minister said "you". He was addressing, as he is not addressing otherwise, the Chair.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Shame! Quite absurd!

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is any repetition.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker,

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is any repetition of this behaviour, this sitting will be adjourned for grave disorder, but I was giving my ruling. I have not yet completed.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am addressing you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am addressing the House, and therefore the hon. member will sit.

Mr. HUSBANDS: As soon as you are finished, I will be on my feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. and learned Prime Minister used certain remarks which he prefaced by "You".

(AN ASIDE :) Call for the words.

Mr. SPEAKER: When I pointed out that the word "You" had been used, the hon. and learned Prime Minister said he was not addressing the Chair. He was not addressing anyone as far as this House is concerned, if he was not addressing the Chair.

(SHOUTS of "Shame" "Disgrace", from the Opposition).

Mr. SPEAKER: On account of grave disorder, this House now stands adjourned until 12 o'clock noon next Tuesday.
5.45 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was speaking.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to the suspension of the sitting of the House. I draw Your Honour's attention to the Standing Order which says, following the English practice:

"In the case of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, adjourn the House without question put or suspend the sitting for a time to be fixed by him."

The use of the two expressions clearly shows that one is an alternative to the other in different circumstances; that is to say, you suspend the sitting but you adjourn the House. You do not suspend the sitting for a week. The object of saying that the Speaker adjourns the House without question put is to cover the fact that the House is never adjourned without question being put, except under this rule. You move that the House do now adjourn until this day week or such time. In England, obviously you are sitting from day to day and therefore, you do not fix a day. You merely say: "The House stands adjourned."

Mr. Speaker, I myself heard Your Honour say "The House stands adjourned" Your Honour apparently said both things. I am not accustomed to making gross inaccuracies; I was very careful when the disorder started to stand up and tell my colleagues to stand up and listen to Your Honour, and Your Honour said "Adjourned". The Shorthand writer said that the House was adjourned and the Deputy Clerk said that the sitting was suspended; therefore, I suspect that Your Honour used both expressions. I am not accusing the Deputy Clerk of writing down something which Your Honour did not say, but the Deputy Clerk has written down "suspended" and the Shorthand Writer has written down "adjourned". Is it possible to say that the sitting is suspended for a week? You adjourn the sitting for an hour in order to see whether hon. members could cool off or whether an individual member can convince himself and withdraw remarks. I have gone through the various authorities such as are obtainable and I draw Your Honour's attention to the statements in "May's" and the authorities to which "May's" refers. On page 329 of "May's", 16th Edition in respect of adjournment in case of grave disorder, this is what it says:-

"In the event of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may adjourn the House without question put if he thinks it necessary to do so or he may suspend the sitting for a time to be named by him."

In England, you just say "Adjourned" because, automatically, it is tomorrow. In Barbados you say "adjourned" until 12 o'clock noon, or 2.30 o'clock p.m." or whenever you choose to sit. "May's" goes on: "On the 13th November 1912, and on the 11th April 1923, the Speaker suspended the sitting for an hour. When he resumed the Chair, the state of disorder continued and he adjourned the House without question put."

In this matter of grave disorder "May's" refers to it again on page 469 where this is what is stated:-

"In the event of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker is empowered by S. O. No. 24, if he thinks it advisable, to adjourn the House without question being put or to suspend the sitting for a time to be named by him."

I repeat that if it is something sufficiently bad, then you adjourn the House; if it is something which members can get over, you adjourn for a time. I need not quote instances; this is ordinary, parliamentary procedure. Your Honour having used both expressions I take it that Your Honour used both expressions, because one official has one thing and another official has another thing. There is no Order Paper for today and the ordinary business of this House has to be done today.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, what are we here for?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am not giving way.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has made his point of order. He has drawn to my attention that which he felt merited being drawn to my attention, and I have considered the point which he has made. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is now continuing to elaborate on the point of order and he has addressed the Chair on the point. I am seized of the point and I will inform hon. members that my intention was, and my statement was, that I suspended the sitting for the time which I announced, that is, 12 o'clock noon today. That is the position and that is why this meeting continues. There is an alternative to adjourn the House without question put or to suspend the sitting and I adopted the latter alternative, which, in my view, is within the competence of the Chair. That is how the matter stands. When the sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion immediately that I made mention that it was not unknown to this side of the House where the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had received certain advice, we found that the debate took a turn which we hoped was for the better. Sir, this I must say; this country is suffering at the present moment from what we might call an economic disaster. It is a disaster which happens to be inflicted upon us, and the people of St. John cannot be excused for having put us in that position. I may say without attempting to castigate them in any way, that they have inflicted upon this House what I would call two extremes. It might be that in one we have the sublime and in the other we have the ridiculous. I must say this.....

Mr. YEARWOOD: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I as a member for the constituency of St. John, take stern objection to what the hon. junior member for St. Peter has said towards both hon. members for St. John in this Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the exact phrase to which the hon. member is taking exception?

Mr. YEARWOOD: He has said that the people of St. John have inflicted upon this House two extremes, one is the sublime and the other is the ridiculous. If that is not imputing improper motives against hon. members, then I will sit, but I take objection to those words.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not deem that phrase to be a contravention of Standing Order 26 (7) whereby no member shall impute improper motives to another member.
12.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member needs not to be worried. This is really what I was asking the hon. member on the last occasion. The Hon. Prime Minister took exception to my saying that we know from whom he gets his advice. We on this side would welcome the Hon. Prime Minister taking advice from somebody. We on this side of the House are saying that it is because the Hon. Prime Minister does

not take advice that we are fast becoming a dictatorship.

We find ourselves saddled with the economic disaster that the Hon. Prime Minister has brought himself to. Mr. Speaker, on this matter of this amendment to the Package Tax Act, the Minister of Finance has not proved himself to be the economist which he has said he is. He cannot deny that this amendment to this Package Tax Act would bring greater burdens on the buying masses. It is alright in the case of two or three petty fogging salt fish dealers but we have got to look at it in a much broader light for the simple reason that this increased Package Tax, which the Hon. Prime Minister has introduced in this House, means that some of the importers of commodities in the course of their business would have to face up to three-quarter or one million dollars more expense.

That is alright in itself but what we are saying is that whatever the importers have to meet by the way of this increase, by the way of their having to pay twenty-five cents on every fifty-six pounds weight of a package, the poor consumer would have to bear it.

Now Sir there is a certainty that if advice had been sought and obtained from the right quarter, a better and easier means could have been found of raising this six million odd dollars that the Prime Minister told us that he was trying to raise.

The Chamber of Commerce in Barbados is comprised of a number of spineless businessmen. I am sorry to say that some of them in their present financial position are still people who are looking around for friends. That is one reason why they will not, and have been unable up to the moment to come out and state their position on this matter.

From the day the Prime Minister of this country got up in King George V Memorial Park and made that notorious cane blade speech, every businessman of this country should have got up and let the Prime Minister know he was the economic disaster of this country. But what do we find? They are remaining silent. However, I am telling this Honourable House that the masses of people in this country are getting ultra cautious in accepting things, matters, statements and what not because they have been said by our Prime Minister.

Sir, it would not be a surprise to us on this side if we found the business community at this stage employing such tactics as would prove the economic disaster of some people. Sir, the Package Tax

(Loud Asides by a Minister.)

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? The hon. member is speaking loudly and making threatening gestures to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not aware of what the hon. member was doing.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: He made a threatening gesture to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not hear what the hon. member was saying as I was listening to the hon. member addressing the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to Your Honour's attention that I was partly being attacked.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am drawing to Your Honour's attention to what he was saying to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member say on what he has risen?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, of course. The hon. member made a gesture, hitting his face with his hands, threatening what he would do with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was looking at and listening to the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I have drawn it to Your Honour's attention that he did it twice.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I presume that is on a point of order.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was not aware of any threatening gestures to the hon. member.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I also saw the threats which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was speaking of.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not aware that anyone can see threats, unless they were written.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if I came up to you and put up my face in a threatening way, you would see the threat that was made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is warned.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not warning the hon. member.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Why should the hon. junior member for St. Thomas not be warned? 12.20 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, does Your Honour rule that you cannot accept the word of an hon. member? I have told you what I saw and because you did not see therefore I am not speaking the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not said any such thing, but I have said let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed with his address on the amendment of the Package Tax Act.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I do believe, Sir, that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition does not know that when the junior member for St. Thomas is making what he calls alleged threats it amounts to a bunch of green bananas. The hon. member would understand.

Mr. SPEAKER: And now we will proceed to the Package Tax Act.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, what I was saying is this: that we might wake up one morning to find that the business community applies what we call the acid test to save this country from economic chaos and it is this, that if it is found that this increased Package Tax to any extent calls on the importers to carry overdrafts which cause them anxious moments, they might well decide to prove that instead of Government collecting X dollars by way of increased package Tax, Government may find itself with minus X dollars with which to contend. What we say is this: if the Minister of Finance had sought the advice of the business community (Aside) Mr. Speaker, I am being interrupted by the hon. member. This is not stolen bananas.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member speak on the Package Tax Act. I will counsel all hon. members with meticulous care to observe that Standing Order as to the behaviour of members when not speaking.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Including the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SPEAKER: Including the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The hon. Leader of the Opposition will obey Your Honour as long as the Chair rules impartially.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Chair has never ruled otherwise although one cannot expect that everyone would agree with the Speaker's ruling or a judge's ruling or a judge's decision. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Again I would ask hon. members on both sides that when I speak what applies to one is equally applicable to the other to observe this Standing Order amongst others which regulate the behaviour of members when not speaking. Members shall speak in undertones or preferably recall that silence is golden. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once followed blindly the hon. senior member for St. John who happens not to be in his place through no fault of mine and who happens to be the Prime Minister of this country. It happened like this, Sir. As is all well known to each and every hon. member here, the Prime Minister at one time imposed a tax - I am not saying he is a tax expert, he might be an expert to imposing tax - but he imposed a tax on Banks beer and instead of Government collecting more revenue, the Prime Minister found himself having less in the till and eventually he had to reconsider the taxation

position. At that time I really and truly thought that - I think the hon. member was then Premier for the Island - he knew what he was doing and in an effort to support him, or to support his measures, I took "Truth" newspaper and warned the people what drink they could take. I do not want to go into detail on that matter on this occasion; but just last week we find that the Prime Minister had to back-peddle on bingo. I am discussing here, Sir, in a broad sense, the Prime Minister's taxation or lack of a policy as regards taxation. I am discussing the increase in package tax so I want to warn even hon. members on that side of the House in following the Hon. Prime Minister too closely with what might be described as his economic summersaults. That is what they amount to in the long run.

This question of the increased package tax is already showing itself on the stands, the counter and shelves in the shops, supermarkets and elsewhere. I heard one other member on that side make mention that nobody is going to feel it. That might be true because all of us do not have to earn a meal or set about getting a meal in the same way. Some people have got to work hard for it, others only have to open the trunks of their cars and it is there.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, what we are saying is this: In addition to coming here and changing the Package Tax, we understand on this side of the House that the business community, the importers are faced with a situation that the shippers overseas, the importers from abroad on behalf of the tactics employed in our Customs Department here, what we understand is that they were opening every package and weighing all these small items and doing a lot of things and wasting time and what not, and all that is requiring additional invoicing, something which the shippers and exporters from the other side particularly are apparently not prepared to undertake exclusively for Barbados. That is the point. Sir, if that is the case, there is only an increase on the package tax of 25 cents on each 56 pounds. When it comes to the question of additional invoicing at the other end, always bearing in mind that the importer at this end has got to pay the increased cost of invoicing at the other end in order to satisfy Barbados alone. I have said this already. Whatever the importer is called upon to pay by way of increased package tax, it is going to be passed on to the wholesaler, the commission merchant. They, in turn, will be passing it on to the supermarkets, the small shopkeepers, wherever they are, and it must be apparent that in the final analysis it will be borne by the poor consumers.

This matter of increased package Tax has been cleverly designed because, what do we find? Unless we, on this side of the House, can explain it for the benefit of the public, it will never be told to them. It is this: When a customer goes to the shop and finds that a penny, three cents or whatever it might be, has been tacked on to the original cost, the Prime Minister of this country will argue that he has nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact, I think I am correct in saying that the Hon. Prime Minister told us that

steps will be taken to see that these increased costs do not prick through to be borne by the consumer. Sir, if that is the case, the time to apply these measures would be now, because whereas the cost of living in its spiral is really noticed by a hungry people, I repeat, a hungry people, we might very well hear of some of the assassinations which the Hon. Leader of the House made mention of quite recently. The hon. member must blame himself. What we are concerned with is this; we are asking if the Minister of Finance has to find ways and means whereby an additional \$6 million or \$6 1/2 million, if it is absolutely necessary to find that amount, whether he could not have found it without increasing the cost of the commodities to the poor people or the small people, the masses of this island.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I should like to say that anyone listening to the rantings and ravings

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to the hon. member that he should not use such expressions which do not tend to good parliamentary conduct. I know that the hon. member has a wide choice of language.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, anyone listening to the verybiage on the other side would have to be shocked and appalled to think that after five years under the rule of the Democratic Labour Party, the people of Barbados can enjoy free secondary education, school meals, proper road services, water services and all of the other social amenities which they are getting, and now this House has been kept back, broken up in disorder because of a proposed increase of 25 cents. Let us say that the 25 cents is an increase. Is there any country which is being run without some sort of taxation? Do you think that Barbados was made specifically by God? If you do not want to pay then you must leave, but that is not the point. What is most pathetic is to hear hon. members on the other side claiming to represent the masses, the poor people, and yet the poor people have sent us on this side to represent them! Further, Mr. Speaker, we hear all of these statements by those who are trying to incense people against paying for what they want here in Barbados, and by some of the water-wash politicians who are sometimes left alone when they are dying. I would think that a country like Barbados with its natural resources, and I may say that up to this present day we have not had to ask Great Britain for one cent by way of grant-in-aid. Perhaps if Her Majesty the Queen had not come here, people would not get any aid either, because they would think that we are a foreign power.

12.40 p.m.

But after saying how Barbados can hold its own, up gets the members of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to use the words "hon. members" but when I say "hon. members" my jaw tends to dislocate. It hurts my face when I say it.

They told the people if they put back the Democratic Labour Party in power, Barrow would take away their bank accounts.

They did not think this Budget would have been so easy. They came in here last week and all they did was trying to keep back the time of this House. I have always said that it was the duty of the Opposition to be constructive but the Opposition in this House now seems to be bent on destruction. They are people who are seeing how much they can forward for themselves. Up to today I heard a statement about stealing green bananas in St. Thomas. St. Thomas have thieves just like St. James and St. Peter but for what I know, I have not heard anybody from St. Thomas being charged for extortion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see anything here about green bananas and canes.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: But, Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with green bananas and canes. I was just wondering if these banana thieves had anything to do with the canes that were burnt.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would be immaterial to this Bill.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, it is most likely but getting back to the Package Tax Bill, you get people coming in here under the coat that they are really representing the people but the only people whom they represent are themselves and their immediate family. They could not care less for the masses of this country. For seventeen years his party was in power, but the only time they saw fit to change the Education Act was to give five scholarships and that was when somebody had their son to get one.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the Package Tax.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: We are dealing with the cost of living. I will say that this kind of thing is what you are trying to stop parliamentarians from doing now. We on this side try to do the people's affairs.

This Package Tax Bill will only cause an increase in a kind of charge. According to the Bill, we have put on twenty-five cents for every fifty-six pounds weight of a package. We saw where the merchants were exploiting the Government by bringing in the largest packages and only paying twenty-five cents for them and because we have asked them to pay twenty-five cents for every fifty-six pounds, you hear all this rigmarole we have been hearing for two days just taking up all the time of this House.

We say to the Opposition that it is their duty whenever they are opposing to point out to the Government whenever they see something going wrong, but do not come in here with this frivolous thing and think they can gain support for what they are doing. The place for them to get support is not in here.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is blaming hon. members on this side for wasting time. The hon. member has been on his feet for a few minutes and I have been wondering what he has said because this Bill before us deals with the Package Tax Act but he has said nothing on it.

We all know that any raise in taxes is not welcomed but we also know that taxes will be increased from time to time. However, when one reads this Bill and goes into it carefully and do a little simple arithmetic, it would support what we on this side are contending. It does not mean that the merchants are going to bear this increased tax, they are going to pass it on to the masses. People in general do not mind paying higher taxation and so long as it is right, they are ready and willing to change over from one thing to another.

Your Honour, I will ask you to tell me what the merchants are going to do about this tax. All this additional expense will be passed on to the people of this country. There are several things which come in packages and it just means that the merchants would have to pay more and, in my opinion, I see the merchants are not going to bear this tax, they are going to pass it on. The people will not know the effects of this Bill until they realise that the things which they buy have gone up.

Some people like to go around and blame other hon. members for wasting time. I am just making a few remarks. My point is this. When this tax is imposed nowhere would you see that the merchants in any bracket bearing the increased expenses. No one can say that this tax will not cause a little more in the cost of living. Those are the few remarks which I have to make.

12.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House caught my eye a second or so after the hon. junior member for St. James had completed his contribution, but if the hon. member is replying for the Government, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph may proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I did intend to reply for the Government.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of this Bill are to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941, by imposing an additional tax of 25 cents per 56 pounds on every package of goods other than those mentioned in the First Schedule to the Act which exceed 56 pounds. Now, Sir, I was a little late and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was on his feet when I appeared here, and it would make me believe that he really does not know what is going on. From the tone of his speech, he just does not know what is going on. Now, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister last Tuesday said that this increase will not be passed on to the consumer but I have to take him up on this because imagine for every 56 pounds you have to pay 25 cents. We have packages imported into this country with commodities that are always used by the poor of

this country. In other words, the rich people do not use it. They have no use for that commodity. Suppose the package weighs 350 pounds or over. Fifty-six into 350 and over, you can clearly see, you do not need a Harrisonian to work it out, because if I can work it out anybody can. The increase on that commodity will be in the vicinity of about \$1.50 more causing that package to be \$1.75 instead of 25¢ up to last week, it will be \$1.75 this week. Imagine the Prime Minister of this country telling the people of this country that 1/2¢ per lb. of anything is nothing for the wholesaler to pass on; now that will tell me, Sir, that he really does not want any advice from anybody, he is not prepared to listen to anybody and he is going it alone and does not know anything about it. That is as plain as A, B, C, because when he says that 1/2¢ per lb. of anything is not sufficient to merit an increase or to pass it on to the consumer, he is expecting the wholesaler to bear it. I believe him to say so.

Now you have \$1.50 on one item and there may be merchants turning out about 10 of these packages and the wholesaler or the merchant will be out of pocket by \$15. There is the possibility that that particular wholesaler can lose no less than \$400 to \$500 per day depending on his turnover, but yet the Prime Minister is telling me 1/2¢ per lb. is nothing, that is how he takes it. Being an Economist, if that is how an Economist takes things, this is how an ignoramus takes it now, and let us both go together, economist and ignoramus. I am on top, Sir, my figures will prove.

When one is saying that the Opposition will criticise, yes, I will criticise, but I am not so ignorant as to think that a Government does not have to get money to run the country, they must get it, whether it be my Government, your Government, I do not care whose Government, you have to look for money to run the country. If you are spending money you have to get money, but I will criticise when one is trying to fool an Assembly or to fool the people by saying that this cannot increase the cost of living.

Now I feel, Sir, if the hon. Prime Minister did not resort to those remarks last Tuesday you would not hear me, but when he is now saying that a trap is being set, and although setting a trap still warning the rat not to go into the trap, I cannot understand, if he set a trap let the rat go into it, but now warning us not to be caught in the trap; he may think that it is the Opposition here who is going to be caught in that trap, but I am telling him here and now it is the people of this country we caught in the trap, and it is the trap of increased taxation, and we must pay it.

I can clearly see that rather than it be said that the budget has lashed the poor man's food, he has restrained from hitting the food, but you strike what contain the food, but what happened, it is still a blow, you did not put anything on the salt meat, no one can accuse you for doing that, you did not interfere with it, the neck bones and so on that certain people do not use and certain people have to use, you appeal to

them and say you have not interfered with that, but when you tell me about the Package Tax, he knows nothing at all about the Package Tax, so the people will still say it is a first-class budget, I myself will say it is a nice budget.

1.00 p.m.

When I was going down the steps a week or so ago, somebody said "Smith, you cannot say a word. You have a nice budget." I am sure that you will realize that the package tax, with this increase, is going to bring in a lot of money to the Government, more money than if they had touched the meat. Still you are trying to fool me. If the Prime Minister did not say that, I would not have said a word, but I cannot sit here and allow the Prime Minister, who is an economist, and I, an ignoramus, to feel that he has put something on me. I will have to prove my facts and my figures today. I know that he is sitting cool and he will get the money, and it will be a lot of money too, by this increased Package Tax. Yesterday morning I met a friend on the beach and he said that his wife used to pay 19 cents at the laundry for cleaning a sheet and now she is asked to pay 30 cents because the price of fuel has gone up! Are you still telling me that you are not increasing the cost of living? Are you going to tell me that this is a first-class Budget in the people's favour. The only time when it is a nice thing by way of an increase is when the wages of a servant or an employee are being increased. You will get off there but when it comes to taxation, you cannot get away. We must pay taxes because the country must be run and you should be honest enough to tell the people so. "We know that you will not be too happy when we make these increases, but we are bound to do it; if we do not do it we cannot survive." That is what we should tell the people; but you want to take up a hunter and throw it into people and then say: "I did not hit you." Do you mean to say that you are stinging me and you still say that you did not hit me? That cannot work.

The Prime Minister may not know it, but some of his Ministers may know it. He said that the Budgetary proposals are from his own commonsense. I listened to that; that will mean that he does not know. I know that some of his Ministers do know. There are artisans, carpenters and masons who own motor cars. You will pardon me when I say "cars" I should have said "ars" because the "c" has already gone. Everything has gone out of these "ars" already. The carpenter or mason has to use his "ar" to get to work. A bicycle cannot help him or the bus cannot help him because he must get to his work in time. A mason or carpenter receives about \$8.00 a day and working for 5 1/2 days a week, he would receive \$44.00. That mason or carpenter may have his wife and two or three children and the "ar" is going to take the biggest slice, but he must get it. Sir, I am not criticising the increase in taxation but I want to explain to this House how it is, in truth and in fact, that the cost of living is bound to rise and the small fellow is bound to get the hardest blow. What has happened is that the Government has to get money to repair the roads for the same "ar" to travel on. The cost of the renewal of a driver's licence has been increased from \$1.20 to

\$5.00, an increase of \$3.80. There is also an increase of a penny a gallon on the gasoline which the small fellow uses in his "ar", and so you go on. You have to pay for car parts and that is a heavy item. When you come to car parts which are imported into this island, do you know that a package can weigh as much as a ton or two tons according to the size and quality of the parts? And if a package exceeds a certain weight you have to pay an increase, and so the cost of these parts must go up.

Mr. Speaker, I do not mind the increased cost of the "smokes" because I am an old man, ready to go back where I came from; I have never smoked and therefore everybody can do like me. I believe that people can live without smokes but they cannot live within their little "darrue." If a man likes his smokes I cannot blame him for that, but you hit him a penny a box on his smokes. I want to say, Sir, that when everything is added up, do you think the increase is any less than \$5.00 or \$6.00?

1.10 p.m.

That is the nice Budget that some people are praising. That was mentioned today. We cannot get away from it. If I were the Prime Minister of this country, I would have to do something about it.

Well, Sir, I cannot stay here, or elsewhere, and let the Prime Minister put up this nice Budget, what he calls a freedom Budget, and do not let people know that it is not a free for all. It may be free from the grave.

Now, Sir, we have to be serious as representatives of the people. We should let the people know the truth and everybody would feel free with each other. However, when you get one party telling the people one thing and the other party telling them another thing, the people are bound to look up and say whom they think is the right party. This is how some people take things. The boys over here are going to tell the people the truth. Members on the other side are putting it their way. They are saying that the Barbados Labour Party did not do these things. It is alright talking it that way but that is not getting to the point.

Tell me any Government that likes to tax the people. No Government would want to do it. If the present Government can reduce taxation, they would do so now. But for God's sake, do not tell the people that it would be the merchants or wholesalers who would bear this tax. Do not tell them that one-half cent per parcel is all that they would have to bear extra. Why say one-half and do not say one-fiftieth per package more? One-half cent per parcel sounds like nothing but one-fiftieth part would sound like something. I would not blame him for putting it that way, I would blame myself for not explaining it.

When it comes to the business of trade, that is my line, let us get in a room and talk business. Of course, if you are going in for top figures, what you call the economic side of it, well you got me. However, this is where the economists and I disagree. The Hon. Prime Minister knows it by figures but I have it by practice.

I take it to be one-fiftieth per parcel and that would mean something. I leave it for the economists to say that you are right. As I said before, I would not blame him for putting it his way.

Suppose the Hon. Minister of Trade telephones me and tells me that he wants to know something about certain things going on, I am there with him, I would tell him and I am sure he would get the bull by the head. That is the result of asking questions. This world is not made up of one type of people, it is made up of all types. We all have to serve one another. This is where the Government went wrong. At any time I am willing to help on behalf of the Government. I would not refuse to help if they ask me to do anything when it comes to trade. If you are going to say that some people do not know what is going on, and you are wasting time to ask him a question, that is your business.

I say, let us come together as one. It is not to say that this is election time. At election time I have my sword sharpened but when we are in here, let us dwell together in unity and work for the benefit of the people. There are lots of people in here who do not like to hear me talk in here. The only way you can prove to yourself that you have nothing against Smith returning here, is to ask him if he would do something and then see if he would do something. Of course, I would not expect you to come home at me and ask me to do anything, but let us do it publicly. Invite me to your public office and I would come.

If this Package Tax Bill was brought down a different way, I would agree with it. You would still get the same amount of money that you want by it. Rather than making it that you pay twenty-five cents on every fifty-six pounds, it should be put a certain way and you would be getting the same amount from it. I would not be able to say one single word on this if you had done it the right way. Members on this side would not be able to offer any criticism if you had done it the right way. It is not wrong for trying to get the money that you need but the way you are doing it is wrong.

I understand that down at the Customs they want to weigh everything. If you carry on in this way I am sure that one shipment of goods would catch another in your bond house. Another ship would get back in and find that you have not finished calculating yet. You are going to find that the work which Customs Officers will have to do will cause these cases to remain down there longer than five days.

I hope the Hon. Minister in charge of Trade will take what I say here seriously. I am out for your getting your taxes. What you would find by the way that you are doing it is that you are trying to get it one way and it will be going out from you the other way. In other words, tax it right, and you would get some where. The way the hon. member is doing it is bad and we are trying to put him right. In other words I am not "Fix-it-right" cursing anybody at all today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Neither today nor ever.

Mr. SMITH: I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to take back this Package Tax Bill and try and do it another way otherwise you are going to make it very hard on the consumers. We are thinking of those persons, who after the week is finished and they honestly pay their bills, they find that nothing is left. I am thinking in terms of those people. You have a few whom the only thing that can affect them is death.
1.20 p.m.

You are going to find yourself over-collecting the amount you want. If you go into the figures and you have an Economist at the top, you have all top men, top figures men, tell them to go into this thing fairly and squarely, they will be able to tell you that you are going to over-collect the amount you want. What still has me thinking, is that the Prime Minister still refuses to let us know how much this particular tax expects to bring. I cannot remember hearing him tell us that, and he should be in a position to tell us, but he leaves me to think that it is going to bring in so much that he is not going to let us know until after it is done because we will not be able to criticise it now. I believe he does not know, he did not take time off to go into it, I cannot ask the Hon. Leader of the House, because the Prime Minister said he does not take the time from anyone as far as his budgetary proposals are concerned, it is his own commonsense. I cannot try to embarrass the Leader, hearing what the Prime Minister told us, so I would not expect him to tell us now, but the Prime Minister really does not know himself or he is hiding, but I am saying that he is going to collect more than he thinks if he continues to get this 25¢ on every 56 pounds. Now the weight of certain packages may not bring more than a little extra \$10, but it is still \$10 extra. I understand the Hon. Prime Minister is a first-class flyer in the air, I think he is one of the best. Some time ago he was flying and it landed up in Seawell ground, I am speaking under correction and I hope that if I am wrong the Leader of the House will stop me, I think the things for the aeroplane are free. Everybody cannot handle an aeroplane, I will never be able to fly one, except the little one I see my grandson pushing about in the house, but I am saying this tax really would be a serious thing if you do not go into it, because you will see that you are going to over-collect. Do not do it if you can save it. Why are you going to try and drag it out to put it down - and you are taking it from people who are not able. If you can drag it out of the people that are able, do so, but you cannot tax A's food one way and B's food another, it would not be fair to do so, but do not penalise the small fellow and then put it down. It can be done easily but the Prime Minister may not think so. When a businessman sees that his losses are so glaring, do you think he will not do something about it? He cannot do it except his mark-up is so handsome that he can afford to do otherwise. I do not think that his mark-up can be such that he can afford to lose \$1,000 in a day and still have to pay his expenses and such things. If that is so, every wholesaler would be a big-shot and he would retire early because he would be making too much money. Let us go into the matter and see it. The Prime Minister may say that the Package Tax is the lowest increase, but, in my opinion, it is the most.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I was sitting here all the time and I did not think that I would have had to speak, but my mind has been fixed. The object of this Bill is to amend the Package Tax Act, 1941, to impose an additional tax of 25 cents on every package of goods. (Mr. St. JOHN: No.) It is to impose an additional tax of 25 cents per 56 pounds on every package of goods, other than those mentioned in the First Schedule to the Act, which exceeds 56 pounds in weight. If a package of chicken is 100 pounds that is 25 cents and it is 1/2 cent a pound on each package. Some boxes may have 15 packages or 20 packages and it is 1/2 cent a pound which the Government is imposing upon the consumers of this island for chicken. I do not think that that is an extraordinary increase. If you were to go to some places and see packages being opened and you saw the amount which came out of one package, it would be surprising to you. You may find that one box contained about 50 packages and we have to find ways and means to get some of that money. There are people who think of the division but not of the responsibility which the State has. The Prime Minister of this country is just the same as a housewife; she has to find ways and means of running the house and the Prime Minister has to find ways and means of running the country. We have to find ways and means to run the country no matter what we do. We need a better water supply, better homes, better education and better facilities throughout the whole island and you will see that the Budget has been increased from year to year because of the vast facilities which we are granting to the people. We have provided free secondary education, we have been providing houses and we have improved 100 per cent on these facilities. Education today is the greatest job we have to fight with, because we have to try and educate the people. Unless we educate the masses of the people, we will have confusion continually.

People may talk about the increase in the package tax but that is the only possible means whereby I see that money will be coming in. All the big people of this world have been prospering by bringing in so many goods. Sometimes you will open a package and when you think it is a package of ham, it may be a package of jewels. Valuable items can be hidden away in these packages; people may ship these boxes to the Customs and then they go to the merchants or agents and they are opened there. You will then see what comes out of these packages. That is why we are taxing these people in order to get this money. These people were getting away with murder all of this time and I feel that the Hon. Prime Minister has made the right and proper move in the right direction. When we come into this House, we come here about the Government's responsibility and I believe that both sides of this House will have that at heart. Anybody who wants to resist taxation can tell the people that this Government is taxing them heavily, but I do not see it. As I have already said, the only possible means of our existence is through taxation; I am sure about that. If we do not tax the people, where will we get money from? I am sure that this 1/2 cent a pound increased on chicken is not unreasonable. It is not the package of chicken which is affecting people; it is what is in these packages. These people were getting away, I re-

peat, with murder all the time. I am glad to see the step which the Hon. Prime Minister has taken to impose this taxation on these packages. We have to stop this murder from taking place. We have been extending the schools; we have taken over Seawell International Airport, which the last Government started to build, and we have that debt to pay. We have also taken over the Deep Water Harbour and the Hospital which projects were also undertaken by the last Government. We have all of these debts to pay, and where will we get the money from? The salaries of policemen have been increased, so have the salaries of the Civil Servants and where are we to get the money from if we do not find ways and means to collect this money? Roads have to be constructed and all of these things call for money. We do hope that, with the co-operation of members of both sides of the House, we will find ways and means by which we will run this Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I have heard today and previously, a lot of talk on this Package tax, this increase of 25 cents per 56 pounds on every package of goods, other than those mentioned in the First Schedule to the Act, which exceeds 56 pounds in weight.

1.40 p.m.

There are certain commodities like milk, sardines, and corned beef - a lot of these commodities are packaged together because of the Package Tax in this Island. A lot of these commodities used to come in before in one and one and a half cubic feet containers but because of the Package Tax Act today these shippers are bringing in things in five and two-fifths tons containers for the same amount of money.

If the shippers and merchants are doing this kind of thing and are saving this type of expense by bringing in things this way, it is the duty of the Government to watch these things as closely as possible. There are many commodities under the Package Tax Act which are brought in in packages over fifty-six pounds per package. If merchants and shippers continue in this manner, then they would halt the revenue of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot see the extra hard burden created on the consumer by the imposition of this tax. I do agree that the merchants and shippers should receive a fair return for whatever they are doing in any kind of business which they are doing and a merchant would be stupid to continue in business when he finds out that he does not get the normal profits which he should get. Similarly, the Government would be stupid to see something happening to circumvent what they have in mind and do nothing about it.

As Minister of Trade I would not like to sit here and see these merchants indulging in any profiteering. If this Government discovers any merchant making what I would call undue profits I would ask the Government to do something about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Once again, I warn hon. members on both sides of this House about their behaviour in this House and to me as Speaker.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Sir, we on this side of the House have no other alternative but to look after the people of this country if there is any recourse by people to profiteering.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that one of the reasons why this Budget is unsavoury to hon. members on the other side is because they went around telling the people how much tax they would have to pay. Even the newspapers in this colony took up the matter and was telling the people what increases they would have to pay, on this and on that. Members on that side and their friends were so prepared for a big taxation policy that they even bought new motor cars. They told the people that gasoline would be put at one dollar a gallon and all that sort of thing. They have been so surprised at this Budget that members of the Opposition have got to make some sort of defence to the people of this country.

I would like to say that Barbadians all over the world have a reputation of being a hard-working people. We hear in this Chamber a lot about the cost of living of the people having gone up. If we are to go forward and the conditions of the people of this country are to improve, certainly the cost of living must go up. I have great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in sitting here and saying that the cost of living of the people has gone up since 1961 but the standard of living of the people on the other hand has gone up commensurately. We have put forward many things towards the improvement of their welfare.

The pride of a man grows more when he knows that he is contributing to the welfare of his country. He is made to feel that he is no loafer or sponger. We have no dread of the Package Tax as long as development is being made for the people morally, socially, financially and otherwise.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, after listening to the last hon. member who spoke, his speech has brought me to my feet. I did not want to speak on this subject, as a matter of fact, on any individual bill which has been put forward as a result of the Budget, my reason being that I feel that no proper debate can take place on the Budget unless it is taken on the Budget as a whole.

The Hon. Minister said that he wants to assure this House that his Ministry would take steps to see that there will be no profiteering. That phrase is what has brought me to my feet because if there is any Minister who has failed to do it, it is the Minister of Trade. Do you know of any greater profiteering than the one thousand dollars that has disappeared from the Market? What has the Minister done about it? Absolutely nothing. Look at what is taking place in milk. What has the Minister done about it? Absolutely nothing.

This speech coming as it is from the last hon. member who spoke, is such that one would have

thought his ministry is of the kind that one would accept what he says. Can he honestly say this? He is going to say that this is not going to have any effect on the consumers. Then there is this talk Mr. Speaker about the change of the Government.
1.50 p.m.

This talk about a change in the packaging of goods leading to a reduction in the revenue in Barbados is a point that at first sight may lead one into the position of saying that if it is so corrective measures must be taken. One would think that having heard the Minister of Finance and the last Speaker, that a tremendous drop in revenue in Barbados has taken place since the increase in the Package Tax in 1961 from 12¢ to 25¢ by this Government, but let us look at the Estimates produced by the Hon. Minister of Finance in this Government and see what the position is.

In 1961-62 the actual revenue collected was \$247,945; in 1962-63 it moved to \$479,496. After a doubling of the Package Tax in 1963-64 it moved further to \$588,299. Let us look now at the Approved Estimates 1967-68 - this year's Estimates - and we can continue and we see that in 1964-65 it moved to \$619,624, the next year - 1965-66 - \$596,000. The first time between 1964-65 and now there is an insignificant drop of \$23,000, the revised estimates for 1966-67 puts it at \$596,900, and their own estimate this year is \$620,000. Where is the effect of this great change in the shipping manner that the hon. member is talking about? It is nowhere borne out by the figures produced by them, knowing full well that they have a gap to close between their projected expenditure and their projected revenue, knowing full well that as a result of the wastage that they have allowed to occur in central Government, and particularly in Statutory Boards, and judging by the performance of some hon. members in here, right here in the Legislature - having heard the hon. member for St. Andrew who just spoke, one can honestly come to the conclusion that any expenditure on him is a wastage.

The position is that this is an attempt to look for an excuse to try and delude the people of this country as to the full impact of Package Tax and the full intention of the Government in raising substantial additional revenue by this source. That is the truth of the matter; the truth and the Government on the other side are bad friends, Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for the Minister of Finance to come in here and tell this House that he does not have in his mind a projection as to the effects of a particular course of action and particularly a tax measure. If he does not have it, it shows he is blatantly incompetent; if he has it and refuses to disclose it to this House it shows that there is something radically wrong in the mentality of any person who would do that, but we know Sir, that there are many people in the world who must look for a scapegoat, they must look for an excuse, or they must look for some means of diverting the attention of the people that they may have to deal with, and the means used on this occasion by the hon. Minister of Finance is to come in here and

make a bald statement and then to leave. Imagine the hon. Minister of Education saying he is going to reply on behalf of the Government; we have not heard the reply yet, we have heard the Minister of Trade whose Ministry has more to deal with this matter than the hon. Minister of Education's Ministry. The hon. Minister is only going to deliver a brief that somebody has put before him; I hope he deals with this brief in here in a better manner than he did with the brief for the Church.

Now, Sir, when one looks at the whole of this, and one examine the first Schedule, and one examine the goods that are exempt from tax, I challenge anybody speaking for the Government to say - let them deny that an addition in the Package Tax does not affect the consumer; that the tax on gasoline would not have an effect on the cost of living, and the effect of the taxes which were all part of the budget that they spoke on previously, that was praised previously, that this House was deluded by. The "n" product is going to arise in Barbados if you have to pay additional Package Tax, if you have to pay an additional amount for your gasoline. Let them deny that. I would welcome the Government and the Minister saying that he is going to take steps to prevent profiteering, because every time he tries to take a step I am going to point out that the Minister speaks one thing and does something different, which has been the main characteristic of his Ministry, and I will remind him again, do not wait for the effect of the Package Tax to deal with the milk, do it now and then we will have confidence in him.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, the hon. senior member for Christ Church has mentioned about the milk; the only importers of milk in this Country is the Barbados Dairies of which the Government of Barbados owns 25%, 25% is owned by Barbadian shareholders, 25% by the New Zealanders and 25% by the northern boards. The function of the milk plant is for diversification, for the expansion of cattle growth in this country, and any profit goes to the Barbados Dairies for the improvement of this country and not for any private enterprise as the hon. senior member for Christ Church would like to insinuate.

Mr. ST. JOHN: That is an opinion for the gods. That is not a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: On this occasion he is right, it is not a point of order, it is a point of explanation.

Mr. ST. JOHN: It is an opinion for the gods as far as I am concerned. In his having disclosed those facts, the Minister puts himself in considerable worse light because the way how the milk plant is being run now, it is for the benefit of the minority of the shareholders as a result of decisions made by one man or two men or by three men, not Government decisions. They can put what price they like, they have reduced the price of milk to the producers, and it is running directly contrary to the diversification policy of the Ministry. Let him deny that fact.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The milk plant attempted to reduce the price of milk to the producer but they did not succeed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I congratulate the hon. member on the concise manner in which he made his point.

Mr. ST. JOHN: The more they rise the more they are going to play in my hands.
2.00 p.m.

The position is such that if something drastic is not done, the very diversification policy which the hon. member talks about, is going to fall in a vital aspect of it. Normally, the production of

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has dealt exhaustively with his point. He has gone sufficiently far afield on the question of milk and diversification. Let him now return to the Package Tax.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the Hon. Minister's point. I am only trying to show that far from having confidence we should recognise that they are certain deficiencies. We, on this side of the House, will be debating the whole aspect of this matter when we come to deal at a later date with the Budget as a whole; but we want the other side to know that there are certain items here like potatoes, salt pork and things of that kind, things that are basic, very basic, to the standard of diet in this country. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You are always misleading the House). The hon. member says that I am always misleading the House, but let him deny that potatoes carry a package tax. They sit down and make irrelevant speeches with absolutely nothing in them at all. In no way at all do they advance any pros or cons but they sit down and say that somebody on behalf of the Government deny that a package tax is paid on potatoes. Let them deny the fact that salt pork, which comes in barrels, carries a package tax. Let any member of the Government check the facts for himself. I can now see why the Minister of Finance does not consult some hon. members on that side. I hope that the Hon. Minister, in the course of his reply, will treat this House with the respect which it deserves and that he will inform us as to what exactly the Government in its mind thinks it will raise from this package tax.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill be now read

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member who has just sat down, I do feel that we would do much better in debating the Budget as a whole where there is ample opportunity for hon. members on both sides of the House to speak their minds on the motion of which notice has been given by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I note in passing that that motion neither praises nor blames and is merely introduced to enable discussion to take place with respect to the individual proposals of the Budget. It is very difficult, as the hon. member has just said, for any meaningful debate to take place on the Budget if a

tremendous sidetrack is going to take place on speeches on the individual proposals. I do not know why the hon. senior member for Christ Church has waxed so warm on what, after all, is a simple matter. I have always told him that he should not generate more heat than he could contain. There is nothing to quarrel about in any of these matters. As I see it, Mr. Speaker, despite the things said in speeches which were made on the other side on this Bill, the criticisms of Government policy, despite the noise and the flogging and shouting, in respect of this Bill appear to bowl themselves down to two, which I shall attempt to deal with.

I just want to make one general comment. The introduction and amendment of the Package Tax Act will be the occasion of some difficulties and problems initially, but that is true of the imposition of almost any new tax. In this particular case, these difficulties and problems are all to be expected because the importers are not concerned with commodities except in the case of those commodities which are mentioned in Column 1 of the First Schedule of this Bill. Naturally, it must be expected that the Customs Department will take the necessary administrative measures to deal with whatever problems arise and after a few days the difficulties and problems will be disposed of, those difficulties being merely administrative ones.

A number of allegations have been levelled against this amendment to the Package Tax Act, and of these allegations, there are only two which should be dealt with. I think that hon. members on the other side have made those allegations with varying degrees of emphasis and, of course, varying degrees of acumen. The accusations are, firstly, that the imposition of this tax will increase the cost of living and, secondly, it will slow up the process of clearing goods. As a matter of fact, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph said that before you clear one shipment, the boat will have returned with another shipment. I think that both of those criticisms are the sort of criticisms that you would expect to hear whenever a new tax has been introduced or whenever the burden of existing taxation has been increased, and they are made by people who are dissatisfied with a particular bit of revenue legislation or with tax proposals generally.

2.10 p.m.

I do not claim to know, and it would be a brave man who would say. As I have explained, in any new taxation or in any new imposition of that tax it is expected to create some new dislocation. I do not believe that despite their alarm and their fearfulness this new tax is going to create any burden on the consumers.

There are a large number of important items, like fish, corn meal, canned meat and petroleum products which in no way will be affected by this amendment. There are also a number of items which although it is possible for them to be affected in packages under fifty-six pounds weight, and they can only be affected where the package is over fifty-six pounds.

I think this was referred to on the last occasion by some hon. members on that side. The hon. junior member for St. Peter referred to this on the last occasion before the sitting was suspended and I think they know the figures. This amendment bears heavily on those kind of commodities.

I am informed that chicken parts are imported in packages, well below fifty-six pounds. If that is so, there is no increase in the package tax on this item. On the other hand, there are some items on which the twenty-five cents will be payable on the package. Some of these items were mentioned by the Hon. Prime Minister, such as onions and English potatoes.

I think what the hon. senior member for Christ Church admitted in respect of these items, like onions and potatoes, he was right, but wrong in what he denied. It is true that they come in quantities which he said they came in. At the same time, however, the kind of commodities which they are, and since the mark-up on them is subject to rise and fall according to in-season and out-of-season, I do not think there is any justification in saying that any increase in price has arisen due to the package tax.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has given an assurance and this is an assurance which still holds good despite the flaring-up of the hon. senior member for Christ Church. It is Government's business to see that no undue hardship is brought to bear on consumers ostensibly if there is a change in package rates. In addition, I am confining what I have to say on the Bill before us and not on budgetary matters which would be more appropriately said when the Resolution on the Budget Speech by the Leader of the Opposition is being dealt with.

The tax of twenty-five cents on fifty-six pounds is ridiculously low. That is common ground on both sides of the House because the hon. senior member for St. Joseph conceded that this is so. He said that with respect to motor cars he did not think the addition in package tax would provide more than ten thousand or twelve thousand dollars.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, the Government sees no reason why the amendment to the Package Tax should necessarily cause an increase in the cost on consumers unless in some cases a section of the business community takes the opportunity of the added expense of one-quarter cent on a particular item to pass on one or a penny for it to the consumer.

I do not think the entire business community is unscrupulous or as spineless as the hon. junior member for St. Peter drew to the House. I think they will honour their agreement and carry out the law. However, I will say that on some occasions and in certain circumstances the minority might take the opportunity to pass this very infinitesimal raise on to the consumer on the ground that it is a result of the Package Tax Act. Well, it is with a view of defeating and avoiding that kind of situation that the Hon. Minister of Trade gave the undertaking which the Government has in mind to protect the consumers.

2.20 p.m.

As I said, I do not believe the majority of people in business houses will want to do this, but there may be some who will, and it is certainly against the conscience of this minority. Administrative and other decisions have been taken and it has been said - and this is the second main point - that there will be holdups in the clearing of goods from the Port. I can well imagine that in the initial stages there must be some administrative confusion, but I would think, Mr. Speaker, that in matters like these, people who operate the Customs Department of this island would not be entirely or not at all be void of common sense, and expect in cases where the application of common sense would clearly break the law, I cannot imagine any situation like this. That is why I say that while I anticipate that there must be, in my view, initial administrative confusion, I cannot see that in the application of common sense to the particular problem there should be any difficulty.

We have been informed that the gross weight of packages stated on the invoices in many cases as the House well knows that bills were paid carrying or supposed to carry weights and measures. When Customs Officers and Merchants' representatives or Customs Clerks become accustomed to the calculations I see no reason why things should not clear with the usual ease, so that the Government's position is simply this. We do not say that some people in certain circumstances will not try to pass on what they regard as an unfair burden on themselves to the consumer, and the House has already been given the assurance that the Minister will exercise all his ability in this matter.

On the second point we admit that there could have been for the first few days some administrative confusion causing some delay in the clearance of goods, but we do not see this as continuing beyond the first few days, and we are already informed that the Customs Authorities have got the measure of one of the problems and solved it to the satisfaction of all concerned; therefore we expect that as from now there will be smooth working in the Customs. We do not regard the tax in any way burdensome, we regard it as realistic.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a further point raised by the other side, particularly by the hon. senior member for Christ Church who is not now in his place. I do not know how to satisfy hon. members opposite. I have understood this fact, that we are debating the budget; this debate was initiated by them, in which case it would be our duty in the course of the debate to place at their disposal all the information they want on the budget as such. I am not prepared to give information, not that I cannot or would not, I just did not think to bring it and have it available now. Certainly we are debating a matter, that sort of thing can be easily answered and will be; it is only because I did not anticipate that that kind of question would have been asked.

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

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

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 of this Bill is the operative Clause in the Section which will affect the purposes set out by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech and discussed at some length by hon. members both on the last occasion when the House sat and today. The Minister of Education, replying to the debate in the second reading, perhaps correctly outlined two points which members of this side had principally directed during the second reading, but we would ask the Minister not to be quite so complacent as the answer which he gave in respect of point number 2 which is the point perhaps more clearly covered by this section.

2.30 p.m.

This deals with the difficulties of the first few days in the working out of the new Package Tax proposals. This Bill has been introduced on the basis that it will clear up an anomaly. Some Ministers have spoken on it on such a basis, but the Hon. Minister of Education had a more realistic attitude before him. In our submission, it is not by any means true that it is only an anomaly which has to be attacked by these proposals. The Hon. Minister of Trade has outlined what has been happening since the increase of the Package Tax and he mentioned sardines and corned beef as articles which are being made up in larger and larger packages so as to avoid the operation of the Act. The Minister is hopelessly and catastrophically wrong. Sardines and corned beef, come within the Schedule of the Act as canned meat which comes in units of 36 pounds; if you were to fill a whole ship and lift it up, it would be one package because the Package Tax Act defines a unit of 36 pounds, and the units have to be varied. You divide the gross weight of whatever pounds by 36 and multiply by 25 and you will get the package tax payable. The Hon. Minister of Trade does not understand the Package Tax Act, 1941, nor this Amendment. When you analyse this section it is of vital importance to remember, what one Minister has been able to remember, that is, the Minister of Education - even the Prime Minister advised us not to worry with the laws and not to look into the Customs Tariff Act, that it is no longer on the Statute Book. That was the Prime Minister's advice.

I am glad to see that the Minister of Education will read his brief and see that he is correct. Now I would like to compliment the Minister of Education on his capable handling of a subject which is so totally foreign to him. As to the procedure, what has been happening is that the Customs Authorities have been interpreting this section with which we are now dealing as if it is a provision of Customs law to expect

the present importers to comply with their demands as if the demands were made under the Customs Tariff Act and not the Package Tax Act. This will be a wrong exposition of the difficulties of the working of the Section because it is, in effect the law. The Customs Authorities have certain powers in respect of the importation of goods, including the right to handle certain documents which are of approved dutiability, the availability of these documents and these importers have to show these documents to the Customs Department. The Minister is now a long way from his duties as an importer; anyhow, the Customs Authorities are interpreting this Section as if all the powers of the Comptroller of Customs which he can exercise under the Customs Tariff Act he can also exercise under the Package Tax Act, and certain importers have been questioning this. This has caused only \$1,000 to be collected by the Customs because of the difficulty of getting out these packages. Subsequently, a compromise has been arrived at, a compromise which the Prime Minister referred to as being for a period of three months. As I understand it, despite a cumulative loss of revenue, the Customs officials are to permit the importers to divide the gross weight of any landed package by the number of packages and assess the Package Tax as a result of that division. All these have been compromises which have been reached by the Customs Department and the importers but they cannot represent exactly what is here in the law. I am sorry that the Hon. Minister of Finance is not here because he has suggested that that is the way in which things are to be done. That is not the way to do things and this operation was part of the state of affairs which prevailed before this Act came into force. It is the impression of people that large packages were coming in here consisting of many packages for which the importers were paying for one package. That is not the law, and if it is so, this Amendment will not remedy it. What was happening is that the Customs Department would look at an individual package and if it contains as many as 296 packages together in one package they would charge for 296 packages. That is what has been happening. Where the mischief complained of has been happening is where goods which can be put in packages of different sizes, are concerned. In the case of low-cost goods such as many items of food, the Package Tax consumes a substantial proportion of the price for these taxable onions, the size of the package being only limited to what a porter is prepared to lift, but they have such large packages of onions that they have to pay twice. My opinion is that a quarter cent per pound in the case of onions is more than the profit which the importer gets. I believe that, ultimately, more profit is made than that, but I doubt that it can be much outside that type of margin. Onions are coming in in bags of 100 pounds and if you are only paying 25 cents per bag, they will now have to pay 58 cents per bag and the quarter cent may represent the profit which the importer gets. In those circumstances, I do not think that the Minister of Education would sustain his argument that this is an imposition which cannot be passed on.

2.40 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Education said that the cost on potatoes is not something which cannot be passed on.

Flour and corn meal are items which importers bring in in large amounts, over fifty-six pounds. These are some of the things which are going to be hit by this tax.

Now, the items which have been referred to such as jellies are not indeed affected by this tax. There is another thing which is going to be of some importance because it is an item which is not anything which is specially imported. It is not mentioned in the present schedule of the products which are taxed.

I do not think it comes under tinned meats. I refer to carcase meat. Now, carcase meat is subject to package tax and it is not possible for the New Zealand meat shippers to cut up this carcase meat smaller than the sizes they come here in. I think some of those sizes are as large as 180 pounds. I mention what has been told me of the sizes that carcase meat comes in. If it is to come in at that size it is going to cost more because it will be subjected to this new tax. There are other disadvantages.

The Minister can accurately state that some imported items are shipped by shipping tons. Shipping items are shipped by items of shipping tons and items of avoirdupois tons. Only certain articles are shipped by weight alone.

What is happening at the Custom is this. The Bill of lading shows the cubic feet of the package, the particular items are not shown as to how much they are by avoirdupois weight but the Customs is asking the particular weight of these items.

Mr. Chairman, I am a novice in these things so I do not know how the Customs would go about its business in weighing these things. This matter is set out in avoirdupois weight but packages are generally shipped by shipping weight. I remember someone shipping two boxes to me. I think they had something like 81 or 84 cubic feet in them. If I had been called upon to say how much they weighed in avoirdupois weight, I would not be able to say how much they weighed or how to go about weighing them.

Mr. Chairman, speaking under the terms of this section, there is no machinery which I see that individual parcels should be priced separately. If you were to do this at the Port or the Customs, it would mean taking out each item and weighing each separately. I have been informed that one businessman has had to warn the Customs that if all the paraphernalia of imports and paying duty on imports has to apply to paying package tax were to be gone through, with the importer called upon to make bills of sight, it may result in their paying 1 1/2 rise on all wholesale charges.

It is necessary to have a Bill to set procedure for Customs duties because the importers and Custom

Officers do not always agree. Quite a lot of money is left at the Customs because the provisions of the Customs Act by regulations stipulate that one and a half the amount of duty be left by whomsoever wishes their goods to be released out of the Customs before there are finished with. It would be quite a lot of money if importers also have to leave one and a half the amount on package tax.

2.50 p.m.

These things are going on as a result of this particular clause which we are now discussing and I would welcome some assurance that the Government is not being complacent about what is going wrong in the Port at the present time. It seems to me that the Customs is too readily.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the hon. member's attention to Rule 44 (1) which states that in Committee a member shall not discuss the principle of the Bill but only its details, and I take it that the hon. member is making a second reading speech.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would be obliged if Your Honour could draw to my attention where I have discussed the principle of the Bill. I am in a particular position today because we are discussing that already as a force of law and if we are not discussing the details when we say how it is working, I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I have gone to some trouble not to divert to the principle of the Bill. I am talking precisely about the table of the tax, subsection 1 of the Bill. I am talking about that because this introduces a new computation of Package Tax. I have talked about nothing but the computation of Package Tax. I will try not to speak on the principle of the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, this compromise which has been arrived at, according to my information by importers as a breathing space during which importers and Government can get together and discuss what amendments may be made to this section. Again I am informed - although it seems to me to be one of these sweeping statements that make an exception - I am informed that there is nowhere else in the world that has these Package Tax provisions except Barbados. Certainly importers believe this and they will have to write to their shippers abroad and tell the shippers that in little Barbados when they produce an invoice showing how many items are contained in a package, they are going to have to put the weight on each item; even the question of the gross weight and the net weight. It will be observed that this section only says weight. When we refer to the Act itself, of course it does not refer to weight and we are in some difficulty. Some shippers have been raising this point because a lot of goods are in fact packages in half hundred size which is normal commercial size. What happens when you have a half hundred package and for one reason or another it contains a box that weighs one pound and a half or two pounds, that package is weighed by the Customs, it weighs 58 lbs. and you are charged an additional package tax on it. It must tip the scale, I do not believe.....

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I heard the hon. senior member for St. Thomas say that we receive onions in this island in 50 lb. packets. I want to say that that statement is wrong. To tell him that you get them in hundred pound packets. I want to let him know that onions are imported here in 50 lb. packets. On the other hand, all he is doing now is filibustering the Bill.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Apart from the hon. member's last remark which can be ignored, because I understand even in that capacity will be beyond that hon. member. If the hon. member had listened to the early part of the speech he would have heard that onions come to Barbados in a larger size than 56 lbs. and over. If they are further imported at the size which they are now imported they will now have to pay additional tax.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, again I am saying that we receive onions in this island in 50 lb. packets and in 100 lb. packets.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order. Is the hon. member speaking on a point of order? If he has something to contradict, let him wait until the hon. member is finished.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I misunderstood the hon. member. If he is directly saying that onions are imported in 100 lb. packets, he can satisfy himself. That is a straightforward matter; it is so simple even the hon. member can understand. My information is that to get away from Package Tax they have been putting onions in larger packages for importation. These are things perhaps that the hon. member wakes up too late to comprehend.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I say this section is giving difficulties in computation. I am going to suggest the Government has four months before this Bill need be passed; let the Government consider the suggestion that it be given a little longer to see the workings. As far as I am concerned, the point that when you divide the gross weight by the number of packages you do not arrive at the true computation of the Package Tax, the Government must lose revenue by adopting that compromise. Let the Government take a little more time to consider a report from the Customs and consider consulting the importers, they are the people concerned. I hope that the members of the Government will accept this suggestion.

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

3.00 p.m.

Clause 3 was called and passed.

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

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

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a quarter was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On-reassembling

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister and it is Order No. 6.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave for the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to take charge of this Order. (Laughter). I am asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand it, the Hon. Leader of the House is seeking leave to take charge of Order No. 6 standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause) There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to take charge of this Order which is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, 1910.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and agreed to.

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

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

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

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

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

PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Order standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to take charge of this Order which is Order No. 7:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1903.

4.25 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, hon. members will see that this is a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1903 to revise the several fees payable thereunder. The Object of this Bill is set out in two or three paragraphs. The fees payable are set out in Section 47 of the Act. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, some time ago I threw out a hint of certain things in Barbados needed changing and then congratulate Barbados for having very low charges.

I am very glad to see this Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1903 to revise the several fees payable thereunder. I said that to the hon. member and he told the Prime Minister. I congratulate the Prime Minister.

ter for accepting the advice or taking the hint which was made.

It is hardly anticipated that this Bill would bring in any great revenue. There are other statutes which the fees can be raised if there is need for a rise in taxation and I would suggest to the Hon. Minister of Finance that he go through many of those statutes for which fees are payable to the Registrar and make increases accordingly if there is any need for raising more revenue.

The Registrar is also Registrar of business names and the Prime Minister may find that an amendment of the fees on business names might be very profitable. There are not a large number of business names which are registered annually but I hope that the Hon. Prime Minister will consider this aspect in his next Budget Speech. As I have said, I am glad that he has followed the advice of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

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

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

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, so far as I can see, this concludes Government Business. The House had dealt with all the Budget Proposals and the Government has replied to questions raised by hon. members on the other side, and I am pleased to notice that in dealing with these matters, on no occasion has the House been asked to divide on any of the Budget Bills or Resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourn until Tuesday next, 18th July, 1967, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.35 p.m.

