

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th March, 1967.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); 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); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN, L.L.B., and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House with regret that there are no Minutes instantly available for confirmation. I understand that there are certain of the outstanding Minutes in the hands of the Government Printer.

Mr. LYNCH entered the House and took his seat.

LETTERS FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE re ELECTION PETITIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have this day received from His Lordship the Chief Justice a letter dated 8th March, 1967, which reads as follows:-

SUPREME COURT BARBADOS

Chief Justice's Chambers,
Bridgetown,
8th March, 1967.

Sir,

Re Suit No. 582 of 1966
Lloyd Beresford Brathwaite Petitioner
v.
Arlington DaCosta Edwards
and
John Wesley Corbin Respondents

I have the honour to report that the abovenamed petition was filed under the provisions of the Election Controversies Act, 1958, in the Supreme Court of Barbados on

the 28th day of November, 1966, in respect of the General Election for the Constituency of St. Andrew, held on the 3rd day of November, 1966, when the Respondents were returned as Members of the General Assembly for the said Constituency.

2. The Petitioner who was a candidate sought a determination that neither of the Respondents was duly elected or returned, and that the Petitioner was duly elected and ought to have been returned.

3. On the 11th day of January, 1967, the petition came on for hearing and, on objection taken on behalf of the Respondents, proceedings were stayed on the 12th day of January, 1967, until the Petitioner should apply for and obtain an order that he might amend his petition by appending thereto an address for service.

4. Further, on the said 12th day of January, an order was made dismissing the Respondent John Wesley Corbin from the suit.

5. The trial of the petition commenced on the 15th day of February, 1967, and the allegations were that the Respondent Arlington DaCosta Edwards was guilty of illegal practices in that he made and published false statements of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of the Petitioner for the purpose of affecting his, the Petitioner's return, contrary to Section 60 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1957.

6. On hearing the evidence adduced by the parties, I determined that no illegal practice was proved to have been committed by the Respondent Arlington DaCosta Edwards and I now certify such my determination to you according to the Statute.

7. I further report that I have no reason to believe that illegal practices have extensively prevailed at the General Election for the constituency of St. Andrew held on the 3rd day of November, 1966.

8. A transcript of the notes of evidence taken at the trial will be forwarded to you as soon as they become available.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. R. DOUGLAS
Chief Justice.

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to acknowledge the receipt from His Lordship the Chief Justice of another communication dated 9th March, 1967, which reads as follows:-

SUPREME COURT
BARBADOS

Chief Justice's Chambers,
Bridgetown.

9th March, 1967.

Sir,

Suit No. 514 of 1966
Suit No. 614 of 1966
Suit No. 4 of 1967
Suit No. 5 of 1967
Suit No. 6 of 1967

Between

Frank Leslie Walcott	Petitioner
and	
Walter Clare Burton Hinds	Respondent

I have the honour to report that the abovenamed petitions were filed in the Supreme Court of Barbados under the provisions of the Election Controversies Act, 1958, in respect of the General Election for the Constituency of St. Peter, held on the 3rd day of November, 1966, when the Respondent was returned as one of the members for the Constituency in the General Assembly.

2. The Petitioner was a candidate at the said election and in each petition complained that the Respondent was guilty of illegal practices, namely, that the Respondent made and published false statements of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of the Petitioner for the purpose of affecting the Petitioner's return, in contravention of Section 60 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1957.

3. In regard to Suit No. 514 of 1966, no notice of presentation was served, nor was security given as required by the Election Controversies Act. It was, therefore, ordered on the 11th day of January, 1967, that the petition should remain on the file and be not proceeded with. The Petitioner was ordered to pay costs.

4. Suit No. 614 of 1966 came on for hearing on the 13th day of February, 1967, when objection was taken on behalf of the Petitioner to the appearance for the Respondent of Mr. H. B. St. John and Mr. J. M. G. Adams on the ground that these latter were members of the General Assembly. The objection was overruled.

5. After formal amendment of the petition in Suit No. 614 of 1966, evidence was taken on the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd days of February, 1967, and judgment was delivered on the 27th day of February, 1967, when I held that the illegal practices complained of in the petition had not been proved. The Petitioner was ordered to pay costs.

6. On the 27th day of February, 1967, Counsel for the Petitioner informed the Court that he did not propose to offer any evidence in Suits Nos. 4, 5 and 6 of 1967. Accordingly, I dismissed those petitions with no order as to costs.

7. I now certify these determinations in the petitions abovementioned.

8. I further report that I have no reason to believe that illegal practices have extensively prevailed at the General Election for the Constituency of St. Peter held on the 3rd day of November, 1966.

9. A transcript of the notes of evidence taken at the trial of Suit No. 614 of 1966 will be forwarded to you as soon as they become available.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
W. R. DOUGLAS
Chief Justice.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Other Chamber a Bill entitled an Act to amend the law relating to Wills with an amendment thereto.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1967.

The Customs Duties (Materials for the manufacture and packaging of Toothpaste) Order, 1967.

The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order 1967.

The Draft Estimates for the Financial Year 1967-68.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$2,375 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1966-67 No. 5 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve under section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, the Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1967-68.

A Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$655 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67 No. 56 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 143 - Mortuary and Laboratory Equipment of Head 41 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the Estimates for the year 1966-67.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of the expenditure required to supplement the Annexed Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1966-67, as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Bill to continue various expiring laws.

Also, a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to dissolve the Corporation and Councils established by the Local Government Act, 1958; to provide for the transfer of their functions, assets and liabilities to an Interim Commissioner for Local Government, and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 5 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter is now ready.

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 13 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, is now ready.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the money Resolution of which notice has been given today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

WHEREAS there is an urgent necessity for the establishment of a playing field and Social Centre in the parish of St. Joseph for the children and people in the entire Parish;

AND WHEREAS due to the hilly terrain in the said parish, some difficulty might be experienced in obtaining a suitable spot of land for the above purposes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House request the Government to purchase a parcel of land from Blackmans Plantation butting and bounding on lands of Blackmans West Secondary School, north of the School, for the purpose of establishing a social centre and playing field.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is Government aware of the great difficulties and sufferings experienced by former employees of St. Joseph Highway Commissioners of the said Parish?

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

Mr. SPEAKER: In respect of one word used by the hon. member, I am advised that this has been vetted by the Clerk at the Table - the hon. member in that question spoke about "ill-treated". That might tend to contravene the Standing Order which prohibits the expression of opinion. If the hon. member is willing to have "ill-treated" deleted and "so treated" substituted, the question I allow.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as you know, I do not like the word "ill" at all; so if you want me to take it out, I bow to your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member for his co-operation with the Chair.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the darkness of the Barber Green Roads at night in the rural districts which poses a danger to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government have lights installed on the Salters to the Charles Rowe Bridge Highway and at the junction of Jehova Jirah and Market Hill Highway in the parish of Saint George?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

In view of recent outbreaks of sickness among school children in the parish of St. Thomas after eating school meals provided by the Government, will the Minister state:

- (i) on how many days did sickness occur, at what schools and how many school children were involved;
- (ii) if it is true that the Minister expressed himself to be satisfied that those of the children's parents to whom he spoke were not unduly worried;
- (iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, to how many parents did he speak;
- (iv) if it is true that he was not at once informed of the first outbreak of sickness on February 2, 1967;
- (v) if the answer to (iv) is in the affirmative whether he agrees that so important a matter should have been made known to him at once, and whether he will forthwith make a departmental enquiry as to why he was not so informed;
- (vi) on what day were samples of the food served to the children first taken to the Government Laboratory and Enmore Health Centre for Chemical and bacteriological analysis;
- (vii) what are the results of the analyses carried out?

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will Government seek to alleviate some of the hardships experienced by several householders throughout the island where there is not a ready supply of electricity?

Would Government in seeking to accelerate a programme for the supply of electricity to those areas which now suffer through the lack thereof, give immediate consideration to, amongst other areas in the Parish of St. Peter, the districts known as Castle (Cabbage Walk), Mount and Boscobelle, and certain parts of Ashton Hall, St. Peter?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will Government seek to launch a programme of social and economic reform and betterment to eradicate poverty from the mass of people in this new independent nation, in the shortest possible time?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that certain officers employed at a number of Anglican Churches in this Island have not received any salary increases since 1959?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative would Government act immediately to remedy any defects which brought about the condition which these officers, namely, Sextons, Bell-ringers and Organists may have suffered?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

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

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would Government seek to remedy the situation without undue delay?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

What are Government's plans, if any, for creating or improving where necessary, purchasing power amongst

the island's population especially amongst those between 18 and 49 years of age?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

What are Government's plans, if any, for helping local commodity producers to produce more, so that they can consume more?

And what are the plans, if any, for helping those persons who earn as little as \$12.00 per week and not more than \$20.00 per week, so that they may be able to purchase the goods and services they need, but cannot now afford?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that a number of patriotic Barbadians who returned to Barbados from Britain by chartered flights during the month of November, 1966, for the Barbados Independence Celebrations have been maltreated?

Is it within Government's knowledge that the Barbados Tourist Board is named as co-sponsors of one of the two chartered flights from Britain to Barbados for the said Independence Celebrations?

Would Government speedily instruct the Barbados High Commissioner in Britain to assist the Board of Trade in England with any investigations into this matter which may be instituted there on behalf of Barbadian nationals?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there are three questions of which notice was given on Friday, and of which I have been handed a copy by the Clerk to be asked today. 3.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I apologise to the hon. and learned member. There was an inadvertent omission.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is a history in relation to these questions. History is repeating itself.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member's question relative to the outbreaks of sickness among school children.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education:-

What steps, if any, were taken prior to February 26, 1967, to prevent a recurrence of outbreaks of sickness among school children attributable to the consumption of School Meals provided by the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member, his question to the Minister of Health relating to the treatment of children at the Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Health:-

How many children have been treated at the Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for gastroenteritis or other intestinal complaints of an urgent or emergency nature since February 1, 1967.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there is another question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education:-

Since February 10, 1967, have there been any further outbreaks of sickness among school children following consumption of School Meals provided by the Government, and, if so, when and at what schools?

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended 31st December, 1965, of the Barbados Savings Bank.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to continue various expiring laws be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to dissolve the Corporation and Councils established by the Local Government Act, 1958; to provide for the transfer of their functions, assets and liabilities to an Interim Commissioner for Local Government, and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith, be now read a first time.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time, I am advised that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 5 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, has been duly laid.

LACK OF COMMUNITY CENTRES, PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAY GROUNDS IN ST. PETER

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

1. Is Government aware that in the parish of Saint Peter there is an obvious lack of recreational and social facilities and rural amenities, to wit - no community centres, playing fields and playgrounds for young children?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative will Government see to it that such provision be made

available at such central areas with priority being given in respect of the more highly populated centres?

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

"1. A proposal has been made in Chapter XV of the Development Plan, 1965-68 for a playing field in St. Peter, and various sites are under consideration.

The first floor of the former police station at Speights-town is being renovated and extended to provide more spacious accommodation and better facilities than are available at the Speightstown Assembly Hall.

It is the policy of the Government that, whenever it can be conveniently arranged, school buildings and the grounds attached should be used for community activities.

2. Does not arise."
3.25 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I will put a supplementary. Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is urgent need for school buildings for schooling purposes, much more than for recreational facilities?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that question is related to another Minister. I do not control school buildings.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually, I do not regard that question as a true supplementary.

PATIENT AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL ASSAULTED

Mr. SPEAKER: Next is Question No. 13 which likewise stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

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

1. Is Government aware that a patient in Ward A - 1 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was assaulted and beaten by being cuffed whilst a patient in the said Ward on Tuesday, 10th January, 1967?

2. Is Government aware that an employee on the Orderly Staff at the said Institution has admitted the disorderly conduct complained of by the suffering patient?

3. What action does Government propose taking in the matter with a view to affording Hospital patients protection in the future, from such assaults and beatings as are complained of?

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

Investigation revealed that there was an altercation on the 10th of January between a patient and a temporary Orderly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over an alleged breach by the patient of Hospital regulations.

The patient admitted that on the 10th of January he threatened the temporary Orderly, and the temporary Orderly admitted striking him in self defence. The patient also admitted seizing a bottle.

The services of the temporary Orderly terminated on 17th January.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary to that, I ask this. When the patient admitted that he threatened the temporary Orderly, and the Orderly admitted striking the patient in self-defence, what did the Government do?

Mr. SPEAKER: There were no other replies laid.

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.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grants of sums of money for the service of the Island.

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1966-67 No. 54

HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$160 is required under Item 25 - Office Equipment - of this Head. It is required in consequence of a decision by the Government to pay cost of living allowance to all Government pensioners with effect from 1st October, 1966. It is necessary to replace all of the existing plates for the address plate machine to accommodate this change.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, something seems to be wrong with this Resolution. It does not have on the notes.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member will notice that I myself hesitated. Anyhow, I understand what has happened. The machine has not printed the notes due to some fault. At any rate, the note is just as I have stated and I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

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

3.35 p.m.

Head 17 - Premier - Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under Head 17 - Home Affairs - various items require supplementary provision, Item 14 - Overtime Allowance, Item 19 - Postage Item 31 - Furniture and Office Equipment, and Item 34 - Elections. The note to Item 34 explains that this sum is required to supplement the original provision, as additional expenditure was incurred in connection with the payment of Returning Officers, and in the general work in preparation for the General Elections.

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

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in respect of the inquiry into the Police Force, I would like to know, Sir, what steps have been taken...

the Island, and that such legislation should be on a similar line to that existing in Trinidad. Such legislation was drafted by the Crown Law Officers in August, 1961, but unfortunately it was not acted upon. The matter was reviewed by this Government in the last Session, and as a result of the work done by previous Ministers and by my Ministry as at present constituted, this Bill which has been brought down today has been properly vetted, and has received the blessing of the various interested parties. As hon. members would know, the Barbados Amateur Boxing Association is affiliated to the International Amateur Boxing Association and there is no need for enactment of legislation in respect of amateur boxers. The Cabinet approved the enactment of legislation to regulate the holding of boxing contests again in May 1965, and the new Draft Bill was referred to the Interim Boxing Board of Control which has been in existence for some time and has been controlling boxing as such. The new Draft Bill has been approved by the Interim Boxing Board of Control and the Bill has received the blessing of all the parties interested in boxing in the Island.

The Objects and Reasons set out the objects of the particular Bill as sent down here to establish a Barbados Boxing Board of Control whose main function would be to regulate the holding of boxing contests in this Island. The Board will consist of not more than seven members to be appointed by the Cabinet. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board will be appointed by the Cabinet from among the members, and four members will constitute a quorum. Boxing contests would be forbidden except with the written permission of the Board, and any member of the Board and any member of the Royal Barbados Police Force detailed for the purpose would have free access to any place in which a boxing contest is being or about to be held. Clause 9 would authorise the Board to prescribe the rules for boxing which would be published in such manner as the Board may determine. The Board with the approval of the Cabinet would be empowered to make regulations in respect of certain specified matters. The regulations contained in the Schedule would be effective until revoked or varied by any regulations so made. Clause 11 relates to offences while Clause 12 would authorise the Board to exempt certain bodies from any of the provisions of the Bill or of any regulations thereunder.

This Bill has therefore been engaging the attention of the Government very actively since 1958. In other words, three Governments as such have been looking into this matter, and this is the third session of Parliament, so to speak, whose attention it has been engaging since 1958. Many Bills have been drafted and vetted, and it is only now we are pursuing the actual passing of the legislation to control boxing and to improve the lot of the boxer, especially the professional boxer, to see that he is protected, and that no phoney promoters come along and try to make money out of other people's ability or technique as boxers. I think this is a Bill which will commend itself to hon. members, despite the so-called opposition we heard of last week. I do not know how the opposition will run this week.

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

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Bill to control boxing in Barbados is a bit of legislation which I am quite sure every boxing enthusiast in Barbados would be very happy to have. In 1958, according to the Minister, this Bill was engaging the attention of Government, and it is regrettable that it was not brought down before. I have no desire to oppose this Bill.
4.15 p.m.

But there is a criticism which I would like to make. I take it that this Bill will also give the Government the right to appoint this Board. Sir, I firmly believe that the present Interim Boxing Board of Control has been doing a very good job over the years, and they have never had the opportunity to have the full protection by way of Government because

of some of the promoters. Sometimes they were unfortunate enough to run up against some very difficult boxers. I am quite sure that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, who was known as Sid Terrace the Belgium Terror, would give this Bill his fullest support. I am quite sure that the Government would not sit down to appoint a Board and pack it up with some of their supporters. Such a Bill brought forward by the Government should have the interest of the boxers at heart.

Sir, there is also the question of the promoters being protected. I have seen some very strange things done at Boxing Contests where there is no protection for the boxers and things like that. I am quite sure that when a Board is appointed by the Government it would have the advice of someone who knows what it is doing and which would take care of these things. I know that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works will be able to offer his help as to the type of Board which we know should be appointed. For years the Interim Boxing Board of Control has suffered at the hands of both the boxers and the promoters because it was ignorant, and I would say that if it had not been for the assistance of the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. Hall, who would make it possible for people to hold their boxing contests there, the contests could not take place. When promoters tried to flout the wishes of the Interim Boxing Board of Control, the only support they had was that of Mr. Hall. If they did not carry out the wishes of the Interim Boxing Board of Control, then the boxing could not go on. I take it that the Government would have the right to appoint people to this Board. I make a strong suggestion now to allow the present Interim Boxing Board of Control to function as it is now functioning. Your Honour is a member of the Interim Boxing Board of Control, not because you have been a boxer but we know that in a legal capacity.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would say that one can be a fighter without being a boxer. (Laughter)

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, this Bill deals with boxing and not fighting. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to make sure that when he is appointing such a Board he will not pack it with Government enthusiasts. Boxing is a very dangerous game and I am sure that the Hon. Minister of Communications can bear me out in that. He gave me a lesson as to how to use my left arm speedily. There is one regret I have and it is that he was knocked out by Norfolk Kid. I know that the hon. member, with his knowledge of boxing will guide the Interim Boxing Board of Control. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to use his discretion in the interest of boxing. It is a sport which many Barbadians love, and I am quite sure that it will be more loved if it is carried out in the manner in which it should be carried out.

We have had the unfortunate circumstances of Heavyweights being put up against welter weights. That is the kind of thing in which the promoters take advantage of boxers. However, Sir, the promoters also need protection. I have no intention to oppose this Bill. I am prepared to support it. I once took some active part in boxing contests as manager and trainer, and the hon. junior member for the City will very well recall when I trained and coached his boys at the Modern High School successfully. In no way was I a professional boxer. I sincerely hope that the Hon. Minister of Communications will not take any objection to my remarks; I am merely paying him a compliment. I appeal to the Hon. Minister to make sure - and this is my only comment - that even if they appoint the present Interim Boxing Board of Control, do not let the Government pack this Board with people who probably have no knowledge of what they are doing. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, you can rest assured that I shall give this Bill my full support.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Interim Boxing Board of Control, I, too, would like to say how much I appreciated the co-operation which was given us by Mr. L. A. Hall, Secretary of the Y. M.C.A. As has been mentioned by the previous speaker, very often when mob rule would have been the order of the day, boxers after your throat and some of the promoters after your throat,

we were supported by Mr. Hall who would not put on certain contests unless he knew that they had the approval of the Boxing Board of Control. As to the continuation of the present Boxing Board of Control in Office, I am too well aware that I will not be eligible for membership of the Board, and neither will Your Honour be so eligible unless some special proviso is made in your case; but it is not usual for members of this Chamber to be placed on Statutory Boards. However, we wish the Board well. We are aware of the fact that in any civilised society boxing would have to be controlled by rigorous legislation; otherwise chaos will be the result.

Many hours of patient study have been put in on the drawing up of this Bill which is now before us, and there have been, as Your Honour is only too well aware, periods when people went to high words about certain of the provisions in the Bill. We wish it well, and I, too, would like to ask the Hon. Minister, although he knows that it will not be done with his connivance, that the Board be not packed up with people who have taken too many punches to the head.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I think that some mention should be made of the services rendered to the Interim Board of Control by Mr. Spencer as Secretary. I think that he has done quite a good job in resuscitating boxing in Barbados on the whole. However, Sir, the thing is this: it is a question of hunger, starvation and hardship - this may seem a strange thing to say, but it is true. Hunger, starvation and hardship are the things which really produce good boxers. If you were to search out the history of professional boxers, you will find from where they have sprung, the circumstances which perhaps caused them to turn to boxing for a living.
4.25 p.m.

Make no mistake about it, to make money by way of boxing is not an easy road.

Sir, I am glad to have this Bill. If our boxing is to be run on lines as suggested in this Bill, I do not see how we can do otherwise to our boxers. However, we should pay much attention to amateur boxing in Barbados, as was observed.

I am also saying that certain adverse conditions here have produced some very good boxers; but if we turn to our schools, such as West St. Joseph, we will find that if we give some of the boys in those schools some amateur training in boxing, those schools would turn out some very good boxers. There is no reason why we in Barbados can not turn out world class boxers.

Mr. Speaker, we have had, in the past, overseas promoters of boxing coming to the island and promoting boxing contests and taking out all the money with them. That is what I would call "blood money" because the boxers who go into the ring, when the time comes for them to receive their just reward, find out that they have not received as much as to pay them. You will find that these poor boxers are often beaten twice.

Sir, there are one or two things in this Bill which call for some query. On page 4, clause 5, sub-paragraph 5 it is stated:-

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, the decisions of the Board shall be by a majority of votes and, in addition to an original vote, in any case in which the voting is equal the chairman, or deputy chairman presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote."

I would like the Hon. Minister to give me a little explanation on this point.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just remind the hon. member that Standing Order 44 (2) states:-

"Any such Committee shall have power to make such amendments therein as it shall think fit, provided that the amendments (including new clauses and new Schedules) are

relevant to the subject matter of the Bill; but if any such amendments are not within the title of the Bill, the Committee shall amend the title accordingly and shall report the same to the House."

Mr. HINDS: We must be glad, no doubt, to see that we now have a Bill to control boxing in Barbados. We accept the views of hon. members particularly in regard to the composition of the Board of Control. There can be no doubt that this Bill seeks to give power to a Boxing Board of Control, and the power to my mind borders on the ridiculous in some respects. I would not like to see a Bill passed which would create any hardships, particularly to promoters and the boxers themselves.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, speaking in support of this Bill, I should like to go on record by first saying, "Yes", I was a boxer, but I have never fought professionally, as the hon. junior member for St. Peter is trying to tell this House, in my time as a boxer, I was an amateur. My name as a boxer was Shamos O'Brien, I gave good account of myself as a boxer even as I can still do so now, I fought such people as Al Browne, and I can almost say that I have been a most active man. I have had the privilege of training with Rowan Golden Appolo, and at that time I gave a good account of myself as a weight-lifter. I have never been knocked-out in my entire life.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I saw the hon. member knocked-out by Norfolk Kid myself.
4.35 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I stopped boxing in 1941 when I was in the Navy. Norfolk Kid was not even on the scene; so how would it be possible for a scavenger to knock me out unless he hit me with a stone? The hon. member is trying to be facetious, but this is not a place in which to be facetious. This is a place in which to be serious. I am not trying to make any brag; but if the hon. member cares to say, he can tell you that one night he was skylarking with me and I asked him to stop and he didn't and I stuck my right hand out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we should leave out these personal references.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: It would be nothing if I got knocked out, but I have never been knocked out. When the hon. junior member for St. Peter stated that some of the best boxers were hungry, starving boxers, that is true. Joe Louis was one of the greatest boxers I have ever seen, and he came from a very poor family. Jack Dempsey was a boy in the street. Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, Sugar Ray Robinson, all of the boxers of class came from the street. They were poor, hungry and starving, suffering privation and hardship, and they made better men than a lot of people who did not do that, and they contributed more to the community in which they lived than by black-mailing, slandering, going to prison for being extortionists and for arson. These are things that I consider to be against society, and if these men whom I have just called were hungry, starving and suffered privation, not one of them went to prison for any of the things I have mentioned. Not even for procuring did any of them go to prison. All of these men carved their niche in the Hall of Fame. I hope that people who have taken up some of the other trades which I have just called will at least take a page out of the book of some of these hungry, starving persons who experience these hardships and try at least to contribute something to the community in which they live. I have gone through the Bill thoroughly, and as far as I know, almost all over the world with the exception of France, the Marquis of Queensbury's rules are used in boxing. It is true that here in Barbados when I used to go to boxing matches, I saw some things in these so-called matches that really appalled me, but I believe in the Marquis of Queensbury's rules, and therefore I have absolutely no fear.

When other speakers say they hope the Government will not pack the Board with punch strong people, and in our Barbadian parlance, with Party yard fowls, I must say we

will not pack it with our yard fowls; we will pack it with theirs because they are running the affairs of this country. They must think that we are completely stupid to believe that because somebody shouts for you but knows nothing about boxing that we will put that person on the Board. When they were throwing out their left-handed kudos and mentioning who were members of the Interim Board, I would challenge them that they do not know the difference between a left hook and a left jab. When members are making statements in here for the record, they should remember the case of Ananias and Sapphira. When they come to do the people's business, I expect them to come in a serious manner and stop this vilification, because it is very difficult to vilify me, and I think I can be more sarcastic without being asked to withdraw anything on the floor of this House than anybody else in here. I can say the right thing at the right time, and I know it hurts when I say it.

I have never been a professional boxer; but if poverty, privation and starvation caused me to be a professional boxer, I would not be ashamed of it, because nobody is responsible for his birth. Christ, the greatest man who came to earth was born in a stable, but you could not stop him from being great, and if I had to box to make a living, I would do it and hope to meet some of the Opposition too. People must learn to be a bit less sarcastic when they are talking to me. I am of the pachydermic type. What you say about me does not affect me; but when I hit back physically or verbally it hurts. Before I sit, I will say again that I have never fought professionally in my life, I have never used the name of Sid Terrace the Belgium Terror, and I have never been knocked out.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we have been treated to a most fascinating and interesting speech by the hon. junior member from my own constituency. I can now understand why on election night he was so pugnacious. I only regret that on that occasion, Mr. Speaker, I could not put him on a small platform and see some of his movements; otherwise he might be saying something different about who had never been knocked out or who had been knocked out. I must say it is interesting in a debate on a Boxing Bill like this

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, I do not know if

Mr. ST. JOHN: On a point of order, the hon. member must state the point of order for you, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Sit down, boy.

Mr. ST. JOHN: The hon. member must withdraw that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not withdrawing or sitting down.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER rose and both hon. members took their seats.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER: If this, which in my view amounts to grave disorder, continues, I shall suspend this Sitting. I do not mention that as a threat.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if I may resume my speech, I was saying that this is an interesting debate, because I know the Government

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I rose on a point of order, and I gave way because I thought you were going to address the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought the hon. member was going to resume his speech and he would continue his proceedings on this Bill and of this Chamber.
4.45 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: As I was saying, Sir, I got up on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member make his point of order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas has apparently sent a challenge to me.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Is that a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for me to rule if it is a point of order. I invite the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to make his point of order as succinctly as possible.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I accept that challenge.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: It displays ignorance.

Mr. SPEAKER: What does the hon. member mean?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Name him!

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I really have no knowledge of what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is talking about, neither indeed does he. We will meet in 1971 or at some other time and we will see who will be knocked out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see how vitally urgent it is to have a Boxing Board of Control. (*Laughter*).

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It would be more important for the hon. member to know what a point of order means. The matter of procuring seems to be a very attractive one to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. It seems to be something which the hon. member has not had the ambition to get in. Unfortunately, I cannot tell him how to get in. Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill which has been presented by the Hon. Minister of Heath and I take it that it is not a Party matter. I am sure that all of us on all sides of this House know about boxing. We have had good boxing and I am sure that a Boxing Board of Control is needed. Regulations for boxing contests are needed in Barbados, I am not in a position to say whether there are difficult boxers, Belgium Terrors or what, I do not know. I do not know whether there are any Norfolk Kids; I was not present when the reminiscences, discussions and other interesting words were flowing across the floor of the House this afternoon. I thought that these words of the poet would apply. "They change with the revolving moon", and I would adopt the next line to read "from boxer, seaman, Minister to buffoon." However, Sir, all that is by the way. I am not going into the details of the Bill. Section 3 of the Bill makes the regulations of boxing subject to control. It means nothing to me to be told that the former Government or this Government or any other Government was all in agreement on this point. At the time when the Government of Trinidad was considering such a Bill, the Governor-in-Council was the proper authority to nominate the Boxing Board of Control; perhaps the Party warfare did not reach the technical proposals. At the time when the Cabinet decided that the Trinidad legislation was the model on which this legislation should be placed, Party warfare did not achieve the heights which it has achieved today. The Hon. Minister may be quite sincere, and he may wish to have the interest of boxing at heart when he appoints his Board, but he might be followed by less scrupulous, less sincere and less interested colleagues. This Bill makes the Barbados Boxing Board of Control a Corporation like the Urban Development Corporation and makes it possible to be a yardfowl Corporation just like the others, to use a definition in the vernacular, too well understood by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. It makes it a Corporation where, as far as I judge, there is no money in it. It is just a question of prestige.

I hope I have read Section 10 of the Bill carefully. There is apparently no money in it, but nevertheless this Barbados Boxing Board of Control will have some very

serious functions to carry out. They can take away a man's business by refusing to permit him to be a boxing promoter. It cannot be any secret to hon. members that in some quarters this Bill will be a way of dealing with a particular political opponent of the Government. That is surely no secret if a well-known boxing promoter is also active at a certain level in political life. He is not a friend of our Party or a friend of the Government Party and therefore it will be realised that I am speaking disinterestedly. It cannot be any secret that it is the fear that the result of a Boxing Board of Control which is appointed by the Cabinet and which is not even allowed to choose its own Chairman - the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman will be appointed by the Cabinet - will become a Corporation sharing out boxing licences on the basis of political favour or giving a promoter a licence on the basis of "Let us help our friends". Who knows? It may be that they will help us if we help them enough!

I respectfully urge on the Minister that regulations of this nature are not the most suitable in a democratic country. We hear that boxing is carried on in Trinidad by persons who are interested in forming themselves into an Association and that Association rules the boxing. That is the way in which it is done and we have an example here in Barbados. As to the Barbados Cricket Association, in 1933 a number of persons got together and petitioned the House of Assembly. They were persons of all political complexions, and a few of the names are William Bowring, Ernest Allan Collymore, Edwin Richard Derys Moulder, Hampden Archibald Cuke, Frederick Archibald Conrad Clairmonte, John McColli Kidney - they are persons appointed to be the promoters of that Association and they got together and got statutory regulations to be a self-governing body of sport. The promotion of that sport is their function and the Government made it possible for that sport to progress and have a fair deal.
4.55 p.m.

But no more should boxing be run by the Government; it should be put on the same footing as Cricket, Football or Tennis is run. It should not be for the Government to govern the Interim Board of Control of Boxing in Barbados. They should give the power to an Association to control Boxing, just as Cricket and Football is controlled. The Barbados Cricket Association has control over our Cricket in the Island, and it has its own regulations and they can be enforced by law. This same thing should be done for boxing.

We only have to look at the other statutory authorities. It is true that there is money to be dealt with by the Housing Authority; but if you turn to the recently established Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, you will see that the Government has put on that Board members who know nothing of Broadcasting. That is, I suggest, an example of what can be expected with the Boxing Board of Control. It can be an insidious example in the hands of unscrupulous appointments, and it may well happen that the Government may appoint their friends - as was said, their yard fowls. If there were one political Party, the Government would have power to make it partisan. The Government has no power over the Barbados Cricket Association nor over the Barbados Football Association. Why should it have so much power over the Barbados Boxing Board?

I charge the Hon. Minister to address himself to this point very carefully. See whether it is for the good of Boxing in Barbados. I do not imagine that there is one political Party which would ever control boxing in this country. Perhaps, one day the present Government may find itself in the Opposition. I am suggesting that only one Party is in control of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, some other Cabinet will come into power and consideration would be given to another Board of Control. It will not be presided over by the same yard-fowls. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas ask whether we expected the Government would appoint our yardfowls. Those who have the interest of boxing at heart should consider this very seriously indeed. You are saying that only Government supporters can be appointed to this Board.

Is the Minister responsible for boxing going to any boxing contest other than to take part in the presentation of prizes or for the attendance at a boxing match? I do not envisage that I would be questioning the Minister as to why there was not enough seating accommodation at a particular fight. I do not expect the Minister would have to answer such a question like that. No Government money is involved in the Barbados Boxing Board of Control. I see nothing in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, to suspect that money of the Government would be involved in the Boxing Board of Control.

I do not know whom the Government intends to appoint to this Board, but I would inform the Government to think seriously of the future of Boxing in Barbados when it is making its appointments to that Board. May be, the Government is thinking more seriously of getting boxing off the ground.
5.05 p.m.

I would press very strongly on the Government not to make boxing or any other sport a political activity in Barbados.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I have sat and listened to a lot about boxing contests, but I would say that this Bill which is before us is to protect the boxing contestants. This is nothing to do with the yard fowls which were spoken about; this is to make rules and regulations to protect the boxer, whoever he may be. There were no regulations previously, and anybody could arrange a contest and make a few dollars and feel good. This Bill is to set up a Board, and, for my part, the members thereof may be chosen from either side, so long as they are men with integrity, with a knowledge about boxing, and of good character in the boxing and sporting world.

On page 9 of the Bill I see that no one under the age of seventeen years will be granted a boxing licence. I agree with that, because it is something to protect youngsters who are not properly matured. Anyone in the boxing field has to be a matured person who is able to take blows all over his body. I see too that a champion has to pay \$50, while an amateur will have to pay \$25, and the Police will have authority to go to any place in which a boxing contest is taking place, and anyone who obstructs the Police in the execution of his duty will be liable to a fine of so many dollars or three months in prison. I would like to see all the champions I heard talking this afternoon on a boxing stage, because I myself would be a Judge, and I would know who hit hard and who hit easy. This Bill does not need a lot of argument or criticism. If there is any Clause in this Bill which is not right, let us see whether it can be amended and have some words inserted.

Mr. SPEAKER: When we go into Committee that may be done.

Mr. CORBIN: I do not see anything controversial in this Bill, and I believe it can be passed unanimously.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no other hon. member who wants to speak, the Hon. Introducer of the Bill may exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have listened very attentively to the various comments and/or criticisms which were levelled at the second reading of this Bill. I am afraid many of the alleged criticisms were not of a very substantial nature, but I will give hon. members the assurance that I have made notes of all the points raised, and will draw to the attention of the Cabinet the salient points which I consider should be drawn to its attention.

In so far as continuing with the services of the present members of the Interim Boxing Board of Control is concerned, I can assure hon. members that due regard will be paid, as far as I am concerned, to seeing that as many of the members of the old Interim Boxing Board of Control are retained as possible, especially the ones who have rendered very useful service in the past. It is for this reason that the Bill was referred to the Interim Boxing

Board of Control. They had it for some time and went through it very carefully, and there were meetings held in the Ministry on it; so their views, comments and criticisms have been taken in good stead, and due regard paid thereto. We have received their assistance in the past, and we hope to receive it in the future. I may mention that the composition of the Interim Boxing Board of Control is pretty wide; it is comprised of eleven members, whereas this Bill makes provision for seven. Be that as it may, the members of that Board will be given priority as far as I am concerned. I think that was the main point raised.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown who is also a member of the Interim Boxing Board of Control as to whether a sitting member of the House can serve as a member of the Boxing Board of Control, I would say that unless there is a provision in the body of the Bill to this effect, the present view is that he is eligible; so there is no reason why a member of this Chamber should be ineligible to serve as a member of the Boxing Board unless it is actually set out in the Bill itself. The hon. junior member for Bridgetown, therefore, need have no fear or apprehension that his services will not be retained.

I agree with the statement that those who have had the hardest knocks in life have made a worthwhile contribution in boxing, but this is also true in cricket, football, athletics, swimming and so on. When our cricket team goes on tour it seldom does well in the first week or two, but after a month or six weeks the members get into trim and give of their best. To suggest, as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has done, that the Government should merely pass the legislation and allow the Boxing Board to do as it likes and the Cabinet should have no say whatever in the appointment of its members - the hon. member may say that now, but at a later stage in his career he will be converted to this view and see that the Government should be involved in the appointment of the Board just as it has the right to appoint members to the Stadium Board.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, if the hon. member would be so kind as to give way, the point I sought to make was that the Government has no right in any of the other sports like cricket, football or tennis unless Government money is involved. I did not mention the stadium because that is a situation where the taxpayers' money is involved. If the Minister accepts that explanation, I would say that the Government cannot appoint anyone to the Governing Bodies of sports as such, the present situation being what it is.

5.15 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would like to remind the hon. member that we have a Sports Officer, we have a Community Development section of the Ministry and we have various coaches - a Cricket Coach, an Athletic Coach and so on, and the Sports Officer, who would normally be a member - an *ex officio* member - of the Boxing Board of Control, would be invited there from time to time to participate in the running of this Board. He would also serve as a liaison between the Board and the Ministry. That is the function of the Sports Officer. He would be co-opted from time to time, if not a statutory member of the Board. I think that there is a very good reason in having the Board nominated by the Cabinet in keeping with all recent legislation. I think that the general standard of boxing would be improved with the passing of this legislation which has been pending since 1958 and which is only now seeing the light of day.

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

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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.

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called. It reads as follows:-

5. (1) No member shall be interested in the administration or executive of any promoting body of professional boxing.

(2) No member shall be interested in, or receive payment of any kind from, any promoter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Clause says that no member shall be interested in the administration or executive of any promoting body of professional boxing. That is sub-clause (1). I am wondering if this Clause is to be interpreted to mean that people who are disinterested would be members of the Board - in other words, people who specialise in animal husbandry, horticulture or maybe aviators and that type of people. It does not say that no member shall have a financial interest in the Board or anything of the kind. It says: "No member shall be interested in the administration or executive of any promoting body of professional boxing." If the Section had said that members of the Board shall not have any financial interest - I am wondering if we are expected to find in Barbados a Board appointed by the present Cabinet or any other Cabinet, or a Cabinet which would appoint persons who are not interested in boxing at all or members who have no interest at all in what is going on. It says: "No member shall be interested in the administration or executive of any promoting body of professional boxing." I am to tell you, Sir, that wherever you find a promoter in this Island, some member of whatever Board will have an interest in a promoter or in a body which has promoted a boxing contest. The Clause does not state specifically the case where a person has a financial interest.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I really do not want to detain hon. members, but there is a legal point in Clause 5 and I hope the Hon. Minister will take note of it. There is nothing in the Bill which would make a breach of the monetary provisions an offence. I hope I have made myself clear. Clause 5 Sub-clause (2) says this:-

"No member shall be interested in, or receive payment of any kind from, any promoter."

I can find nothing in the Bill which says that any member who is bribed or paid by a promoter for anything is guilty of an offence or, in the converse, no provision is made to terminate his appointment. If the Hon. Minister can point out that this provision exists, I shall be most grateful; but I am sure the Hon. Minister will agree that Clause 5 is meaningless unless there is some such provision in the Bill. I am in favour of Clause 5, but I will also be in favour of making it an offence for a promoter to be bribed and I would also be in favour of making it an offence for the Minister to dismiss him. Section 3 of the Bill makes it possible for the Minister to dismiss him but there is no automatic punishment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, two hon. members have spoken on this Clause and I should like to say that this

Clause is not a penalty clause. This is merely a Clause to guide the Cabinet in so far as the appointment of members is concerned. In other words, in appointing members of the Board, the Cabinet should see to it that no member interested either in the administration or the executive or any promoting body of professional boxing or who mixes up with professional boxing to the extent of being directly interested in the promotion of boxing contests, is put on this Board, and he shall receive no payment from any promoters.

5.25 p.m.

In other words, anyone who falls within any of these categories will automatically be disqualified and will not be eligible for appointment to this Board. So, this serves as a guide to the Cabinet; this serves as a guide to the Minister in charge in making the appointments to be certified by the Cabinet.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that it is not a penalty clause, but it says that no member shall be interested in, or receive payment of any kind from any promoter.

What we are complaining about is that there is no penalty attached to this Clause in case a member becomes interested. Let us suppose that a member of the Boxing Board of Control has been paid by promoters; why should there not be a penalty attached for that? According to this, you are only saying that he should not do it.

Why put into a Bill that no member shall be interested in, or receive money from any promoter, if you are not going to put a penalty clause in the Bill for anyone doing it?

Mr. HINDS: Sir, Barbados is a small place and after hearing the Hon. Minister on that point, I would like to hear from him now if the Cabinet makes its appointments to the Board and after that Board is functioning, a brother of a member of the Board finds himself as a promoter. Are you going to tell me that a member of the Board who has a brother as a promoter is not going to have any interest in his brother's fight? My point is this. As soon as some relative of a member of the Board starts promoting fights, that member should be taken off the Board. Are you going to dismiss him, if he finds himself in that position?

The question that Clause 5 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was called and passed.

Clause 7 was called. It reads as follows:-

7. (1) No person shall hold, assist in holding, or take any part whatsoever in any boxing contest, whether held for prizes or otherwise, unless a permit in writing has been first obtained by the promoter from the Board authorising the holding of such contest.

(2) The Board may refuse to issue such permit at its discretion or may attach any conditions it thinks fit as to the holding of any boxing contest or may cancel any permit after issue.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Clause 7 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Under Clause 7, subsection 2, it is stated:-

"The Board may refuse to issue such permit at its discretion or may attach any conditions it thinks fit as to the holding of any boxing contest or may cancel any permit after issue."

Anyhow, Sir, I see under this Bill that the Board will have the power to cancel or refuse a permit. I think that if a promoter applies for a licence and he is refused a permit,

he ought to be given the reason why he is refused the permit. You must remember that boxing is an occupation for some people, and as this Bill is worded, a Board can refuse to issue a licence a half hour before a fight comes off. The Board can say that the fight cannot come off.

You must remember that the moment a promoter decides to stage a fight, he is going to begin expenses in connection with that fight. He is going to make funds available to his boxers to help them to get on with their training. If these promoters who apply for licences are not granted the licences, then they stand to lose money. In other words, they are at the mercies of the Board.

I do not see anywhere about this Bill that they have any right of appeal. I am sure that the Hon. Minister would agree that no person should be denied the right of appeal. The Boxing Board of Control has the right to cancel or refuse a licence to a promoter within minutes of a fight coming off. It does not look to me quite fair to a promoter without giving him the chance to appeal.

The question that Clause 7 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 8 to 12 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.
5.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to draw to the attention of the Minister clause 11 of the Schedule where it says that all contestants must be medically examined to the satisfaction of the Board within three days of the date of the proposed contest. I am not here to hold up the House, but I would like to point out that the W.B.A. and the N.B.A. call for twenty-four hours. My reason for bringing this to your attention is that the boxer might be examined on the first day and the next day he takes ill. Now I am not saying that it is going to happen, because I do not think for one moment that a promoter would be that unscrupulous, but the chances are that the promoter can call on this man to fight. I would suggest that this should be twenty-four hours before the date of the contest, because a promoter can charge a boxer for not turning up to fight if he were examined on the first day or second day and then takes ill. I think it would safeguard both the boxer and the promoter.

I therefore beg to move that the words "three days" be deleted and the words "twenty-four hours" be substituted therefor.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before that motion is seconded, without being offensive, I hope, if the hon. member were to read the regulation carefully, probably he would have no need to make this amendment. He completely ignored the words "within three days", which mean it can be five hours, six hours or one hour before the contest. Although it is three days before the date of the boxing contest, it can be done a few minutes before.

Mr. CRAIG: I believe that the Hon. Minister may have misunderstood me. The Hon. Minister made it clear to me what "within three days" means; but what I am asking the Minister to see is that it is possible for the Board to examine a man on the first day and then he may not be examined on the third day, and the chances are that the boxer can take ill within the last two days. I am not making any criticism; I am only asking the Minister to give this some consideration. These are the rules of the W.B.A. and the N.B.A. which I am confident the Minister of Communications and Works can bear me out on. I am not here to say who was a professional boxer, nor am I

here to argue who was or was not knocked down. Let us forget that. But I would like the Minister to delete "three days" and substitute "twenty-four hours". This would protect the promoter as well as the boxer. It is true that the boxer can be examined two minutes before the contest, but he can also be examined on the first day, and then he is exposed. That is why I have moved the amendment.

Mr. St. JOHN: I beg to second the amendment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the question is put, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member that these regulations have been vetted not only by the lawyers, but by the entire Interim Boxing Board of Control which is comprised of people who know about boxing, and I am more willing to bow to their advice than to the hon. member who has expounded some sort of knowledge.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not really at crossed swords with the Minister. I have always accepted his guidance because of his experience in this House; but when he says that he would rather accept the advice of the Interim Boxing Board of Control rather than accept my advice, I would like to tell him that the present Secretary of the Interim Boxing Board of Control has on more than one occasion sought my advice on boxing. The W.B.A. and the N.B.A. require under their rules an examination twenty-four hours before, and I challenge the Interim Boxing Board of Control to say that three days is the best thing.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

5.45 p.m.

PENSIONS (RETIRED OFFICERS) (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day 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 Order in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Education is asking leave of the House to take charge of this Order in the absence 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. Minister of Education to take charge of this Order which is to move the Second reading of a Bill to make special provision in respect of the pensions, gratuities or other allowances which may be granted under the Pensions Act, 1947, to officers who retire from public service under the Government of this Island and re-enter the public service under the Government of this Island.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to remove an anomaly and a certain injustice with respect to the enjoyment of pension rights by certain officers serving not only with this Government, but perhaps also having given service with other Governments before this Government. I think that the House is well aware of the fact that under the Colonial system there was a con-

siderable amount of reciprocity with respect to the enjoyment of pension rights and gratuities between one Colonial territory and another. Hon. members will have seen from time to time that in Bills or Schedules are included various colonies, and as soon as a particular colony was part of the original agreement, or became part of the original agreement, the Schedule was amended so as to include that territory. The position somehow changed since constitutional development began to take place in various parts of the Commonwealth, so that you would have three sets of possible arrangements - arrangements between two colonies, arrangements with one colony and possibly arrangements between two independent territories. Since this application started, it was discovered that the pension rights and gratuities of officers transferred or even on promotion were not always guaranteed as between a colonial territory and an independent territory, and at some time not guaranteed at all between two independent territories; so that if an officer, for example, who had served with the Barbados Government was transferred to another Government Service before that Government became an independent Government, and he wanted to return to service with this Government on a permanent basis, as the law now stands, he could possibly lose some portion of his retiring benefits by not having them computed on final retirement on the basis of his total service. That is because he would be deemed to have broken his continuity because of the constitutional position which existed with the Government with whom he might have been serving before he returned to this service.

The purpose of this Bill is to clear the way of this kind of anomaly and the Bill therefore seeks to prevent any officer if, before or immediately upon his retirement from any public service, he was or is appointed on a permanent basis to a pensionable office in the Government of this Island. That is to give him the right to be treated for the purpose of his enjoyment of pension rights and gratuities as ordinarily transferred between two Independent Governments. Therefore the payment of any pension, gratuity or allowance granted to such an officer on his retirement in respect of his service for the Government of this Island would, of course, be taken into account as well as the service which he had had elsewhere, and he would be deemed, so to speak, not to have been in a different service.

There are, of course, nowadays quite a lot of officers who fall under this Head because there are transfers from one territory to another, and are particularly transfers of public servants who had served in other territories and have come back to this service, or they have retired from the territories where they were serving owing to constitutional changes in those territories. The purpose of this Bill, therefore, is to obviate or clear away any anomaly which would occur and to remove any doubt as to an officer's pension rights in cases of transfers of this sort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.55 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

SENATE'S AMENDMENT TO WILLS
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1967

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, we have reached the end of the Order Paper, but the Senate has returned to this Honourable Chamber the Wills (Amendment) Bill which was passed last Tuesday by this place with an amendment on Page 4.

Clause 7 reads as follows:-

"In determining the purposes of this Act whether or not the execution of a will conformed to a particular law, regard shall be had to the formal requirements of the law at the time of execution, but this shall not prevent account being taken of an alteration of law affecting wills executed at this time if the alteration enables the will to be treated as properly executed."

The Senate has put in the word "for" after the words "In determining". It would read "In determining for the purposes of this Act...."

I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the amendment was read a second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today.

Next week of course, we shall be dealing with, among other things, the Appropriation Bill which we gave notice of today.

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday next 21st, March, 1967, at 12 o'clock (noon).

In fixing the Order Paper for Government Business:

Order No. 1 Local Government Bill.

Order No. 2 Committee of Supply.

Order No. 3 Appropriation Bill.

The other matters will be dealt with *seriatim*.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second the motion for the adjournment.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, my only reason for rising is to state that we did not receive today's Order Paper and Notice Papers until yesterday evening, and I hope the same thing does not happen again.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I take it that that question was addressed to you, but I would only say that we on this side are not in anyway responsible for that. We however sympathise with all hon. members who did not receive their papers until yesterday, but I think it should be said that for the past two weeks the Government Printery was engaged in the preparation of the Annual Estimates and it may be behindhand in other things.

There is no reason for the same thing to happen next week. I think hon. members will receive their papers in the proper time.

The question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday next, 21st March, 1967, at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.05 p.m.