

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st March, 1967.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANKER, O. 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. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries); Mr. ST. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaCOSTA EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.

Prayers were read.

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

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have once again to inform hon. members, with regret, that there are no Minutes available for confirmation.

I have also to inform hon. members that I have received a letter from the Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen of Barbados acknowledging the Address, with thanks, passed by the House of Assembly of Barbados. I shall proceed to read it.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

6th March, 1967

Dear Governor-General,

Thank you for your letter of 27th February and for the enclosed Loyal Address from the House of Assembly of Barbados which you sent with it and which Her Majesty deeply appreciates.

Your sincerely,
(Sgd.) MICHAEL ADEANE

His Excellency the Governor-General
of Barbados.

This was accompanied by a letter from Government House which reads as follows:-

Government House,
Barbados.

His Excellency the Governor-General presents his compliments to His Honour the Speaker of the House of Assembly and has the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of a letter received from the Private Secretary to The Queen acknowledging the receipt of the Loyal Message and expression of thanks addressed to Her Majesty by the House of Assembly following the attainment of Independence by Barbados on the 30th November, 1966.
16th March, 1967.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I am commanded to lay the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1967.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st December, 1966.

PETITION

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition on behalf of the Council of the Barbados Family Planning Association requesting the passage of a Bill to incorporate the Association. The Petition is respectfully worded, and I ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually this does not appear on my Notice Paper, but it is quite in order for the hon. member to proceed as he has done.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1967.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 8, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, is ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association.

QUESTION

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is the Government aware that residents of Dunscombe, Spring Farm, Barker's Corner, Porey's Spring, Fortress Hill, and Dr. Moore's Woods, in the parish of St. Thomas are in great need of a public bath?
2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government take the earliest possible steps to provide such a bath at a central position on or near the Porey's Spring Road?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association be now read a first time.

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

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

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended 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.

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.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPLEMENT ESTIMATES OF PORT DEPARTMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 8 be 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.

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and it is to move the passing of the 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. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the matter before the House for consideration is the provision for the sum of \$87,217 to supplement seven items of the Annexed Estimates of the Port Department to the end of the financial year.
12.25 p.m.

The items to be supplemented are as follows: Item 23 - Acting Allowance; Item 26 - Acting Allowance and Payment of Substitutes; Item 27 - Overtime; Item 34 - Water; Item

35 - Marine Services; Item 51 - Police Services; and Item 54 - Repairs and Maintenance. The justification for these supplementary amounts is that the increases being sought under Items 23, 26, 27, 35, 51 and 54 are required to meet the additional expenditure on acting allowances, overtime, wages and salaries payable to the Port Department employees consequent on the recent increases of salaries and wages of Government employees. No additional provisions have been previously made to meet these increases. The average of increase of expenditure on these items is 33 1/3%. As hon. members will be aware, sometime last year or late in the year, before the Salaries Commissioner came down here to revise the salaries of employees, for some reason or other, the Port employees were overlooked, I cannot remember what took place but as a result since these port workers are Government workers, we are trying to bring them into line. Only a few weeks ago I was approached by one of the workers who wanted to know when he would get this little increase. As long as money is involved, people are always restless until they get their money. For what I have seen people do for money, it makes me know that money, if not the most important thing in the world, is a very important thing.

As to Item 23, the approved provision for re-payment of acting allowances to Lighthouses staff is \$800,00. The rate of spending from this vote has been roughly in keeping with the rate forecast when the provision was sought. On the basis of a 33 1/3% increase in the rate of wages and salaries, the sum of \$266, say \$270, is required to meet expenditure against this item to the end of the financial year.

Since members of this Chamber had their little back pay and received it with alacrity, I have no objection to hon. members asking questions, but I do not see that this matter is in any way controversial. I am asking hon. members to expedite the passing of this Resolution so that the Port Workers can be happy just like anybody else. I do not know if the Senate will meet in order that these workers will get this money, but, if so, I hope they will get it before the end of the month. Most likely some of these workers have committed themselves already. I am therefore asking hon. members to be in sympathy with these people and I am also asking them to be in sympathy with me, too.

As regards Item 26 - Acting allowances and payment of substitutes - the approved provision for payment of acting allowances and salaries of substitutes in respect of the Port Department Staff is \$11,000. The average rate of spending from this vote which was projected at the beginning of the financial year has been maintained on the basis of a 33 1/3% increase. The sum of \$3,666 - say \$3,700 - is required to supplement this item, Mr. Speaker, I hope that hon. members on the other side of the House are listening to me quite attentively and they will not get up afterwards and ask me to repeat myself. I do not want to be impolite or appear to be rude, but I do not want to waste time and I would like to get through with this Resolution.

As to Item 27 - Overtime - the recent salaries revision has had a two-fold effect on this island; (i) there has been an increase in the hourly rate of weekly paid employees, which has resulted in an increase in the hourly rate for overtime paid to them; (ii) the replacement of a forty-eight hour week by a forty-four hour week has resulted in an increase in overtime by four hours a week per person for monthly and weekly paid staff.

Mr. Speaker, one might wonder why I am doing all of this, but hon. members will ask for a breakdown and I am trying to give them a breakdown; but I do not want to waste much time. The Port is required to provide a 24-hour a day service. The average rate of spending up to 30th September, 1966 - before salaries revision - was \$5,685 per month. The average rate of spending from October, 1966, is \$11,000 per month. On the basis of this information the amount required to supplement the vote is \$34,500, arrived at as follows:-

6 months (April - September, 1966) \$33,510
at \$5,585 per month

6 months (October, 1966 - March, ...
1967 at \$11,000 per month.. .. . 66,000

Less approved provision 99,510
66,000

34,510

The provision under this item is partly recoverable. I should just like to make that clear.

As to item 34 - Water - the consumption of water for the period April, 1966 to October, 1966, was 13,957,000 gallons. The estimated consumption for the period November, 1966 to March, 1967 during the tourist season is 37,000,000 gallons and is based on actual consumption during this period in previous years. The cost of the estimated 45,000,000 gallons at the rate of 80 cents per thousand gallons is \$36,000. Supplementary provision of \$16,150 (i.e. \$36,000 less the approved provision of \$19,850) will therefore be required. We make money in the Port even with the water.

As to item 38 - Marine Services, an amount of \$58,100 was provided under this item to meet expenditure on spares, fuel, oil dockings and general maintenance of watercraft, marine equipment and cranes; (b) general stores which include paints, rope and cables (c) wages in respect of casual employees who are employed to carry out essential services on the watercraft.

At the 31st January, 1967, expenditure under this item was revised as follows:

Actual expenditure \$52,258.81
Commitments 11,624.41

Estimated expenditure required to end of financial year:

wages 9 weeks at \$178.00 per week 1,557.00
Maintenance 2 months at
\$4,000 per month 8,000.00
Dockings 6,000.00

\$79,440.22

From the revised expenditure of \$79,440.22 must be deducted the current year's provision of \$50,000 leaving a balance of \$29,440.22 required to finance Marine Services to the end of the financial year - say \$21,340. 12.35 p.m.

The reasons for the additional provision must be summarized as follows:-

- increase in wages resulting from recent salaries revision;
- increased expenditure on general stores and under-estimation of sum for spares for mobile crane, which broke down on two occasions;
- under-estimation of the sum required for general maintenance of motor launches and Tug "Culpepper", necessitated by breakdowns;
- increased expenditure on Dockings due to breakdowns of Tugs "Pelican" and "Lord Willoughby" and recent acquisition of two new Barges. It is the practice to dock new crafts before they are put into service.

With regard to item 51 - Police Services - the cost of policing the Port Area is shared by the Port Department and Police Department in the ratio 17:8. The total original estimate of the cost of policing the Port Area was \$54,800. Consequent on salaries increases this estimate has been increased to \$69,780. The supplementary provision required is therefore 17/25 of the increase (i.e. 17/25 of \$14,980) - \$10,187.

In connection with item 54 - Repairs and Maintenance, the approved provision under this item is \$8,000, 40% (i.e. \$3,200) of this amount represented the estimated cost of labour. On the basis of an average 33 1/3% increase in the rate of wages, the amount required to supplement this item is \$1,066 - say \$1,070.

As a result of those seven items which I have read out, I am asking the House to give approval to the sum of \$87,217 in order that the Port Department workers will also share in the increase of wages.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just sat down appealed to members on this side, and, at the same time, threatened them, if I may put it that way. He said he hoped members were listening and would not ask him any questions because he does not want to be impolite.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, I never said that if hon. members asked questions I would not be answering. What I did say is that I would not like hon. members to ask the same questions for me to repeat myself, because then I would not be answering.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was a point of explanation.

Mr. SMITH: I thought the hon. member likes to repeat himself, but it does not appear to be so with him today. When the hon. member referred to back pay for members of the House, it sounded cheap and clumsy, especially when he added that these people want theirs also. I did not intend saying one word on this Resolution, but some of the members on the Other Side bring these things on themselves and want to blame us for them. In this case, the hon. member kept back himself on this Resolution. I would blame the hon. member for not bringing this Resolution for acting allowance and payment to substitutes, overtime and things of that sort before. It is not the members on this side who have kept it back; the Hon. Minister kept it back too long and I would call him the "keep back" man. Imagine the Minister is at the very last moment calling on us for money to pay these people to whom it was probably due for the longest time. The way the Resolution is drafted with no explanatory notes, the Hon. Minister had to do the explaining himself, which is not fair to him. He has no right giving any explanation to these various notes; it should be on the Resolution and we would have a chance to pursue and be able to do justice to the Resolution. I cannot remember one word of the explanation which the Hon. Minister has given. I feel it was purposely done in order to keep us back and not allow us to do justice to it. I feel, Sir, that it is the fault of whoever is responsible for keeping it back so long, and this has caused the Minister to remind us that where money is involved anything can happen when the recipient does not get it in time. It must have been only this morning that the Minister knew that, because some people have been waiting for the last two or three years to get money from the present Government without success. The recipients to whom I am referring do not know what to do, because it would appear that the Minister is responsible for keeping back these people from getting money which is due to them. We on this side are only too glad to help especially from a financial point of view; and as far as we are concerned, we are not happy that anyone should hear the remarks of the Hon. Minister that would make him believe that the Opposition is reluctant to help these people, and

the Minister has to appeal to them by letting them know that they got theirs and these people should get also. It is not fair to us, because we would never hold up a Resolution of this sort. We are only glad to see that the Government has seen the wisdom of learning to pay.

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

12.45 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Peter was not in his place a few minutes ago, but the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works did give notice that the Oral Reply to Question No. 8 standing in his name was ready. 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 Oral Reply to Question No. 8 standing in the name of the Hon. senior member for St. Peter has been laid. That Question will be found on page four on the bottom left-hand corner of the Order Paper.

CANALIZATION OF THE SALT POND

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

Is Government aware that recent heavy rains which fell in November and December this year have caused many of the residents of New Road and Gill's Terrace aback of Church Street, Speightstown, to suffer much anxiety and inconvenience due to the overflowing of the Salt Pond which surrounded their homes and temporarily confined the occupants in-doors?

2. Is Government aware that such overflowing of the Salt Pond was a great threat to life and property, and to animals belonging to residents of the said New Road and Gill's Terrace at Church Street, Speightstown?

3. Will Government make an investigation or cause one to be made into the need for canalizing the Salt Pond in Speightstown?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

Government is aware of the anxiety and inconvenience experienced by residents in the vicinity of Salt Pond due to the extraordinary heavy rainfall in December, 1966, and will endeavour to canalize the Salt Pond during the financial year 1967-68.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I thank the Hon. member for his reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no intimation that the reply to any other Question has been laid.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (DISSOLUTION AND INTERIM COMMISSIONER) BILL 1967

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 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: Order No. 1 under Government Business is the instant Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development:- To move the second reading 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before embarking on the principle of the Bill which is before us here today and which in certain instances may be regarded as being controversial, I propose to give a brief resume of the Local Government and Vestry systems, and the reasons which prompted the Government to embark on its decision to bring down a Bill of this nature which is before us today. In doing so, I would like hon. members to pay some attention to what I am saying in that I will try not to be misquoted. I have made ample provision to see that I am not misquoted in relation to this very important measure, not only in relation to this very important measure, not only as far as my colleagues in this House are concerned, but also in relation to the Reporters of the House and the Press generally, because on a matter of such importance as this, there will be no room left for anybody to say "I did not hear" or "I think I heard" and things of that sort.

Mr. Speaker, before embarking on the principle of the Bill as such, I am going to give a brief resume not only of the recommendations of Professor Jackson but of the history of Local Government generally. Hon. members will remember that the Government's intention to re-organize the Local Government system arising from the implementation of the Jackson Report, was stated in the Objects and Reasons to the Local Government (Ordinary Election of Councillors) Act, 1965-63, which was introduced into the Legislature on 17th December, 1965. In accordance with the policy then enunciated, public health - except Public Baths conveniences - Roads in the Southern District and Street Lighting, were being transferred from the Councils to the Government and would be transferred to the Government on the 1st April, 1966. The transfer of the Public Assistance services was also first tentatively planned for the 1st October, 1966 and then later for the 1st April 1967, but as a result of the examination of the legislation which is affected by the proposed transfer, it became apparent that other arrangements would need to be made before the final implementation could be effected.

In considering the apparent delay in the completion of the re-organization of the Local Government system, however, it must be borne in mind that by comparison when the abolition of the Vestry system was contemplated, a period of five years elapsed between the enactment of the first Local Government Act in 1954 and the establishment of the Councils on 25th March, 1959. I have previously announced in the House that it is Government's proposals to create a National Assistance Board to administer the non-medical aspects of Public Assistance when the subject is transferred from the Councils and to absorb the medical aspects into the centrally administered health services. These proposals are in accordance with the recommendations in the Jackson Report.

In its examination of the implications of the centralisation of services, consideration was, of necessity, given to the future of the rating and taxing powers of the Councils. 12.55 p.m.

Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Dr. Jackson recommended that trade tax should also be taken over by the Government but envisaged that property rating powers would remain with the Councils. The Government has, however, decided that the rating functions should also be taken over for the following reasons:-

(a) the desirability of achieving a uniform rate on property throughout the Island in place of the three widely divergent rates presently levied by the Councils;

(b) the need to achieve a more efficient administration of collections;

(c) the necessity to plan more comprehensively for the overhaul of the Island's total tax structure in the light of the rapidly expanding economy.

With reference to rate and tax collections, the Government's concern at the position will be readily apparent when it is mentioned that at the 31st March, 1966, the arrears due to the Councils represented approximately 58% of current revenue. As a result, the Councils have had to incur large temporary loans at interest rates of not less than 6 1/2%. With the removal of the functions which I have just mentioned the Councils would be left with the following services:-

- (a) Refuse collection and disposal;
- (b) Public Baths and conveniences;
- (c) Parks, playing fields and civic centres;
- (d) Cemeteries and burial grounds;
- (e) Children's Homes and Day Nurseries.

The Government considered, however, that they should give consideration to the various possible courses open for the administration of the reduced services, and especially to the desirability of the retention of elected bodies for this purpose. It is obvious that the majority of these matters would be better treated on an island-wide basis rather than on a parochial or district basis. Such centralised control coupled with the decentralisation of administration may indeed be the road to greater efficiency for these services. It has been said that the replacement of the horse and buggy by the motor car and the development of good roads were among the major factors which led to the abandonment of the Vestry system.

The Government considers that in comparison with the pattern of administration relating to other community services - for example, housing, urban development, agricultural development, tourism, industrial development, which, incidentally, involved far greater expenditures - the justification for elected bodies to operate the services left over was removed. The choice of nominated bodies instead would also eliminate the risk which elected bodies would face of an insufficiency of candidates for service on bodies which would have so few functions to administer. It can indeed be submitted that nominated membership could ensure that all interests in the community participate in the administration of social services.

Another factor which should be scrutinized is the apathy which the electorate has displayed towards both of the Local Government elections held in March, 1959, and January, 1962. On both occasions the statistics showed that only approximately 30% of the Local Government electorate attended the polls, despite the fact that the Councils were then responsible for all their services, including Public Assistance, Public Health, Street Lighting and Roads, which were subsequently removed to Central Authority. At that time, especially in 1962, Mr. Speaker, a special appeal was made by the then Local Government Commissioner, Mr. Ramsay a few days before the election asking the electorate to go to the poll and vote in the Local Government Election. I have before me a clipping from the Advocate Newspaper of Friday, 12th January, 1962, which reports that voting.....

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, I note that the hon. member is adopting a procedure in the course of introduction of this Bill which appears to me to contravene Standing Order No. 26 which says -

"A Member shall not read his speech...."

For the last fifteen minutes I think.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, as Minister I can read, quote and make any statement at all. The hon. member must try to learn a little more.

Mr. St. JOHN: I have not accused the Minister of quoting. I have accused him of reading from a document. Standing Order No. 26 says that 'a member shall not read his speech, but he may read extracts from books or papers other than newspapers in support of his argument;' so I draw it to the attention of Your Honour. The Hon. Minister has just said that he is quoting from the Advocate Newspaper, which is the very thing Standing Order No. 26 says he cannot do. If he is going to read documents like the one he has been reading all along, we would like to see it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Order No. 26 (1) says -

"A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read extracts from books or papers other than newspapers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes."

Would the Hon. Minister assure the House that he is not reading his speech?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am quoting from my notes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Standing Order says that a member may refresh his memory by reference to notes. Am I to understand that the Hon. Minister is refreshing his memory by reference to notes?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is of such a controversial nature that I started my speech by saying that I do not want to be misinterpreted and misunderstood, and I am taking the particular precaution of quoting from my notes so that what I have quoted together with what I remember would be a true indication of what actually transpired. My notes are being referred to and quoted, and I am not actually reading a speech as such. If I were reading a speech, I would not have to refer to this, because this is not part of the speech. That destroys their argument. If the hon. member wants the clipping, he can have it, but he is not entitled to the notes.

Mr. SPEAKER: So long as the hon. member is not reading his speech - and I have no alternative but to accept the assurance in the absence of truth to the contrary - and he is refreshing his memory by reference to notes, there is no copiousness of such refreshment; and I also remind the hon. member that he may not read extracts from newspapers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I merely wanted to draw to the attention of this House that in so far as elections under the Local Government system were concerned - not the Vestry system and horse and buggy affair and the roads to which I referred - only 30 percent of the electorate voted on the two occasions in March 1959 and January 1962, so much so that the Advocate thought it fit to come out immediately after the election on 12th January, 1962 and say that voting is as dead as a doornail. If voting was as dead as a doornail when they had to deal with Public Assistance, Public Health, Roads, and all the other functions in 1962, after you remove Public Health and Public Assistance which the politicians cherish and flourish on, you can imagine what it would be without these services. Many people believe that Public Assistance is given from somebody's pocket; but it is the taxpayers' money which is there; and if one is given the privilege of doling out assistance, whether it be old hats, old boots or old pants, or fifty cents or a dollar as the case may be, it is not anybody's money from his own pocket.

1.05 p.m.

It is money belonging to the taxpayers of this country and it is money for that particular purpose; so that if in 1959 immediately after the system was introduced and in 1962 there was only 30% of the electorate who actually attended the poll, a *fortiori*, by stronger reason today, you will get only about 10% or 15%. The functions which are left with the Councils are care for children, Children's Homes and Day Nurseries, refuse collection and disposal, public bath and conveniences, parks, playing fields and civic centres, cemeteries and burial grounds. As to the matter of scavenging, the scavenging is in great need of implementation. Scavenging is a scandal, in my opinion, because as we go around we see big bins all over the place. It may be that the Local Government system is coming to a close. This matter of scavenging is certainly very far away from what should be desired. In the Housing areas we have to institute our own scavenging machinery in order to cope with the problem. The same thing applies to scavenging island wide and more especially in the South where you have heaps all over the place. What I am saying is that the functions which have been left for Local Government Councils to perform would, in my opinion and in the opinion of the Government, hardly warrant business people and people of lesser calibre and ability to come forward and offer their services just to see after scavenging, Children's Homes and Day Nurseries and things like that. After Public Health and Public Assistance had been taken over, as it was intended to be, by the Central Government, and with roads and street lighting already gone, left with the other functions, the Councils would not be in a position to lay any proper rates and taxes.

With the coming into being of a Social Security Scheme, it is desirable that there should be one central authority for revenue purposes. The reasons are so great, let alone the fact that the last Government before they went out of office, they themselves intended doing precisely what is being done today. They began amalgamating Almshouses and Infirmarys, and we are merely carrying out what they intended doing. I am to bring to the attention of one or two new members what was operating before they entered the political arena. The Barbados Labour Government had already initiated the policy which we are continuing. The old members over there will tell you that that is the case, and when they prance up and jump up, they are prancing up and jumping up against their own policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually I did not have any of this physical prancing. (Laughter) (A MEMBER: He is begging.)

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, Sir, the previous Government was known to have contemplated the initiation of plans for the abolition of the Councils before that Government's departure from office, on the grounds that the services had shown a general inefficiency of administration, inequality of taxation and unevenness of services. On those grounds the Barbados Labour Government in 1960 had intended doing precisely what we are doing today. It is left to the older members of the Barbados Labour Party to reminisce and cast their minds back, and they will realise that we are merely carrying out their policy. It is for these reasons that the Government proposes to set up three statutory bodies financed by grants to perform the services which would be left after Public Assistance and rating and taxing powers have been transferred.

Mr. Speaker, it will be appreciated, however, that a considerable volume of legislation will need to be examined, prepared and enacted before we can bring into operation the final re-organisation and operation of this Local Government system. This Bill which is now before the House is considered necessary until such time as the relevant legislation can be enacted. The Government considers that its plans for the re-organization of this system will enable it to achieve the greatest possible efficiency in the administration of community services. In doing this, however, I wish to place on record the Government's appreciation of the invaluable services which have been rendered during the past three hundred years by Vestrymen, Councillors, Aldermen, Mayors, Chairmen and Co-opted members of the Local Authorities in the administration of community services. I would mention finally that it

is proposed that the person holding the office of Local Government Commissioner should be designated the Interim Commissioner for Local Government under the provisions of the Bill, and opportunity is taken to appeal to all persons concerned to extend to him the co-operation which he will need for the efficient discharge of his functions during this interim period. We are going to try to make this period a reasonable one and not a long-drawn-out period. The funds which are provided under the Head - Local Government - in the Estimates will be available to meet the expenses of the Interim Commissioner by virtue of his substantive office, and no expenditure in addition to that provided in the Estimates is contemplated at this moment.
1.15 p.m.

I can read from the file, and this is one of my files from which I am reading to remind this House that under Section 251 (g) provision was made for the appointment of a person or persons as Local Government Commissioner. On that occasion I do not think anyone was appointed, but there is precedent in the Local Government Act for the appointment of an Interim Commissioner. I am dealing with the Bill before us and reading from the file because there is nothing better than to get the records correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: The standing Order provides that an hon. member may read extracts from books or papers other than newspapers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am reading directly from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill; so let them jump up and object to that. The objects of this Bill are generally to provide for the dissolution of the Local Government Councils established by the Local Government Act, 1958, and to provide for the transfer to, and the performance by an Interim Commissioner of all the functions which are presently performed by the Councils. This is an interim measure which is considered necessary until such time as the detailed legislation which is required for implementing recommendations arising out of the Jackson Report can be prepared and enacted.

Accordingly, the Bill provides, inter alia, for -

- (a) the dissolution of the three local Government Councils on a day to be appointed by the Governor-General by proclamation;
- (b) the vacation of office on that day by the Mayor, Chairman, Aldermen, Councillors and other officials of the Councils;
- (c) the appointment by the Cabinet of an Interim Commissioner for Local Government and the transfer to and performance by him of all functions performed by the Councils immediately before the appointed day;
- (d) the transfer to the Interim Commissioner of all assets and liabilities of the Councils and of all officers and servants of the Councils. The latter would be employed on the same terms and conditions as before.

Provision is also made in the Bill for protecting the Interim Commissioner from personal liability arising from the performance of his functions, and for all Act, subsidiary legislation, documents and instruments to be construed with such modifications and adaptations as may be necessary to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Bill. Furthermore, the Cabinet is also empowered by Clause 14 to amend the Order any enactment to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the Bill.

These are the Objects and Reasons, and unless I read them for the record, it is not in order. It is also to be remembered that the Objects and Reasons are drafted and prepared by persons who have worked on the Board, men who are trained for this sort of work, and anyone who thinks he can introduce a Bill better than the people who have been

trained for this sort of work, and omits to read from the Objects and Reasons is only trying to deceive the House. It may appear irrelevant to some, especially to those who are sentimentally inclined, that the system of local Government which has been in force for 300 years is being abandoned, so to speak; but it must be remembered that the object of this Bill is in accordance with the recommendations of Professor Jackson who recommended that Public Health and Public Assistance, Street Lighting and the roads in the south be taken away and centralised in the Central Government in order to accomplish greater efficiency and to effect savings, and to do better work generally, and the other functions which were left back and which are now being taken over here today we feel are not sufficiently attractive or comprehensive to induce people of the right calibre to come forward to look after scavenging, cemeteries, playing fields or things of that sort.

We feel, Mr. Speaker, that these functions will be more efficiently performed for the community at large by people who normally do not want to dabble in elections as such, but who have the interest of the community at heart—probably more than some of the people who dabble in elections. We feel that by appointing Statutory Boards just like the Housing Authority, the Tourist Board or the Development Board, these functions can be performed equally as well by a greater representative gathering of people than by elected members probably not of the right calibre. It is for these reasons that we have brought this Bill down. If one takes the roads in the Southern district where done over the last two years, as you drive around there is a lot of dust and marl thrown around. I speak for experience as a former Minister of Communications and Works. We gave a grant of \$140,000 one way and \$150,000 another way, and the roads are not well done; but the Central Government is now responsible for doing roads island-wide. We never had the power to do that before, but now that we have it we are trying to get ahead with some. Money is being spent and the people who are really performing the functions are not trained and equipped with the necessary know-how to perform certain functions. I am not speaking generally, but on things like roads and Public Health.

It is for these reasons that we have come here with this Bill, because we feel that Statutory Boards, properly constituted, will be in a position to perform a better service than elected members, and in any case the holding of elections for such purposes like cemeteries and things of that sort would be a very expensive business every few years.

I think I have said enough for the time being, and at this stage I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder that the Hon. Minister who has just sat down had to read his speech, because

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I do not accept that the hon. member read his speech. I could not have permitted him to read his speech; he did appear to refresh his memory not infrequently from what he assured me were his notes.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I will put it this way. He kept so close to his notes that it made me believe he was reading his speech; if he did not do that today, I am sure that the hon. member would have said he could not agree with this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member would have noticed that when I was not referring to notes at all, I spoke more fluently. I referred to my notes and then spoke *ex tempore* from my knowledge of the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid no point of order has been made.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have notes on this, and if I were to start to read the notes which I have here as the hon. member read his, I would sound like an idiot because they would not have any taste. You cannot read notes directly and continuously. You have to make a pause and go off and then come back to your notes. The hon. member has failed to do that, and that is what made me feel that he did not read or that he did not give of his best from deep within his heart. I am sure, Sir, that the hon. member is not in favour of this Bill, not as it stands; but, Sir, he has to do his job. Everyone of us has to do his job; but, Sir, when I hear the hon. member say that the functions will be carried out better by people other than the elected representatives, I say that that is a big blow to the Councillors, including the ones who are in office now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had been listening to what I said, he would have understood that I said that along with the reduction of functions a different type of candidate would come forward. That is not in connection with the present holders of the office today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that that is a point of explanation.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, the hon. member is not accustomed to this. I wonder why he should be jumping up so regularly. It seems to me that the hon. member does not want me to make any point. I sat here and allowed the hon. member to make his point, but he wants me to get off my stride; but the more he gets up, the better it will be for me. I think that the hon. member had better sit quietly which will be better for him. He referred to a better type of candidate which means that he does not have people of the proper calibre in office now. That means that they are no good at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are "good", "better", and "best".

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. What I said is that a better calibre would be in office now, but a lower calibre would be attracted then. With the reduced functions, as good a calibre would not be found coming forward.

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

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, the hon. member is trying to be "goody"; I will put it in that way. This is what I am trying to tell the hon. member now and he will agree with me. If you were to stop paying Councillors now, you will attract a better candidate. You only stop paying them and you will attract the calibre which we were attracting years ago. That is the trouble. I am quite sure that the hon. member will agree with me now when he says that he will not be able to attract a better calibre. The bait now is the few berries which are hanging around the tree, and anything with two eyes can gather under the tree; but you just dig up the tree and you will see whom you are going to attract. That causes me now to refer to the old Vestry system - the old Vestry system of which you, Mr. Speaker, have had the honour to be a member. When I was a little boy, I heard about you being in the Vestry. You had the right calibre. You had people with honesty of purpose and they did a very good job for only the name. In these days the person whom you see running to be a Councillor and wants to be a Chairman - you would not find that state of affairs in that day. These Councillors cannot afford it now and that is what has confused the Prime Minister. His own type of people who have been elected to these various Councils are confused with a lot of news. This man wants to be Chairman of this, the other man wants to be Chairman of that and they all confuse the gentleman. His own men, his candidates, his colleagues on the Local Government Councils are responsible for this. He feels, therefore, that the best thing to do is to get rid of it all and try to keep more friendship because of Election time he will want their support. Rather

than make an enemy - he is not making any enemies of them, but I am sure that he will make enemies of the taxpayers of this country.

Mr. Speaker, when it is all added up, there may be only three or four dozen whom he will be making enemies of, but it will be thousands that he will be making enemies of himself outside. When one studies and sees what this island is coming to, the taxpayers will have to work hard so that they will have money or to look for the money to pay their taxes, and they will not have any say whatsoever in the matter. The Commissioner will be the top man in this matter and the taxpayers only have to pay their taxes. That being so, I am wondering how the Hon. Minister will feel and how he is feeling about this Bill today. This is a cruel Bill and it is murderous when it comes to the taxpayers of this country, no regard being paid to them whatsoever.
1.35 p.m.

It is only because they have numbers that they can do as they like, forgetting what it may cost the people of this country. We can talk from now until Christmas; the members on that side are ready to say "Aye" without knowing why; but they will not be able to say "Aye" too long on this Bill. If this Bill does not throw away this Government, nothing else will. The Hon. Minister will have to try and get himself out of it, because I will be present, wherever he goes, to tell the electorate of the country that he and his colleagues are responsible for it. This is a system which we had from creation, and men worked hard without being paid a cent. Each parish was responsible for itself, and the work was done by a Clerk who was the Parochial Treasurer and everything else, and we got through the best way without proper pay. Now you have people butting their heads and fighting for this and for that. One particular Chairman wants to know if at the end of this month he is going to get his salary as Chairman of the Council. He is nothing to do with what happens; he is only thinking of his salary as Chairman. That is the reason for and the purpose of this Bill.

The Hon. Minister said that elections would be too costly for the few services that remain. The man who pays the piper should be able to call the tune, and if you have elections every five years for the Legislature, the life of the Councils could be five years also rather than three, and you do not want so many members on the Councils either. Each parish in the outlying districts can do with two Councillors and a Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and the work will be done cheaply and better. The taxpayers would be well represented, and the people in the parish would know whom to go to put over their difficulties. If you are going to cut down your expenses, let me help you. I made a motion at my Council to do away with travelling allowance, but not another voice was heard save my own. I could not even get a seconder. If the Government had called an election for the Councils this year, we would have been able to solve our difficulties, because the electorate was ready and had the broom ready to sweep clean and put men there of the calibre that the Hon. Minister referred to just now to run this particular Board or whatever you choose to call it. When that body was elected, you would then see the recommendations coming from all the Councils asking Government to amend the Local Government Act. That was planned from inside my Party, but we did not have the opportunity to put it into action, because this Government froze elections. They had their reasons for freezing them, which was a very unfair move to the electorate. Local Government elections had no right to be frozen at any time; so the Government encouraged it; and now too far East is West. Rather than come out and amend the Act and try to rectify and remedy the mistakes, they are making a bigger mistake by abolishing it altogether. Nobody could be vexed if they called an election and everyone of them got thrown out; it would be the electorate that did it; but you cannot be running with the hares and hunting with the hounds at the same time. As an old fellow living near me would say, they are trying to break a good spree up. This is power used in the wrong direction. Some time ago they used to refer to the three "Ws" in cricket, and I would refer to this Government as three "Ws" too; one of the "Ws" is

"wicked"; one is "wrong" and the other is "worthless". Here it is: a country like Barbados had its good name all the time for first class administration, and now this Government is prepared to break it up and give it a worse name only through their actions in interfering with Local Government and putting it in the hands of one man, a man that can be sacked at any time. If he does his bit and speaks his mind, through the eddoes he would go; and you are telling us as taxpayers of this country that we have to sit under such administration! I wonder what this Government is thinking! I wonder if they are thinking about the people or only of themselves! If you tell me that the remaining services do not need all these people, I would agree with you; but you need elected people at all times. I have had sufficient work already on the various Boards. I was told that the Chairman of a particular Board passes through the workers, and if he just dreams that you belong to the B. L. P., through the eddoes you go. This Government is going to bring this country to a one Party state as soon as they abolish this Local Government and put it in the hands of a Civil Servant or Civil Servants, because only one man will have the say. Do you mean that because I belong to the BLP and work in a particular Department, I will have to go?
1.45 p.m.

Sir, you may have thought it hard to believe so, but it is a fact. There is a man who is working at the Housing Authority, who drove into the yard of the BLP Headquarters in order to repair his car tyre. He had his tyre done in there and had it changed. Do you know, Sir, that this man was called up and asked what he was doing inside the yard of the B. L. P. Headquarters? This is a man who went to change his tyre, and he was called up like a little child and the man trembled in his boots and had to lie so as to hold his job. You are going further now. The Government is trying to get every person who is working with them to be a lackey, and when the top boys are passing you have to tremble in your boots. That is not good enough for my people. This Bill tells you that and you can see it clearly. Mr. Speaker, during Election time the Premier who is now the Prime Minister said, "I want all the seats". He meant all but one, and I do not know if the one was mine. (laughter) As long as you have sixteen seats, you still have all.

Mr. Speaker, with all the threats which I throw out, I do not care how I threaten the hon. junior member for St. Thomas that he will lose his seat if he votes for this Bill, he will still vote for it. Why is it that the Prime Minister wants all the seats? He wants all the seats because I have accused him on the floor of this House of being a little dictator. Now he wants to be a full-grown dictator, since he wants all the seats. This Bill will give him all. Where are we heading? What about the people? Are the Government's supporters saying that all of them will get in here, the sixteen of them, and make it as hard as possible for the people? I say "No". That is all I can do. Here you have a trampling of the democratic rights of the people and taking them away.

In the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, this is what is stated:-

"The objects of this Bill are generally to provide for the dissolution of the Local Government Councils established by the Local Government Act, 1958, and to provide for the transfer to and the performance by an Interim Commissioner of all the functions which are presently performed by the Councils.

This is an interim measure which is considered necessary until such time as the detailed legislation which is required for implementing recommendations arising out of the Jackson Report can be prepared and enacted."

Mr. Speaker, even now they are not ready to put this Bill into operation. They do not have everything prepared, but still they are rushing on. They are not ready. Why do they not wait until they have set up the machinery to start off without stopping? What is the hurry? There was to be

an election for the last two or three years, but they are now freezing it again. The Minister has failed to let us know the reason for such a sudden change. Manifestoes are things I do not believe in. Do you know why, Sir? No Government is being elected on any Manifesto. The Majority of votes cast for any Government are not connected with any Manifesto. It is only that the people vote for a person because they like that person. But still I have to refer to the Manifesto of the D.L.P. because when they were dragging us into Independence they were referring to the Manifesto and they said that that was in the Manifesto and that the people know what they were going to get. I may not have thought of it, but did they put this abolition of Local Government in the Manifesto? No! But still they have come now to take away the rights of the taxpayers. I want this Government to know here and now that it is the taxpayers who are the Government and not just the five or six Ministers. They are only the Government by name because if the taxpayers did not continue with them, the Government would have no chance of doing anything. I have always said that a Government is like a housewife. That is to say, that she has to wait until her husband goes out and sprains his brain and brings in some money for her to spend. That is what the Government has to do. They have to wait until the taxpayers raise something and then tax the people with some of it. They should always be willing and ready to spend the money to the best of their ability. It is not because you have the power that you should bring down such a thing suddenly.

Mr. Speaker, I received this Bill last Saturday - I speak subject to correction - and they are piloting it through the House this morning. They care so much about this Bill that they would prefer that the Government employees did not get a penny next year out of the Treasury. They would not care if the Estimates were not passed so long as this Bill was passed. We should now be dealing with the Estimates, but there is something a back of this which I cannot see. Why are they hurrying? We should have a chance to study this Bill, but no, they prefer to keep back the Estimates. They care more about this Bill than they care about the Civil Servants. The Civil Servants may not get a penny so long as this Bill is passed. We have to pass the Estimates by the end of this month and we have not yet started! There is no likelihood of their starting these Estimates this week at all because we are prepared to work on this Bill. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: We will come every day until Good Friday and Sunday.) Well, we will come too. The hon. member is powerful enough when he does not have anything to introduce. Just now the hon. member was begging.
1.55 p.m.

We cannot allow a Bill like this to pass. We will not be responsible if the Estimates are not passed, and if the hon. junior member for St. Thomas does not keep quiet, I will go a little slower for the next six hours. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: We will do you as we did you in the Independence debate.) The fellow who said he would punish me, I got rid of; and you may follow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. The Good Book says "Touch not the Lord's Anointed."

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but the hon. member just said that somebody who threatened him is now out of here. I would also like to tell him that somebody who brought milk for him, Mr. Crawford, is out of here also.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, or explanation or elucidation. It is no point.

Mr. SMITH: That is what we are butting up against. Do you think he should be responsible for taking away the people's rights in this Bill? His actions tell you that he is irresponsible, and I am saying that the entire Government is irresponsible. I like to read the Bible, and it

says "Touch not the Lord's Anointed". The hon. member referred to the Independence debate when they tried to take advantage of your humble servant, but for the man who said to punish me, a prayer went up for him and the people of St. Peter has sent him through the eddoes not to return here again. I will warn the Minister that if I send up my prayer for him, into the wharf he will go.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the time is now 2.00 p.m. and I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would accept an amendment, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. senior member for St. Joseph accept the amendment?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir.

The question that this sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p. m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Sitting was suspended, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chair. He may resume now, if he thinks fit.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, when the Sitting was suspended, I was trying to make this particular point which I would like to read again, and it is the second paragraph in the Objects and Reasons. It says:

"This is an interim measure which is considered necessary until such time as the detailed legislation which is required for implementing recommendations arising out of the Jackson Report can be prepared and enacted."

Now, Sir, I was wondering why all this hurry, because the present Government has just passed through an election and had a printed Manifesto, and this was not in their Manifesto as far as I can remember, nor was it hinted to the people nor to the various Councils. You may be surprised to hear that the various Councils had practically finished their Estimates when a week or two ago they received a letter from the Government or the Ministry stating their intentions of abolishing the system. Something is wrong and I am wondering what it is that has gone wrong. What has caused this Government to jump to such a hasty conclusion? They have not got a case for so doing, and if they have a case, they are hiding it because it has not been manifested by the Hon. Introducer. A case may be put later by some member or members who belong to the Councils, but that may be only white washing. It may be only what I would term 'saving-a-berry' speech, because as we have heard today, the calibre of these Councillors, including myself, is very low. If the Government was not looking at us in that way, I could not see them jumping to such a hasty conclusion by abolishing a system like this that was working for so long. Now, Sir, after the Councillors took their time to make Estimates for the following year, and the Government intended doing this, in the same way that they froze the elections for the last two or three years, we could have been told not to worry. I do not know if the directive was from the Government or the Ministry, but there was a directive to some of the Heads of Departments in the Councils to go on with the Estimates, as far as the Almshouses were concerned, without the Almshouses Sub-Committee sitting in on them, but something went wrong, and they then had to refer the same Estimates back to the Almshouses Sub-Committee. They intended by passing the Committees, but they came up against snags and had to re-

That is how business is being done by the present Government or the Ministry; I do not know which it is. I do not know who is responsible for it, but that is how Councillors are being treated by the Government. I cannot see how honest-thinking men could jump to such hasty conclusions as to abolish Local Government or Local Administration in a country within, I would say, a matter of days. Even when one is going to be married, so long as it is going to be an honest matrimonial process, it needs time. Whatever you are going to do, it takes time. Even the Police Magistrate gives you time to pay a fine. But in this case the Government has not given the representatives of the taxpayers any time whatsoever; they have treated us worse than if we had committed murder. Although a murderer is found guilty of taking somebody's life, yet you do not take him straight from the dock and hang him at the same time. You give him some time to repent. But in this case this Government has given us no time to do anything, not even to ask the reason for so doing. It is only because they have the numbers that they do this. It is a question of numbers. I am sure that if the Government were in the same position as St. Vincent, they would never have taken such a chance because I am sure that there are one or two of their numbers who would have done what the St. Vincent Minister of Education, or whoever he was, did. But, Sir, they have the numbers and they can do as they like; but I am sure that they cannot do as long as they like.

We have done a good job with the Vestry System. We are all going forward, and I thought that the Local Government would have done a better job than the Vestry System. Everyone of us thought so, but it did not work out to be so, for some reason or other. However, Sir, in this case we had the solution; and if we had been given the chance to apply it, then we would have overcome all the difficulties because we have come to realise what it was that was giving the trouble. The Government did not take it upon themselves even to call a few of the Councillors together and hammer things out and have a heart-to-heart talk and see if we could not have arrived at a solution; but only because they have the majority in the Councils apart from the City, they felt that there was none of them worthy to sit around a table and try to work out the problems and solve them. They knew to themselves - or they thought so - that their members in the Councils do not have the ability to work out problems so that rather than give them a headache, they brought down the hammer at one time, forgetting that it is not their members whom they have to please, but the taxpayers. It is especially the taxpayers in the country areas that should have been given a chance. I am quite sure that when this Interim Commissioner of the Boards which they will set up - I am sure that they will not take it upon themselves to look for the best material either. They will also be failures.

Now, Sir, when you read this paragraph, you can take it in one way or the other. They are not ready to set up this Committee; therefore why should they worry to try to pass this Bill, and then tell us that as soon as they set up a Committee they will implement and carry out the Jackson Report? In my opinion, this is only a question of roping us into this matter, because if this Bill is passed this afternoon it is in the hands of the Government. The Government can call up Mr. Lackey, Mr. Telltale and Mr. Pick-a-berry to develop and form this Board, and they have gone along. We will be giving them the power to do it. All I am saying is that this House should have had the chance of seeing and knowing how it is going to be done before we say "yes" to it. We will be giving the green light to it and that will be the end of it. That is why I am so unhappy about this. Nobody is pressing you; nobody is holding you up. The Estimates are practically ready. I do not know for all of the Councils, but I know that as far as the Northern District Council is concerned, everything is ready. It is not a question of saying that unless we pass the Estimates everything will come to a stand still, but there is nothing to cause you to railroad this thing at this time of the year.

The Objects and Reasons of the Bill states this -

"This is an interim measure which is considered necessary until such time as the detailed legislation which

is required for implementing recommendations arising out of the Jackson Report can be prepared and enacted."

As far as I can remember, in the Jackson Report they did not recommend the abolition of these Councils completely. While I am now on the Report, if Mr. Jackson had reported on that, there are other reports which are before the present Government and which they have failed to implement. I think there was a Report - I cannot remember the name of it - Oh, it is the Farley Report. And what did the Government do with the Farley Report? That Report was such a blow to Dr. Farley that he stood miles away and felt the blow. He had already let us know that the blow was so hard. He had to say that the Government did not publish his Report as he had written it. The Government saw fit - and there must have been something in it that the Government saw fit - not to report on Mr. Farley's Report. There are other Reports which we have not heard anything about at all and there is some reason for it too. I am not going to fleece them for it, but what is the reason for trying to go further than what Mr. Jackson reported?
3.15 p.m.

You called for a Commissioner to go into certain things so as to satisfy the public rather than have the Cabinet into it themselves, to get away, quite rightly so, from a lot of abuse and criticism. Because of this, it does not bind us to do something that we know is truth and in fact would be wrong or would be harmful to the country. We would have to leave it out. It does not mean that because you may call for a Commissioner to recommend salaries and he should make some impossible recommendations that the Government can carry them out; they would have to go into it and make their own recommendations. Here, now we have the reverse. There is something wrong, and for some reason the Hon. Minister himself does not know what is wrong. I run the risk to say that he does not know because it is not everything he would know, but there is something that has caused this to be here this afternoon in such a hurry. The Minister is trying his best with it forgetting that he has some old stagers above here who know the ropes and are not prepared to let anything get away from us, because we would not be working in the right and true interest of the people. I cannot see the reason for the hurry, but I can remember the Hon. Minister saying that what is left to be done no self-respected citizen would care to serve. I take him up on this because the services that are left behind are still important. They are catering to the needs of the people, and you will get decent, respectable citizens taking part in anything for the interest of their country if it is done in the right and proper way. I can remember saying that all the Government would have to do is to reduce the numbers. We have too many; three members to each parish and an Alderman. I can see the reason for bringing an Alderman into play because you are changing over from Vestry system to Local Government. There is the possibility that at the first Local Government elections you might have been lucky enough or unfortunate to elect all young people who know nothing about the administration or the set-up of Local Government, and if the Government nominates an Alderman that has the ability to know how to run the administration we would still be alright; but what I believe happened in all the Councils including the one of which I am a member - and at that time my Government was in power - was that there were some of the Aldermen who probably did not know how to spell "Vestry"; they knew nothing at all about it so they could not give any advice on the administrative part of it. You would always hear them say - and I have heard them for myself - "I don't have to beg them for a vote". That is when there was the clash at Council Level and it is the first thing an Alderman gets up and says. That is the meaning of "nominating members", and I do not like nominating members because you must learn to face the job; you must learn to get into this place the hard way. Now this Government is going further. We are going to appoint a Commissioner now to be responsible for the entire area. That is going too far. I wonder if this Government is taking their duty seriously when they are thinking of abolishing the Local Government. We have four members to a parish, twenty-four members to an area, and judging from this Bill it was so badly run that you are forced to abolish it. But now you are going to put one man only

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation,

Mr. SPEAKER: On a point of order?

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Sir, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph must realise that the Interim Commissioner is a temporary appointment.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, when you are in that Chair, you have to suffer a lot of embarrassment. I know that if you had a strap there now, you would call up the hon. member and ask him to drop his pants and do justice to him. I am sure you would do that if it were in your power, and he has done that because he knows he can do it. Now whom can he represent?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member assume that he was not interrupted.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, when I was in Primer Standard they had a thing: "Simple Simon met a pieman going to the fair". As I was saying, the hon. member said the Interim Commissioner is only temporary, but he has made it worse. Why temporary?
3.25 p.m.

I thought the hon. member was going to tell me that he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary from such a time, but somehow it slipped him. I was making the point that with twenty-four members for six parishes the work was done so unsatisfactorily that this Bill is before this House this afternoon; so what is likely to happen now with one man who is not elected? The Commissioner in this case will be a Civil Servant who has a job to perform and safeguard. He would have the same amount of staff or perhaps half as much to control. Can you expect justice to be done by rushing this through? I would be satisfied to hear that the Government changed their mind and postponed this Bill and give it, as the old people say "pillow counsel". I asked my grandmother one day what was meant by "pillow counsel" and she told me it is when you are lying down at night, and there is only you and the pillow. The Government would get my support and everybody's support if they postpone this Bill. You should not bring in people to run these services, no matter how few they are. Let the body be an elected one.

Mr. Speaker, this is no reflection on the office of the Commissioner, but there was an election and a lot of things went wrong administratively because it was done hurriedly. On account of the rush, a mess was made of the Voters' List. If you look at the Voters' List you will see the names of people from District "A" being the same as those in District "Z". I wonder why this Government likes to rush things so fast! They should take time off and do things right and 'fix-it-right'. You have made many blunders and failures by rushing. If you take it easy sometimes, you will get somewhere and do good things. Here you are starting before you are ready because you do not have the necessary tools; yet you want us to give you the green light. There are members on that side who know deep in their heart of hearts that this is not right, and one thing we miss this afternoon is a mind reader. If we had a mind reader to read the minds of hon. members on that side, he would be able to tell us how many are in favour and how many are not. We do not have one, but the expression on their faces tells me that they are not and cannot be in favour of a Bill of this nature after listening to the Opposition. I may have raised some points that they never thought of, but they will still have to vote 'Aye'. If they do not vote 'Aye', they can go outside and not return. That is the best way out of it because no one could accuse them of doing anything either right or wrong. We have had many examples of members saying things and falling back from their words.

An Article appeared in Sunday's paper in which one of the top notches of the D.L.P. Government lambasted the Government on something that has to come in here, and I understand this is in their Manifesto, which I believe that gentleman must have helped to compile. I wonder why some of the other members do not do the same thing and go according to their conscience. We are unhappy that the Gov-

ernment has something in its Manifesto and its members are coming out and talking against it. That shows me that the members are not always acquainted. I believe that if that gentleman knew that this thing was going to be in the Manifesto, he would have told them at the time. The Hon. Premier, now Prime Minister, told us one day that his Ministers only saw the Budgetary proposals fifteen minutes before he was ready to bring them in here. Could that be fair? I dare say some members have not seen this Bill yet. That is not good enough. If a Minister at any time makes a mistake, the whole Government has to go, and not only the one who is at fault. If the Prime Minister is at fault and the Government has to resign, all the Ministers have to go. No one of them can say he does not know anything about it; yet the Hon. Prime Minister has the power to say that his Ministers have not seen something.
3.35 p.m.

That is why we have to be unhappy about a Bill of this nature. It is because we are not too sure about the happenings. Now, Sir, when it comes to the expenses, I think the Hon. Minister referred to the fact that the Election will be too costly and things of that sort, since the services have been taken away. As I have already said, each parish was responsible for its own affairs under the Vestry system. You had a Parochial Treasurer who would be Clerk to the Vestry and he had by law to collect the funds of the Vestry. He would be Clerk to the Vestry and also Clerk to the various Boards. Things went on nicely; however, the system wanted some modification because we have had some Vestrymen who were very spiteful, not to the people, but more to their colleagues, who tried to keep out some people and bring forward some others. However, Sir, that did not interfere with the administration. Where one dollar could do the job, they would not spend two dollars. It went on like that. But what has caused this Bill today is what caused the Local Government and the Vestry - taking our minds completely off the people and focussing them on individuals. That is what the Government is doing, forgetting that it is the people who count. Everything was done during that time with members of the Vestry, and although you had ten Vestrymen to a particular parish, those ten Vestrymen never did the work. You only had about four or five doing the work. You had a Churchwarden who was the foremost gentleman and one or two more, and you went along; but this Local Government administration is costly and we would have been able to solve that problem by going into it and amending the Act so as to give the people their right to say who must administer their affairs.

In that way we would bring down the cost by about 60% possibly, and that would take some of the burden off the present Government. The present Government must be confused because they take too much of an active part. They want to plunge into the Local Government affairs. They tried to run it from Roebuck Street. That is what happened. If the Prime Minister had put his foot down on it early o'clock and told certain members of the Councils: "You all must try and manage your affairs by yourselves and only call on me when better cannot be done", if he had done that, then things would have been much better. But if you are running with somebody's name, and the next person is running with somebody's name, then they will confuse that gentleman. He said that the only thing for him to do would be to abolish the whole thing. No Government or Party has any right in any place at night saying who must be Chairman and who must be this or who must be that. One night I thought they would have been knocked down by my car in Roebuck Street. One fellow wanted to be Chairman and another fellow said: "No". I remember that the thing was so hot that somebody said: "Throw him out"; all of that confused the issue. The gentleman should have said: "You all must conduct your affairs up there and do not come down here with them." That was not done. One Christmas day he tried to baptise them at the Farm with alcohol and one fellow said: "They fired me and my Chairman".

It is these Councils who have caused these things. I am saying that they should not abolish the system completely; let them abolish the present Councillors and we will get on.

When it comes to the Election, that would not cost so much because I will tell you that in the Vestry system they would serve and serve for many years. You would have very few elections because you will have to pull your pocket to steer your expenses; but when you get in, you would get no money. How many you would get now to be pushing up and offering themselves when they knew they would have to spend at least \$500 to be a sitting member of a Council and you got no money? How many would you get? But you would be surprised to see the calibre of the people you would get! Therefore it would not cost a particular parish much by way of an election. To begin with, you would not have that every term, because there are some people who hate to part with money; and when you get one who is like a shark for money and he knows that when he comes out he will not get any, then he will not come.

We could remedy the situation here and now and give the people a chance. You should not knock them off just as you would knock a hoe off the stick. At least, you should try and talk about your commission before you come with this interim measure. You should start with the commission and if you could get through with it by, say, the month of June, let the Bill remain until then and get on with your machinery. The only people you have to work with now are the Local Government Commissioner and his staff, and you cannot put more work on his staff. You are asking too much of him now. It will be too much to ask your Local Government Commissioner to come in at this stage even for a month.
3.45 p.m.

He cannot tell us, because I believe he has a family and he has to care for them; but definitely we are asking too much of him at this late stage. I hope that the Minister after this debate is over will tell the real reasons for bringing this Bill so hurriedly this afternoon. It is important. This Bill is a power Bill and it has more importance now than the Barbados Estimates where we expect to spend about 67 million dollars. Something is wrong. The Hon. Minister said that the scavenging is a scandal. I would tell the Minister how the scavenging is a scandal, but I believe that he means the two Councils. I do not think he means the City Council. In the country areas it is very bad, and that is due to the fact that the people are not accustomed to scavenging trucks taking up stuff; they used to go and dig holes in their land and bury the stuff. They never used to put their stuff in the street because there was nothing to take it up; but since we are getting modern and the truck is passing by them, they dump the stuff by the side of the road and there are so many people dumping stuff that it is more than the trucks can manage. I believe that both Councils could do with about at least six more trucks. If you were to see the amount of milk tins in the stuff - because I do not know what is being put into these milk tins now - you will find some full tins there by the side of the road which would fill the truck by themselves.

It is fitting that the Councils would need some money to get more scavenging trucks, and, as it is, they are finding great difficulty in finding somewhere to put the stuff. It is not so scandalous, therefore, if the Government has to come in, because they have the money and the Councils do not. Just as the poor businessman has to wait until his customers pay him for him to pay somebody else, we have to wait until we can get the money. The Hon. Minister is trying his best to put up the case, but everytime he tries, his conscience gets heavier with guilt, and he cannot do justice as he would like. He said that the last Government began taking over Almshouses, and I would be glad if in his reply he would let me know how many infirmaries the last Government took over. I can assure him now that if the last Government took over infirmaries, when they get back into power they have to take them back. I cannot remember them taking over any infirmaries - although it would not be a bad idea to take them over and amalgamate them.

Again, Sir, they are starting before they are ready. They have abandoned St. Andrew and have taken the inmates to St. Thomas; but no sooner had they done this they found that it was overcrowded and they had to take some of the inmates to St. Lucy and by carrying them there it caused

them to die more quickly. They did not even provide for Nurses' Quarters, and they had to rent a house in Rock Hall for the nurses at the rate of \$60.00 per month; so they have gained nothing by amalgamating these two infirmaries. A few old people lost their lives before their time, and the owner of the house got \$720 a year. If they wanted to amalgamate, they should have made the necessary provision first; but they were going too fast. I do not know what was their hurry. I had to plead with them not to trouble St. Joseph. How on earth can we get somewhere when the Government is not thinking right? They have all good intentions, but some times you can kill one with kindness. Too much kindness is worse than none at all, and I feel they are too kind at this time.
3.55 p.m.

The Government is going to abolish Local Government and then we are going to find ourselves more confused in the next two or three months. Soon the representatives will be crying out because they will not be able to tell the people who go to them anything. Since they will be ashamed to say that as representatives they have to send people to a Civil Servant. A representative will feel ashamed because in truth and in fact the Commissioner will have more power than he would. They will, therefore, have to look to the Commissioner and leave out their representatives because we are taking power out of our own hands. As it stands now, we have a chance; but as soon as this power is vested in the Commissioner, we can do nothing unless we go hat in hand and ask the Commissioner to help "A" or "B". We should try to retain some of this power, and I am appealing to the Ministers to remember that they will not always be in power, and should not do something to harm themselves. As I said, this Government can lose on this same Bill if we make it hot enough for them, and we intend to make it as hot as possible for some members, even if not all. We are sure we can displace some. If we can get fourteen seats, we can do the job; but the Government has the chance now to postpone it until everything is set up.

I understood the Minister to say that three Statutory Bodies will be set up. I do not know how this will be done, but I suppose there will be one for each of the three areas. Now there are people already jostling for positions on these bodies. I was told that there is a particular individual whom it was thought by the members of the Democratic Labour Party was a Barbados Labour Party member, but in order to safeguard himself now, I am told that he is a D. L.P. member. You are therefore getting people joining the D.L.P. to get these jobs. That is jumping out of the pan into the fire. I say to the Government through you, Mr. Speaker, to let these bodies be elected even if there are going to be two for each parish. This will safeguard the Government because they are going to get a bad name however they do it. They cannot give all their supporters jobs and they will all want, and those who do not get a job will hate them for it; so in order to steer clear or to take the bone out of the rice, have nothing to do with it at all. Let the electorate put whom they want to serve them.

I can remember as a boy following the proceedings of the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council closely, and I can remember a representative from St. Lucy who eventually went on to the Council; and in making a speech one day, he said he did not have to beg for votes, and he could vote as he likes. That was because he was nominated. He could never say that if he had to ask for a vote in St. Lucy, and that is what will happen to any nominated member. In this case, he will have only one man to please, and he will make sure he does that, whether the man is right or wrong, to hold his job. You should not put the taxpayers of this country in the hands of one man. If we implement a Bill of this nature, we will be doing the taxpayers injustice. It may sound foolish and you may laugh at me when I say so, but before making this change, you should have a referendum on whether to abolish Local Government. In some form or fashion let the people decide, and if they say to abolish it, then you are safe. If they say to keep it, you are also safe. The Cabinet should not take it into their hands to do such a hard thing. If we go on like this, somebody is going to have to pay for these things with his life.

I may die and go to Heaven; but if this Government or any Government carries on doing things of this nature, somebody is going to lose his life, because people are not going to stand for it.
4.05 p.m.

Getting policemen to drive about in a car with you and having a million all around your house at night will not save you. If you have to do that, then you should not be alive. You should be living in your country. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is trampling the democratic rights of the people under your feet. It is crushing them up. The people want to have their democratic rights. This Government has nothing to lose by implementing a Bill of this sort, and it has nothing to gain. It cannot reduce some people. You are dealing with more than one man, Mr. Minister. I sincerely hope that you will tell us the truth that something is a back of this. The haste is in question. The functions of these Councils will be carried out by people other than the elected representatives of the people. Those are the words of the Hon. Introducer of the Bill. But how can you expect to get functions carried out in the interest of the community by other people better than they would be carried out by your own people? With nominated people rather than elected people, can you expect to get functions carried out better than they would be carried out with elected people? If you have an elected idiot and a nominated, intelligent person, I think that an intelligent, nominated person should be able to do justice more so than an idiot, but it should be left to the people. They know who is who, and I am sure that if one idiot can slip through, not all would be able to slip through. If you put one idiot at the head you can expect trouble, and if you put an intelligent person at the head you can also expect trouble. The idiot will not know sufficient and the intelligent person will know too much. I am only trying, Sir, to convince the people on the other side. I know that they are going down and they will not return.

Some people may feel that I am filibustering and others may feel that I am foolish, but whatever they feel, I know that this Bill is wrong. The Hon. Introducer cannot postpone this Bill on his own, but I think he should talk to his colleagues and try and postpone it. What has struck me now is that they may be more clever than I am thinking. They think that they should do this thing now at the end of the last Election, because at the end of the next five years the taste would be out of the mouth of the people. But if I do not die and go to Heaven, I don't feel so, and there are others who will not forget, either. But if I should go, there are still members who will remember this thing because I am getting old. There is a place called Welchman Hall in the parish of St. Thomas, and I believe that it has more peasants than other people. I am sure that the peasants of Welchman Hall will not like a Bill of this sort, and that is a thickly-populated place and I believe it is a D.L.P. place too. I know the peasants there; and if I were to tell them what is happening, that they do not have any say in these matters, I do not know what will happen. I am saying everything in order to try and convince the people on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the parish of St. Lucy. There are a lot of peasants there, and we will have to carry the news to the peasants and the taxpayers. This thing could not serve any useful purpose, and if what I expect to happen in St. Lucy happen, we will be on top. Mr. Jackson made a Report and he did not tell us to go so far down the hill. He did not talk about the abolition of these Councils at all. I hope that if Mr. Jackson did so the Hon. Minister will stop me, or the hon. senior member for St. Philip will stop me. Mr. Jackson did not talk about the abolition of these Councils, and in this Bill they say that they are carrying out the recommendations of the Jackson Report. You were not supposed to carry out all of the recommendations; you could have carried out some of them. I am in favour of Public Assistance from the point of view of the people in the country. I feel that in the City the people who get Public Assistance are given a fair deal, but in the country when you get old men and old women who are responsible for the wealth of this country, those who have worked hard

and now they are laid aside, do you know that on pay days they are still getting \$1.00 for a fortnight or, in other words, 50 cents a week? They are getting less than they get down here.

It is of no use going to the Board and asking for help with a pot or bucket or anything like that. There is no sense in these people asking for flannel because their bodies have to be kept warm. It is no sense asking for that in the country because they cannot get it; but the people down here will get it, and they should be getting it. Whenever the Government servants get increases, our servants want increases too, and we can only tell them that we are not able to give them because the taxes are too high. I feel that when you relieve us of Public Assistance and sanitation, we can still carry on with other things, and everything will be going well in the parish. It is only because you are strong and mighty and you are taking the largest part of the cake that you are doing this thing. I do not mind; as far as the Councils are concerned, you could take all; but there are other things which must be considered which I will not mention this afternoon. The Government chose to perform these duties and they have to perform them to the best of their ability.

I believe that there are some points which they have never thought of. The Government has nothing to gain or to lose by taking away the Councils, but we are claiming that that is our democratic right and they should not take it away from us. If we are in a position to carry it on, then do not take it from us. The Cabinet is taking on too much; but if the Cabinet was doing its job, it would not crave to take on anything more. I do not know why the Cabinet is craving to take on more.
4.15 p.m.

Some time ago the then Premier cried out and said it was too much work for him and he wanted an Aide. He took on an Aide for three weeks; and did the job himself for about three years. That may not be altogether correct, but it told me that he did not really need an Aide. Then he took over some more Portfolios and he was still saying that it was too much work. I believe that they are all hard working men from flying about in the air. That makes you tired too.

Now, Sir, a few Parliamentary Secretaries have just been appointed which shows that they really need help because they are taking on more work; but constitutionally there is something wrong. I do not know where it lies. I sincerely hope that the Hon. Minister will try to clear up all of these points. I know that he made some points and I am going to set my back when he replies because he can share some lashes and I am willing already because I know what is likely to happen. I do not want to prolong this any longer because I think that some of my colleagues here would like to make their contribution to this. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to take this thing very seriously and it would be a good idea to postpone it, and let us get on with the Estimates because if we do not postpone it, at least to get on with the Estimates, we may meet happenings that would not be nice. If I were to think that they are not going to postpone it, I would carry on; but I am leaving it to them. This is now Holy Week; Good Friday is around the corner, and the end of the month is coming soon; and regardless of how they are planning to keep themselves and you all night here for the remainder of the week, they still cannot get through with the Estimates if they do not postpone this.

I would prefer the Estimates to go ahead and then they could come back with the Bill because they may be able to take good council and do something about it. I am quite willing for an amendment to the Bill; the first thing they can do is to take out travelling allowance and some other things, and we can carry on. We have men that are capable, ready and willing to carry on. I am going to close and hope that the Minister will satisfy us by giving us the reasons for the Bill and to postpone it and let us carry on with the Estimates.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Clause 3, by the terms of this Clause it says "the Corporation and the Council of the City of Bridgetown established by section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1958, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District established by section 12 of the said Act, shall be dissolved on the appointed day."

4.25 p.m.

Now, Sir, the main purport of this Section is to abolish democratically elected bodies which were responsible by law for the administration of certain essential services in this country, and I urge hon. members to think very carefully before they agree to the passing of this Bill, if we consider that here in Barbados for the last 300 years of our existence we have always had certain services which were performed at the Local Government level. We had the Vestries which used to perform these services, and in 1958 these bodies, which by this Clause it is now purported to abolish, took over the administration of these services. What we have now is an attempt made by Government to bring within the purview of Government the totality of all governmental powers in this country. If we are to agree to this Clause, we will be agreeing to the Government.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member is apparently making a second reading speech, and I will draw to the attention of this Committee that the principle of the Bill has already been agreed to and approved. Nobody was prevented from making a second reading speech, and hon. members cannot be found making speeches of a second reading nature on any of the Clauses now. If he wants any explanation on any particular word or phrase which he misunderstands, that is a different matter.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I understand the motion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may intervene at this time, I will say that the principle of this Bill has already been passed, and I do not intend to hear any second reading speeches at this stage.

Mr. St. JOHN: As I understand the position, Clause 3 is to abolish the Corporation and the Council of the City of Bridgetown, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District. I am against the abolition of them, and I am making a speech pointing out the reasons why Clause 3 should be deleted from the Bill.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the second reading of this Bill was being dealt with, members had an opportunity to deal with it, and I am not at this time going to allow any member to make a second reading speech on any Clause.

Mr. St. JOHN: I have checked the Rules, and I can say that as I understand it, Clause 3 purports to abolish the Councils, and surely, Sir, I am entitled to make a speech against the abolition.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the principle is as to abolition. The principle as to whether or not the Councils should be abolished has already been clearly settled and approved, and is no longer before the House. What is before the Committee are the Clauses. The hon. member sat there and said nothing, did not divide the House and is attempting to make a contribution now.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Clause 3, from what you have been hearing you may believe that I am bound to agree with the passage of Clause 3, which is absurd. Do not let anyone deceive you, because a few weeks from now you may frown at the sort of childish opinion that has been dishd out to you by Parliamentarians much more experienced who are doing you a serious injustice. I am in a position, Mr. Chairman, to reject the passage of Clause 3 or to amend it. Do not let anybody tell you that I am in Committee to agree to the passage of Clause 3. The House is in Committee and that is as much as I would say at this stage.

Mr. St. JOHN: There are words in this section which says that these Councils established by section 12 of the said Act shall be dissolved on the appointed day. Am I being told in here that I, as an elected member of this Chamber cannot come in here when a Clause like this is before this House in Committee and give arguments as to why these words should not be deleted? Since when are we to be dominated by the nonsensical opinions from the other side or by any threats from any one, notwithstanding the fact that he may be in the Chair or otherwise?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Am I to understand that the hon. member is saying that I am threatening him or any other member in this House?

Mr. St. JOHN: I never said that you threatened anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have made it clear to the hon. member that I sat down and heard second reading speeches on this Bill, and the second reading has already been passed. If there is anything which an hon. member may wish to specifically point out in any Clause, I will hear him.

Mr. St. JOHN: It is my feeling that the words "shall be dissolved on the appointed day" and the whole of Clause 3 should be deleted, and I am seeking to give my arguments against the inclusion of the words. This Clause purports to dissolve the democratically elected bodies, and we on this side of the House are fundamentally against it, because in no other part of the world has it been found necessary to have abolished bodies such as were in existence by section 12 of the Act to administer certain functions; so when we come here to agree to any wording to the effect "shall be dissolved from the appointed day", good and substantial reasons must be advanced by the other side to get us to agree to it.

What are the reasons advanced by the other side? The reasons advanced by the other side amount to this: that the people who have been elected as is provided by section 12 and envisaged by the Local Government Act are people who in their judgment are incapable of running these bodies. That is the only reason that has been advanced. Of course, right in here we have people who have been Chairmen of one or two of these bodies as envisaged by clause 2, and they happen to be members of the Party on the other side. They today are being told by their own Party that they have been running the services so inefficiently and have been exercising their powers under that Act so inefficiently that it should be abolished, and they sit here and see Clause 3 being dealt with by this Committee and have not got the elementary courage to get up and say one word in their own defence, and every effort is being made in here to prevent us from exercising our democratic rights!

4.35 p.m.

That is the position to which we are being reduced. Everything is being done to prevent us from exercising our democratic rights. They hate democracy, and that is why Clause 3 is very important. When we come to deal with

the Bill Clause by Clause, we shall be making our arguments on these Clauses.

Mr. LYNCH: Speaking on Clause 3 which says: "The Corporation and the Council of the City of Bridgetown established by section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1958, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District established by Section 12 of the said Act, shall be dissolved on the appointed day." At the end of my discourse I am going to ask that the word "not" be interpolated after the word "shall" and hope to have a seconder of that motion. However, before I do so, I shall try to exercise my democratic right to show why I think there should be the insertion of the word "not". Now Sir, the Corporation and the Council of the City of Bridgetown, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council are all part of the democratic Local Government of this island, and to attempt to dissolve these Councils on a particular day would be a negation of that democracy which we, in this Chamber, are supposed to protect. It is well known to you no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that Local Government existed long before Central Government in that country from which we all draw our patterns of both Central and Local Government. Local Government existed long before William the Conqueror landed in England and it existed long before the first Parliament met. To insist that these Councils should be dissolved on an appointed day is a matter of some local import. We are saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is a very grave matter indeed that there should be taxation without representation after the appointed day of this dissolution. The idea of taxation without representation after the appointed day of this dissolution. The idea of taxation without representation has caused the loss of many people's lives in many countries and it is something which should not be taken lightly.

It has been said that the elected members of these Councils were not of the right calibre. In saying this, the promulgator of the Bill was denouncing the principle that the voice of the people was the voice of God. To speak of the inabilities and the non-successes of some of the efforts of these Local Government Councils notably in the Northern and Southern Districts is not only to attack Local Government but also the calibre of those who have been administering it in the two Districts which I have mentioned. I have not heard any lack of efficiency in so far as the Bridgetown City Council is concerned. Indeed, the Commissioner has never at any time launched any attack against that Council for lack of efficiency. There is a system of accountability to the public in the administration of the Councils in that people are open to criticism, in that they are open to letters in the Press, in that they are open to having to meet electors and to defend their actions. When all of it is taken away by the dissolution mentioned in Section 3 about the appointed day, when all of that is taken away, it will be found that there will be less respect for whoever takes the place of the elected Councillors. People are not in the habit of granting that respect to paid members of Statutory Boards that they would give to those who are elected from among themselves and who have shown by their public service that they are entitled to the respect and confidence of those said electors.

Mr. Chairman, it has always been the principle that the administration of Local Government should be carried out with the minimum of vexation. It cannot be said that that minimum of vexation will exist when people who are appointed to the administrative Boards are people without responsibility, and who have gone there purely for the purpose of drawing the money which they will receive. We are saying therefore that this idea of economy need not be the paramount idea in the dissolution on the appointed day of these Councils. The adjective "cheap" which may be used in the administration of the future, is always allied with another adjective; that is "nasty". Those adjectives "cheap" and "nasty" always go together and therefore economy need not be the watchword in this projected change.

Mr. Chairman, when a system of democracy is replaced by one of bureaucracy, it is the ordinary citizen who will be the sufferer. With this dissolution envisaged

on the appointed day mentioned in Section 3, if it were to come about, it is the poor, ordinary taxpayer who will be without representation on these Local Government Councils who stand to suffer. We are asking, therefore, that some grave consideration be given to this particular section and that the word which I have suggested - the word "not" - be interpolated after the word "shall" in this Section. It has been found that there has been a waste of money in certain of the Councils, but in passing and in support of my arguments for the non-dissolution of these Councils, I would mention that in so far as one particular Council is concerned, the Bridgetown City Council no one who has served on that Body has ever received one cent either for pay or for that so-called travelling allowance, which, I understand, is one of the great bug-bears which may have caused the proposers of the Bill to place it before us today.
4.45 p.m.

The men who served on that Council gave good and voluntary service, and I think they may well be proud of the record which they have established. It had been found, Mr. Chairman, some years ago but the Kingston City Council was accused by the Central Government of various acts of peculation, and so its administration was temporarily suspended. No such accusation has been made in respect of its counterpart of this Island, and the idea of not suspending but abolishing the Council must cause the ordinary citizen to stand aghast especially, Mr. Chairman, when you remember that in the very near future a country which we consider to be more politically backward than ourselves - no other country than St. Lucia - is looking forward confidently to the institution of Local Government Councils in that island while we on the other hand are now contemplating a retrograde step. No longer can the other Islands of the West Indies look up to Barbados to lead them in matters constitutional. Barbados will now have to look up to them to become up-to-date with modern methods of law giving. It is for those reasons, Mr. Chairman, that I now formally move that the word "not" be inserted after "shall" in the last line of Clause 3, or alternatively that section 3 be deleted.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the motion for the deletion of Clause 3, I do so knowing that the intention of this Government means a down fall of that body of democracy which we have maintained in Barbados for a period of approximately 300 years. It also means that if this Clause be retained, the City Council, the Northern and Southern District Councils would be abolished once for all, and also that the human touch which existed in the administration of certain services that were provided under the existing form of Local Government would be lost forever.

Listening to that part of the Minister's speech which dealt with financial matter - I have heard that argument before. If they have failed in the administration of Local Government in Barbados, there is no reason why for the lack of one failure we should entirely abolish the system. I think it means that there is a pronounced weakness in our own judgment if we were to argue to the passage of Clause 3 and its retention in this Bill.

The Minister will probably again make some reference to the difficulty of finding men of the right calibre, but I think, Mr. Chairman, you will agree that in the year 1967 if this House of Assembly has to accept that, it is a rare reflection on the integrity and ability of Barbadian people like ourselves if we have to just squash a system because there can no longer be found men to administer a form of Local Government. I say it is a sad reflection on everybody in Barbados. We are actually selling ourselves that we in 1967 are much inferior to people who existed before in this Island, and if I were to subscribe to the passage of this Clause I would be doing it as well. That is not an argument, it is a reflection; it is finding fault with the Democratic Labour Party who have not proved their worth; and because that is so, I must object to the passage of this, specifically this Clause 3 which is asking now to abolish the three Local Government Councils.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member who was just speaking was actually seconding an amendment moved by the hon. junior member for the City. I am quoting now from Sir Thomas Erskine May's "Treatise on the Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament". I am quoting here from page 553. It is stated very clearly that an amendment of this nature is inadmissible in that it is attempting to make nonsense of the entire principle of the Bill which has already been approved and agreed on.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, is he about to quote or is he quoting now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am quoting it.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Well, quote it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am quoting from page 54, Chapter 21, Proceedings for the passing of Public Bills, paragraph 5, "An amendment which is equivalent to a negative of the Bill or which would reverse the principle of the Bill as agreed to on the second reading, is not admissible;" so the principle of the Bill has already been agreed to for the abolition of the various Councils. The Honourable member is now trying to make a speech on the passage of the Bill. They did not notify the House that they wanted to make a contribution or any criticism - with the exception of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. They appeared to acquiesce to the principle of the Bill, and having agreed by making no contribution whatever, and having allowed the Bill to pass with seeming agreement with the Bill, they are now attempting second reading speeches which are not admissible and trying to actually move an amendment which in itself is inadmissible according to May's Parliamentary Treatise.....
4.55 p.m.

Hon. members had the gumption to actually move an amendment which in itself is ridiculous, and according to May's Parliamentary Practice it is out of order and should not be entertained. I am asking Your Honour to rule, and if you want to refresh your memory, you can do so.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, that is the saddest reflection on your position as Chairman in this House. No hon. member yet in my presence has ever made such a grave reflection on the ability of the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already warned hon. members that the second reading of this Bill has been passed, and that I do not intend to continue hearing second reading speeches on the principle of the Bill. I therefore rule that this amendment is out of order.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Since you have ruled that the amendment is now out of order, I will speak on Clause 3.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I hope you will confine your observations to Clause 3.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I am against the passage of Clause 3, and it is absolutely and humanly impossible to speak on a Clause of this nature in any Bill - and I defy any Chairman in the British Commonwealth, be he who he may, to tell me that it is possible to speak without actually speaking against the principle of this Bill. I have seen Bills drafted by clever legal brains pass through this Chamber, and whenever it comes to a Clause of this nature the Chairman has had to watch the stride of every member purporting to speak on the particular section and guide and advise, but not dominate or domineer over the feelings of members, because you have seen it and you will see it as you gain experience. The Clause says that "the Corporation and Council of the City of Bridgetown established by Section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1958, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District established by section 12 of the said Act, shall be dissolved on the appointed day." In a Clause that deals with the principle of the Bill, not a Clause dealing with the various forms of saying how the Bill is to be ad-

ministered, human beings like ourselves do not want to filibuster and disgust the hon. member in the Chair; but how could one who is dissenting from the Bill to speak and not actually be attempting somewhere along the line to make a second reading speech? Chairmen have to be very much on guard because they do not sit there to represent one's expression of opinion. If I am against the dissolution of the Bridgetown City Council and of the Northern and Southern District Councils, should I not give a reason? There is not everything that you can find in May's. There are a lot of supporting books for good Chairmen and Speakers in these matters which unfortunately do not find themselves in the hands of them, but I say that since the amendment is out - and rather belatedly - I still have the right to speak on Clause 3.

We do not think, Mr. Chairman, that there can be any substitute to the establishment of Local Government. I would like to know where Local Government is even purported to be abolished, and when I am confronted with an example, I will bow, because the moment I begin to feel that experts - and there is no suggestion being called upon - or that a Government has to run by experts or that Local Government is to be run by experts, I as a democrat take objection. Although I am hampered and restricted by the wording of this Clause, I must express my opinion since I happen to be against the principle of this Bill. I would not like to be in your position, nor would I like you to be in my position, but to have the reverse, of course I would be guided by experience and would know what lines along which to tread so as not to get into any difficulty procedurally. There is going to be a division on this Clause because we cannot accept it. It cuts right across what we think a Local Government Bill means, the human touch in politics where people in a small community know each other and each other's means and each other's background which no expert or Civil Servant can ever know and may not even want to know. If there have been fears and I understand there have been, and if there is not a proper method of tax collecting, that is not sufficient excuse for the abolition of the Council of the City of Bridgetown and for the abolition of the Northern and Southern District Councils.
5.05 p.m.

Are you about to address the Committee, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I would like to remind the hon. member of is Standing Order 44 (1).

Mr. HUSBANDS: Will you please read it for me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is what it says:

"Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall not discuss the principle of the Bill, but only its details."

Mr. HUSBANDS: I thank you, Sir. Those details refer specifically to something affecting the three District Councils. One is the Bridgetown City Council, another is the Northern District Council and the third is the Southern District Council. These Councils have been established many years ago by section 12 of the Local Government Act, 1958. This Act has been in operation now approaching nine years, and this Section before us provides for the abolition of the Bridgetown City Council, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District which were established by Section 12 of the Act of 1958, on the appointed day. We do not wish to know whether the appointed day is tomorrow or twelve months from tomorrow; that is immaterial to us. We are against each of the those details - the abolition of one Council, the abolition of the other Council and the abolition of the third Council, and when we remember that these Councils have been in operation and this Act came after the Vestries Act...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you have just drawn to the attention of the hon. member what the provisions of Standing Order 44 of the Standing Orders of this House are. Paragraph 1 of Standing Order 44 states this:

"Any Committee to which a Bill is connected shall not discuss the principle of the Bill, but only its details".

The hon. member earlier in his speech on this Clause has acknowledged that he was unable or it was impossible for him, to speak on this Clause unless he spoke on the principle of the Bill. The hon. member is now referring to the principle of the Bill when he is referring to the dissolution of the Bridgetown City Council and the Northern and Southern District Councils and I submit that the hon. member is out of order and is acting contrary to Standing Order 44 relative to the Functions of Committees on Bills.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. Chairman, I think that we should ask for some change relative to the provisions of this Clause. I think that the Council of the City of Bridgetown should be left out. I say that for this reason. I will move....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the guidance of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I will read this paragraph from May's Parliamentary Procedure. It says this:

"An amendment which is equivalent to a negative of the Bill or which would reverse the principle of the Bill as agreed to on the second reading, is not admissible."

I therefore Rule that the hon. member is completely out of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: And if he persists, you will name him.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. Chairman, I am listening to one Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I am hearing the hon. senior member for St. Peter on Clause 3.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. Chairman, the principle and the quantum are two different things - how much and what. I have invited the hon. member to come to my private school and he has not yet come. Mr. Chairman, while I will obey your ruling, it is my intention, as long as I remain a man in my full senses and reasoning, that I will speak exactly what is fact. It is a question of the thing and how much of the thing. That is a fact. I am still speaking on Clause 3 and I am speaking on the quantum. If three things are to be done and I say that one should be done, that is not question of principle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my judgment it is. If you have lost your chance to speak on the second reading of the Bill, I think you should obey the Standing Orders of this House. The hon. member should try and make sure that the dignity of the House is maintained. I will not sit here and allow the dignity of the House to be dragged into the gutter. I have said that I do not intend to hear any second reading speeches on this Bill, the principle of which has already been agreed upon, the second reading having been already passed. I am not going to tolerate that very much longer. 5.15 p.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said, we have to restrict ourselves to the strictest form of the Bill, and if you read this Bill you will appreciate that we are making fools of ourselves by saying "According to Section so-and-so of the said Act." You cannot change up an Act by something else.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. Again the hon. member is out of order. The hon. senior member for St. Peter is now referring to the provisions of the Bill. We are dealing with clause 3 of the Bill. For him to refer to the principle of the Bill he would have had to do that during the second reading speech, and he is now dealing with the Bill rather than with Clause 3 of the Bill. The hon. member has said that if he is restricted to the details of the Bill, it would be humanly impossible for him to speak on Clause 3. The obvious thing for him to do is to sit down and vote against it; that is all.

Mr. HUSBANDS; When I was last on my feet, I believe that if I went as far as that you would have called on me. I do not know if the Hon. Minister is taking the Chair seriously.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I would like to say is that I would like the Business of the Day continued. Everyone has had their opportunity to speak on this Bill in the second reading, and if they did not desire to speak on it, then you are not going to break the Standing Orders of this House by making second reading speeches now on the principle of this Bill which has already been passed, and I am going to ask members to let us get on with the Bill.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Technically, Sir, a member can speak on every clause of the Bill. I am not permitted, because the Bill has passed the second reading; but I will speak privately to the Speaker about that. That is not your responsibility; I will not involve you in anything, but I say this: I am not supposed to be committed to this section. I am a member of the Committee on this and I would call for an adoption.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you say here now, in my view, you are touching on the principle of the Bill.

Mr. HUSBANDS; Oh, no, Sir, I can speak without touching on the Bill; I am quite capable. It is the members on the other side, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. The hon. senior member for St. Peter said that he has been misleading the Chair when he stood on the floor and said that it was humanly impossible for anyone, including himself, to speak on clause 3 unless they speak on the principle of the Bill, and you have pointed out that since he has admitted this, anything he says would be on the principle of the Bill, since he cannot find anything else to say on clause 3 which is the principle of the Bill. My submission, Mr. Chairman, is that since he himself has admitted that he cannot speak on clause 3 unless he speaks on the principle of the Bill he cannot speak.

Mr. HUSBANDS; What I said was that it is very nearly impossible. That is what I meant. They do not understand what I am talking. It is very nearly impossible - in other words, you are so perilously near, and I said that in my experience in this Chamber I have known the Chairman to have had to be on guard in directing members to a particular clause which dealt so much with the principle of the Bill. But the Hon. Minister does not understand that sort of business, though he is said to be a schoolmaster.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order, I am not a schoolmaster; and when I was a schoolmaster I was a better school master than the hon. senior member.

Mr. HUSBANDS; No reply to that, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. Chairman, Sir.....

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. Chairman, Sir, will you be kind enough to rule who should speak first?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not see who rose first; I only heard "Mr. Chairman", and I saw the Hon. Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. Chairman, there will be many attempts made by hon. members on that side to speak on this particular clause which in truth and in fact deals with the principle of the Bill. If hon. members.....

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; On a point of Order, I must ask this, Mr. Chairman, is the Hon. Minister seeking to exercise something in the nature of a reply, because I do not intend to be prevented from speaking on this section.

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not replying. I am merely trying to straighten this out, which is getting out of control. I was trying to assist them. If hon. members were to look at the body of the Bill - the Bill is entitled "An Act 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." You

are dealing with Clause 3 as stated: "The Corporation and the Council of the City of Bridgetown established by section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1958, the District Council of the Northern District and the District Council of the Southern District established by section 12 of the said Act, shall be dissolved on the appointed day," 5.25 p.m.

All I am trying to say is that the whole principle of the Bill is in Clause 3, and any member who reads the Bill carefully will come to the conclusion that if he speaks against Clause 3, he is speaking against the principle of the Bill which is tied up in Clause 3. When you talk about being dangerously near, you are not dangerously near; you have your foot in it. As soon as you attempt talking on Clause 3, you have put your foot in it, and when you move an amendment, it is inadmissible.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Is that a ruling made from the Chair?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It is a recapitulation of the rulings that have been made, and I hope hon. members will not make speeches along similar lines.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak on Clause 3 of this Bill. Evidently what is a matter of principle and what is a matter of detail is something on which a great deal of confusion exists in the minds of hon. members on the opposite side, and I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that no one has ever suggested that when you speak in Committee on a Bill, you are debarred from discussing the provisions of the Section which you are talking about. I am sure, for example, that it is open to me to argue, as I could, that the principle of reform of Local Government - which is what this Bill is about - is not met by Clause 3. There are perfectly good arguments, Mr. Chairman, for saying that Clause 4 deals with the principle of the Bill, and you do not need Clause 3 at all. I would draw that to the minds of hon. members opposite. It can be argued that Clause 3 is redundant; but instead we have had the argument from the Minister that we cannot even debate Clause 3. In my view, that comes from a misunderstanding of what is meant by principle and what is meant by detail. As I take it, on discussing Clause 3 we cannot make speeches ranging over the whole field of reform of Local Government. If you look at Standing Order No. 44 (2), you will observe that if amendments are made in Committee that limit in some way the words of the title, the title can be amended; so obviously if, for example, we were to pass Clause 3, it would be open to us under Standing Order No. 44 (2) to limit the title to read only "Local Government Interim Commissioner Bill." All these things are possible and done in Legislative Assemblies. It is open to us to argue that the Councils shall not be dissolved on the appointed day, but dissolved on the 1st January, 1980, and be well within the principle of the Bill, because after all Clause 3 is about dissolution on an appointed day, and we can all argue as to what that day should be, whether it should be an appointed day, whether it should be this year or next year, because the only thing we have to go on, as far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, is what the Minister says. A member may find himself unable to reconcile what the Minister says with what appears in the Objects and Reasons or what appears in a particular Clause, and we can only talk about Clause 3 in the light of the general reform of Local Government.

I am sure that nobody on sober consideration even on the opposite side would say that the Clause which contains the essence of what the Government says the Bill is about may not be debated in Committee. I am sure that on reflection the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would not agree with Your Honour. It is open to us to argue that, although the principles of Local Government reform are accepted, yet we feel that the Northern District Council should not be dissolved, because it has not yet been passed that all three Councils should be dissolved. What has been talked about is the need for reformation of Local Government, and at this stage, Mr. Chairman, I would beg to move, speaking as a member of this Honourable House for a constituency comprised within the Northern District, that the words "The District Council of the Northern District" be deleted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my view there can be no amendment at this stage. I have already ruled that an amendment is out of order and I have cited authority for it. I do not want any other member to be making an amendment to the principle of this Bill.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I take it that Your Honour will not permit an amendment to the Northern District Council, but Your Honour with respect used an expression I would be glad to have some elucidation on. What is meant by "an amendment to the principle of this Bill?" It is not an expression I have ever heard used in connection with a Parliamentary Bill before, and perhaps Your Honour has authority on that; but I am also going to urge it a second time because I do not believe that there can be a position where there is no amendment to meet with Your Honour's approval, because I do not think it is correct that the Councils should be dissolved on the appointed day. I think the date for the dissolution of the Councils should be some date in the future. I feel that the principles of this Bill are adequately met by a Clause which we have not yet discussed, but which has been outlined in the second reading speeches, that all the persons holding office as Mayor or Deputy Mayor no longer hold that office, and the functions of the Council will be transferred to an Interim Commissioner. I feel that the principles of the Bill are adequately met by this provision. I feel that all that has been said by the Minister has not convinced me that this argument and the arguments exhibited in this Honourable House need to be served by a dissolution on the appointed day. I feel that the Councils can continue for a day later than the appointed day. They have to be dissolved, and the House has agreed in principle to the dissolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I see in Clause 3 that the Councils shall be dissolved on the appointed day. That appointed day is in my opinion in the future, and therefore the argument that the hon. member is trying to put up does not hold. I again say that as long as the principle of this Bill is infringed upon, I am not going to listen to that type of speech. Members have already had their chance to speak on the second reading, and if they did not, I see no reason why they should in Committee try to prevent the business of the day from going on. We have business to do.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I take it that Your Honour will rule any amendment out of order, but it has always been my impression that the Committee stage of a Bill was appointed so that those provisions which may be offensive to hon. members may be discussed at that stage to save time in the third reading. I do not see anything in this Bill that can be discussed without infringing upon its principle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unless Standing Order No. 44 (1) is changed, I as Chairman cannot allow it. It says "Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall not discuss the principle of the Bill, but only its details." If the hon. member is going to discuss the principle of the Bill in this Committee, I am not going to listen to him. 5.35 p.m.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what, I submit, Standing Order 44 (1) means is that you can only discuss the details of a Clause. Clearly if you are going to rule that an hon. member is out of order to discuss the details of the Bill as to the date when the Bill should come into force, then I may as well sit down. I have heard that discussed in the House of Commons myself. If I cannot make an amendment to say that the Councils shall be dissolved on a particular day but on some other day, then I am hopelessly out of touch. I think I would prefer to err with the 600 members of the House of Commons. I am not moving any amendment because I will not be trespassing on your ruling, but we may as well abolish the Committee stage. However, I will move that the words "the appointed day" be deleted and "the first day of January 1979" be substituted therefor. Mr. Chairman, the exact words of the motion which I am proposing to make is that the words "the appointed day" be deleted and the words "the first day of January 1979" be substituted therefor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The appointed day has already been passed in Clause 2.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in seconding this motion I should like to say that we are not against the principle of abolition, but the reasons advanced by the Hon. Minister on the Second reading of the Bill today have not convinced us that a longer period of time should not be allowed for the Councils to put their house in order. Having given them a reasonable period between now and 1979 to put their House in order, the Interim Commissioner, after that date, will be able to perform his functions. Mr. Chairman, what have they said? They have said that the right calibre of persons are not at the present moment available to meet the services of Local Government. I am glad to see that the hon. member has at long last realised that his own Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, is a man of the right calibre to be Chairman or a member of the Southern District Council. One of the reasons why we should like to have a postponement

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is about the third or fourth time that the hon. member has misquoted me. I said that in future, owing to the functions which will have to be administered - scavenging, Children's Homes and Day Nurseries, Public Baths and Conveniences and so on - a person of a lower calibre would be attracted to run for a seat at an Election as such, especially if he is not being paid.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I think it is impossible to have a person of a lower calibre, intellectually speaking, than the hon. senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member to withdraw that accusation which he has made against the hon. member. He should withdraw it immediately.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I am not saying that he is

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Mr. ST. JOHN: If you bulldoze me to withdraw the words, I intend to have a little time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Oh, No! No!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this stage I would like the hon. member

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am withdrawing the words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the accusation which he has made against the hon. member.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I am withdrawing the words.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, when a member of this Chamber is asked to withdraw remarks which another hon. member has objected to

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, you have asked me to withdraw the words and I say that I am going to withdraw them. There is no formality as to withdrawing words. I just want to say that we are dealing with Clause 3 to which an amendment has been moved seeking to postpone the appointed day until the 1st January, 1979.
5.45 p.m.

Why we advocate this is because we are convinced that it means that once the principle of abolition is held over the heads of the Councillors that exist, particularly in the North and South which is Democratic Labour Party - controlled, then they will cease to tie the hands, which must have convinced the Honourable Minister and the Government to abolish them lock, stock and barrel. That is the position. We go further, Sir. Much has been said about the power of the Council in not being able to attract people, but the position is this: According to the Hon. Minister you are

going to have powers to administer these very powers, and if the reduced powers are not sufficient to attract people by way of election, then the Cabinet will have to look for local people who will be using the Democratic people to run it, because intelligent people will not want to run on such principles. Either the services are sufficient to attract intelligent people, or they are not sufficient. The real reason, Sir, why we are moving for the postponement, is that we are convinced in our minds that with this postponement there will be an adequate period when the existing situation can be remedied. Perhaps the two Honourable Members from St. George who play an active part in Local Government now that they have heard the debate and the reaction of the Honourable Minister of Local Government, with this period of 12 years over their heads, they will move from here to their respective Headquarters and seek to clean up the mess that they have heard now that calls for such drastic treatment by the Government.

Mr. J. W. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Clause 3, I think it has refreshed me as to the reason for this. The reason is, Sir, that the Northern District Council has sent out invitations more than once asking the Central Government to take over the functions of the Northern District Council. They do not know why. I am a Councillor of that particular Council, and the reason, Mr. Chairman, for the transfer of this function is that we expect that it will be a better function, because at the present state of the Council

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, have I heard right? Did the Honourable Member say that the Northern District Council asked the Government to take over the functions of the Council? I am a member of that Council and I have never signed any agreement. I cannot remember anything about that, Sir. I know that certain roads were taken over, but not the entire Council. I wonder if the Hon. member is really right in what he is saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point has been made.

Mr. SMITH: All the same, that will give you an idea of the type of Council we have down there.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I will continue to say that we have asked the Central Government to take over the Northern District Council. I do not know if the Honourable Senior member for St. Joseph was there, because sometimes he is not there. Those other new members do not know the burden and pressure which the Council has borne during the 12 years that have passed. Mr. Chairman, there is so much that has been discovered in the Northern District Council that it would be impossible to run it - thousands and thousands of dollars. From the time the Barbados Labour Party Government changed the Vestry to Local Government, there was theft going on for all those years, and I am saying, Mr. Chairman, even the Sanitary Inspectors praised God Almighty that they have gone over to the Central Government, because they get a better pay. Some of them were working for \$157 a month and now they are working for \$258 a month.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope you will confine your remarks to Clause 3.

Mr. CORBIN: By transferring the functions to an Interim Commissioner, I am certain that the Northern District Council and the people in the North will not have to pay such heavy taxation; they will not have to bear so much burden because the administration would enlighten them. Mr. Chairman, that is the reason why we asked for the transfer, and I am certain that the Local Government could never be able to carry on and give satisfaction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that you are not speaking on the principle of the amendment. I have ruled on the principle.

Mr. CORBIN: I am speaking on the amendment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is giving additional reasons why the Councils should be dissolved.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the matters stated by the Senior Member for Christ Church, I would like to remind him that the present Local Government took over from the Barbados Labour Party which instituted Local Government. Local Government took over from the Vestry, and from its inception it was never on a sound footing. It is not surprising today that the Government has seen it fit for the abolition of Local Government. Reference has been made to me as Chairman for the parish of St. George, and my colleague; but during my Chairmanship, I did not expect, I did not think people expected me to clean up the dirty work that had been done years ago by certain Councillors, Aldermen and Councilors, in my opinion, are somewhat responsible for the Government's decision in abolishing Local Government. If some of the Councilors and Aldermen would stick to the policy of leaving the administrative part to the Clerk and his officers, Local Government would still function. But here today we find that some Councilors have gone in there and joined up in cliques, making it difficult to carry on the services of the Council.

5.55 p.m.

It is my opinion that the Government has become so worried because of the continual requests for money to carry on some of the services, that they have come to this sudden decision to abolish the Councils. I have heard that the Opposition is asking for the continuance of Local Government. I, as Chairman, am not against it; but if the Government has seen fit because of some of the acts that are being done now to bring it to an end, I support the Government in its move. As I have said before, the Aldermen and some of the Councilors have brought this thing on themselves, and therefore they will have to abide by the abolition of the Councils.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is the first time for a long time that I have ever heard that a great institution must go overboard and must be wiped out because of the calibre of the people who were manning the institution. If the great Church has a few bad priests in it, using the hon. member's argument, it would mean that we would have to tear down and abolish the whole structure in order to get rid of a few bad Ministers. That is what has happened in this case. Not only has it been sudden, but the present Government's own Councilors have conducted themselves in such a manner as to cause embarrassment to the Government itself. For six years now since 1962 these Councilors have been in office. What has happened is because of not having elections, by not making them realise that they had to submit themselves to the people and their conduct would be subject to public scrutiny periodically. They feel that they can sit back and do as they like; and everybody wants to do as he likes; so they started squabbling among themselves. Government has used the upper hand. It is the Councilors and not the Councils that need abolishing; so if we have already agreed to the principle of abolition, there is no necessity for us to implement it immediately; we can postpone it and in the meantime give them an opportunity to put their house in order. Let us hold elections and clean out the bad Councilors and leave the Local Government system in operation.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I am really not speaking on the Bill, but the last Speaker said that as a result of bad Councilors, the Government should get rid of the Councilors and leave the Councils alone. I would like to remind him that in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, God did not get rid of the few Sodomites; He destroyed the whole area.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if I may exercise my right of reply, as Mover of the amendment, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew made reference, and I understood him to say, that the Northern District Council had petitioned the Ministry to take over the Council. The Minister made no mention of this, and I cannot believe that a

Minister who is conscientious and careful in the exercise of his work could have omitted such a fact that the Northern District Council petitioned Government to take over the Council if such a letter was ever received. The hon. junior member for St. George says that they have not had an opportunity of cleaning the stables. I take it that he is supporting the amendment, because I do not believe he would take exception as Chairman of the Southern District Council unless he felt there was some power in here to serve the people and clean up this state of affairs which he has found and which he is not able to clean up. His argument in an argument in favour of postponing, because if he has been elected and is continuing as Chairman, clearly he wants more time, and this amendment would give him more time.

The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has made an interesting allegation. I did not know it was suggested that any of the Councilors were among the ranks of Sodomites and Gomorrans, but the Sodomites can be dealt with in another place. Let us not hope that the Government would find itself like Lot's wife looking over its shoulder and wondering what has happened, and we have little doubt that this Bill will put this Government in the position where the electorate will turn itself into a pillar of salt.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I understand there is an amendment before the House and I take it that it has been seconded. The amendment is to the effect that the Councils should continue until 1st January, 1979 instead of being dissolved "on the appointed day". That in itself seems to be nonsensical. It is an amendment without any substance and is contrary to commonsense when you think of it. "On the appointed day" would normally be a future date.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, unless the calendar has been changed since I came into the House this afternoon, 1st January, 1979 is a date in the future; it is not in the past.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: "On the appointed day" could never be interpreted to mean sometime in the past. 1979 would be twelve years in advance. Why not say fifty years?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. member wants the date to be fifty years in the future, we would accept that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member's amendment could never be accepted on a reasonable basis because it has really no substance. I was trying to examine his proposal, but I see no substance in it.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee deciding as follows:-

AYES: Mr. HOPPIN; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. LOWE; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. SARGEANT and Mr. WEEKES - 11.

NOES: Mr. LYNCH; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ADAMS; Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. HINDS; Mr. SMITH and Mr. ST. JOHN -

6.05 p.m.

Clause 4 was called and passed.

Clause 5 was called. It reads as follows:-

"(1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be an Interim Commissioner for Local Government hereinafter in this Act referred to as the Interim Commissioner.

(2) The Interim Commissioner shall be such person as the Cabinet may from time to time designate."

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. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the object of this Clause, as I understand it, is to establish the post of Interim Commissioner, and the Interim Commissioner shall be such person as the Cabinet may from time to time designate. My understanding as to how this is going to be worked is that the Local Government Commissioner is going to be designated as Interim Commissioner. It seems to me that when one takes into consideration the work which is at present done by that office and the manner in which the work has been done, serious consideration should be given to appointing people other than the Local Government Commissioner to that office. I am saying this because I am convinced in my mind that it is an impossible task for one man to perform the functions of Interim Commissioner for the whole Island of Barbados; it is an impossible task even although he may have the powers to designate another person. We feel that it is too much power to be in the hands of one man, and when we come to deal with the other powers, hon. members will see the force of my argument.

Mr. Chairman, it is an impossible thing to ask one Officer to do what seventy-two persons used to do - sixty-six persons to be accurate. The Interim Commissioner is being given the power to do what sixty-six persons used to do, and that seems to me to be wrong. They do not even carry out the election machinery correctly, and now they want to have the powers of sixty-six people.

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

Clauses 6 and 7 were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called. It reads as follows:-

"8. The Interim Commissioner shall, subject to the provisions of this Act or of any other enactment whereby functions are conferred on him, perform his functions in accordance with such directions, if any, as the Cabinet may from time to time see fit to give him; but the question whether he has in any matter complied with such directions shall not be enquired into in any court."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Here we come to it, Mr. Chairman. This Clause says that "the Interim Commissioner shall, subject to the provisions of this Act or of any other enactment whereby functions are conferred on him, perform his functions in accordance with such directions, if any, as the Cabinet may from time to time see fit to give him; but the question whether he has in any matter complied with such directions shall not be enquired into in any court."

The Interim Commissioner is to exercise the functions of the three Councils, and the Cabinet is going to give him directions. He is bound to comply with those directions, but the whole thing is that power is vested in the Democratic Labour Party Councils given to them by the electorate, and having performed their business and got the situation in such a mess today, the Cabinet is afraid to back the Councils, but the Cabinet is going to direct them. The Cabinet had the power to direct the Councils. It is no wonder that they want to vest these powers in a Civil Servant because they want to boss him. I cannot think of any benefit to be derived from this state of affairs. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Community Development was Chairman of the Southern District Council, and he cannot get the Southern District Council running properly. He had two shots at it and still he cannot get it running properly. He will participate in

the directions of the Cabinet. Mr. Chairman, what are we doing? The whole of the Other Side is incapable of running Local Government in Barbados. They cannot supervise Local Government; they cannot supervise it rightly. They are scared now of going to the electorate. They have not got the material at their disposal to run Local Government and they are hoping to get Civil Servants to run it for them. They will run it in the same manner as they ran the elections in which a number of persons were not placed on the Register, involving the Government in thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money.

6.15 p.m.

When we come to the third reading, we will have to put all these points together, Sir.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Clause owing to the fact that it had passed the second reading, but having heard the senior member for Christ Church mention my name in connection with the Council, I think it is my duty, Sir, to reply to him. Yes, I will say, Sir, that I served as Chairman of the Southern District Council for two consecutive terms, which is equivalent to two years. I must let you know that it is through the low mentality and the dictatorial manner in which his brother tried to dictate the policy of the Council that it did not function well, Sir, it does seem to me.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to stick to Clause 8.

Mr. WEEKES: I am just replying to a statement which he made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to stick to Clause 8.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I would suggest to my colleague and my Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, that inasmuch as this is not a Council meeting as such, and owing to the fact that the Member of the Council is not a member of this Chamber and is not here to represent himself, it is not fair to him. Reserve it for the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. WEEKES: I accept the suggestion of the Hon. Minister, and I must remind you, Mr. Chairman, that since the hon. senior member for Christ Church has mentioned my name, I think I should let him know the cause of it; and I would like to draw to the attention of the senior member for Christ Church that with the taking over of Local Government, which is long overdue owing to the fact that Dr. Jackson came here and recommended that the services should be taken over, it means this, Sir, that those services - after those services have been taken over, the balance which is left cannot function well, when the Government has to deal with taxation as a whole.

I feel, Sir, that the senior member for Christ Church should realise that Dr. Jackson having recommended that the major services should be taken away, the balance of services which are left cannot in any way encourage people of certain standards to come forward to represent the Councils, and consequently, I am one who agreed wholeheartedly and gave it my unstinted support that it be abolished.

The question that Clause 8 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 9 was called and passed.

Clause 10 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Speaking on Clause 10, Sir, this is a most important clause.

"Without prejudice to the generality of section 9 the Interim Commissioner, as from the appointed day, shall -

- (a) take over and continue to administer any service which immediately before the appointed day a Council was authorised or empowered to administer by or under any local government enactment or otherwise;
- (b) be responsible for the payment of pensions, gratuities and like benefits granted before the appointed day in respect of local government service or for which liability was vested in a Council pursuant to section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1958;....."

You will see, Sir, that this Clause seeks to empower the Interim Commissioner to carry on the work which was being done by the Councils. At the present moment, with the 66 Councils that were in existence, there are a number of people who, as a result of the transfer that took place last year of roads in the Southern District Council and Public Health services in the Northern District Council and the other Councils, have not yet been compensated, although they had these number of people to campaign in the Councils to see that they got their pensions and gratuities paid. That is why the Parliamentary Secretary to this Ministry is afraid to go on Local Government elections in the future, which caused him to come in here and support the abolition of the Councils of which he was an active participant.

One man is vested with all of these things, and there is nothing here to ensure that adequate provision is going to be made to ensure that there is a smooth transfer of these functions; nothing at all here. A one-man job, subject to the directions of the Cabinet! Directions from whom? The hon. Parliamentary Secretary? Perhaps he is going to be appointed overall in charge of all three Councils. He could not even run the Southern District Council properly; now he is going to run all three, because this would be under his portfolio. He is responsible to the Minister, and a Civil Servant responsible to him. Think of it. Think of the Local Government service run in the hands of the hon. member!

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, again I feel it is my duty to reply to the hon. senior member for Christ Church. He has mentioned that certain former employees of the Southern District Council have not received their pensions and gratuities. I would like him to know it is no fault of the Council which has caused them not to receive these pensions and gratuities. It is because the defunct Vestries did not keep records of their former employees, and consequently the Council has got to deal with affidavits which take a long time before they can be expedited, because you have got to depend on former employees of the Council and the Vestry, and certain Vestrymen - people who were Vestrymen in those days - to verify these statements. 6.25 p.m.

I would like the hon. member to know that it is not the fault of the Government or, on the other hand, of the Council, but it is the bad bookkeeping which was kept by the Vestry. Perhaps I should not say "bad bookkeeping" because in those days certain people were not entitled to pensions and therefore books would not be kept for casual employees. Since this Government has come into power, it has decided to give casual employees pensions, and that is why the matter has taken so much time. I can assure the hon. member that every possible step is being taken to deal with this matter, and it will be expedited so that those who are eligible for pensions and gratuities will receive them.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, speaking on this Clause, the hon. member is trying to throw sand in members' eyes by saying that things are held up because the Vestry did not have these people on the register. Do you mean to tell me that for five or six years these people have not got

a cent and the hon. member is still saying that it is the Vestries? The hon. member is only trying to make lame excuses.

Mr. HOPPIN: As part of the explanation on this point, under the Local Government Casual Employees Pensions Act, it takes some time for the compilation of these Affidavits; as Chairman of the Southern District Council, I can say that we are hard pressed to get these Affidavits signed. I gather that is what the hon. senior member for St. Philip was trying to put over. We have had great difficulty in that some of these people have ceased working for a number of years, and since some of them have been taken over by the Central Government and others are at home awaiting pensions, we have had the difficulty of getting the records straight. We have asked many retired workers, especially supervisors, to sign these Affidavits, but some of them are reluctant, and that is the real cause for most of these people not receiving their gratuities and pensions. At the same time, I would like to mention that since the Local Government Casual employees Pensions Regulations 1965, have been compiled, we have realised that some of these people who worked with the Councils for many years do not qualify under the number of days required to formulate a working year, which is approximately 220 days. It is to be noted that although some people have put in as much as 30 years' service, according to the recommendations from the Government, they can only get approximately nine years' full time service when the 220 days per year have been worked out. I feel that the Central Government should do something, especially for those people with long years of service which do not add up to the required amount to give them a suitable gratuity and pension.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to clarify a few points. The first is that the Local Government Commissioner will be the first Interim Commissioner. Earlier in the Bill we said that the Cabinet can designate someone, and in the case of illness or in the absence of the Local Government Commissioner, the Cabinet would nominate someone else; but to all intents and purposes the Local Government Commissioner will be the Interim Commissioner in whom will be vested all the powers, functions and duties of the Councils which will continue just as they are. There will not be one man bearing all this weight, as one may think. It will continue in the same way as at present, and whether it be the Local Government Service Commissioner for appointing and disciplining of employees, whether it be the Central Tenders Committee for awarding tenders, or whether it be the Public Assistance Board for giving assistance in deserving cases, all the various functions and various Boards will continue as at present. In other words, he will work with the same number he has now; so that the Interim Commissioner will be able to cope with the job, and the take-over will be simpler than one can imagine.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I think I heard the Hon. Minister say that the various Boards will continue, and he mentioned that the Public Assistance Board will continue for the purpose of giving assistance. The Public Assistance Board does not give assistance. The Chairman of the Public Assistance Board is a member of this Chamber, and this Board is only a supervisory and regulatory body. Assistance is got by going to the Guardians Committee of the various Councils and they are split down into parishes. These will be abolished because they are Councils, and by Clause 4, any person who immediately before the appointed day holds office as Councillor of the City of Bridgetown, or Councillor of the Northern District or Southern District shall cease to hold such office on the appointed day, and the Interim Commissioner will either preside over all applications for grants of assistance or designate the Public Assistance Officer in each parish with the function to perform which the Guardians Committee used to do. It is true that the Local Government Service Commission and the Central Tenders Board as well as the Public Assistance Board will continue, but the Public Assistance Board does not actually grant assistance. There are certain regulatory powers, and I am saying that this

is going to be too much work. There has not been enough thought given to this, and the people will suffer because of the fact that you will have to designate to the Public Assistance Officer in each parish the power to do this, and you know what will happen when you do that. We will see what will happen when you do it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, we have only now heard the regular propaganda and the rumour which is mooted around outside being brought in here now that the people will suffer. The people are not going to suffer any more than they are suffering now; but this is a means of taking public assistance out of the hands of politicians as such and vesting it in the hands of a Board not seeking any political honours to see that a more equitable system is administered and the most deserving ones are given assistance at the right time. This is the object of the whole transfer. It is to see that the poorest in the land stand to benefit more than they do at present, and that politics are not brought into public assistance, and no favouritism exercised on as a larger scale as was going on in the last few years.

Mr. St. JOHN: It is amazing that the Minister should get so hot. I accused the Minister categorically of saying in his previous speech that the Public Assistance Board would continue for the purpose of giving assistance. I go further and accuse him categorically and say that that is a wrong statement as to the legal situation in Barbados with regard to public assistance. Let him deny that.

6.35 p.m.
Let us get this straight. He is an Hon. Minister and therefore he should know his facts, and should not attempt to come in here and put things which are not accurate. Instead of saying that the Interim Commissioner will delegate functions to Local Government servants, he attempts to draw a red herring across the trail, talking about votes. In Christ Church we did not have sufficient assistance to get votes. Let the hon. member check his facts. The Social Security programme has been based on the reports instituted by the Barbados Labour Party. As to the monster Party and the chief agent for public assistance in Barbados, the Bridgetown City Council - the Archbishop has fallen out on this occasion. Let us get this thing positively clear. Everybody in Barbados has agreed to the transfer of public assistance to the National Security Scheme; and what we are pointing out is that if one person is going to look after this matter, then there is a tremendous amount of supervision to be carried out by this one person.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I should just like to point out to the hon. member that when the Bill says that the Local Government Commissioner is responsible for the carrying out of these functions of Local Government, that does not mean that he has to put pen and paper to every iota. His Department is responsible for the administration of Local Government. The Chief Agricultural Officer, for example, is responsible for Soil Conservation, but perhaps he does not look at Soil Conservation; however, his Department is responsible for it, and the same thing applies to the Local Government Commissioner. The hon. member spoke of one person in Local Government doing the work of sixty-six Councillors. I should like to point out to the hon. member that the most arduous duties of the Councils have been taken away and placed into the hands of Central Government. You have sanitation, playing fields, Child Care and so on left, and the Social Welfare Department is paying more attention to Child Care in this country than the Councils.

There is a complete reformation where Child Care is concerned in Barbados. The position is that the functions which are left to Local Government do not merit the large mass of expenditure of the taxpayers' money in Local Government Elections. We have to think of the taxpayers too, and the more money which can be saved, the more the people who need or deserve public assistance will be able to get it. I should like once more to remind the hon. member that when the Bill refers to the Local Government Commissioner, it refers to the office. If it necessitates

the establishment of one hundred people in the Local Government Commissioner's office to do the job, that will be done. It does not mean that the Local Government Commissioner will have on his shoulders the duties and functions of sixty-six Councillors. That is a joke. The point is that if sixty-six people are needed to do the job, a Civil Establishment Order can be brought down to increase the establishment of the Local Government Commissioner's office, and already work is being done on that. Just as a Permanent Secretary is the Head or Accounting Officer for a Ministry, the Local Government Commissioner will be the head of that Department. There is no cause for concern; nobody is going to suffer. This Department will be run along similar lines as those on which the Department is being run today; only we hope that it will be run more efficiently. You will not have public assistance in Bridgetown being given at 'X' cents per week and public assistance somewhere else being given at 'Y' cents per week. We will not see that people in Bridgetown are qualified for 50 cents a week or 25 cents a week and people elsewhere are qualified for something else. There will be greater efficiency in the administration of Local Government affairs.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, when we talk about political propagandas, that is political propaganda, because it is totally irrelevant to what we are dealing with in this clause. The hon. member says that public assistance has been transferred. I say that that is not so; public assistance is still being administered by the Councils.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I did not say that. What I said was that public assistance will be transferred and the main functions of the Local Government Councils will be taken away, leaving things like playing fields, Community Centres and Child Care to be dealt with by the Councils, and those functions did not warrant the expenses being incurred in Local Government Elections. I said that the money which would be used in that way should be diverted to public assistance and let the people in my constituency and in the constituency of St. Joseph, instead of receiving 25 cents a week, receive whatever is received in St. Michael.

Mr. St. JOHN: That is a second reading speech. Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that the Local Government Commissioner will have to exercise all the functions of the Councils and the duties which the Councils used to exercise. They still exercise the functions of giving public assistance. They still exercise the functions of scavenging, the administration of playing fields, educational grants and so on. The attempt of the hon. member to reply to that is that they agree that if sixty-six persons were needed, a Civil Establishment Order would be brought down to do it and nobody will suffer. Look at the topsy-turvy thing.

6.45 p.m.

This is premature. They are the same people that incompetently carried out an election exercise in this country, and they cannot do it; they will have to delegate powers to the various Public Assistance Officers for each parish, and we want to ensure that the people get better treatment when they go before individual Public Assistance Officers. You know why I am mentioning this; it is not because of the mess that has been spoken of.

They have brought people in as Public Assistance Officers who are acting at the present moment. They do not dare submit them for appointment because they were put there politically. The Parliamentary Secretary, member for St. Philip, he knows this procedure extremely well. He will know how it is possible to put a half blind person in a marking job. These are the people whom the Local Government Commissioner would have to confer powers on, and the Bill says that the Interim Commissioner can confirm and delegate functions on various people. The obvious people are the existing officers, and that is what I am afraid of - this political juggery. That is one of the reasons why you have not abolished it yet.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say this, that in the Southern District Council, all Public Assistance Officers have been appointed several years ago, before I got there, with the exception of one who died and someone is acting in Christ Church. With the exception of Christ Church, all Public Assistance Officers have rendered over 20 and 25 years' service, and he can mention any Public Assistance Officer who has not been appointed. On the other hand, when it comes to public assistance, I would like him to know that there is a Public Assistance Committee and a Public Assistance Board. Powers can be delegated to the Public Assistance Board to carry on with the assistance which is granted to people, and therefore it is not necessary to be unduly worried about hardships which may be created. When it comes to paupers, I can assure you that the paupers can be well taken care of.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, just before you put the question, the Interim Commissioner will have the power to delegate certain functions to another person whom he thinks competent. The officers of the Council will all continue to function in the various departments, and the Interim Commissioner and the Local Government Commissioner will be in a position to delegate certain functions to any of the officers whom he thinks fit, and he will be able to carry on. He has to look and see that he is delegating the powers to the proper people.

The question that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 11 to 16 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

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

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. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour 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.

The CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who took the Chair.

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

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I now have the opportunity to speak in much the same manner as I would have had on the second reading of the Bill. Now, Sir, if there is any doubt about it, check the Standing Orders. It has been moved and seconded that this Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no quarrel about your right to speak.

Mr. St. JOHN: What we have now, Sir, is that there are certain sections which the Committee has passed, and the principles are enshrined in the various sections of the Bill, and I intend to confine myself to the principles in all

15 sections of the Bill. The principles are the abolition of Local Government in Barbados and the substitution thereof of its functions to be vested in the hands of the Commissioner appointed by the Cabinet of Barbados. Sir, we on this side object to the third reading of this Bill. We have had a lot of debate on the whole Bill, and the most amazing thing about the debate is that the truth as to the reasons for the abolition of the Local Government has come out of the mouths of Councillors on the other side. For six years the Democratic Labour Party Councillors have conducted this in a manner which has caused the Cabinet to decide to abolish this system of Local Government.
6.55 p.m.

We could never agree with the abolition of any institution on these grounds. It is absolutely wrong and completely undemocratic; it has no basis for justification. The Hon. Minister in the second reading of this Bill said that having transferred certain functions to the Central Government, what was left would not be sufficient to attract people of ability and integrity to run these services. Let us carry this argument to its logical conclusion, because according to the principle of this Bill, it is only an interim measure, which means that the Cabinet envisaged that in the future permanent measures will be brought down, and as the Minister said, you will have Boards to administer the very things that would be leftover. What kind of people would you get on the Boards? The more you study it, the more you think of it. All this Bill is doing is substituting the power to decide who is to run the remaining services from the electorate in each local Government area and placing it in the hands of the Cabinet; so let there be no doubt about it in the minds of anybody that the same patronage that used to be exercised by the D.L.P. Councillors at Local Government level and the Bridgetown City Council is going to be exercised by the Boards in future.

Mr. LYNCH: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are no Democratic Labour Party Councillors in the Bridgetown City Council. There would never have been, and that is why it is being abolished.

Mr. St. JOHN: I think the Democratic Labour Party learnt from the system of patronage in the Bridgetown City Council. The position is that Local Government is tied up with patronage all over the world; but what you have got to be careful about is that the electorate must be the judges as to how much patronage and what type they permit, because periodically they have the opportunity to turn out the Councillors, and the whole import of this Bill is going to mean this. As the Jackson Report envisaged, the greater the load you put on Central Government, the more strain you put upon the resources of Central Government to administer that load. It is going to mean a greater strain on this Parliamentary body, because none of the members on the other side, with the exception probably of the Hon. Prime Minister, understand the implications yet of the burden and strain on the financial resources of that Party as a result of Barbados having to administer foreign affairs. None of them over there realise it, and that is what is going to happen now. The work of the Ministry of Health and Local Government is going to be increased tremendously; God help it. The Hon. Minister of Local Government ought to be the last believer in Board systems, because he was Minister of Agriculture when the Marketing Board was created in Barbados, and since then he has fired the same Board he appointed because of incompetence. You are going to attract people who will pay funds to a political Party just for the honour of having association with the Party; it is a lever. Let the Government go ahead; this will be their downfall. They are substituting the Cabinet without a mandate from the electorate for democratically elected Councillors who on their own showing in here have admitted that the situation is a mess. Nowhere else in the Caribbean area would you see that. The people of St. Kitts and Anguilla are having demonstrations for the cardinal principle of electing representatives to direct their own Local Government affairs, and the Barbadian is no fool. He knows exactly what he is doing. They did not dare put this to the electorate, and Dr. Jackson never recommended it.

Let us examine this talk that every three years you must have Local Government elections which are expensive. As in the United States of America and in other countries of the world, there is nothing to prevent an amendment to the law that when a person goes to vote at a general election at the end of five years, he votes for Local Government Officials at the same time. Study the electoral system in other parts of the world. With the Presidential elections in the United States, thousands of minor offices are voted for at the same time; so that knocks the brunt out of the argument of the expenses incurred in having elections every three years. These are only excuses. It is the embarrassment of having to face up to the fact of elections. What is the argument trotted out about central rating? We have centralised the assessment of property at the present moment. From the beginning it did not prevent inconsistencies by the Central Government Officers over the whole of Barbados. There is nothing wrong with centralising rates. There is no excuse for not having Councils which are assisted in revenue by grants. It happens in Urban Districts all along.

Under the Local Government Act as it is there is power to give grants to Councils. The Barbados Labour Party used to give grants to the Councils in the North and South to help cushion the impact of the rates, but this Government stopped it. All the supervisory powers that are necessary are there in the Local Government Act. What Dr. Jackson recommended was a reduction in the number of Councillors, and you could have reduced that because the proposal they have produced now is to nominate a Board with the same number of persons Jackson recommended. You will therefore still have Local Government in Barbados, but the people cannot elect the Board. This is a last minute decision within the last month when they were faced with the hopeless situation with their own Party members in the North and South, and when they found they had to face another election in Barbados in a short space of time. We oppose this Bill and we shall vote against it and campaign against it day after day, night after night until it is repealed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is strange to hear the hon. members representing the Barbados Labour Party in this Chamber opposing the dissolution of Local Government.
7.05 p.m.

I can understand the hon. junior member for the City coming here today and opposing this Bill, but I cannot, for the life of me, understand the members of the Barbados Labour Party opposing it, because in 1961, just a little before the General Election, the Barbados Labour Party gave instructions to Mr. Ramsay, the then Local Government Commissioner, to draw up a memorandum for the dissolution of the Local Government Councils. That is there on the files. (Mr. St. JOHN: Bring the files.) Mr. Deputy Speaker, they gave instructions to the then Local Government Commissioner to draft a memorandum for the dissolution of the Local Government Councils in 1961 and that was to be implemented as soon as possible after the 1961 General Election. They thought at that time that they would not have been swept out, and the only reason why there is a Local Government system today is because the Barbados Labour Party was swept out of power in 1961. And what was the reason? The reason was that they wanted to take power from Mr. Mottley. We all remember the results of the Local Government Elections in 1958 or in 1959 when, even after the Elections in 1959 and the Barbados National Party got the majority of the seats in the Bridgetown City Council, they still wanted to elect a Mayor. Because they were defeated in that regard, they had their sword in Mr. Mottley, and in order to deal with him, they wanted to take legislative action by dissolving the Councils.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member is referring to another hon. member of this House as Mr. Mottley. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: He is not in here now.) Whether he is in here or not, the hon. member is out of order. He cannot refer to another hon.

member by name. I will refresh your memory by referring to the Standing Orders, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not notice it, but the hon. member is out of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was referring to the hon. member as a member of the Bridgetown City Council and not as a member of this Chamber. If your Honour rules that I should refer to him as the hon. senior member for the City, I shall be pleased to do that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Standing Order is quite clear on the point.

Hon. DaC. EDWARDS: As I was saying, Sir, their aim was to take the power in the City of Bridgetown away from the hon. senior member for the City, and the only means they had of doing that - they could not defeat him at the polls or run candidates against him in the City, and therefore the only way for them to do it was to dissolve the Local Government Councils. If they in 1961, could have dissolved the Local Government Councils they would have done so; and now they have the effrontery to oppose this Bill for the dissolution of Local Government Councils, when the majority of the functions of these Councils have been taken away! They are adopting this attitude now because the boot is on the other foot. At that time there was no amalgamation. The Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados National Party were not one Party as it is today. There were no means of trying to get the members of the Barbados National Party to vote in their favour because they had the majority then; but today, they are soliciting the aid of the Barbados National Party with only two members.....

Mr. LYNCH: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my aid has never been solicited in this Chamber and never could it be. I vote sometimes with the Government Party and sometimes with the other Party according to my conscience. There is no bribe to be offered me for my vote. I am not interested in that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I quite appreciate what the hon. junior member for the City has said, but we are all aware of the fact that in 1966, the Leader of the Barbados National Party said that he did not want to run any members against the Barbados Labour Party so as to give them their chances. They were known as "B.L.P. - B.N.P." There was a coalition between them. Is the hon. member denying that there was this coalition between them? I know that the hon. junior member for the City might not have been in favour of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member did not agree with the attitude of the Barbados National Party holding on to the coat tails of the Barbados Labour Party. The hon. member would have fought on his own, and he has shown that he is a man because when he sees that there is something for which he can vote conscientiously, he does it. Sir, the position is that the Barbados Labour Party in 1961 wanted to get rid of the hon. senior member for the City and his Party out of the Bridgetown City Council because they thought he had too much power in this area, and the only answer to it was to dissolve the Councils. We are not dissolving the Councils because we want to get rid of one man. They wanted to dissolve the Councils without any enquiry into the administration of those Councils. What I am trying to establish is that the Democratic Labour Party had come to the decision to abolish Local Government or the Local Government Councils after having an enquiry carried out by Mr. Jackson. The Barbados Labour Party took a unilateral decision to dissolve the Local Government Councils without any consultation whatsoever with the Councils or even without any enquiry being carried into the administration of the affairs of Local Government.
7.15 p.m.

Today they come here opposing something which they had six years ago decided to do and had actually issued instructions to a Civil Servant to draft a memorandum for the abolition of Local Government Councils. The hon. senior

member for Christ Church talked all about our placing people on Boards because they can put money into our Party. They went further than that; we inherited that from them. Some of the members of their Boards have even broken the law; they broke the law and lent the Chairman of the Housing Authority money to buy a motor car. Let them deny that. Would you like me to tell you who the Chairman was? The Chairman was Mr. Hall and he was not entitled to it, it was illegal; so they do not only place people on their Boards who can put funds into their Party, but they put money in the people's pockets.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member has left addressing you and is addressing me.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, regardless of how frequently I am interrupted I am going to make my point. What I am saying is the truth, and some people do not like the truth although some people own the "Truth".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. senior member for St. Joseph addressing the Chair? If so, please stand.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. senior member for Christ Church has made a point that we are flouting the wishes of the people; that we are not giving the people the right to elect persons to look after Governmental affairs. Who elected the Cabinet? They say that we went down to St. Lucy and asked the people to elect the Cabinet. The people in this country showed no great regard for Local Government affairs; 30% of them voted in the Local Government election; but the percentage of the electorate who came out to vote for the Government to run the country was 69% in 1966 at the General Election, and they returned a Government to look after the administration of their affairs. In 1962, 30% of the electors turned out to vote in the Local Government elections and we can see quite clearly the reason for this. The people themselves were not in favour of Local Government; hence they did not turn out to vote. I understand that only three people from St. Andrew voted. Look how many people from St. Andrew voted in 1966 when the hon. senior member for Christ Church said that the people in this country are not allowed to elect people to look after their Local Government affairs. I only want to remind him that 69% of the electors of this country came to the polls and chose a Government in whom they had confidence and in whom they still have confidence, and in whom they will have confidence many a year to come. As a result of the attitude we have adopted in this Chamber and as a result of our taking steps to dissolve the Councils, we are assured of greater support from the electorate in this country. Do you know why? The people will be satisfied that competent authority will be taking care of their affairs; the people will be satisfied that there will be no discrimination between the people who live in St. Michael and those who live in St. Joseph over the question of public assistance. They will be satisfied with the people the majority of the electorate of this country placed to represent them not only in Central Government affairs, but in all governmental affairs in this country.

The Local Government Commissioner is a Civil Servant just as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications is a Civil Servant, and I cannot understand the arguments of the hon. member at all. Look at the number of people the Ministry of Communications is responsible for. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications is responsible for nine different Departments embodying about over 6,000 employees. He looks after Communications and Works throughout the entire Island; one man is at the top and he is the Permanent Secretary under the Minister. Now the hon. member comes out with an argument about playing fields. We have about nine playing fields in this country, and about nine community centres. We have already on the staff of the Housing Authority a qualified social worker in Child Care who advises on Child Care in the Housing estates. We have already increased the establishment of the Social Welfare Department to take a greater responsibility where Child Care is concerned.

7.25 p.m.

We have a Children's Home ready for habitation at Farris; one is being constructed in St. Philip and there is to be one in St. John. All this work is done under the advice of the Social Welfare Department; so when you look at it you can see that the Government of the day is not leaving the welfare of the children of this country in the hands of the Councils, but is itself providing qualified staff for this purpose. The Government has also through the Housing Authority established a number of Day Nurseries. It has increased the grants to them, and therefore there is not much Child Care left for the Councils to look after. The Government also gives a heavy grant to the Child Care Committee, the Council of Women, I think since this Government was in power that the grant was increased about two or three times; so there is not much responsibility left to Local Government.

With regard to the administration of Cemeteries, is this too great for the Local Government Commissioner and his staff? Is the hon. senior member for Christ Church telling us that Cemeteries, Child Care and Scavenging are too much for the Local Government Commissioner? The Hon. Minister pointed out in his address today that scavenging is unsatisfactory in this country. With the expert advice of qualified Medical Officers of Health, a better job can be done of scavenging; but the hon. senior member for Christ Church has lost sight of one thing. He has got on this afternoon as though immediately the Local Government Commissioner takes over, he is going to fire all the people working in the Councils. This is far from the truth.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of explanation, if the Hon. Minister says that I have got on as if all the people are going to be fired, that may be his opinion; but when he talks about the truth, that is a different matter. I have never said anything about people being fired. If he does not understand simple English, that is not my fault, but I never said that nor have I said anything to give the impression that I said so.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the hon. member gets up and pontificates that the Local Government Commissioner is doing the job of all the Councils and that everything is left to him, what is he suggesting? It is tantamount to saying that the Local Government employees will not be employed any longer, and that just a few people will be employed in the Local Government Commissioner's Office, for example, a Local Government Commissioner, a Deputy Local Government Commissioner, a Senior Clerk and a Messenger or something of the sort. Let him deny that he said so! He tried to give the House the impression that these four people will be looking after the administration of Governmental affairs.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, I never said that. I made it specifically clear that the supervisory functions that were performed by the Councils would now be performed by a Local Government Commissioner. The Hon. Minister does not understand the fact that the Councils did not carry out the day-to-day work, and I am not responsible for that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member may not think he is responsible for that, but if he did not put it in a way that a three-year mentally retarded child could understand, or if his presentation was such nobody could understand, how is it possible for me to understand if he could not frame it in such a way that anybody could understand? Only he could understand what he was saying, and my point is that he has said nothing. His argument does not bear any weight at all, because he gave the House the impression that the Local Government Commissioner was saddled with all this work along with two or three officers in his Department in place of 66 people, and my point is that the Local Government Commissioner is only the Head of the Department. The Department of Local Government is responsible for the administration of Local Governmental affairs. I further say that the staffs of the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council will not be sent home. These

people carry out the functions at a supervisory level instead of having Councillors coming together and taking up the time of the Clerks at Committee meetings; so the Clerks will have more time to devote to the routine of the office, and with less interruptions there will be greater production from the offices of Local Government. All this is done under the supervision of the Local Government Commissioner who is responsible to the Minister and ultimately the Cabinet for this, and the Cabinet has been chosen from a Party that has been elected by the majority of electors in this country. That is the point I was trying to establish and I hope the hon. member understands it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would appear that the names of the horses "Mad Oliver" and "Brushmaster" should be changed to "Nonsensical Joy" and "Foolish Edwards" after hearing the long-winded useless.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is entirely out of order and I just want to draw that to your attention.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am confident that you have the ability to control this sitting, and that is why you are in that position. If the Hon. Minister feels I am out of order, that is his opinion. Let him sit down and allow you to do your duty. Day after day they come here and try to bulldoze the Chair, but I know they cannot do it to you. I listened to a nonsensical, useless, billy speech made by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew who stood here and talked about.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, when the hon. member referred to "Mad Oliver", that did not affect me because he was not referring to me, but he has referred to the speech which I made here as nonsensical, and I take exception to that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair sees nothing in a speech being referred to as nonsensical.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew would not even realise that he made a nonsensical speech. This long-winded talk about when the Barbados Labour Party was in power, whose friendship they courted, and whom they wanted to bribe has absolutely nothing to do with this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. member says that what the Hon. Minister said had nothing to do with the Bill why is he saying something that has to do with the speech? 7.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg your pardon, Sir. What I was putting across is the manner of saying things as to who courted those persons' friendship.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member said that that was nonsensical. Will he please be sensible. (Laughter)

Mr. CRAIG: I believe that a just society, just in equal opportunity, just in social relations, just in the sight of the law and just in freedom is the motto of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto. Only the people of Barbados can decide what is in their best interest. It is as simple as that. This same Government - the Prime Minister, as a matter of fact, made a statement recently that he has not got to come into Parliament to debate this Country's entry into the Organization of American States. But here you will find.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. senior member for St. James, but the Bill with which we are now dealing is 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. I hope that my interruption will not throw the hon. member off that. Please stick to the Bill.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was risking one to develop the point that the same Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto tells you that they are going to implement the Jackson Report, but now this is another real, everyday somersault of Government's policy. In their own Manifesto they say that they had been given a mandate to do things. You are given a mandate that you will implement the Jackson Report, but this evening we are hearing a different approach to it. You are hearing by way of this Bill that Local Government will have an Interim Commissioner to control its destiny until the Government thinks it fit to pack it with nominated members. May I ask, Sir, how is it possible for a nominated member - and out of the mouth of the same hon. member, a parliamentary Secretary, the hon. senior member for St. Philip - out his mouth he can tell this House that it is the wicked approach by some of these members along with the hon. senior member for St. George and implied in here.....

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I have never used those remarks; I regret that the hon. member has referred to me. I know that his statement is very misleading.

Mr. CRAIG: Let him say what he said.

Mr. WEEKES: I have never referred to any member of the Council.

Mr. CRAIG: 'Heavenly Father, send Thy blessing on these creatures here below!' Here you find that they have set out to abolish the Local Government Councils. And what is our stand? It is a simple one. We are asking them to tidy up the affairs of the Local Government Councils. But it is difficult for them to do that due to the fact that the same hon. member said that these are dictatorial powers and he quoted the brother of the hon. senior member for Christ Church; he served for two terms, now he is coming back to serve for another term so as to tell the Interim Commissioner what to do. Poor Civil Servant! I sympathize with him. He is going to be told what to do. This is a political misfit and do not forget that the hon. junior member for St. George finds himself in the same position indirectly supporting our arguments. However, he is forced to vote because of Party allegiance. Conscience is at stake. It either stands or falls down. As the hon. senior member for Christ Church says, we are going to campaign for it. In North America, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean Islands you have not seen anything like this. In America, there are more boroughs and Councils and associations which are more advanced than in the Western countries of the world where you have these bodies operating. You have people making their own laws; but the cowards know that there is an election around the corner or an election should have been around the corner, and they cannot stand up to it. Their backs are against the wall. You have a hired-car Government so that if the hired-car breaks down, they are in trouble. That is why they have got down this Bill to take this privilege out of the people's hands and put it in the hands of the Central Government. That is why we are opposed to it. I did not intend saying much on this Bill. I do not say anything about what I heard as to a long-winded speech in relation to the B.L.P. being in courtship with the B.N. P. They are a shameless people. 7.45 p.m.

In 1961, there were on the platform side by side with the B.N.P., saying the B.L.P. must go. Now we fought a campaign singlehanded and they nearly jumped through the window; but I warn them that the writing is on the wall.

(ASIDES: The only trouble is you cannot read it.)

Mr. Chairman, with these few sentiments I wish to give the House the assurance that I am not supporting this Bill. This is my contribution and I sincerely hope that members on the other side will at least see the light and do not put the hon. senior member for St. Philip in charge. I beg them hard not to do this because they will be going from one extreme to the other.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I intend to move an amendment, but before doing so I may tell the House that I was tempted to rise on a point of explanation during the most recent speech of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. The hon. senior member during the course of his speech laid some charges against the Barbados Labour Party and accused the Party of instructing the then Local Government Commissioner whose name was not mentioned saying that that particular Civil Servant had instructions to draw up a memorandum, the purpose of which was to abolish the Local Government System of this country. Unfortunately there is no member in the Chamber tonight who was not a Minister of the last Barbados Labour Party Government. I myself was not a Minister. If you look around this end of the Table, you will see there is no member here to defend us. Every one knows that I was never a Minister in the Barbados Labour Party Government, but I do remember that there was some information which leaked out to myself and to backbenchers relative to curtailing the powers of Local Government, and I think it most unfair to this Chamber if the Hon. Minister does not produce information in the form of a document which will cast away all doubts as to the authenticity of his remarks.

Now, Sir, for the third reading speech. As you know, I am absolutely opposed to this statement. The system of Local Government is the system whereby electors in each community can choose their representatives to administer the affairs of the community itself. It is the principle which has stood the test of time, and nowhere in the Western democratic world except Barbados can Local Government be abolished. I know that in very recent times countries are fighting to have that privilege of establishing a system of Local Government; so you see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not a simple matter. This is really major legislation which is very serious; and the failure - if it can be termed as failure - of the system of Local Government which we have had going for some time is due to the fact that people of the wrong calibre are on the Councils, people who are only looking for travelling allowance - and we have heard reports of such people who are administering the affairs of the community. Then the system should not be abolished but we should appoint new people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am really going to move an amendment and that amendment is that this Bill be now read a third time this day six months from now. If something is wrong, six months gives you a reasonable time to have matters made up. As we know, these Councillors have been in for a long time now and elections are really overdue; so I think that within six months we could have the major part of the wrong put right by these Local Government Councillors. As I see it, there are certain residual functions of Local Government that must be handled by people who are in it, by the people in their several communities; and I do not see that entrusting such residual functions to a Civil Servant who may be called a Local Government Commissioner, interim or otherwise, will really help. I rather tend to think that a Civil Servant will carry impartiality in the true sense of the word.

7.55 p.m.

In other words, I do not see a Civil Servant really sticking to this task as faithfully for Local Government purpose as, say, the hon. senior member for St. Philip in matters concerning the constituency of St. Philip. The people know him. He knows the old lady living in such a back road, and that is what he referred to figuratively. You cannot bring a Civil Servant from Bridgetown to administer Local Government matters of a certain nature, let us say, in Ple Corner, St. Lucy. He does not carry that approach, and what I cannot understand is how are we this night going to satisfy ourselves that we are doing right in one fell swoop by destroying the democratic practices we have tried and know can work. We have had a Local Government Commissioner come down here to streamline the system, and in the manifesto of the ruling Government Party no mention is made of abolishing Local Government, and elections have been contested not so very long ago. Only last November we were campaigning, and this is only the month of March. What has gone wrong? What information

has come about to the Prime Minister and his Cabinet that we are now asked to rush into this matter and destroy a system that has been going for a reasonable number of years, a system that has been streamlined, a system that they themselves have professed a great amount of faith in, because a few people of very poor calibre have really tried to abuse the system? There is never the argument that because there are bad priests we should do away with Christianity. If we all became corrupt, and it is possible that we might become corrupt, - I hope not - it does not mean we should destroy this House, because there can still be found, in spite of our bad selves, worthy men and women who would represent the constituencies also. There will always be - and sometimes in any one unit you may possibly find a majority of - unworthy fellows; but that is not sufficient justification to abolish an institution that has served the people well. I do not relish this idea of appointing people. When the Interim Commissioner has worked for a period of time and the day comes for you to institute your three Boards, you have to go back to some part of the principle of Local Government and appoint people indigenous to the respective areas. You still have to appoint a man resident in Christ Church on the Board to function in the South. These people are going to be appointed and they can become corrupt. We have not got any guarantee as to their incorruptibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Hon. Minister of Local Government can assure me that the men comprising these three Boards-to-be are invaluable as far as integrity and faithfulness are concerned, I will vote for this Bill as it now stands; but unless and until he gives that guarantee, just as we have seen that men have failed us in the discharge of their administrative duties as Local Government Councillors, we can easily foresee that similar men to be appointed can act in the same way. As long as we believe in democracy, we have to take chances, because democracy is that form of Government in which you must take chances. Do not think that the system you are about to initiate and usher in is a fool-proof one because it is a Board system. Board systems have been tried in Barbados already, and their record is not so worthy. I think the Hon. Minister, experienced politician as he is, is very well aware of the operations of Boards in the past, especially in the parish of Christ Church, and I am sure that from the fund of his experience during the days of the Vestry system he can talk for hours.

I think a postponement would do us a good if we would walk less hastily. As I have said, this is a retrograde step, not a forward step. There may be some justification in getting rid of certain people, but this is not the means. There is a saner way of doing it; let the people do it. In my view, if the Government thinks they are going to gain by this, they are miserably mistaken. I know that within their own ranks there is much confusion at Local Government level. Let the purge come from the electors and not from the Cabinet. The Cabinet is biting off a lot more than it may be able to chew. It is going to suffer a surfeit somewhere in the stomach; but a postponement is a respite. If we have a waiting time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be a challenge to those recalcitrants and misfits who now find themselves in power in the Councils of Local Government, because they feel it is directed against them personally. There are Democratic Labour Party Councillors in the majority, and they feel this is directed against them personally. But that is not the point. The point is that if the country is suffering on account of their mal-administration, let them be thrown out by the people. If the people drop them, there is no quarrel with the Prime Minister or the Minister in charge of Local Government or anybody else. The right people would have done the right job at the right time. That is why I say that we should have a postponement of this matter, and let us have elections as soon as possible.

8.05 p.m.

Don't talk about expenses and that it is an expensive thing to have Local Government. That is the legal way of doing things. That is the way provided by law and time is overdue. You have frozen and kept back the elections for a long time. Let us have an election within six months; let

these people be purged for their sins, not by the Cabinet but by the electorate, and then the right type of men or women will be found to administer Local Government in an intelligent and meaningful manner. As to the people who are self-seekers, I wonder what they really get materially; but they give me the impression that they are there for some sort of material gain. What are the material benefits of serving as a Local Government Councillor? Somebody has said that sometimes these Councillors prevent things from functioning as well as they might function. But we have this abruptness; it is abruptness because the object and reasons of the Bill tell us that the Government is not yet ready to carry on with this Bill. This is an interim measure. What little we have heard as to what will be materially included in the Bill as proposed is that there will be the establishment of three Boards. That is all that has come from the Minister. The other things are really negative. It does not convince us that we will have the sort of men who would be interested in Local Government because certain functions have been taken out of the hands of Local Government and a few functions remain with them; that is not a weighty argument for dissolving these Councils.

I say, let us postpone this measure for a period of six months; during which time we think the offenders may not be chosen by electors. During such time I think that a lot of good might be done and there will not be any enemies among the people as to the existing Local Government Councillors who might think that something might have been personally directed against them. That, in itself, would be a bad taste in the mouths of those who administer the Councils and I do not think we would benefit from such a result. I do hope that the Minister will recall by moving the amendment in the spirit in which I have moved it, and hon. members of this House will see that you cannot expect to abolish like this the old and tried institution of Local Government which has not been sought to be abolished anywhere else in the Western Democratic world, and that the citizens of Barbados will not regard such an attempt to destroy and abolish such a system without giving it some serious thought. That is absolutely impossible. All the Minister can tell this House is that these Councils do not collect the taxes. These things require debt collectors to have them put right. That the administration is not working properly is not a reason at all for abolishing these Councils.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand that right now certain employees of these Councils at the infirmaries are doing jobs in Local Government administration and they have been established in their posts. If you were to abolish the system of Local Government, these people would not know how they stand. It is only yesterday that a female servant at one of these Local institutions came to me seeking my advice as to whether she should resign her post or not. I advised her not to do it. The servant would not know what sort of pension she would receive and she would not know whom she has to approach in order to get it, and, I repeat, I told her not to make an attempt to resign her post right now. I told her that many people had been employed at Local Government institutions, and they have been acting for about eight or ten years and they have not yet been established. Others have applied for increases in their salaries and these are employees of the Northern and Southern District Councils. Some of them have applied for increases in their salaries for two or three years and they have not got any increases up to now.
8.15 p.m.

If we pass this thing tonight, Government has all power to create hardship for these people. They are not members of any trade unions, and they are going to encounter grave difficulties in getting increases which are long overdue. I do not know if the Cabinet is going to represent these people, but these people are going to be in a serious plight in the event of the transfer of powers from Local Government to the Central Government. I hope that the Minister in charge will agree to the postponement of this Bill.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second the amendment; but in doing so, Sir, I think that I can say that

whatever slant might have been given to the various conditions advanced on this Bill, it will turn out in the end like "who killed Cock Robin" or who tried to do so. We know that it is merely because the senior member for the City of Bridgetown returned to this Island alive and not in a coffin - we know that this is the reason for the haste of this Bill before us tonight. But there are one or two things to which hon. members should adjust their minds. You must remember that Local Government and the three Councils proper - in the City of Bridgetown, the Northern District and the Southern District - that these Councillors who are members of those bodies were elected democratically. Hon. members should bear in mind that when an attempt such as this which is now being made to remove these Councillors from office - hon. members should think for themselves. There is to my mind the approach of the dictator; this is the way dictators go about their business. They abolish their enemies - or those who they think are their enemies; and when the time comes eventually when they cannot stand their friends any longer, they abolish them also. This is what is going to happen arising out of this matter, and I am to tell hon. members on that side that they are heading for the day that when either one of them can no longer find it possible to support the Prime Minister with whatever he wants to do, he will cease to be elected to this Chamber or to anywhere else for that matter.

The same method now being employed through the Local Government will be employed with them. I speak for myself and for my colleague when I say that if we were to be so wicked as to support any such measure like this, we feel that the day will come when the Prime Minister of this Country will see and know and understand that he cannot make a seat in the constituency of St. Peter which we have the honour to represent, and he will come down having such hon. members as these who are today trying to proceed with the liquidation of other people, and they will some day see that they will be called upon to liquidate my honourable colleague and myself and they will go the rounds. Whatever discussion we have had on this Bill, it shows us the way quite clearly that the day may come when my Party finds itself in the constituency of St. James, and the Government Party found that they could not get a seat in St. James. There is nothing that hon. members on that side will not attempt to do when it comes to the question of getting authority. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have heard here some very lame excuses for adopting this attitude with these Councillors; it might be of some significance that they plan to bring it in effect on All Fools Day; but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we ought to adjust our minds with the various functions of these bodies. We are satisfied that an Interim Commissioner such as they are going to appoint cannot and will not be able to discharge the functions of the three Councils in that same intimate way that the Councillors have heretofore been functioning because I know for myself that there is a sort of relationship between the Councillors and the Committees on which they serve and the people they have served in the various Council areas that cannot and will not exist when a Civil servant - or Civil servants for that matter - take over the places of these Councillors.
8.25 p.m.

Let us look, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the City of Bridgetown. There are parents of children - and children themselves - who are now assisted with lunches on days they attend school and with clothing, and I am to say that already some of these children feel a certain embarrassment when approaching members of the present Committees. Invariably the members of these Committees are drawn from the districts in which these people themselves live, so that they know without being told in some cases the needs of the people they have to serve. When Civil Servants are now charged with dispensing money for them to buy lunches, clothing or whatever it might be, I know that many people would rather suffer than go before some of these Civil Servants to put their grievances from time to time.

I feel, Sir, that legislation coming before this House should never have malice or spite aback of it. We are being

told that the Government is implementing the Jackson Report, but it would appear that they are implementing a report of Professor Jackson which we never saw, because nowhere in the Jackson Report is there to be found the suggestion that the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council should be abolished. What we have got to do is to address our minds to the functions of these bodies. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew told us about the nine playing fields we have, the nine community centres, and he was at pains to tell us about Child Care, the Children's Home at Farris; but he did not tell us what he intends to do with the Children's Home at Farris. He must know how long Farris has been there begging, so to speak, for somebody to take up residence. The Hon. Minister had at his disposal funds to have Farris ready; but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member knows that we on this side know why Farris is not occupied today by the children he would like to put in residence there. The Minister also told us about a Home in St. Philip and one in St. John. I wonder if the hon. member thinks that somebody other than Government should establish these homes. It is Government's duty to establish and open these homes and see that the people enjoy conditions that are reasonable to make them happy and to make the community proud of the establishment of such homes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are one or two things which the Hon. Mover of this Bill has not made mention of here today. We would like to know if it is true that there is some difficulty in having the staff of the Local Government Councils transferred or absorbed in the Civil Establishment. We would like to hear from the Minister some of the difficulty that is being encountered. There is no wonder we are told of certain services being left and others not being left. The Hon. Mover of this Bill made mention of scavenging in the Southern District Council area. He talked about refuse being left at various points, but I am in a position to make a similar complaint with respect to the Northern District Council area, and particularly the parish of St. Peter, where scavenging leaves much to be desired, and heaps of empty tins and bottles tend to reduce the already narrow roads. There is a reason for all this. We know, Sir, that the Southern District Council has been able to get a little scavenging equipment in the form of two lorries not so long ago, but the Hon. Minister should tell us whether or not the Northern District Council sought the Cabinet's permission to raise loans for the purpose of acquiring lorries to assist in scavenging to have it put on a better footing, and to help to save the lives of the people, for that matter. The Council has been waiting and waiting, and it seems they would rather abolish the Council than give permission to raise a loan to get a lorry to help to tidy the parish. 8.35 p.m.

That is not good enough, and all of these things must be taken into consideration because there is not one thing that appears to have gone wrong. It is not that the service is not being properly administered which has caused us to be in this situation here tonight. It goes on from the very early days, and I can say that some of the Chairmen of these Councils, particularly in the North and in the South, have not done enough in their day. But let us look at the position. Since 1962 the Government of the Democratic Labour Party controlled the North and the South, and they ought to be the last persons to come on the floor of this House and make any mention of any service not being administered properly. They had to achieve their ends; but what did they think best to do? If you have Councillors who are not functioning as they ought to function, you should freeze them and keep them there until you are satisfied with the results after you have had a General Election and you have learnt the attitude of people of your body. If you cannot face them, despite the fact that you have been treating for a by-election, only God knows what was happening. You did not want any by-election in truth. The position is that having had these Councils under control since 1962, having done absolutely nothing to get the affairs of these Councils tidied up, you wait until some day when you were satisfied beyond any shadow of doubt that there is no hope for the Government Party to win the Local Government Elections, and what did you decide to do? You do not go back to the electorate and let them make a decision; you do not appeal to the electorate

you do not put your case before the electorate and ask them to give us the type of Councillor which we feel we will like to see in these Councils.

The Government says that it is not running that risk. The Government says: "We are abolishing the Councils, and all the functions of these Councils must be put into the hands of an Interim Commissioner." Why should these functions be placed in the hands of an Interim Commissioner? The Bill shows plainly that there will be a lapse between now - or from the appointed day - and the day when the Government really makes up its mind as to what it really wants to do. Why then should this House be asked to accommodate the Government which is not ready or which has no fixed or set plan? It is not a case where the Government is seeking to abolish the Councils, and the Government seeks and knows and has a set plan which it can put before us which we can choose. The hon. mover of the second reading of this Bill is as much in the dark as to which is going to be the functions of Local Government as some hon. members on this side of the House who happen not to be in the Government. We understand that they would like to have Boards to administer the affairs of these Councils in the future. What experience does this Government have of Boards? Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Government found it necessary to dismiss a Marketing Corporation, a Board which they had appointed, and do you want to hear something, Sir? Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they did not dismiss the present Board beginning from the Chairman of the present Marketing Corporation, it is because what is being said here now is opening the eyes of the public, and the public will be looking to see what attitude they will adopt.

The Chairman of the Marketing Corporation, their Chairman, has done enough to occasion that, but it is very difficult to embarrass some hon. members on that side of the Chamber. But if they were reasonably advised, like hon. members on this side of the House, they would take the present Chairman of the Marketing Corporation and deal with him next to the Nelson Monument in broad daylight. However, Sir, they have to cover up in the light of what has been said here tonight. They have the Housing Authority; they appointed the members there too, and let them tell this House tonight if the record of the Housing Authority today can stand public examination. Let them tell us whether that is so. We know that they cannot do it; but, at the same time, they want to abolish these Councils - and remember, Sir, there has been no mention in this Chamber of any dishonesty on the part of any Councillors or Aldermen. 8.45 p.m.

No mention was made of dishonesty; as a matter of fact, it so happened that when Professor Jackson was down here carrying out his investigation - and at the time he knew that it was an attempt to get rid of certain members of the Bridgetown City Council - it so happened that before Mr. Jackson made his Report, the Prime Minister - I think he was then Premier - went to the Marine Hotel, and during after dinner speeches - I do not know what was in but what came out was - remember that Professor Jackson had not sent in his Report - but the same dishonesty we were expecting to hear Mr. Jackson find in the Councils, the Prime Minister told us that there was dishonesty to be expected. Is it that since Professor Jackson reported, we have come across cases of dishonesty or any corruption by these Councils? If that is the case, we ought to be told; and in the absence of being told, we are satisfied from this side of the House that there was none. It is not strictly in the interest of the people whom the Council serve that Government is now trying or attempting to make any move to better their lot. Nothing of the kind, I am to say again, Sir, that the Bridgetown City Council kept in Queen's Park a Meals Service, and I understand that it has often been said from the political platform that children who get school meals - hot meals - were also going to Queen's Park and getting another meal. I want to ask hon. members on that side of the House if each and every one of them do not see that their families get at least two square meals a day. What is it then if a poor child of hungry, unemployed parents got a square school meal for ten cents and still feels hungry afterwards? Some children are still hungry afterwards.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Peter said that children at some of the schools who got school meals went into the park and got meals also. I would like to point out to the hon. member that it would be impossible because the meals were being served at the same time.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it may be that the hon. junior member for St. Michael has been present at these school meals tables, and he might have been present at the Queen's Park table. I am not saying whether he had his bowl or else, but I am repeating that from the Government's political platform it was said - the hon. member might have been too busy minding his business - that children went in Queen's Park and also had another meal. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bridgetown City Council also did a lot to help the children who go to school in the parish of St. Peter which I have the honour to represent. The Councils provide meals for children attending the Alexandra school and the Coleridge-Parry School which are situated in the constituency which I represent. Hon. members might want to know how it is possible. All they have to do is to take some interest in Local Government to see it put on an appropriate footing rather than seek to come here today to ask to have it abolished, because I am telling you, Sir, I am beginning to become pretty nervous when I hear certain hon. members from the other side speak on certain matters which come before this House.

I am sure that no hon. member from this side of the House could sell or would sell his conscience - and remember that this Bill before the House is a conscience Bill; it is not a Bill which has been found necessary because something had been going wrong in these Councils. If something has gone wrong, we have not been told; but we find that hon. members who went to the electorate as late as November last year just three months ago - they knew nothing about this, never dreamt about it but I now know why it is possible for a lot of people to earn much more than they could ever hope to earn in private enterprise. 8.55 p.m.

I am sure there are some hon. members who have got up and had their say on this Bill who, if you had approached them in October last year with anything of the kind, would have threatened to resign from the Democratic Labour Party. They had been naked, but now they are here fully dressed; their stomachs are full; so Local Government can go. As soon as they associate themselves with people who want to abolish these three Councils, we know that the day they cannot agree to abolish something else and somebody else, they too will be abolished. They know the attempts that have been made already. If the Party had won twenty-three seats, some of them who are now Ministers could never be Ministers at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a conscience Bill. It may be true that some hon. member on that side might have had some grouse or might have encountered some difficulty at some stage or other with some member of the Southern District Council, the Northern District Council or the Bridgetown City Council, and he may have found he did not get the favour expected from the Northern District Council. This Bill seeks to lay the axe at the roots of democracy in this country. I say, "Down with the Dictators"; and if any hon. member on that side feels he cannot live without being in the company of dictators, let him say so. To me something is wrong with the heads of some of the members on the other side. I want to repeat that if one hour before midnight on the 2nd November, 1966, the Prime Minister of this country had suggested to hon. members on that side that he wanted to abolish the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council who would have been Prime Minister today would be a different story altogether. I am sure the present Prime Minister would not be so named today. You may go to a restaurant and order a whole chicken or half-breast, and the Hon. Mover of the Bill presented it to us like a half-breasted chicken. We know that he can do justice to a good bill, but something is wrong here, and I saw some semblance of willingness to accept an amendment. There are times when hon. members on that side lack the courage

to go back and say what they see and know, but perhaps if they had the opportunity to put it in writing they would do so. In my constituency there is a home with six children; the father is a cane-cutter. One of the children is of tender age, but two of the boys from that house go to Harrison College, one girl is at Queens College and the other has to find her way down to the Alleyne School in St. Andrew

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Am I to understand that the hon. junior member for St. Peter is saying in support of his argument that that is due to the good work of the Northern District Council?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have told the House where these people reside, and where the children go to school, and I am going to tell of the good work that the Northern District Council has been able to do for them. Poor as these parents are, it is now convenient for them to make their application to a Committee on public assistance that is close and dear to them; but under this new arrangement the mother of these children who have to go from place to place would be ten times more reluctant to put her nakedness before a Civil Servant.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, I think perhaps we might take the suspension at this time. This of course preserves the hon. member's right to continue.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

9.05 p.m.

On re-assembling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the suspension of the sitting, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. mover of the passing of this Bill made mention of centralising taxation so as to make a more efficient administration. I am satisfied that from the moment that these Councils are abolished, the Central Government - or the Cabinet - will then see to it that every little one-door dwelling in every side street and back alley will have to pay taxes. It is believed - or rather it has been said - that taxes are in arrear in the Councils. I know that there was a time when the Bridgetown City Council was being pressed to distrain or levy on people who owed them taxes. I believe that every opportunity will now be taken to distrain or levy on those people who now happen to owe taxes for some period or other. I feel that if it is a case where the Government finds it difficult to have as much money at its disposal as it would like to have at any one time, the step which is now being taken to abolish the Councils will not put very much more money at its disposal than it has been getting in the past. For instance, as a rule, the Government has been receiving from highways in the North up to the last financial year, an amount of \$110,000. In the South, the Government has been receiving something like \$240,000 or just over that. Despite that, I heard the hon. mover of the passing of this Bill make reference to mair and dust roads and things of that sort.

During the past year, whatever improvement there has been in the roads in the South has been carried out with the amount of money that the Central Government has been receiving from the Southern District Council. Likewise in the North. At the present moment, at Heywoods in the parish of St. Peter, there is road work being carried on. I am not an engineer, but I can see that this work is being done on a very cheap basis and it is not going to last; nevertheless, the Central Government has been receiving money.

Now, Sir, in these Councils you have Parochial Medical Officers employed to look after the poor, and the sick amongst the poor, and you know that we have some very old people most of whom complain of high blood pressure and lack of nourishment. They are weak and feeble; and you know Sir, that today some of these old people, on account of having the Northern District Council, the Southern District Council and the Bridgetown City Council, when they want a doctor they have to send someone to get the little ticket from the Poor Relief Officer. What assurance have we got that in the future, these poor people will be properly looked after? Remember, Sir, the Councils will be abolished and we will still have the sick and the poor with us; but we are to wonder if these people, when they become ill, will have to seek Civil Servants before they can be assured of a doctor being sent to them. Hon. members on the other side of the House need not think of the poor any longer because they themselves are not poor. We have our Almshouses and I will tell you, Sir, that they are asking us tonight to abolish these Councils

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I would like to draw his attention to Section 10 (1) (a) of the Bill.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, will you please help me by reading it for me?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It reads as follows:-

"Without prejudice to the generality of Section 9 the Interim Commissioner, as from the appointed day, shall

(a) take over and continue to administer any service which immediately before the appointed day a Council was authorised or empowered to administer by or under any Local Government or otherwise;"

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we are concerned about is that administration. If an old lady in Boscobelle or in the Ashton Hall district, Mount Brevitor or the Whim was ill, she would have to try and find a Civil Servant; and you know how it is, Sir, with these Civil Servants. Some of them still have their biggates and big walls with these poor people outside. It is not like the Poor Relief Officer who lives next door and who can be called upon at any time. What we are concerned about is this: I am wondering why they are asking us to abolish these Councils. Have they taken an inventory of the assets of the Councils? Have they gone to the trouble, as in the case of the Nightengale Home or the Almshouses? Do they know how many patients there are in the Almshouses? There has been some mention of the poor people in the North and the South getting only 25 cents per week when other people in the area of the Bridgetown City Council are getting \$2.00 a week and the like, for relief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am submitting that ways and means can be found whereby there could be a more equitable distribution of public assistance in whatever form it might be, than by taking the action of abolishing all of these Councils. It is known that we have people who are poor - and are wretchedly poor - in these Council areas, and there is no denying the fact that when the time comes each year these poor people are only too glad when a little bed tick, a little calico and so on are made available to them.

10.20 p.m.

In the case of the old people, they like their flannel; they must have that warm flannel; and we on this side of the House are very grieved to see and to know that the Government is pressing for the abolition of these Councils. What makes us so grieved is that we know that even today quite a number of people receive this bed tick and are going home and stuffing it with sour grass. What are we to find now? Is it a case where the Government is moving to relieve these people or to remove them from such a condition? Not at all; all they are doing is this. They believe that one man has made himself popular and has nurtured a place in the hearts of these old people through having public assistance to dispense. We say, Sir, where there is public assistance or not

assistance, there are some people who, if they had ten times as much public assistance to dispense, would have done it in such a manner that they would not know tomorrow whom they served yesterday. No interest in the people; whereas on the other hand we are satisfied that much would be left to be done in some respects in some of the Councils. That is perfectly true; nobody is trying to get away from that; but this Government had six full years during which amendments could have been made here and there, and they could have had strong Councils everywhere that would be in a position to assist them rather than become a burden to them in every respect. We are satisfied that we are not being told all that there is to be told in this matter; but I want to warn the hon. mover of this Resolution that there are people known as scavengers and there are people known as gravediggers employed by these Councils. Let me warn that if these people are not treated right, if these Councillors are abolished and these people are not treated well, we are going to have strikes upon strikes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to interrupt the hon. junior member for St. Peter and draw to his attention two short passages from the 17th Edition of May's Parliamentary Practice. The first one is to be found on Page 524 and it reads:-

Third Reading - "The purpose of the third reading is to review a bill in its final form after the shaping it has received in the earlier stages. For this reason amendment, other than verbal, is no longer permissible on third reading. Hence also debate is confined strictly to the contents of a bill, and cannot wander afield as on second reading."

On page 571 of the said Edition it says clearly:-

"The procedure on the third reading of a Bill is similar to that described in relation to the second reading, but the debate is more restricted at the later stage, being limited to the matters contained in the bill."

I am not trying to restrict his right to debate, but I would prefer the hon. member to stick to the contents of the Bill.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are debating, Sir, the abolition of the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council on an appointed date, and I would like to say that I would very much like to learn by tomorrow morning that every member, every Councillor, every Alderman, Mayor and everybody else resign, and see what they would do that day. That is what they should do. Resign; do not wait.

I remember, Sir, there was a time when something was to be done, and before a state of readiness, the money was thrown into their laps. We have seen the mess only this day; but Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that in abolishing these Councils it means that people who now look after certain services will no longer be looking after these services, and we might find, Sir, as I have said earlier, the scavenger and the gravedigger, if they are not treated right in the transfer of these services to the Interim Commissioner, if the Interim Commissioner is not the type who can get people to work as they have been doing in the past, we may wake up one morning to find the Prime Minister and his Ministers with long brooms pushing down the gutters in Broad Street.

1.30 p.m.

We maintain, Sir, that it was never mentioned anywhere in the Jackson Report that the best way to deal with the Councils was to abolish them. All the Jackson Report recommended amounted to a streamlining of the Councils by removing certain services, but these services could not cause the Councils to lose their identity. We are urging on the Hon. Mover of the Bill and the Government that rather than finding themselves having to take over these services before they are ready, because they are not ready, they should give themselves breathing space, and a date about six months from now would be enough time during which they would be able to come to some real and firm

decision as to how best they can better the services now being rendered by these Councils.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in winding up the debate for this side on the main purport of this Bill, particularly after hearing the speeches from the other side, it does not appear to rest on this side. No compelling reasons have been put forward to justify the full import of the principles of this Bill. A lot of misunderstanding exists on the other side as to what exists in Local Government Councils. By Section 10 of this Bill, it appears that services which are already in existence will still be administered and exist as a function of Local Government in Barbados, but instead of being administered by elected bodies, they will now be administered by nominees of the Cabinet in the form of the Local Government Commissioner for an interim period, and thereafter by people appointed by the Cabinet. Now, Sir, what are these services which under Sections 10 and 11 will still continue to be administered by the Commissioner? What improvement can one expect in the administration of these services? It is common knowledge that scavenging is one of the most important functions that under Local Government still exists. It is not envisaged by this Bill that scavenging will no longer be a function of Local Government authority. As I understand the position today, the reason why scavenging is not satisfactorily conducted must lie largely upon the shoulders of the Councillors of the Democratic Labour Party Councils in the North and the South and upon the Government, and no improvement can be guaranteed by the mere transfer to the Local Government Commissioner of the functions of the Councils. I want to get this positively straight across to the members on the other side. It is a positive fact that there still exists today in the Southern District Council right outside of Oistin town near to the Foundation Schools a situation where a dump is burning and has been burning for the last two months, and as a result these are the consequences that have occurred: Church services have had to be suspended; many children of the Christ Church High School have suffered from bronchial complaints; children at the Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools have suffered from this nuisance. The Local Government Commissioner under this Bill will still have the authority and responsibility for carrying on scavenging.

What is really needed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not the abolition of Local Government and transfer - because the Councillors up there have petitioned, recommended and did everything in their power to bring this to Government's attention - but a central incinerator, and the Central Government in co-operation with the Councils have got to provide this. This Bill does not guarantee that that will be provided, because the functions of scavenging will still remain with the Local Government authorities. Central Government has shirked its responsibility with respect to the provision of a central incinerator when elected members were in existence, and there is nothing in this Bill to guarantee us that they will not continue to dither and fail to make up their minds whether they want an incinerator in Barbados.

When the Hon. Minister in introducing this Bill says that scavenging in the Northern area leaves much to be desired, it is not the fault and responsibility of the Councillors. It is the fault and responsibility of the Hon. Minister himself, because nearly two years ago a tour was made by the Councillors in the North and South in an effort to see a central incinerator in operation, but the Government has not made up its mind. They talk about what services it has been found necessary to transfer. Public Health generally has been transferred, but you cannot administer Public Health services properly unless the By-laws and Regulations which the Councils passed over three years ago are brought into operation by the Central Government. Up to now the Public Health Inspectors all over Barbados have no proper Regulations.

It has been said that the Social Welfare Department has appointed Children's Inspectors, and they are doing more in the advancement of Child Welfare services today than the Local Government Councils; but if we look at the

Jackson Report we will see that it says that there was a large field of services which the Councils should be administering if they were forward looking. The same thing applied to parks, playing fields and things of that kind. Can you imagine that in 1967 in Barbados, after six years of Local Government under the control of the Democratic Labour Party, in the Southern area not one new playing field has been established, and the Interim Commissioner will not improve things either. Is the Hon. Minister saying that the Interim Commissioner is going to show more interest in these things than was shown by his own Party colleagues who were in control of these Councils? We want to know this from the Government, because the whole point of this is that the Government is still convinced in its mind that there is a sphere of activity which the Central Government should not be responsible for, and what they are groping for is some kind of instrument to administer these activities other than an elected body. That is the whole purport and my understanding of this Bill, and that is why we cannot agree to it.

10.40 p.m.

(Hon. N. W. BOXILL: That is a second reading speech). The hon. junior member for St. Thomas does not even understand whether this is the first reading, second reading or third reading of the Bill. For the benefit of the hon. member, I will quote this passage from "May's". This is what it says:

"The procedure of the third reading of a Bill is similar to that described in relation to the second reading, but the debate is more restricted at the later stage, being limited to the matters contained in the Bill."

Immediately this Bill makes reference to existing powers, I can deal with it. I can deal with things which are going to be taken on by the Interim Commissioner. The point I am making is that the Interim Commissioner is not going to do anything more than the elected members who are to be abolished by Section 3 of this Bill. That is the basic point. The same reasons which prevented the Local Government Councils from doing more, are going to operate with the Interim Commissioner; the Central Government should have given grants under the Local Government Act to encourage the Councils to do these things. That is the whole rationale of the Jackson Report. The Councils have never had the power to deal with beach cleaning or to provide baths and other facilities. In Lodge Road, which is in the Minister's constituency where there is a big Housing Scheme, not one bath has been erected. For a period of six years the Democratic Party has been in power, and not one bath has been built in a whole agricultural area. No playing fields have been provided either, and there is a crying need for these amenities. In the sub-town or second metropolitan area, the only playing-field which the area has ever had is the old playing-field in Sargeant's Village which was provided under the old Vestry system.

When the Minister of Agriculture says that the Social Welfare Department is doing this, that is a complete misunderstanding of the modern concept of Local Government. All over the world the modern concept is that initiative must be taken in providing environmental facilities for people in the area. You have Oistins, Silver Sands and Worthing - all within the Southern District area, and the functions are going to be transferred and they cannot even have proper beach-cleaning facilities. Such is the lack of foresight they have in administering these areas that the Life-Guards have to take over the matter of beach protection. They do not understand Local Government or the initiative to be taken. All over England you will see that the Local Government bodies in the various areas provide not only the Life-Guard services, but also the bathing cubicles which the people can use. All of these things are provided, and is it that the Interim Commissioner is going to do better than the Local Government Councils? Children's Homes are being established. That is no new plan. The administration has the separation of children from the sick people, and that is a plan which has been taken on for a long period of time. There is such a Home at Sterling in St. Philip, and one in St. John is now coming into operation. The Interim Commissioner will have the authority for seeing after them.

Are they saying that they are not satisfied with the manner in which their own Councils are administering these services and it is contemplated that the Central Government should administer them? This Bill seeks to transfer the functions, which are still being administered by the Local Government Councils, to the Central Government. This Bill says that whatever the Councils are administering at the present moment, the Interim Commissioner will administer them, so that all these arguments which have been advanced as to what they have done in Central Government do not in any way interfere with what this Bill is doing at the present moment. The whole crux of this Bill is to take these things out of the hands of the Local Government Councils and put them into the hands of the Central Government. The minute that you accept the fact that the powers now exercised by the Councils must be exercised by the Local Government Commissioner, it means that you admit that you are not abolishing the powers of the Local Government Councils but you are abolishing the people who are administering these powers; and, Sir, there is no guarantee that there will be a better administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is another provision in this Bill - in fact this is what it says in Section 15:-

"As from the appointed day Section 132 of the Local Government Act shall have effect as if the Interim Commissioner were the rating authority for each Local Government Area."

Under this section, the Interim Commissioner will still have to submit Estimates to the Cabinet, and say what the rate will be in each Local Government area; and unless the Central Government gives an equalisation grant, the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council and the Southern District Council will still have separate and distinct rates, so that the uniformity which is desired on that side will not be brought about as a result of this Bill. This Bill makes no provision for that; it does not attempt to do that. It cannot do it because the only way in which that can be done is by grants being given by the Central Government in order to equalise the rate. Since the Government has refused to give grants to their own Councils, are they going to give them to the Interim Commissioner?

10.50 p.m.

If they are going to give it now to the Interim Commissioner, it would seem to me, Sir, that in the past they were in a position to have given it, and they have refused to give it because they were dissatisfied for some reason or other. They are not going to give it under this, so this idea that this Bill will provide for equal rates right through Barbados is a joke; it is not true, and it is not intended to be so. This is only one of the excuses used upon the floor of this House. There are other provisions, Sir, in here which only illustrate what we are saying, that enough thought as to the consequences of depriving the elected representatives of the polls - this is not good, and that is one of the reasons why we feel a postponement of the third reading of this Bill is in order, because unless the Government has it very clear in its mind the reasons for the failure of the Local Government Councils to administer their powers properly, then this Bill cannot, with its provisions as they are, bring about the very things which they say they want to bring about.

This argument about public assistance. Up to now some people do not understand that public assistance is still being administered by the Councils, and will continue to be administered by the Councils, before the Interim Commissioner, because the transfer of the administration of public assistance will not take place until the National Security Act comes into operation. That is not going to take place until that Act comes into operation, and that Act is not going into operation because the Regulations have not been passed, and under the sections of this Bill

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, the National Insurance and Social Security Act has been brought into operation. There was no appointed

day for the bringing into operation of the National Insurance Act; it was not brought into operation by proclamation and from the time it was passed it was law in Barbados.

Mr. ST. JOHN: If that is so, then the Bill that is passed and the Bill that is brought before this House is meaningless, because up to today no deductions have been made from anybody's salary in Barbados.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. senior member for Christ Church seems not to understand the difference between the bringing into operation of a Bill and the collection of contributions which are authorised by regulations. My point has been that the Bill is in fact law in Barbados today; the regulations to the Bill are completely different from the Bill in itself. According to the Act of the National Insurance and Social Security - there is no provision for proclamation. The Bill became law the minute it passed the Other Place, and as a result of the National Insurance and Social Security Bill having been passed, the Board has already been appointed, though not yet published. A Department has been established as a result of this Bill, so how can the hon. member truthfully say that the National Insurance Act has not been brought into force?

Mr. ST. JOHN: As to whether the Bill is law or not is something completely different from whether the provisions of the Bill are in force or not. This is what I want the hon. Minister to know. He has said that a Board has been appointed and not published; a Civil Establishment Order has been passed in here dealing with the officers. The National Security Act may have been passed, but it is not in force; because if it is in force, may the Minister tell us how many contributions have been paid into

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. senior member for Christ Church is unaware of the provisions of the Act; because section 10 of the Act provides that contributions be collected from an appointed day and that day has not yet been appointed; so what I am saying is that an Act is law, and collections coming from an appointed day is one section of the Bill. If the hon. member is saying that the day has not been appointed yet for the collection of contributions I can agree with him; but under the Act, my spirit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that Civil Establishment Order has been brought into the House, Officers are appointed, executive officers have been appointed, senior executive officers have been appointed, the Board has been appointed though not yet published in the Official Gazette, the Civil provisions of the Bill have been in force - as a matter of fact, the officers are appointed under the authority of the Act, but the Act has other provisions like the sections of the Act dealing with the making of regulations by the Cabinet, and the decision to collect contributions on an appointed date when employers and employees in this country would have to be making contributions under the scheme; and until all the mechanics have been worked out, the Cabinet cannot decide on an appointed date because the collections must be made after the necessary machinery is ready for contributions to be made.

11.00 p.m.

The only two provisions of the Act that are not yet in force is the question of the declaration of the appointed day, and the making of regulations.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I still reiterate the point I am making that the provisions for the collection of the duty under the National Insurance Act from employers and employees have not been brought into force. I still reiterate that the machinery for the administration of public assistance by the National Insurance Board has not been brought into force, and that under this section the authority for the granting of public assistance in Barbados still remains with the public Assistance Act as amended; so any argument that the National Security Board will administer public assistance in Barbados, it appears to me, cannot hold any water, because no legislation has been passed and brought into operation in Barbados for this to be done. The Interim Commissioner will therefore continue to carry out the func-

tions which the various Committees of the Councils carried out in the past. That is the point that nobody can get up and deny unless he is getting up and saying that if this Act is passed the Public Assistance Act is automatically repealed, and that is not so, because reference is made in the Schedule of the Bill to a number of Local Government enactments, and Section 2 (1) says that "Local Government enactment" means any enactment set out in the Schedule and any other enactment relating to the functions of, or the services administered by the Councils established under the Local Government Act, 1958, and includes any statutory instrument made under any such enactment." When we come to Section 10 we will see that it is to take over and continue to administer any service which immediately before the appointed day a Council was authorised or empowered to administer by or under any Local Government enactment or otherwise.

It is clear that the functions which the Councils used to administer under the public Assistance Act, which has not been repealed - will continue to be carried out by the Interim Commissioner. I do not know what point the hon. member is trying to make, because they do not have it clear in their minds yet as to what they are going to substitute after this period with the Interim Commissioner. Are they going to allow the National Assistance Board to be the authority for administering public assistance, or are they going to abolish public assistance? They cannot abolish public assistance, because in every country in the world there is public assistance in addition to social security. One is based upon a contribution and the other is based upon the fact that you are poor or unemployed, irrespective of the contribution you make.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, it is incorrect to say that we on this side have not made up our minds as to the form this would take. The Minister this afternoon pointed out that there will be a National Assistance Board to take care of public assistance which is separate and distinct from the National Insurance Board. I do not know if the hon. member is getting confused between the National Assistance Board which is to be established to administer public assistance, and the National Insurance Board.

Mr. St. JOHN: The Hon. Minister said that there will be a National Assistance Board, but what I am pointing out is that under the provisions of this Bill the functions which are now being administered by the Local Government Councils will be administered by the Interim Commissioner, because there is no National Assistance Board in existence at the present moment; so to suggest at this stage that one could not allow the Councils to continue to function must in my opinion involve the concept that the Government is dissatisfied with the manner in which the existing Councils are carrying out their functions, and the Northern and Southern Districts have a majority of Government members. There is no improvement that one can get, unless the other side is saying that they feel the Interim Commissioner can do it better than their members are doing it at the present moment. No attempt can be made on that side to try and confuse us over here, because we understand the full import and implications of this Bill. This is not a Bill to reform Local Government; this is a Bill to abolish the Councils, because the whole structure of Local Government not only in Barbados but all over the world is that you have a mere Act which sets up the authority, but you have different Acts conferring the powers on the authority, and that is what is envisaged in the Schedule of this Bill. What they have done here to abolish the powers of the authorities, and instead of having democratically elected authority, we are going to have a Local Government Commissioner nominated and designated by the Cabinet. That is the guts of the Bill, and that is what the other side is trying to escape from all along, and they can only say that the Interim Commissioner will do better than what the Councillors are doing, because they say that the Bridgetown City Council has better scavenging than the North and South, and all these things will continue because the Central Government has not got a policy for Local Government, and the Councillors themselves do not know what to do. If they had had proper beach cleaning, proper

amenities, baths and playing fields in the Southern area, all of this would not have occurred; but they did not know what they were doing. They spent their time all along in squabbles and fighting for Chairmanship.

When they talk about less expenditure, let us get this straight. The Chairmen of the Councils today get \$100 in the North and South, but there is no Statutory Board created by the Government other than the Natural Gas Corporation in which the Chairman is not paid \$200 a month. With respect to the Chairman of the Housing Authority, the Public Markets and other Statutory Boards, there is a standing rule that they get \$250; so when you appoint these Boards in the North and South, immediately the office of Chairman is going to jump from \$100 to \$250 per month, and individual members of the Board are going to get payment per meeting just as they get on the other Statutory Boards. In the Jackson Report you will see the number of meetings being kept by the various Committees, and they will have full Board meetings for which you pay \$10 a meeting; so the Board system will be higher than under the old system.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, for the information of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, no Statutory Board is paid by this Government for more than four meetings per month. 11.10 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: I know that is so. You had to stop it when the Housing Authority started to keep meetings every week. The Chairmen of the Boards not only got paid but they usually had transport; they used their own private vehicles and the authorities paid the cost of that. In addition to the \$200 a month which the Chairmen get, the Authority has to pay the cost of the transport, but these people do not get it at the present time. Four meetings a month at \$10 a month is \$40, and I doubt whether the Councillors got an average of \$40 a month. The Authority still has to do the rate collection because the principle of this Bill is that the Interim Commissioner will have to carry out the functions of these Councils. While the Labour Party was in office the Southern District Council had an arrears of \$189,000; now it is over \$300,000. All of these things will continue.

The provisions of this Bill will not improve anything; there is no question or doubt about that at all. This is a device to get themselves out of their own difficulties. If they talk about abolishing Local Government, it is not abolishing Local Government at all; it is abolishing the members of the Local Government Councils. We cannot support this Bill for those reasons. There is still much scope for Local Government Councils in Barbados. We have numbers of young people and they need recreational facilities. The district which was represented by the "Kiaki King" in here did not have any recreational facilities.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I should like to say that recreational facilities are provided by the Central Government and handed over to the Local Government Authorities.

Mr. St. JOHN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member is saying that the Local Government Councils have failed to provide recreational facilities for the people of this country. My point of order is that it is not the policy for the Local Government Councils to provide these recreational facilities; it is for the Central Government to provide these facilities and hand them over to the Local Government Councils.

Mr. St. JOHN: Then the Central Government is more criminal than one would have thought, because they had six years to provide these facilities and they have not provided any in these areas. There is no statutory restriction on Local Government bodies to provide these facilities. As a matter of fact, under the Act, they have to provide these facilities. The hon. member is talking about the Rural Amenities fund; the Central Government used to provide, under the Rural Amenities Fund, land for these facilities, but since this Government has come into power, it has not provided one facility in the whole of Barbados.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. The hon. member is not speaking in consonance with what is true. A playing field has been provided in St. Joseph for the school. (Mr. St. JOHN: Which school?) The St. Elizabeth Village School. Eight acres of land have been acquired in Gall Hill for a school, and other facilities have been provided, including a playing field in St. Joseph which the Barbados Labour Party has failed to provide.

Mr. St. JOHN: You provided a School and under the Education vote you provided a playing field, and you say that you provided these under the Rural Amenities Fund.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Every time that the hon. member makes any misrepresentation against this Government, I will get up and refute his misrepresentation. No member of the Government has said that we acquired land under the Rural Amenities Fund.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the hon. member will have to let me complete my point of order. The hon. member is getting on like a hen.

Mr. St. JOHN: The hon. member must withdraw that remark. He cannot say that any hon. member is getting on like a hen.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking on a point of order. The hon. senior member for Christ Church has said that this Government has not provided any playing field. I want to say that the biggest playing field in this country has been provided by this Government in Mellows Hill. Fourteen acres of land have been provided there.

Mr. St. JOHN: They do not understand that the Local Government Authority is empowered to acquire land, and none of the Local Government Authorities in Barbados has exercised those powers. The Barbados Labour Party had initiated that an area of land in the constituency of Christ Church and one in St. John outside the Gall Hill area be acquired, and up to now the Southern District Council has not provided a playing field next to the Gall Hill Social Centre.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: I hope that the people on the other side understand it. There is still much scope for Local Government, and that is envisaged in this Bill. They talk about establishing playing fields. If the Central Government has done all that has been said by the Hon. Minister - they have not given him a bath or a playing field in Christ Church for all period of time. The last playing field which was provided was provided by Barbados Labour Party. Despite the efforts of the Ex-Kiaki King who was a representative of the parish of St. Peter, they have not provided a playing field in a metropolitan area like St. Peter, 11.20 p.m.

They have baths in Barbados, in the Christ Church area, in the St. Peter area, which are not properly cleansed because of the incompetence of the Democratic Labour Party Councils to carry out functions that are vested. The Interim Commissioner cannot do any better. Nothing at all is wrong with the Local Government in Barbados; it is the Councils that are wrong. Imagine the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government is now going to be in charge. He has been in charge of the Southern District Council for two consecutive years allowing his fellow Councillors to sit there illegally, and up to the last meeting they had, they had to challenge the legality of the Councillors. This Bill is not going to improve that, because everybody has been afraid to use the powers under the Local Government Bill to enforce the arrears on taxes. For the last six months

to a year he collected more money in salary than in arrears of rates.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would prefer the hon. senior member for Christ Church to stick to the terms of this Bill.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am seeking to point out that the defect in the powers which undoubtedly exists is not that the Local Government - they do not have the powers to influence the people who administer the Local Government authority. The Local Government Authority Boards are not being abolished. There is another point, a basic point. Under the existing Local Government Act which is not abolished by this, the Cabinet had additional powers and they could have issued a directive to the Councils; but they have not had the guts and the courage to do it; so they come down now with one swoop, to wipe out the powers so that they can substitute their own nominees.

That is the main point we want to make on this side. We cannot vote for this because of the arguments we have used, and we hope that the Government will agree to the postponement, because it is a serious thing to attempt to abolish an institution because of the fact that the Hon. Minister of Finance is not satisfied with the persons who are administering it.

I want to raise one last point. We have heard that the Labour Party had a proposal for abolishing Local Government in 1961; it is amazing that the first time we have ever heard of it is now we are hearing of abolishing the Local Government. It was an Alderman; so he does not understand the transitional stage when Local Government first came into operation. It was the appointment of the first Alderman, and the question was whether the Governor-in-Executive Committee should underwrite Governor Arundell and appoint people who were not sympathetic to the majority of the electorate at the time. The Hon. Minister was still in Dark Hole at that time; he hadn't come to light yet. So the position is quite clear; they do not even understand what was the dispute then. They themselves will go through the whole of the Councils and they cannot even get three Councillors.....

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of explanation, I have sat here and listened to plenty from the hon. senior member for Christ Church, but I should like him to know why the Northern District Council, when this Government discovered.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are going to address me on a point of order, please address me on a point of order.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this Government took over.....

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Andrew is on his feet on a point of order that is not a point of order; he will please take his seat.

Mr. St. JOHN: I will deal with the Northern District Council because of the fact that the hon. member is a member and he never understands the proper function of Local Government; and it is obvious from the tone of his speech here today that he is one of the Councillors that the Hon. Minister has talked about who do not know what to do. The hon. member has been a member of the Northern District Council up to this day, and let him deny that fact; and to come in here and talk about a petition from the Northern District Council to abolish it..... Imagine the hon. member is going to come in here and tell this House that they asked the Government to abolish this! Isn't that striking, point evidence that they are incompetent among themselves?

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member has said that we of the Northern Dis-

strict Council couldn't run it properly; we could not run it because when we took it over they had it \$300,000 in debt, and they still owe us a portion of it today, because though the Government said that they would subsidise the tax, up to today they have not done it. We took over the Council.....

Mr. St. JOHN: And the position today is that it has moved from \$300,000 to \$600,000 because of the incompetent procedures administered by the hon. member and his fellow Councillors. A lot of selling is going on down there, Sub Treasurers, etc.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for Christ Church that that matter cannot be raised here.

Mr. St. JOHN: I forgot that the hon. member is involved.
11.30 p.m.

What beach facilities and what proper facilities for the public will be provided that were not provided under the Local Government provisions? They have not provided any. They do not understand the process of rate collection. We do not need this Bill, and these are the reasons why we oppose this Bill *in toto*.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it has been found not only in Great Britain, but any student of Local Government must be aware that there has always been a considerable area of jealousy between the two forms of Government, that is to say, between the Central Government and Local Government. As recently as 1958 it was found in Great Britain that there were certain defects in the Local Government system, and so by the Local Government Act of 1958 - I refer to the English Act - it was decided that two Commissions should be appointed - one for England and one for Wales - to see what could be done to remedy these defects. At no time in the history of English Local Government was the suggestion ever made that the Local Government Councils be abolished despite the jealousy that existed between the two forms of Government. It was left for us in Barbados to come to the surprising decision that the best way to solve the matter was to get rid of incompetence and at the same time to admonish in the public eye those people who may have done a good job in Local Government at one fell swoop, and the best way to get rid of these embarrassments was to abolish Local Government.

Local Government is much closer to the people, and in every country in which it exists it is found still to be much closer and much more intimate to the immediate problems of the people than Central Government. It has not been found that the erection of a standpipe or lamp-post should engage the attention of Central Government; hence we have Local Government. Most of the more backward West Indian territories are at the moment aspiring to that system of Local Government which we are being asked at this time to jettison for reasons best known to those who are promulgating this idea. I am not here to make any apologia for the Bridgetown City Council, but it must be pointed out that the Report of the Commissioner as it has been released showed that there was no culpability in so far as peculation is concerned as happened in the Kingston City Council, neither was there any suggestion from Professor Jackson that Local Government should be abolished in Barbados. The Government in power in its wisdom has decided to rid itself of these embarrassments by bringing this Bill before us asking that the three Councils be abolished. This could only be characterised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a retrograde step. Nowhere in the history of Western democracy has such a step been taken so far as my research leads me, and I shall be happy to be corrected by the Hon. Minister if he can tell me of any territory where this strange decision has been taken to abolish a constituted system of Local Government. Even in Kingston, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where it was clearly proved that there had been peculation, there had been theft, and there were many irregularities, the functions of that Council were only suspended. Never was it suggested, although an incessant warfare goes on between the two rival parties, that the Kingston City Council should be abolished.

It must be borne in mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the system of Local Government makes for strict accountability on the part of the Councillors to the electorate. It is true that efforts have been made in recent years to freeze the Local Government Councils so that that accountability to the electorate might be temporarily avoided. An elected system is the one which is most democratic. Bureaucracy is not popular nowadays, not even in Communist states. Castro in Cuba is trying to get rid of bureaucracy; and here are we trying to introduce more and more bureaucracy - a system where there will be no accountability on the part of nominated members of a Statutory Board who will attempt to do what has been badly done in certain of the Councils by the elected representatives. These elected representatives, had they been allowed to fall by their own weight, would have had to face the electorate and would have been swept out, and we have here the strange phenomenon of some of the very elected members of the Councils applauding gaily the idea of their own abolition. That, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find to be most amazing, objectively speaking, when the very men whose incompetence causes this Bill to be before us at this time tonight, cheer loudly when strictures are made about their past conduct, and suggestions are introduced by them as to why the Councils should be abolished.

As to the failure of certain of the Councils to provide amenities, it is well known that the Chief bugbear was a lack of money. We have heard how the streets of the City were to be blocked off and that the children would play thereon without let or hindrance. I am yet to see the first street blocked off. All these airy theories have been promulgated in here from time to time, but we are yet to see them come to any fruition. We are very much worried about the future of the community when all the power will rest in the hands of the Government in power.

We feel, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the democratic principle demands that the people should be able to elect those who are to rule their destinies in Local Government, a principle of strict accountability being always preserved. That is to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Councillors who have been chosen by the people do not give satisfaction, they should face the polls and be removed by an enraged electorate; but to emasculate Local Government to the point where few self-respecting people would want perhaps to serve on its Councils, and then to use that argument to say that the Councils after being emasculated are altogether to be abolished is not a democratic principle. We find that the hand of bureaucracy is being introduced more and more into this community. The democratic principle has stood the test of time.
11.35 p.m.

As I said earlier, Local Government existed long before Central Government did in Great Britain whence we have taken the pattern for our local institutions. Long before William I landed in England, there was a system of Local Government existing. There were County and Borough meetings held long before the first Parliament met. This system has stood the test of time and it is still looked up to in Great Britain. Although suggestions are made for its reformation, yet it is notable that there is no suggestion that it should be abolished altogether. We have come to the point in this community where many people will not be able to make representations to Civil Servants or to members of Boards who have little interest in them or whose services on the Boards will continue whether they give satisfaction to those people whom they have been appointed to serve or not. There will not be any system of accountability, except to those who appointed them, for their crimes.

We have seen the type of people who have been placed on some of the Statutory Boards; we have watched their antics and we have noted that it has been necessary to replace some of them. We have seen in how inefficient a manner some of the Boards have been run and we must tremble for the fate of the people who have to have their fate determined by members of Statutory Boards who are supposed to replace the elected Councillors. We do not think that that is a good thing, and the most that we can do in fairness to

those people who have elected us, is to point out the iniquities of the situation, that the elected principle is being abandoned in this issue when there is no precedent for it. It has not been done anywhere that any of us can hear of, and the future of the people who will have their fate administered by the members of these Statutory Boards must be considered to be in a very parlous state.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many hundreds of school children who, as I happen to be where I can only speak for the Council of which I had the honour to be a member, depend in a great measure for help from that Council. It is not only insofar as books are concerned, but clothing and even for fairly generous allowances for lunch. When the time comes and there is a Civil Servant administering these services, is he going to be as sympathetic in his approach or as humanistic as the children and their parents have found with the elected members of the Councils, the services of whom they have been enjoying in the past? The experience of Government is that when certain services are administered by the elected representatives of the people, they are run very smoothly. There is more sympathy and more human feelings towards those people who need help than when these services are run by dry officialdom. We fear, therefore, that when the nominees to a Board have to pass judgment upon the future of some of the unfortunate and underprivileged people in this community, those people are very likely to suffer. Not that the Civil servant will be inclined to be harsh or unsympathetic; it is simply to him a matter of a decision which has not got to be a question of any humanistic approach to the matter or based on accountability which he will have to render from time to time to the electorate which has placed him there, but simply a decision, "yes", or "no", the consequences of which will not matter to the Civil Servant.

We feel therefore, that the abandonment of the elected principle in favour of the system of bureaucracy is not a good thing for this community. We anticipate that we will be out-voted; indeed we know that some of the very incompetents against whom this abolition is aimed will vote for their own abolition. We are well aware of that; but that is no reason why we, on this side of the Table, should not place our view before the public which has elected us. On this question, there will be no conscience vote; it will not be a question of some of the people who are being criticised saying that they will stand up like men and vote otherwise than how the Party will have them vote. However, Sir, we, on this side of the Table, would like to make it abundantly clear that this decision to abolish the Local Government Councils is definitely a retrograde step, and one which it will be regarded in future years that it will be necessary for us, following the example of places like St. Lucia and St. Kitts, to re-constitute the system of Local Government in the years to come.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven hon. members voting "Aye" and five hon. members voting "No". I declare that the "Ayes" have it.

Mr. HUSBANDS entered the House and took his seat.

The question that this Bill be read a third time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:—

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

NOES: Messrs. LYNCH, CRAIG, J. M. G. M. ADAMS, HUSBANDS, SMITH and St. JOHN - 6.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven hon. members voting "Aye" and six hon. members voting "No". I declare that the "Ayes" have it.

The question that this Bill do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

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

NOES: Messrs. LYNCH, CRAIG, J. M. G. M. ADAMS, HUSBANDS, SMITH and St. JOHN - 6.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven hon. members voting "Aye" and six hon. members voting "No". I declare that the "Ayes" have it. This Bill has been duly passed. 11.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I think that before the House disperses hon. members will join with this side of the House in supporting this Resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its deep sorrow at the death of Sir Frank Maglinne Worrell, who has won great fame and high renown for Barbadians and the West Indies with his exploits on the field of sport, as a legislator, and in the service of the University of the West Indies;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his bereaved family and to the Chancellor of the University of the West Indies."

Mr. Speaker, I think I could probably add very little to the moving of a Resolution of this sort. The burial of Sir Frank Worell took place a little more than 48 hours ago, and the sorrow and grief of the whole country as well as of his hundreds of thousands of admirers is still fresh in our minds. It is very difficult to say what ought to be said in these circumstances, and tributes have been paid to the memory and the work and example of Frank Worrell from all over the world. I think that this House would wish to be associated with those tributes, and if long speeches are not made in this respect, I think people outside of the House will know that this is no indication whatever of how we feel, but merely the adding to tributes which were well deserved and which have been fully paid. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we on this side join with the Government in the passing of this Resolution in paying tribute to the memory of the late Sir Frank Worrell whose outstanding contribution in the field of sport and other fields of activity has been made and to which many tributes have been paid. To us, the late Sir Frank was the medium of what we on this side feel very strongly about the idea of West Indianism - the unity of the West Indies. He was also a Legislator in the Senate of Jamaica, and we feel on this side that had he been spared, he along with others would have continued to do much towards the advancement of West Indianism in which we so strongly believe. We join in seconding the Resolution moved by the Leader of the House in extending our sympathy to his relatives on this said occasion. 12.00 midnight

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Party, I would like to join in the tributes which have been paid to the late Sir Frank Worrell. Many encomiums have been paid by people all over the British Commonwealth to his memory, and we agree that he has enriched West Indian life by his example. He was not one who believed in stupid ideas of insularity, but had declared himself on many occasions to be a West Indian Nationalist. The whole West Indies is the poorer for his passing, and at this time of the morning I can think of no more fitting tribute by which to say farewell to him than one taken from the "Hippolytus" of Euripides:

"On all our citizens has come this universal sorrow unforeseen,

Now shall the copious tear gush forth,
For sad news about great men takes more than common hold upon the human heart."

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate myself with all the tributes paid to the late lamented Sir Frank Worrell, and to endorse all the sentiments and remarks which have been expressed. I will ask hon. members to signify their approval to the passing of this Resolution by standing in their places for two minutes in memory of the passing of this illustrious figure, this former Parliamentarian, Senator Sir Frank Worrell.

Hon. members stood in their places for two minutes.

I declare this Resolution to be unanimously passed, and I direct the Clerks at the Table to see that a copy of this Resolution be duly transmitted to the relatives of the late Sir Frank and to the Chancellor of the University within this week.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. of this day's date, Wednesday, 22nd March.

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

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

12:02 a.m.

On re-assembling

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 46 be suspended

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

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

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.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1967

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 Honourable and Learned Prime Minister:- To move the second reading of 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. 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 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 you do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Appropriation Bill and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates in conjunction therewith.

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

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

HEAD 22 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 22 - Ministry of External Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Head, there are some amendments to be made. In respect of Item 9, I am asking leave to insert provision of \$300 under the column headed 'Other Expenditure'. Also to insert note "Remuneration at the rate of \$25 a month in respect of Cypher duties at External Affairs outside of normal official working hours."

In respect of Item 10, I am asking leave to insert provision of \$300 under the column headed 'Other Expenditure'; and to insert the note "Remuneration at the rate of \$25 a month in respect of Cypher duties at External Affairs outside of normal official working hours." That is on page 4.

On page 45, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

Insert item 23 "Relief of West Indians in Cuba"; \$10,000. Insert note to read "Government contribution towards the relief of destitute West Indians in Cuba." Insert item 24 "Old People's Home Panama"; \$2,240. Insert note to read "Government contribution towards the running expenses of the Home of destitute West Indians in Panama". Insert item 23 A "Independence Celebrations"; \$100,000. Insert note "Revote to meet outstanding claims".

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,938,740 under Head 22 - Ministry of External Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 1 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head 1 - Governor-General - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

Delete provision of \$300 appearing opposite to item 4 in the column 'other Expenditure.' Delete item 5 "cypher Officer" and provision of \$300. Delete note to items 4 and 5.

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$40,673 under Head 1 - Governor-General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 2 - SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Head 2 - Service Commissions - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$633,320 under Head 2 - Service Commissions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 3 - PARLIAMENT

Head 3 - Parliament - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$57,652 under Head 3 - Parliament - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 4 - AUDITOR GENERAL

Head 4 - Auditor-General - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$5,415 under Head 4 - Auditor-General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 5 - JUDICIARY

Head 5 - Judiciary - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$51,164 under Head 5 - Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6 - LEGAL

Head 6 - Legal - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this Head, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

Delete Item 5, Assistant to the Attorney General and provision of \$9,600. In the column item number delete item

nos. 6 - 10 inclusive and substitute therefore item nos. 5 - 17 inclusive. Insert item 18 Furniture, \$600. 'To provide for 2 desks, chairs, telephone, tables and bookcases.'

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$5,890 under Head 6 - Legal - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. HINDS came into the Committee and took his seat.

The question was put and carried nem. con.

HEAD 7 - REGISTRATION

Head 7 - Registration - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$40,017 under Head 7 - Registration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 - CROWN SOLICITOR

Head 8 - Crown Solicitor - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$5,825 under Head 8 - Crown Solicitor - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In connection with this Head, Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

Delete items 11 - 17 inclusive and 22 - 23 inclusive appearing under the section "Training Division". Insert new item 'National Insurance Contributions' \$1,200,000. Insert note 'To meet contributions in respect of Government employees, 50% representing employee's share, is recoverable. See Revenue Estimates.

These items which we are deleting here are going to appear elsewhere. I beg to move that the sum of \$1,292,525 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$53,185 under Head 10 - Accountant General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 11 - PENSIONS

Head 11 - Pensions - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$680,136 under Head 11 - Pensions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 12 - CHARGES OF DEBT

Head 12 - Charges of Debt - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this Head, I am asking leave to make an amendment, that after the words "and at" appearing in the note to item 5 "for 1 1/2% on London Loans substitute 1 1/4% on London Loans."

With that amendment, I beg to move that Head 12 - Charges of Debt - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS

Head 13 - Customs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$78,997 under Head 13 - Customs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 14 - INLAND REVENUE

Head 14 - Inland Revenue - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$24,805 under Head 14 - Inland Revenue - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 - STATISTICAL SERVICE

Head 15 - Statistical Service - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$42,715 under Head 15 - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

After item 7 insert item 7A (1) Senior Clerk, \$3,600 and item 7B (2) Clerical Officers, \$2,640; item 10 (1)

'Stenographer'. For provision of \$3,480 substitute \$5,820. After item 22 insert item 22A "International Civil Aviation Organisation", \$10,608. Insert note "annual membership fee to the ICAO".

I beg to move that the sum of \$178,365 under Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 - METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Head 17 - Meteorological Service - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 17 be deleted.

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

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

HEAD 18 - ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

Head 18 - Economic Planning Unit - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$411,400 under Head 18 - Economic Planning Unit - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 19 - BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head 19 - Barbados Regiment - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$120,335 under Head 19 - Barbados Regiment - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 20 - CIVIL AVIATION

Head 20 - Civil Aviation - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$308,652 under Head 20 - Civil Aviation - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 21 - ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Head 21 - Establishments Division - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$165,085 under Head 21 - Establishments Division - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 23 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 23 - Ministry of Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Head I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

Item 31 - Furniture and Office Equipment - For the amount \$1,386 substitute \$1,744. To note 31 and "1 desk and swivel chair, 6 chairs two tables and trays."

I beg to move that the sum of \$130,571 under Head 23 - Ministry of Home Affairs - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 24 - LANDS AND SURVEYS

Head 24 - Lands and Surveys - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In connection with this Head, Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to delete item 7 (2) Apprentice Draughtsman and insert new item 7 (5) Apprentice/Pupil Draughtsman (G.11 - 10) \$9,900.

With that amendment, I beg to move that the sum of \$65,677 under Head 24 - Lands and Surveys - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 25 - POLICE

Head 25 - Police - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$533,317 under Head 25 - Police - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

10.40 a.m.

HEAD 26 - FIRE SERVICE

Head 26 - Fire Service - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$89,737 under Head 26 - Fire Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Head 27 - Town and Country Planning - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$23,735 under Head 27 - Town and Country Planning - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 28 - PRISONS

Head 28 - Prisons - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$65,014 under Head 28 - Prisons - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 28A - METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Head 28A - Meteorological Service - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:-

This Head was originally Head 17 and has been deleted and replaced as Head 28A - Meteorological Service. Under Item 7 'Instruments and Equipment', for amount \$3,610 substitute amount \$4,010 and amend the note by adding "includes revote of \$400." Also insert Item 12A (new) "Rental of Equipment" \$9,850, and insert note "Provision for the rental of automatic Picture transmission equipment". Item 13, 'Furniture and Equipment', for \$1,311 substitute amount of \$3,156. Amend note 13 by adding after the words 'for office' "Includes revotes for the purchase of a station Barometer and two air conditioning units".

I beg to move that the sum of \$107,212 under Head 28A - Meteorological Service - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$107,212 under Head 28A - Meteorological Service - as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 29 - Ministry of Agriculture, Labour & National Insurance - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Insert Item 102A, 'Improvements at the Central Livestock Station, \$15,617. Insert note "To provide milking equipment and re-surfacing of the yard for dairy cattle. Includes provision for the services of a fitter/demonstrator including passage expenses, hotel accommodation, subsistence allowance". Item 48, amend note to read "Provides for animal nutrition unit". I beg to move that the sum of \$1,002,472 under Head 29 - Ministry of Agriculture, Labour & National Insurance - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$1,002,472 under Head 29 - Ministry of Agriculture, Labour & National Insurance - as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - LABOUR

Head 30 - Labour - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Item 25 'Furniture and Equipment', amend note to read 'Provides for 4 cabinets and one electric fan'. I beg to move that the sum of \$730,617 under Head 30 - Labour as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$730,617 under Head 30 - Labour - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 31 - NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 31 - National Insurance - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$50,890 under Head 31 - National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 32 - OLD AGE PENSIONS

Head 32 - Old Age Pensions - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,708,849 under Head 32 - Old Age Pensions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 33 - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Head 33 - Public Assistance - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$4,626 under Head 33 - Public Assistance - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 34 - Ministry of Communications and Works - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.....

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have just arrived and I can see that you are railroading this thing this morning. Item 19, Lighting of Streets and public places. Now, Sir, I would like, especially since they have taken over the lighting of streets in the country areas and how it is being done as far as the parishes are concerned, I would like to know how many lights and how many districts will be lighted as far as St. Joseph is concerned; and in the Northern District, I would like to find out from the Minister how the others will be done during this financial year.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to start any controversy. The question that the senior member for St. Joseph asked is a very strange one.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, you will pardon me; there is another item under this same Head 32 and he should make his notes and reply at the same time. 'Upkeep of Government Buildings', and the explanatory note reads 'General maintenance, repairs and minor alterations to Government buildings'.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am afraid I do not see that item.

Mr. SMITH: I am sorry, this is under another Head.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to move that the sum of \$332,346 under Head 34, - Ministry of Communications and Works - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 35 - PUBLIC WORKS

Head 35 - Public Works - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Insert Item 3A (new) Quantity Surveyor \$5,580; Item 22 on page 81, Travelling, the note to read 'For the provision of \$23,210 substitute the provision of \$23,810; Item 23, Stationery, substitute \$1,150 for the provision of \$900. 10.50 a.m.

On page 83 insert Item 47 (new) - Office furniture and Equipment - \$768; and insert note to read 'To purchase 1 desk, 1 swivel chair, 3 chairs, and drawing office equipment.' Also on page 83 insert new item 48 - District Post Offices - \$8,870. Note to read 'To carry out structural alterations at District Post Offices and to provide accommodation for staff to receive contributions etc. on behalf of the National Insurance Board. Also on page 83 insert new item No. 49 'Mangrove Asphalt Mixing and Stone Crushing Plants - \$4,585; and the note to read 'To provide building for toilet facilities at Mangrove.'

I beg to move that the sum of \$622,198 under Head 35 - Public Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, under Item 32 - Upkeep of Government Buildings - to which the note reads 'General maintenance, repairs and minor alterations to Government buildings', I should like to draw to the Minister's attention the dilapidated condition of the Caretaker's quarters at Blackman's School. I can assure this House that I had to pay this place a visit, and owing to the lay-out.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, the hon. member is out of order because that does not come under this Head as such. It is just as if the hon. member asks me to repair a school. When the Ministry of Education asks me to do it, I will have to earmark money for it. The hon. member cannot ask me about the Caretaker's quarters. If the man happens to be a friend of the hon. member, that is a matter for him; but he is out of order.

Mr. SMITH: If the Minister is saying I am asking him about my friend, I would not be so low as to insult my friend by asking him, because I keep friends of such a calibre that if I mentioned the Minister's name I would be thrown out. We have no friends in here. The explanatory note here talks about Government buildings. Is Blackman's School a Government building or not? The Minister must not make himself look ridiculous by trying to tell me that I am out of order when I am in order. What Minister of Education is he telling me about? I am not asking about Education; I am asking about the building belonging to the

Government, and the Hon. Minister is trying to be cheap and mean by telling me I am out of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I take offence at the words "cheap and mean" and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. SMITH: You must learn to be decent. I am asking about a Government building and the Minister is telling me about my friend and saying I am out of order, and you would not protect me.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order to ask the hon. member to withdraw the remarks about 'cheap and mean' used towards me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are words used to which the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has taken exception, and I am asking the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to withdraw those words.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, you will have to define the words "cheap" and "mean" to me and let me know if they are unparliamentary. Let me hear from you if they are offensive, because I am within my rights and I am not going to let him take away my rights.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order No. 36 (7) says that they are, and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Mr. SMITH: If you say so, I will rope you in with him also.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is going to be insulting to the Chair, I will have no other alternative than to use the authority vested in me by this House. I have asked the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the words, but be careful in your ruling, because you generally rule incorrectly. If the hon. member wants a fight, I will fight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There will be no fight in here.

Mr. SMITH: I will take on you or anybody. Here I am asking about an item that comes under this Head, and the Minister is telling me that I am out of order! I want to know if the building belongs to me, to the watchman or to the Government. I look to you for protection and you have failed to give it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member continue with the debate.

Mr. SMITH: I will continue with it, but not so. When a member is trying to make himself ridiculous, it is your duty as Chairman to protect me, and I am within my rights. If he does not know his duty, I am not responsible for it. I cannot make the hon. member read and understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have no cross talk around this Table. Let the hon. member continue his speech.

Mr. SMITH: I will continue and no one can make me do what I do not want to do. I want to draw to the attention of the appropriate Minister the condition of the Caretaker's quarters at Blackman's School. I had occasion to visit that place, and I would not even put a good expensive cow inside it to live. It needs repairing very badly. While I was there, I saw some lizards as big as the Caretaker himself running through the building. There are a lot of trees around the house, the roof is low and it is always damp and mossy, and I am sure if the Minister of Education goes there he would agree with me that something should be done to the place. I believe it must have been part of the old stables of the original owner of the property. The watchman is, after all, a human being and should be housed in a proper

place. I thought that, as this came under this Head, it would concern the Minister of Communications and Works, but he has informed me that I am wrong and that the Minister of Education is responsible for this. I am, however, appealing to the appropriate Minister to see that something is done to this place by way of renovating it.
11.00 a.m.

I believe that the whole thing needs demolishing, give the man a decent residence because he is there all day and all night. He does not go home at all; but during the time he is there, I would call it his residence. Some watchmen are not supposed to have anywhere at all; they have no right to be sleeping at all, and we should not make them too comfortable because they will not be in a position to perform their duties. However, Sir, in this case, this particular caretaker is there all day and all night. I do not know if the Government is breaking the law, but I believe there should be a Watchman and a Caretaker. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Education will see to it and do something for the Caretaker up there.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: A few weeks ago, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member raised this question in here and I told him then that I would investigate the matter. I have done so. In future this building will be used not necessarily for the Watchman, but he would be given alternative accommodation. This could not be done until an investigation had been made. I myself was not aware of the situation, but I will assure the hon. member that it is being taken care of.

Mr. SMITH: I thank you very much; you had parental training.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I want to say that I am extremely sorry that my good friend, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, took the argument in the way he has taken it. What I was pointing out to the hon. member is that I cannot repair a school unless it is a request from the Ministry of Education. We cannot do a job unless we are told to do it. I want to assure the hon. member that no offence is intended to him, and that all he has said I take for what it is worth.

Mr. SMITH: When the hon. member told me that I was out of order, I took it that this was a Government building, whether he was responsible for it or not. All he would have to say is that inasmuch as this matter is under the Head of Government Buildings, the Education Department would have people to see about it; but when you try to make people believe that I do not know my stuff, I will show the hon. member that I know my stuff and I would have to let him know that he does not know his stuff.

The question that the sum of \$622,198 under Head 35 - Public Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - WATERWORKS

Head 36 - Waterworks - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this Head, I am asking leave to make the following amendment:-

Head 36 - Waterworks - Item 51 - Motor Vehicles - For amount \$25,000 substitute amount \$48,900. Amend note to read after the words "1 3/4 ton vehicle". "Includes revote for purchase of 4 pick-ups and 1 chassis with cab and accessories."

With that amendment, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,869,498 under Head 36 - Waterworks - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking in connection with Item 40, "Reinstatement of Roadways, \$66,200". The note states: "paid for re-instating highways and road-

ways broken for repairs to mains and hydrants. Increase due to increased wages."

I feel that something should be done because the breaking up of roadways and leaving them to remain in that condition has caused considerable damage to users of motor cars, damaging the springs of the vehicles and injuring pedestrians. I feel that when the Highways Department is carrying out works in a particular area, if there was that liaison between the Department and the Waterworks Department, we would find, in many cases, that some arrangement would be made whereby the Waterworks Department would be carrying out their work in a particular district and the Department of Highways and Transport would mesh in so to speak with the Waterworks Department. Instead of allowing some of these broken parts of the highways to remain there for weeks and thereby cause inconvenience to the users of the highways, I feel that something should be done so as to relieve the suffering which is caused to users of the highways from time to time.

Relative to Item 44 "Commission to Debt Collector, \$700", I feel that if there is anything which is scandalous, this is one such thing. I say that for the simple reason that the Waterworks Department has, within its offices, the easiest possible way of collecting rates. The note to this item states that this amount of money is required to pay commission in respect of the collection of arrears of water rates, instalments and other plumbing accounts. I do not think that there should be any worry in this matter. In the case of new services, where people are given hire purchase terms, there is the possibility of arrears coming in, but even then those arrears should be reduced. Water is a necessity, and while I would not like to suggest anything which would create a hardship on the users of water, there are those poor people who might have strained themselves greatly so as to have water installed in their homes. We know that if a single instalment becomes due and no water is flowing through the pipes, you can rest assured that water is required in the homes of people, and the instalment which is due will be paid to the Department without any delay. 11.10 p.m.

Some men have to borrow it from elsewhere; they may have to make sacrifices to meet these instalments; but nevertheless they are paid. There has been a doubling of water rates, and when you pay these rates you do not want water three days of the week, and not the other four.

Mr. Chairman, I understand there are some Ministers on that side who have not paid their water rates for three years. Let them get up and deny it. If a Minister is to be allowed to let his water rates get into arrears for three years and water is still flowing through the pipes, there should be no collection from anybody else. Ministers of this Government, not having paid their water bills for three years, come here today and tell us that we should pass money to pay for somebody else to collect arrears from people who probably have gone through supreme sacrifices to pay their water bills.

I think that better terms ought to be offered to applicants - people who really want water in their homes. The time has come, Sir, when I feel that Government should instal the water free to whoever wants it, and let them pay afterwards. Ministers can have it in their homes for three years - not three months - and do not pay one cent. If there is anything that is scandalous about the Waterworks Department, it is the Department allowing a Minister of Government to have water flowing through his pipes - and some Ministers have 10 and 11 taps in their gardens and all over the house, and have not paid water rates for three years; but they come here and want to do everything in respect of collection of arrears. I am willing to support this Resolution if I can be told that the debt collector is going to the Ministers' houses first and collect arrears.

Item 46, Sir. "To cover cost of general repairs to main office, pumping stations, reservoirs and reservoir Keepers' houses. Increased to meet cost of increased wages: Mr. Chairman, in the parish of St. John which you repre-

sent, Sir, at Golden Ridge, the condition of the Keeper's house there and the conditions under which men work there generally leave much to be desired; and I am to say, Sir, that anyone going to some of these pumping stations and seeing the conditions of the houses in which the Keepers live - some of them are family people - and in the parish of St. John, I am saying, Sir, I do not see it could be a credit to any member

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I were to just remind the honourable member that Golden Ridge Pumping Station is not in St. John.

Mr. HINDS: Thank you for the correction, Sir, but nevertheless, whether it is in St. George or St. John, St. Andrew, St. Lucy or St. Peter, it is not a credit to this Government having people housed under such conditions.

I feel, Sir, that we ought to be told today, Sir, exactly what is Government's policy as regards the siting of the main office of the Waterworks Department. We ought to be told if it is true that a Law Library or some other office is to be housed in the present Waterworks Building, if there are really going to move the Waterworks offices and site them somewhere else. If all of this is in Government's plan, if they have a plan; is it necessary for us to be asked to vote money for general repairs to the main office?

Something is really not being told us under this Head and we feel that the Minister should have it in his files and he should not be very reluctant.

"Item 47, Maintenance and repairs of motor transport". Motor Transport of the Waterworks Department will be required; there is no denying that; but what we find is increasing the amount of transport and occasioning increased cost for repairs to such transport is the reluctance on the part of the Department to instal water into the houses of people much more quickly than it is being done at the present moment. 11.20 a.m.

In the parish of St. Peter which I have the honour to represent there are two standpipes, and at no time do the residents who are served by these pipes get water for more than three hours out of twenty-four. That is the situation existing at the Mount, and the Department has to supply water in tanks. This is probably the reason for the high cost of maintenance of the transport vehicles with which we are faced today. We want to see the poor people of this Island served with water. The Ministers are well served; they are so well served that a Minister can have water running through his house for three years without paying a cent. There is also dissatisfaction among the reservoir keepers. The conditions under which they work are unsatisfactory, and I am hoping that the Minister will in the next financial year bring about the improvements that are necessary.

Under Item 48 which is for the purchase of two bicycles as replacements, to my mind, Sir, it is not fair and reasonable to ask the employees who use the bicycles already in service to travel such long distances. I will admit that bicycles have to be used in some areas because motor transport cannot always reach to the houses where there might be some difficulty in the washing of a tap and the like. Since they are only asking for two bicycles, it means that the Ministry is not looking out on the question of servicing, because these bicycle operators, I think, go from place to place releathering taps, or effecting repairs to overflowing taps to effect some saving in water wastage.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, before speaking on Item 33 - Reservoirs, I should like to say, in relation to the remarks used by my colleague about the Minister owing water rates for three years, that I believe that might have been some back dues before the member became a Minister, and it was so long that he had forgotten to square it off. I do not know how to believe that a Minister of Government would owe water rates for three years. Things might have been so bad before he was a Minister that he could not cope with his commitments, and now he is a

Minister he has forgotten to pay. If it is so, the Minister should resign.

On Item 33 - Reservoirs - I believe the Minister in charge might be fully aware of the point I am going to make now on this matter. I should like to know what provision is being made to alleviate the water troubles we are having around the Sugar Hill area. The Minister does not live in that area, but I have to leave home on mornings and go to the sea to get a bath. The people are always complaining to me about not being able to get water, and I have to let them know that I am in the same boat. I hope the Minister will draw it to the attention of the proper authorities and let me know the reasons and try to remedy the cause, because it is very embarrassing to have to pay rates and not get any water. That is high-class robbery. If we cannot get water, ask the authorities not to send us any bills; but we would prefer to get the water and pay for it. This situation has been obtaining for a very long time now, and I hope the Minister will explain what they are doing about it. Maybe they need a bigger reservoir, bigger pipes or bigger pumps, but we never used to suffer like that before. I hope the Minister can tell us something before this Head is passed.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 34, I would like to remind the Minister also that the people of Parish Land, St. George, suffer tremendously for water. There are many houses in this district, and daily these people have to trek long distances to get water to do their daily chores. There is also the difficulty of the reservoir in the Redland Tenantry area, just a stone's throw from the reservoir at Golden Ridge.

11.30 a.m.

With this amount put in the Estimates, I do hope that the people of Parish Land, St. George, as well as those people in the Redland district will have water for their use in the very near future. Everybody today wishes to have water at his disposal, and I do feel that, with this sum of money which has been put in the Estimates, these two areas which I have mentioned will be served in the coming year.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, relative to Item 40, "Re-instatement of Roadways", what has happened is that when the Waterworks Department breaks up the roads in order to carry out their necessary repairs, before the Highways Department can get around to effect the repair to these roads, the roads are left in a very bad condition. The Hon. Minister passes along the cart roads; so he must pass along the highways as well. (Laughter). I am allowing the Minister to know that I passed along a highway one day and saw a motor car not far from one of the holes in the road, and its entire suspension had been broken up. The front wheel or one of the front wheels of the car had dropped into the hole. I believe that the Waterworks Department could pack the broken places in the roads with stones until the Department of Highways and Transport can get to these places to repair them. I would ask the Minister to see that the particular Department places some stones in these broken places in the roads so as to prevent the suspension of people's cars from being broken up.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I will try to answer hon. members. First and foremost, I should like to say that I only pass through cart roads when I am on the way to the home of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. (Laughter). I think that hon. members must be realistic and not try to play to the gallery. When the Waterworks Department first started in this Island, the highways were merely tracks. No pipes were laid, and the people who started the Waterworks Department did not have the foresight to see the expansion which is taking place now. You cannot or you should not lay a pipe in the road and then build the road on it because the traffic will break up the pipe. What we are trying to do now is to see if we can impress upon the Waterworks Department that the pipe should be laid off the road as far as possible.

All the Public Utility Departments, in laying down their services, break up the roads at some time or other, and it

is a hard thing to have the work correlated. Immediately after a defect has been remedied by a Public Utility Company like the Barbados Light and Power Company, for instance, then the Waterworks Department should come in with their work.

At the East Coast Road we have laid a main on the side of the road, so that if the Waterworks Department has to dig up the main, the road will not be affected. Since we have started off on the wrong foot, not this Government or the last Government - when the Waterworks Department came into being, the state of affairs mentioned took place. However, we are trying to see that the pipe is laid as far off the road as possible.

As to the question of the water pressure being low in St. Joseph, I would say that two nights ago there was a meeting in St. Bernard's Village, and if the hon. senior member for St. Joseph had attended that meeting, he would have heard something.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member did not invite me; so that was his fault.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: That is true, but we did not invite him to the other meetings either. As the hon. member has said, we suffer from this low pressure now due to the fact that more people have installed water in their premises than formerly, and when people installed the water, they did not have hoses. Now everybody has a piece of hose which he attaches to the pipe and leaves the pipe running. As a result of that, there will always be this low pressure obtaining. You have places as much as 1,100 feet above sea level. Some of the water comes from the Castle Grant reservoir and some from the reservoir in St. John. I do not think that the hon. member's constituents should suffer as much now from this low pressure as they used to suffer. We have put some of the water on the road below and some on the road above, so that I find it very difficult to accept that the hon. member and his constituents are suffering from this low water pressure.

In Barbados we produce approximately eleven million gallons of water per day, and we are now using something like sixteen million gallons per day and when the crop season is in progress the factories use a lot of water. When we have a favourable rainy season, the reservoirs have been kept up to a fairly good standard, and that is why I say I am very surprised to hear the hon. senior member for St. Joseph say that he has had or that there is a shortage of water in Melvins Hill.

11.40 p.m.

What I can assure you of is that I will ask the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department to investigate your problem, but if you do not get water one or two mornings, it might be because of a burst main. Certain questions were asked and the reply to those questions were that because of the elevation we found it difficult to get the water up in this area, and we have certain proposals which we intend to carry out shortly.

The member for St. Joseph also mentioned that the Waterworks Department should carry stones to backfill when they dig up the road. I would not suggest this; I could not. You can never tell when anybody would get the temptation to throw a stone; what I have impressed on them is that what they should do is to make sure that they backfill the areas properly, and we always try to get the road re-instated as quickly as possible.

The junior member for St. Peter spoke about Ministers not paying their water bills for three years. I would be glad if you could tell me who the Minister is; maybe the Minister could not pay for his water before he was a Minister. I will have to investigate it to find out if there is any truth in the statement, but I do not like people coming in this Chamber and using these kind of threats and accusations unless they are prepared to back them up. I would like you to tell us here for the benefit of the Chamber who this Minister is who did not pay his water bill for three years. I have to pay for mine; so everybody has to pay for theirs.

The question raised by the junior member for St. George, I can assure him that we are cognisant of the fact - a hydrant will be replaced as requested by him.

I believe I have answered all the questions which you have asked. If I have not, you may ask me again. I hope I have answered them satisfactorily.

Mr. SMITH: I will have to thank the Minister for his reply, but I take him up on a remark used by him that he finds it hard to believe that I am suffering for the water; that is telling me, Sir, that I am lying.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, do not let us get off on the wrong foot; I never implied that. I even stressed that we had a favourable rainfall last year and I mentioned that the reservoirs have been kept fairly high through the year; and I am surprised that he is making this complaint now. Nothing like that was meant, Mr. Chairman, but I just want the senior member for St. Joseph - I am not trying to restrict him from rising - but do not accuse me wrongfully.

Mr. SMITH: I am not accusing him wrongfully. He said that he finds it hard to believe; that is what I would put it to mean; he wanted to call me a liar. This is an area I am living in, Sir. What would it profit me to get up here and say that we are suffering for water when in truth and in fact we are not? It has been going on for a long time now and something should be done in some way to relieve it. At the same time, if we are not getting the water, do not send us the bills.

The question that the sum of \$1,869,498 under Head 36 - Waterworks - as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - PRINTING OFFICE

Head 37 - Printing Office - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Item 36 'Equipment', for amount \$17,620 substitute \$42,835 and amend note to Item 36 by adding after the words 'water can' 'Includes revote for purchase of four (4) Justewriter machines'. I beg to move that the sum of \$143,248 under Head 37 - Printing Office - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Item 28, I see there is an amount of \$12,000 and the note says "This amount is necessary for normal overtime work". I cannot understand, if work is normal work, how is it going to be normal work and overtime at the same time. What I want to say is this; if it is for overtime work it is not for normal work; if it is for overtime work, we might find that some staff members are given an opportunity to do a regular or normal day's work and then to continue working on at an overtime rate. My information is, Sir, that overtime work at the Government Printery is not made available to all staff members who would like to share in this work, and that only a few people are allowed to do overtime work; so you will find that this \$12,000 might be responsible for the confusion, because the \$12,000 Overtime - you might find that there may be four staff members to benefit from this \$12,000. 11.50 a.m.

What we would prefer to see is the full-time or even part-time employment of some of the unemployed printers who have acquired the art of printing. Overtime starts after normal time, and if there is a necessity at the present moment for over-time work, it means that you are not able in the course of a normal eight or seven hour day to complete a certain amount of work. It may be that the

photographers might not have been working full-time, or they might have produced their plates while the other working staff was unable to keep abreast, so that by the end of a day a particular job has not reached the point where you would like it. Perhaps, I may refer to the debates of this Chamber. They may be working on the debates for the year 1967, but the debates for 1965 are so far behind that they have to get in over-time staff.

We feel, Sir, that a survey should be made of the printing needs of the Government Printing Office. There are unemployed people who can be gainfully employed by this Department, and you might find that you would only have to work a normal eight hour day, and there would be no confusion about over-time and normal time at the same time.

Under Item 30 there is the sum of \$75,000 for the purchasing of materials, and the note says "To meet the estimated requirements of new departments and increased demands of others." I think the time has come when this House should have its own printing plant, because there is no escaping the fact that no matter how much material you might give to the present Printing Office, there are going to be increased commitments on it as explained in the note. There should be a survey to learn what are the needs of the various Departments, and there should be somebody competent to advise the Minister as to whether or not the printing plant is sufficient to cope with these commitments. I hope the Minister will consider seriously that at the Government Printing Office there should be a complete outfit for printing Hansard and other documents of this Chamber. It is the only way to clear off some of the backlog which I understand is presently in hand, because the printing of Hansard requires very highly skilled people.

On the question of staff, since the Government is in the printing business, they should see to it that a printing school is established at the Technical Institute so that both the Government and private enterprise would be able to draw on it from time to time. Printers would not then have to go abroad for training; they would be graded, and their pay would be respectable.

Under Item 36, I see that there is a request for \$17,620 to replace one adding machine, one stitching machine and two varityper machines and to purchase one Platen Printing Machine and one water can. Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that the Minister responsible will take what I am saying now as coming from someone who knows something about printing machinery and about printing as a whole. I think the Minister ought to seek further as to whether or not it is advisable with the advance in printing today to buy a Platen Press. 12.00 noon.

I have given the matter some thought, and bearing in mind that the Government Printery is called upon to do high-speed work, I think that the Minister would be well advised that he should have this matter gone into a little further before he decides on the purchase of a platen Press for the Government Printery. I feel that within a very short time you may find that this press will not be able to measure up to the demands. In other words, this Press will age too soon in a place like the Government Printery.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, any vote for any kind of money for the service of the Printing Office must provoke a debate on this side of the Chamber. As to the manner in which the printing is done for this Chamber, time after time complaints have to be made about the late delivery of notices and the failure of the office to print the official debates of this Chamber at the proper time. I am submitting that this is the appropriate time for us to deal with this matter. Sir, the situation is scandalous and it would not be tolerated in any place outside of Barbados. Up to now few debates of this Chamber have been printed. It is either a question of reducing the vote for the Printing Office and taking away this work from them or that the Printing Department should be organized in such a manner that it can carry out competently the work for this Chamber. Of course, if one has the attitude adopted by the members on the other side of this Chamber, they do not care how slack things are; there may not be standards on that side but it is not so over here.

Mr. Chairman, up to now nobody has got a copy of the Appropriation Bill with which we are now dealing, according to the Standing Orders of this House. Not one copy of this Bill has been circulated on this side of the House at all. That Bill is supposed to be a Document and, according to the Standing Orders of this House, it should be circulated. Are we to sit here and tolerate this state of Affairs and hear the Clerk say: "It is not our fault?" The Printing Office says: "It is not our fault" and nothing is being done about the matter. Mr. Chairman, the whole situation is a mockery. It is scandalous and indifferent. If it is not a question of indifference with the people up there, then let us see whether the indifference is not here. I say that it is a scandalous thing that no member of this House can get any copy of the notice of this Appropriation Bill at all, and that is the Head under which we have to deal with these matters. I hope that the Minister will be able to say whether the amount voted is inadequate or not, or whether we are satisfied that the delay lies in the administration of the Printing Office; and if that is so, let them have a report made to the Civil Service Commission asking them to institute an investigation and let the remedial action take place. That is provided, of course, that you are a Government which understands and wants to bring efficiency into operation.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I rise to address the Committee on a few points which have been raised by the hon. member who has just sat down, relative to the Printing of Documents which relate to this House. I think that the hon. member knows that the printing of the debates of this House is in the hands of the Debates Committee. As a member of this Government, I must take full responsibility for this very, very unsatisfactory situation with which we are all faced. I should like, however, to tell the House that in recent times the Debates Committee has been taking this situation in hand and hopes quite shortly to be able to put certain proposals to the House, proposals which are designed to rectify this situation. I want to assure the whole Committee that in this matter, I share the frustration and anger of the hon. member at this most unsatisfactory state of affairs. Some attempt is to be made to print and sell the Debates of this Chamber no later than 72 hours, no later than three days, after they have taken place. That is what we are anxious to do. It is a fact that this is a public Institution and what is said must be of interest to everybody both inside and outside of this Chamber. We should be able to read the Debates of this Chamber shortly after they have taken place. We intend, as I have already mentioned, to put certain proposals before the House shortly.

Recently we have made a survey of the internal situation and that involves not only this Chamber but the Other Place as well. We have made this survey and we have come to conclusions which will form the basis of what we intend to carry out, and this House will be required to take the necessary action. This is a matter on which we all feel the same way. I want to assure the hon. member that there is no complacency or shielding of the indifference which the hon. member has brought up.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, that deals with the printing of the Debates of this Chamber. I want to deal now with another matter which is equally as important not only to us in this House but to the island of Barbados as a whole. I am dealing now with having available to the public for sale the Laws of Barbados - the legislation which is passed here - within a reasonable period of time. What some people do not quite appreciate is that people make enquiries for specific laws in Barbados and they make these enquiries not of Government agencies but of Barristers and other people in Barbados, and I must say that one is faced with a very embarrassing situation where we cannot send, within a reasonable time, copies of these volumes abroad. 12.10 p.m.

This is something that can be sold. Nobody is asking to subsidize the sale of these things, but we really want to know why is it that the Subsidiary Legislation in Barbados - why is it that our Laws passed by this Legislature cannot be bound within two months after the end of every year. I cannot understand why that cannot be done, because it seems to me that there must be a printing of the Laws, when they

are finished here, for them to be in the Official Gazette. After that, it is only a question of collecting the laws at the Printery and tying them together and having them for sale. Perhaps the Minister responsible may have an explanation as to what is the big technical difficulty which prevents them from being done; either there is a shortage of binders or a lack of proper organisation.

People are constantly enquiring as to the state of your ordinary legislation. You must be in a position to submit them abroad, and you cannot send single copies. They should be available, and this is something that will bring in more revenue to the Printing Office.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The Hon. Minister of Education has replied, but there is one thing I would like to say before you put the question. I do not like the idea of people in general talking about democracy - anybody who can read and can understand what they read know that all forms of Government leave a lot to be desired, but I do not know what paying people overtime has to do with democracy.

I will tell the last speaker that what he has just said has been taken by me in good faith, but I intend to nail the culprit when the time comes. I am not going to sit in here and allow any Department which is under me to be castigated unfairly. If, on the other hand, the Head of that Department has done something to cause the castigation, I will be the first to join with them in that; but at this stage I do not think it is fair to level all this criticism at the Printery. I have said already it is my intention to bring a statement in the House so that everybody can say who is responsible for what; so do not talk about the Civil Servants who cannot talk to you. Take it out of me who can deal with you as you should be dealt with. I beg to move that this.....

Mr. St. JOHN: I am dealing with the Minister who is responsible for Printing. Let him get up and say why is it that the Laws of Barbados cannot be bought within two or three months after the end of the calendar year, when the *Official Gazette* contains every law that has been passed by the Legislature for that calendar year. What is the situation in his Department - at the Government Printery - which prevents that?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Apparently the hon. member does not remember that I have just said I intend to give the House a statement and nail the culprit where he should be nailed.

Mr. St. JOHN: Is the Minister telling us that there is a culprit at the Government Printery?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, I have never said that. I said 'where it might be'; you never know, it might be in Trinidad, or England. I just said.....

Mr. St. JOHN: Then the Minister is not in a position to tell us how this Department is working, because this matter was raised on the floor of this House and he doesn't even know that there is something wrong.

The question that the sum of \$143,248 under Head 37 - Printing Office - as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 38 - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Head 38 - Highways and Transport - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Item 64, Plant, Tools, spares and equipment, for provision of \$73,998 substitute provision of \$85,438. Amend note by adding after the word 'wheelbarrow' 'Includes a revote for the purchase of 1 Front-end loader and 1 towed Roller'. Insert as Item 70 'Road to Rockless Plantation, St. Peter - \$2,427. Note to read: 'Provision of an access Road

to Rockless Plantation, St. Peter. Also on page 93 under Item 49 - Special Reserve for Extraordinary Road damage, for provision of \$20,000, insert provision of \$68,000.

I beg to move that the sum of \$3,424,540 under Head 38 - Highways and Transport - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Item 44, Parish Roads. The note reads 'Maintenance of approximately 582 miles at an average of \$1,077 per mile'. I also notice that a decrease of \$54,466 has been made, and I want to know, Sir, at a time like this when we have so many unemployed, if this decrease is due to your not having any more work to be done, or if it is that you cannot carry out your programme before the year ends. What is the reason for this decrease?

I also notice that the revenue from these roads is supposed to be \$560,000 and you are about to spend \$377,000. That is a good saving, but I am wondering to know, if you are making a saving and still the work is being left undone, the reason for it? Some time ago a letter was written, or an application made, to the Department of Highways and Transport for repairs to St. Anne's Church road, the road leading from the main highway into St. Anne's Church. It is not in a very good state of repair, and I am wondering if that will be done this year.
12.20 p.m.

This road is in a very bad state of repair and I am wondering if anything will be done this year, because it is not now a question of money as you are affecting a very big saving. Both the road leading to the Church and the one leading to the Market are in a very bad state, and the Minister should be able to say if these roads will be done in the next financial year.

Under Item 68 - Construction of suck wells - the note explains it is for provision for new suck wells in developing and other areas. There is a suck well known as Kellman's Pond in the Sugar Hill district in St. Joseph, and when we get heavy rainfall the place is flooded, and the people who live near around cannot get in or out of their homes until the water goes off. If we get heavy rainfall and the place is flooded for at least two days, those who are in cannot get out, and those who are out cannot get in. During the heavy rains in November last year a woman lost all here belongings when the water flooded her house. I do not know what is wrong with the suck, but it cannot take off the water as fast as it should; so now that you are planning for new suck wells, it would be a good idea to see that a proper suck well is dug to relieve these people of this water menace, and also prevent the breeding of mosquitoes when the water remains for long periods. When we have these abnormal rains, a lot of things could happen, and if the people are not alert there is a possibility that you might find some of them floating down in the water. Let us do something to prevent this disaster in the Kellman's Pond area, as well as repair the St. Anns Road and the road leading to the Church.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 44 - Parish Roads - in St. George there are many houses in Parish Land, and there are people on the front roads on whose boundaries other people have to pass to get into Parish Land daily. The roads are not good, and during the rainfall season the Doctor is unable to attend to people in the area because the road is impassable. I would like the Minister to make a note of Parish Land in St. George as well as those around Glebe where the roads need repairing. One man in Parish Land has decided to give away part of his land so that the Government can cut a proper road for the people who live aback of him to get in and out. These roads should be rectified as soon as possible.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I will take up just where the hon. member has left off in the same St. George area. Braggs Hill needs some roads, and some lights at the same

time, I cannot remember if the hon. member mentioned standpipes. I pay frequent visits to St. George.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member about the roads in Braggs Hill, I would like him to realise that the roads in Braggs Hill are private property. Further, the owner, Mr. Braggs, lives out of the Island and the estate is leased to Bulkeley Limited, and the Government cannot move in on a private road and fix it out of taxpayers' money. In connection with standpipes for the Drax Hall area, I would like the hon. member to realise that within the last year two standpipes were placed.....

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, I did not mention standpipes for Drax Hall; I mentioned roads for Braggs Hill. I said I could not remember if the hon. member mentioned standpipes for Parish Land.

Mr. LOWE: If I misunderstood the hon. member I will pass on, but I would like him to understand that where roads in private development in St. George are concerned, we are well aware of their condition; but the only way Government would be able to do anything would be to acquire the land compulsorily because it is private property. You hear people talk about dictatorship, but now you are going to tell us on this side to go on a man's private property and fix roads with the taxpayers' money, and then the same member will get in this Chamber and accuse Government of squandering taxpayers' money in fixing private roads as some former Government had done with the Spa Road.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, the hon. member mentioned the Spa being done by a former Government, but the road was the only highway by which to get out. It is not a private road; it is a highway.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I may agree with the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, but he is well aware that I also know the Spa, when you could not pass that way. Drax Hall plantation is private enterprise and unless you would like to see Drax Hall roads repaired overnight, you would not be a worthy person. When you have to go into Drax Hall. (*Remarks from the gallery*). Mr. Chairman, do you hear those *sotto voce* remarks from the gallery? If these things are upheld in this Chamber through some satellite - well, I can expect anything like this, because, in many instances, many of us have had a good parental training; but if we have lost contact, we also forget where we should use it. Relative to the roads in Drax Hall, I accept what the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said, and I only hope that at some future date we will be able to see that all the roads, both private and public, are repaired by the Central Government.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow the hon. member to get away with those remarks relative to the Spa. This House was misled by the Premier or somebody else to the effect that that road was repaired for your humble servant to get to his land. (Mr. LOWE: That is not true.) The hon. member said that that road led to my land, but the road did not lead to my land; it led to Mr. Miller's land. The hon. member has now said that we would make a noise if they had taken up the taxpayers' money so as to repair private roads. I am wondering if the hon. member read his Party's Manifesto and told the same people in Drax Hall that if they are elected, they are going to take over all the tenancies. What would the hon. member call Drax Hall? Drax Hall is a tenantry, and these people were told in the Manifesto of the D.L.P. that if the Party were elected to power, they would buy all the tenancies for the people. Now the Government is saying that it cannot repair the roads out of Government funds. They must have told the people that they would buy these areas and make them happy.

I hope that the hon. member will make me look small. The policy laid down in the D.L.P. Manifesto is that they would buy all the tenancies; but now that they are in power, they cannot even repair the roads. That is the Manifesto to which our attention has been drawn when it suited those hon. members to draw it to our attention. Our attention

was drawn to the Manifesto that everything would be done for Drax Hall by way of repairs. Mr. Chairman, when I was doing work at Self Help Enterprises, there was a man who said that he did not have gasoline and when I showed him a signature he said: "That is my signature, but I did not have the gasoline." (laughter). That is the same thing with this Manifesto which I have here.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the hon. member, he is very childish. He talks about the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party; we have agreed to take over the tenantry roads.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I did not refer to tenantry roads; I referred to tenancies.

Mr. LOWE: Very well, Mr. Chairman, the tenancies. The fact remains that when we take over the tenancies, it would be the Cabinet's responsibility to install proper services. Therefore, I do not see that there is any argument; but I am saying that you cannot take up the taxpayers' money for the purpose of repairing the roads of private owners. As soon as the Government takes over these roads, the responsibility would be on the Government to repair these roads.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is amazing to hear the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Works say that this land is private land and the Government cannot do anything about it. There is a specific provision under the Public Health Act,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I understand what item the hon. member is dealing with?

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with this Head and we are discussing roads which the hon. member says are in need of repairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which item is that?

Mr. St. JOHN: The item we are dealing with as has been called by the Clerk at the Table, the item which the hon. member was speaking on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which item was the hon. member speaking on?

Mr. St. JOHN: The one which I have referred to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is speaking, I must understand which item he is speaking on. Every item has a number, and if I enquire I must be told.

Mr. St. JOHN: I do not see that in the Standing Orders. If you rule that I am irrelevant, you can rule like that; but I am speaking on the item which the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Works got up and spoke on just now. He said that the roads at Drax Hall cannot be dealt with because the Government cannot take up the taxpayers' money and expend it on these roads. Am I not entitled to speak on this Head without being asked what item I am speaking on? The idea that the Government cannot repair these roads cannot be taken on because they do that all the time. In the past people have petitioned the Government to take over roads and they have taken them over and repaired them. From the days of the Vestry, the Vestry went in and repaired roads, and under the Public Health Act you can call on the owners and make them supply proper roads. The Minister is an Ex-Councillor and he comes in here and speaks to hon. members on this side in that way!

12.40 p.m.

It is perfectly within the competence of the Government; if they want to repair the roads themselves they can do it, but they can call on the owners to do it. They have not got the courage to do it. They are afraid! So do not come in here with that excuse; it does not hold water. What I want to know,.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, the hon. senior member for Christ Church said the Government has the power to go in and repair roads.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, I have not said that.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: The Hon. member said that if the Government wanted to do it, they could go in and do it.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of explanation, the hon. member is misquoting me. Here again another Minister,.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the member did mislead the Chamber.

Mr. St. JOHN: I take serious objection to that statement, and I ask the hon. Minister to withdraw it right away. I ask you to rule, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I was saying,.....

Mr. St. JOHN: No, Sir. I have asked for a ruling.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, will you give a ruling?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 26(7) states that no member shall use improper motives to another member, and I take it that any hon. member saying that another one has misled the House is an improper motive. I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to withdraw his remarks.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw, but the truth about it - I am not questioning your authority - but it would not have been Parliamentary if I had said he had deliberately misled the House.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order. Are you going to sit down and allow the Minister to say, one minute after you have ruled, that he is not questioning your ruling but it would have been unparliamentary - what he is saying is that your ruling is wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is made. Will the hon. Minister continue?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I was making a point of order, and that point was that the member for Christ Church, who lost his *status quo*, said that under the Public Health Act the Government has the power to call on the land owners to repair the roads. Nothing can be further from the truth. This is under the Councils; they were responsible for calling on the land owners, and you will remember that this happened in Delamere Land and the rates went up.

Mr. St. JOHN: The more they rise, the more they manifest their complete ignorance of the situation in Barbados.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I object to that, I am asking the hon. member to withdraw.

Mr. St. JOHN: I would not be so obvious as to accuse...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Again I am ruling that no member shall use improper motives and I ask the hon. member to withdraw.

Mr. St. JOHN: I withdraw, but the more they rise the more you can see they do not know anything about what they are doing, and they are totally incompetent.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member did say, and you can refer,.....

Mr. St. JOHN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will determine.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: He distinctly said that the Government has the authority, and reference may be made to the notes taken in this Chamber. He did say so, and I am saying he said so. There is no authority for Central Government to walk into any private people's land unless they have got the permission under the Land Acquisition Act. You mentioned in Christ Church where the Central Government has taken over the land; but after land has been sub-divided and sold then the Government can come in and put in roads.

Mr. ST. JOHN: On a point of order, am I to be interrupted like this all the time? If the hon. Ministers over there will not speak and listen to what I am saying! They know that the powers of the Councils with relation to this part of Public Health with the exception of scavenging and baths, have been transferred to the Central Government.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: How long?

Mr. ST. JOHN: There are members on that side, including some Ministers, who do not even know that these have been transferred to Central Government. These powers are powers - if you check the Amendments to the law - which now evolve upon the Government because the Public Health Act has not been repealed. I go further. It is not true to say that the Government does not go in to private land and put in roads, because they do it all the time.
12.50 p.m.

The Government goes into sub-division after a period of time when bad roads have been put

Mr. LOWE: On a point of order, the hon. senior member for Christ Church is trying his best to get out of his folly, because when it comes to private development and the developers place roads in that development, after a number of years have passed, the owners in the development petition the Government asking it to take over these roads and put them in order.

Mr. ST. JOHN: That is not a point of order; it is an unnecessary interruption; it is a lack of understanding.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member should sit because he is only trying to mislead people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the hon. member that I am in this Chair.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I want to deal with this and particularly this part, and I want to deal with the Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would prefer you to deal with Head 38 and not with any hon. member.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I am dealing with Head 38 and if for the purpose of dealing with Head 38 I have to deal with the hon. member, I will deal with the hon. member. Since the Central Government has taken over the roads, they have not built five miles of road or done anything in Christ Church. I will sit down and wait for the hon. member to deny that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am not on any point of order. The hon. member has finished his speech.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I have not finished. We are in Committee and I can get up any time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I do not have anything to deny. I have got up to straighten out something that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has enquired about. If the hon. member wants to ask how many miles of road have been done in Christ Church, the best person to ask would be his brother because he was a Councillor. I was never a Councillor. I have warned the hon. senior member for Christ Church not to try tangling with me, because I am like a vine.

However, Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph said that he noticed there was a reduction of \$54,486 and enquired if this was as a result of the Department laying off more people. The truth about it is that if he were to turn

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, the Minister could not be right when he said that I said this could be due to laying off more people. I never said anything about laying off people.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: He implied this because he talked about the big reduction. We have taken over quite a number of people in the Southern District area, but if he turns back to Item 26 he would see that there is an increase of \$681,538, and the reason for the reduction of Item 44 is due mainly to the fact that formerly we calculated for 50 per cent labour and 50 per cent material, but since the wage increase it is now 40 per cent material as against 60 per cent labour; so there is actually no decrease.

With regard to the suck well at Kellman's Pond, I will go and have a look at it myself if he can tell me where Kellman's Pond is. *(Cheers)* I do not want any left-handed kudos from anybody on that side; so they can keep their clapping to themselves. With regard to the road by the Church, only two or three weeks ago I spoke with the Curate of the Church who is Reverend Clarke, and he told me that everything is going fine; so apparently the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has not paid a visit to his constituents recently. I would advise him to get on the telephone and talk with Reverend Clarke. We are fixing the road, but it is not yet completed. We are also negotiating with the Ministry of Education to have the road leading to the school fixed also. We play our politics differently from how other people used to play theirs. I have not said anything about the Barbados Labour Party, because when certain people lived in certain areas or represented certain areas, they could not get a standpipe or bus-stop.

Now the hon. senior member for St. Joseph said that in our Manifesto we promised to acquire tenancies. We said that and we intend to do something about tenancies; let him not forget however, that they did not have a Manifesto, but up and down the length and breadth of this country the Barbados Labour Party promised that six months after they got into power they would have nationalised the BLP, not the Barbados Labour Party this time, but the Barbados Light and Power. Water enough has flowed under the bridge, and up to this day there has been no nationalisation of the Barbados Light and Power Company and this was said during the 1956 elections. I hope the hon. member is satisfied with the answers I have given, because I have given him quite full and truthful answers. If there is anything else that hon. members on the other side have asked to which I have not replied, I would be willing to answer.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, what I want to draw to the attention of the other side is that we will continue to have this problem of these tenantry roads on private property, and what I am trying to suggest is that the Department of Highways and Transport together with the Ministry of Communications and Works, and the Ministry of Health and Local Government should meet with the legal officers and go into the question of seeing how they could transfer these powers which now belong to the Councils to the Ministry of Local Government by virtue of the transfer of the health powers under the Public Health Act from the Councils to the Department of Highways and Transport. You used to have the difficulty in the Councils where you had your Works Department looking after highways.
1.00 p.m.

That is a constructive suggestion which I am making. The problem will still exist and the Government will never be able, in Barbados, within a reasonable time, to repair all the private roads on private land, which would constitute an amendment to the Act. The situation is so bad that doctors are afraid to go through these roads because of their cars being damaged. I must be concerned about the progress of the roads in Christ Church. There are a number of cars up there, and we feel that a large amount of

the revenue comes from the car owners in that parish, and that should be reflected in the amount of work done, there is an area which is well known to the Minister where the water comes down from Maxwell Hill and the cars stick up on the road. There used to be a large depression at the corner of Dover's Gap. The land was filled in, and a house is being erected there so that the water cannot come down there. I would suggest that something be done along these roads so as to prevent the water from flowing in them. In the area where Mr. James Millington lives, the water comes down the side roads and you definitely cannot pass there at that time. There are a large number of people living in the area known as Parish Land, and the roads are in a very bad condition. There is a road a part of which was done by the Southern District Council, but it has not yet been completed. I used to listen to the debates of the Southern District Council and therefore I know what I am saying.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the points which he has raised in a sober manner have been taken in the light in which they have been made. I would like to say that the hon. member could not know some of the roads better than I know them, but these roads were only vested in the Department of Highways and Transport late last year. Last month I mentioned that we were faced with the problem of getting proper Supervisors. Some of the places which the hon. member has mentioned, like one in the vicinity of the late Dr. Herbert's premises - well, the hon. member is getting a stroke of the village pump, but in one particular case, I have given instructions that they should have a concrete wall built along the road so that the water cannot run into the road. Previously, the Government was only responsible for highways and not for the tenantry or parish roads. I started to repair one or two roads which were bad and people said that we have to compensate them. We have something drafted which we take to the owners of roads, saying that the roads belong to us, and when they sign that, then we go in and repair the roads.

The question that the sum of \$3,424,540 under Head 38 - Highways and Transport - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 - LIGHTHOUSES

Head 39 - Lighthouses - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$31,030 under Head 39 - Lighthouses - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 40 - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

Head 40 - Electrical Inspection - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$34,216 under Head 40 - Electrical Inspection - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

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

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

1.10 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: Before this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply.

Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 41(1) - Ministry of Education, General Administration - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:-

Two explanatory notes have to be reversed. For the number 36 appearing opposite to the note reading "To cover operational cost of Mobile Units: purchase of Documentary Films and equipment and supply of uniform for driver" substitute the number 37. For the number 37 appearing opposite to the note reading "Includes fees for supervisors and lecturers and wages of maid" substitute the number 36. Amend note to read "Includes fees for Part-time Technical supervisors and Lecturers and Wages of maid." I beg to move that the sum of \$1,851,685 under Head (1) Ministry of Education, General Administration, as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: Sir, dealing with Head 41 as amended, I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Education is in a position today to give this side of the House a full report on the Hotel Training School, as to whether at the present moment any training in Management is being undertaken, and if not, what proposals they have for Management training in respect of the hotel trades.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, Mr. Chairman, although, unless I am mistaken, I think the Hotel Training School properly comes under another Head. I can answer the hon. member's question, however. I think the hon. member knows that when the Hotel Training School was first opened some two years ago, the purpose and design at that time was to tighten up the training of waiters, bell boys, room maids, cooks and so on.

We propose to begin training in Management in September 1967, and this will be a two-year course. Meanwhile, we have taken opportunities to make use of certain scholarships and bursaries we have been offered and I think we have two people already on the Higher Management course. We do feel that it is no use only training bell boys and maids, but we ought to train our own people in the higher offices as well.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I can appreciate that it comes under Head 41 (3) and I will deal with matters other than the bell boys. Under Head 41 (1) I see Item 35, Evening Institute. I have also heard of certain proposals for what is known as a Junior College. I wonder if the Minister can put my sight so to speak, straight on this matter. I want to know if this is going to be integrated with the present Advanced Level subjects on which instruction is being given at the Evening

Institute, or whether it is the intention of Government to have it as a separate Institute without any reference at all to the Evening Institute, or whether it is proposed to merge the Evening Institute, Technical Institute and the College together into something like what probably functions in other countries as a full Technical College with academic, commercial and technical subjects.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member will appreciate that I am not now in a position to give a full answer, because we are still working on the plans for the Junior College. I can give him an outline of what is in our minds.

The proposals for the Junior College arose out of the necessity to provide post-Fifth-Form tuition for large numbers of children taking overseas examinations from our own schools as well as from Independent Approved schools. It is clear, of course, that there are some young people who have left school, but who are doing Advanced Level courses in the various Evening Institute classes, and these, so far as they can within the age limit of 16 - 19, will be integrated into this Junior College. In other words, we hope to have a wider scope of academic tuition because we shall be able to provide tuition in subjects which are not at the moment Sixth Form subjects, except in perhaps one or two schools. We would like to offer advanced courses, courses in Geometrical Drawing, Draughtsmanship and Surveying, as explained last week, but there will, of course, be more people outside of the School age range who would still have to continue with the Evening Institute courses. But if there are people with five or the appropriate number of 'O' Level subjects who wish to continue, it will be to them that the Junior College will cater.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would tell us if Government has had any sort of consultation whatsoever with the Teachers' Association and the various teaching bodies as regards the establishment of this Junior Training College.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The answer to that is no, and for this reason. This is a matter of policy. When the time comes for its implementation, all the interested parties will be fully consulted until it is taken into effect. But you could not ask somebody if you should have a particular kind of institution. The thing to do is to assess the needs, make some decision as to what is required, and then when the time comes to work out the plans, then you can consult the interested and knowledgeable parties.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister told us that this Junior College was to be established out of necessity; in other words, that he has seen - let us say this policy, this school, this part of the island, the need for catering to children between the 16 and 19 age group. Are we to understand now, Mr. Chairman, that it is not at that stage, the stage where he sees the need, - and remember Sir, the Minister tells us this is policy, so he cannot have his Ministry at the policy making stage having any consultation with the people who would know more about the needs of the children between 16 and 19 than any Minister. What he is trying to make us believe is that Government's policy is something that - I remember Sir, we were told that this island had to seek independence because somebody had a nightmare, and it would seem to me that Government's policy springs out of nightmares, and you will find the Minister and the Prime Minister will go from school to school announcing that we are going to have this Junior College, and do you believe me, Sir, that at this policy making stage they do not wish to have any consultation with the School teachers that would know all the needs for a Junior College - as a matter of fact, one would think that it is after Government has held consultation with the people in education, people who know what it is about, who know the needs of the country, that Government would then formulate plans for establishing or letting other people know about this College.

Mr. Chairman, while on this matter, I would like to know from the Minister - it is still in the policy making stage - what are going to be the minimum requirements for entry into this Junior College.
2.40 p.m.

Until now it does not reach near the various teaching organisations. I will hear what the Minister has to say about that and then I will ask his opinion on it.

Mr. SMITH: Before the Minister answers, I will ask him this question so that he would be able to answer the same time. On Item 4 - Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation - I would like to know what is Government's intention relative to broadcasting speeches from this Chamber, and if they are going to implement it at any time.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under the item of broadcasting, my understanding of the position is that the financial year of that body ends some time in December. I think it started in December in one year so that the financial year would be somewhere around the end of November or early December. I do not remember since we have been here - and this is now March - seeing any Accounts being laid for the last financial year on the Table of this House. I know when I was in the Other Place that these Statutory Corporations used to lay their Accounts on the Table. They may have been laid in November when I was not here and therefore I would not have access to them.

I notice that a new Board has been appointed at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation with a new Chairman, and I see \$100,000 under Item 44. I really want to know whether that body is meeting its interests, particularly commitments which were guaranteed by the Legislature, and whether in the operating, its revenue over expenditure is not sufficient to pay interest and capital repayments which are necessary.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, let me deal with the problems raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter first. I think he ought to understand that first of all a proposal to establish a school or a particular type of school has to be a policy proposal. This has necessarily to be so. When it is time to work out the plans for it, you take into account all the relevant information, and you invite - you do not even wait to be told this - all the opinions of people who are interested or who know or have to work this kind of situation, and you take their opinions and their advice into account. When I said therefore that this was the case, I did not mean that I was not yet aware of the needs of the community with respect to advanced secondary education. The fact is that last year over one thousand pupils from our schools wrote the G. C. E. examination, and probably about 630, as far as I can recall, from the Independent schools. This year it looks as if it will be about 1,050 Fifth Form pupils writing the G.C.E. from the Government schools and nearly 700 from the other schools.

Now the hon. member asked about minimum qualifications for entry into this College. The minimum qualifications would be what they are now for proceeding from a Fifth Form anywhere into the Sixth Form at Queens College, Harrison College, Combermere or the Lodge School - five Ordinary Level subjects or their equivalent. This would not be an insuperable barrier, because of any thousand children that write the G.C.E., one expects one third - or perhaps a bit more - to gain five subjects, so that the need for extra post-Fifth Form provision is certainly well justified by the numbers, and this I think any reasonable person can see. There is nothing we are trying to hide, and there is no attempt certainly on my part to do anything without consultation with the people who have this situation to work with.

As a matter of fact, hon. members would recall that from time to time in the last two years there have been requests made on one or two occasions from various schools for Sixth Forms. One may have been from, I think, St. Michael's, and from both of the Foundation Schools. The difficulty is this: obviously the provision of Sixth Form tuition requires specialist teachers, and while it may be possible for you to get a mathematician here, a biologist there, this does not help the situation in more than one school unless the need for these two arises in the same school and you are lucky enough to get them. If you have three or four pupils doing three or four pupils doing three or four subjects at Sixth Form level and you have two private Specialist teachers to cater to these, you have to do

one or two things; either you find the pupils suffer because you cannot get the teachers when you need them, or if you have them you have to take them off their duties in the middle of the school where the back of the work has to be broken; you have to spread them out more thinly into the Sixth Form itself to avoid this kind of situation amongst other things, and we are trying to provide not only the best Sixth Form education for the largest possible number, but to see to it that the money we spend on Specialist teachers is available to the largest possible number of pupils. It is better to have, shall we say, 400 or 500 pupils doing between fifteen or twenty subjects and be able to employ fifteen or twenty specialists to teach the 400 or 500 than to have six, seven or eight, or three or four pupils each in four or five classes scrambling about for staff. What I am trying to say is this: we are trying to meet the need in the best way we can, and far from trying to deprive, we are trying to provide, and this is the problem.

The last thing I will say on this is that this is nothing that I or the Ministry has to be holding the corner and dodging about. The benefits, I am convinced, will be seen by large numbers of pupils. After all I am not likely to be able to start Junior College work until the beginning of the School year in September, and therefore there is time enough for me to make the House more aware than it is now of the position with that.

Two other hon. members asked questions under Item 44. Now the hon. senior member for St. Joseph asked about broadcasting of debates of the House. My answer to that is this: as the hon. member knows, we do this occasionally. He knows it is done at Budget Time and that is the sort of thing that will continue; but I do not think the hon. member is pressing for the continual day-to-day or week-to-week broadcasts of debates. Certainly when there are important debates we try to do this, and we try - I do not know whether we succeed - to do it in such a way that all points of view are heard, and it could never certainly, as far as I am concerned, be any case of this being done or the debates of this House being broadcast on any occasion and all points of view not being reflected. I can give that assurance. The second question was asked on this matter by the hon. senior member for Christ Church, 2.50 p.m.

The financial year of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation lasts until the 31st December or 30th November, and it depends upon which section we are dealing with. As hon. members will recall, radio began in December, 1963, and television began in December, 1964; therefore the financial year should run from December to November. The Statutory requirements are that a financial statement should be made to the Minister responsible as soon as possible after the auditing of accounts has been received. I have not yet received the audited accounts for 1966. Some time towards the middle of last year I received the audited accounts for 1965. I must apologize to the House for not allowing hon. members to know that the accounts have been received. As to detailed information in relation to administration and finance and other matters, this information has just come into me and I hope that in another two or three weeks I will be able not only to lay a statement as required by the statute, but also to answer any questions asked by hon. members with respect to any aspect of the matters raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. The hon. member has asked about full financial position of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and this I will give him not later than in three weeks' time when I lay the statement.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I note with interest the hon. member's reply as to the number of children envisaged to be entered for this Junior College. His plans are for bringing it into operation at the beginning of the school year. As I understand it, there is the greatest pressure at the present time arising from young ladies, the pressure being on the Sixth Form at Queen's College. As I understand it, Sir, there are more young ladies attending school than young men, and the only Girls' School which gives instruction at the Sixth Form level is Queen's College,

and the greatest pressure lies there. I understand that Combermere and one of the Foundation Schools, the Boys' school do receive Sixth Form instruction in certain subjects. I also understand that at the Lodge School which has the requisite number of Sixth Form teachers in a variety of subjects, the ratio of teachers at Sixth Form level is the lowest that you can find in the whole of the Caribbean area. I understand that it is a question of transportation, and I would like to know if the plans of the Ministry of Education are geared towards making full use of the registered Sixth Form teachers. I believe that the Lodge School has 440 to 450 children, and I wonder if some plan cannot be devised to carry the school children from the southern area to Lodge School or otherwise. If this can be done, some of the pressure could be relieved which arises from the Girls' Foundation School and the Codrington High School. We know that Codrington High School used to use Government money when there were carrying on a policy which was inimical to the large majority of the people of this colony. I remember when that was stopped. I do not know if the Ministry of Education is satisfied that there is any change at the present moment. I understand that they are recognised by the Ministry of Education now and at the Common Entrance examination some children can go there. I do not know if the pressure on the girls at Queen's College can be relieved. There is a need for post G.C.E. education; there is a need for business secretarial training in this community at the present time. We want to make use of the best available sources and I understand that in some schools better use could be made of them with certain administrative adjustments.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies, I seem to be getting near the Minister to understand what is forcing the Government to establish this Junior College. The Government has to take notice of a number of requests from children who have obtained at least five subjects at G.C.E. "O" level in the years 1965-66. I feel that the Minister is now trying to meet the requirements of these pupils. I see that the Minister has given me a nod. I would like to know if the Minister can tell us how many pupils from the Independent Secondary Schools were successful in no fewer than five subjects at "O" level in 1965 and 1966. I would also like to know how many pupils were successful in the same years from the Government Secondary Schools. But the Minister seems to have his graduate staff well under his eyes. I am quite sure that when the Minister rises to reply he will be happy to tell us in respect of the secondary schools excluding Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge and Combermere school, how many graduate teachers are to be found in Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Latin, French and Spanish, 3.00 p.m.

hon. J. C. TUDOR: First of all, let me reply to the point raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. He has raised a very interesting and very reasonable point, and at this moment my Ministry is analysing all the Sixth Form facilities of the schools which can be made more useful to accommodate a larger number of pupils and whether this can be done.

The Lodge School will not escape scrutiny in this respect; we do not hold Lodge School in any special position, and it has to conform to the policy as laid down by the Ministry. To show how much I agree with the hon. member, I would like to tell him this. I myself have been saying that it is a pity that both Lodge and Harrison College should have been, up to now, trying to teach Greek at Sixth Form level. I approve of this personally, but I am always saying that it is a pity that these two Sixth Forms could not work together. My own view is that, over the years you will notice that only 4 are doing Greek at Advanced Level, and this is going on in both schools. To me it would be better to keep it in one school than to try to do it in both. Not only with respect to Greek, but with respect to any kind of subject. Two years ago, I thought that it might be a good thing - as was tried in the case of Harrison College, Combermere and Queen's College - for schools which are not only near to one another in terms of geography, but in terms of status and standards, to share facilities and staff. Harrison Col-

lege and Queen's College do it even now. It is still the practice, for certain instruction in Physics, that girls from Queen's College go to Harrison College. But we have to do more than this; we have to see, first of all, that all the facilities at our schools are used to the fullest and that no pupils are prevented from these benefits on the ground that there is no facility, or that it is not provided somewhere for the pupils.

Now, the hon. junior member for St. Peter has raised a supplementary point about numbers. First of all, the pupils have to be successful in five subjects at 'O' Level in all the schools.

I am afraid I do not have those figures at my disposal now, and if the hon. member would like me to circulate them to him or to the House, I will do so subsequently. But they do not pose any difficulty; they can be had. The statistics are kept. He also asked a question with respect to the number of graduates on various staffs in the various grammar schools. Again, I do not have those figures to hand, but they can be got. But it is obvious that there will probably be three or four schools in which the ratio of Specialist staff to Graduate Staff would be higher than in others. You will expect to find in Sixth Form schools a higher proportion of Graduates and Specialists; I will circulate the figures if you so desire.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, let us turn to Codrington High School. I think it was in 1956 there was in fact an arrangement between that school and Lodge School which had to be stopped because of reasons which everybody knows. I understand that it is a school approved by the Government, and it is a school to which the Government gives some of its scholarships in the Common Entrance examination, so I want to know if there is any objection now in Government's policy as to whether the previous arrangement should continue.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There would be no objection now. The point about Codrington High School is that it has changed its policy. It would not have been approved had not that been the case, obviously. Since it is an approved school, and it is faithfully carrying out the policy of the Ministry, I have no quarrel with that or any other private school using the facilities of our own schools. If Codrington High School does not comply with my Ministry's policy, then the ban which - to be quite frank - the last Government put on I would maintain.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, undoubtedly the Minister has been experiencing some difficulty with his graduate staff since 1961, and I wonder if he could tell me, Sir, how many graduate staff from Government secondary schools, other than Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge School, apply for posts at the other Government schools, and in like manner, how many graduates at Harrison College, Lodge, Queen's College and Combermere, apply for appointments on the staffs of the other schools. It is a case where, Mr. Chairman, graduates on the staff of Coleridge-Parry, Foundation, St. Michael's Girls', Alexandra, Alleyne have been applying for posts at Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge and Combermere. That has been the case since 1961, but in like manner I am asking the Minister if he has to deal with a situation where graduate staff at Harrison College, Combermere, Queen's College and Lodge have applied for appointments at some of these other schools.

3.10 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I could not give the hon. member the figures, but I could answer the question by saying that I believe it is true to say that more people would probably ask to leave, should we say, the Alleyne School to teach at Harrison College than the other way around. But this would not be for any reason which had to do with difference of pay or difference of status, because as the hon. member knows, if you are a graduate, you are paid according to your qualifications, no matter where you teach. Suppose you teach in a comprehensive school, it would not matter in that respect; but of course, unfortunately, in this respect two or possibly three or four of our grammar schools

by long association, and certainly too because of a certain amount of social snobbery which still exists, do enjoy a prestige which the other schools do not yet enjoy in the minds of certain people, and there is always the danger that a person or group of persons may feel that they are satisfying the claims to their own well-being better if they are teaching at Queen's College than at, say, the Girls' Foundation, although they are doing the same kind of work and getting the same kind of money.

I well remember a case of a teacher who came back with quite a good degree from the University of the West Indies either in Mathematics or Science, who immediately as he came back was assigned to the Parkinson School because there was a need for a mathematician or scientist there. He went, but within three months he came back to the Ministry saying that all the people were laughing at him saying that he went to the University and has now come back to the Parkinson School. It was pointed out to him that at the Parkinson School he was no worse off salary-wise than if he were teaching at Harrison College or Combermere, but he asked to be transferred and he received it. Of course the answer to this whole question lies just there because more and more graduates are turned out both from our own College of Arts and the University generally, and the ratio and proportion is then turned the other way around where, instead of having one graduate out of every four, it would not matter very much to people which school they are teaching it, because they will take the vacancies as they occur. So there is a solution to the hon. member's point which I am sure will come when a greater number of graduate teachers are turned out from the University of the West Indies.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when this graduate was transferred from the Princess Margaret School, a vacancy was created. I wonder if he has been able to fill that vacancy up to the moment.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I should think that the vacancy would be filled because this happened two or three years ago, but I am certain when it was filled at that time it would not have been filled by another graduate, because it is not as easy to produce a graduate in Mathematics - or get one - as it is for some of the other subjects.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister would undoubtedly appreciate and bear in mind that a dissatisfied teacher cannot give of his best if he is at a particular place he does not like, and the Minister should not lose sight of the fact that in accommodating that graduate he should be at all times doing the greatest good for the greatest number, and should have seen to it that before the transfer was granted, everything was done to see that the school did not suffer in any respect.

On this question of the Sixth Form, I am wondering if the Minister has given any thought whatsoever to establishing a Sixth Form Centre at one of the Government Secondary Schools in the parish of Saint Peter to cater to students desiring Sixth Form education from the northern parishes. Similarly such a centre may be established at one of the Foundation Schools at Christ Church to cater to students from the other areas. I have in mind what the Minister said earlier about trying to have as many children at one centre as possible because of limited graduate staff, but I still feel it would not be beyond this Government to consider having a centre in St. Peter and one in Christ Church instead of bringing children from both the Northern and Southern districts or wherever they might be to one school in St. Michael. It might be found that the Staffing problem would be got over much easier than the Minister might be anticipating at the moment.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if when the Minister is about to reply to the query which has just been made whether he would tell us at the same time if he envisages a falling off in ability and qualification of those people who in future will apply to teach at what may be designated Fifth Form Schools. Schools which will have no Sixth Forms will of necessity be designated as Fifth Form Schools and will carry no Specialist posts. Formerly a man

who had a Specialist position and taught in a Sixth Form was available to teach not only in the Fifth Form but sometimes as well in the Fourth Form and Third Form, and so became intimate at least with the best people in these forms who eventually would be his charges when they reached the Sixth Form. Does the Minister envisage a falling off in the qualification of people who will in future be content to teach at the Fifth Form Schools?

Mr. HINDS: Before the Minister replies, I wonder if he could tell us if there is any truth that the Oxford and Cambridge G.C.E. Examination will be discontinued within another two years. If this is so, I wonder what particular attention has been paid up to the moment to arranging a suitable syllabus for our children.

Mr. LYNCH: On the same point, Mr. Chairman, so as to save the Minister the necessity of rising more than once on a single subject, it is fairly common knowledge that Cambridge is a bit anxious about taking over our problems after the year 1968.
3.20 p.m.

It would appear, therefore, as if we will have to be taking exams from London. I think that that is an open secret. What we are wondering is how soon we will be able to formulate plans for the writing of the first examination, bearing in mind that this is the time of the year when books will have to be ordered by the parents of those children who will be taking the examination in 1969 insofar as subjects like West Indian History, etc., are concerned.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, let me deal with the first point made by the hon. member as to the falling off in standards in schools which would be designated as Fifth Form schools when the Junior College is ready, if it is possible for there to be a falling off of standard in anything. It is a question of the people who are dealing with these things. I do not know that there will be a falling off of standards because the more graduates who are being turned out from the Universities who find their way back to the school system - there would be so many of them that they would be teaching in independent schools. The more the flow of graduates from the University can go into the teaching profession, the better it would be for the schools and the pupils. I do not see therefore why there should be any falling off of standards because some teachers will be teaching in the Fifth Form in their own schools.

Mr. LYNCH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the minister understood me. I do not mean a falling off of standards, but that people with inferior qualifications would apply, there being no Specialists in the Fifth Form schools. It is very obvious that if there is no specialist post attached to these schools, they would not be interested in teaching in these schools.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The more graduates who come into the teaching profession, the more and better available they will be to all types of schools, so that that is of interest. While it might conceivably be so in the first year, it cannot be so as the flow in the graduates increases. While I am on this point, I would like to say this. While I think that everybody congratulates the three leading schools of the Sixth Form schools very deservedly on their achievements particularly in Barbados, I would like to say that it would be interesting to take the figures of the successful Barbados Scholars in the last ten years and see what proportion of that total number who won their scholarships went through the schools from which they won those scholarships. I do not know the figures myself, but it would be interesting to see, because quite a number of Barbados Scholars have come from all over the place. That has been so because their own schools did not provide these facilities. You cannot expect to provide all the facilities in all the schools at the same time. The thing to do, therefore, is to try to get facilities which can be used by the largest number of pupils.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter has asked whether we should site this Sixth Form centre somewhere

in St. Peter. You may conceivably get staff for one centre, but you cannot get it for three centres. The Minister's plans would be so arranged as to take care of any point of detail which arises. Suppose, for the sake of argument, 80 or 90 people in the St. Philip - Christ Church area were to have Geography at Advanced Level or its equivalent, and two teachers of Geography were stationed at the Foundation Boys' and Girls' Schools and 80 or 90 pupils came from schools nearby; obviously you would arrange for tuition in Geography to be given at one of the Foundation Schools. In that case there would be some spreading out, but that would be a matter of detail and it would depend on the particular area of study. You could not consider establishing three distinct centres even before you could reasonably site one. I do not think that the hon. member would be so indulgent of the Minister of Education if we were to try to do two half things instead of doing one whole thing. I think that the hon. member can trust us to establish this College in the best possible way.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of examination, as to whether after 1969 the Oxford and Cambridge Board will not be seeing after our needs, I should say that the territories of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana have decided to establish a Caribbean Examination Council. I am hoping that by the end of next month legal and financial experts from the four territories will meet here in Barbados in order to carry out their work in this respect. The decision has been taken and the Council will be set up in Barbados by the end of September of this year. We are taking steps to provide an Examination Body for the interim period because when the Caribbean Examination Council is set up and is established as an Examining Body for Fifth form pupils of all the schools, they will not immediately take over all the exams. In 1968, they will start setting papers in English History and a foreign language, and year after year they will take over more subjects. It is quite possible that the Caribbean Examination Council will not fully take over the Fifth Form Examination of all the schools in these colonies possibly until 1974, but it will start in 1969. However, between 1968, 1969 and 1974 when the Caribbean Examination Council fully takes over, we have to provide an interim body. Syllabuses have to be prepared, and also sites, and we propose by the end of April to make the schools fully aware of which Examining Body we shall be asking to do the interim examination until the Caribbean Examination Council fully takes over.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: I hope that the Minister, Mr. Chairman, will be able to give us the assurance that under no circumstance will this be a local body. We remember only too well when a Barbados Scholarship was awarded by a local body to an individual, and it was given to another individual by the overseas body.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Hon. Minister will agree with me, on the question of his Sixth Form College, that the children for that college will be drawn from, let us say, the Coleridge-Parry, the Alleyne School; in other words, that Harrison College will be retaining the Sixth Form, Lodge will be retaining its Sixth Form, or Combermere and Queen's College will retain their Sixth Forms. It is known that the children who are eventually posted to Coleridge-Parry, the Alexandra, Alleyne School, they are the children from amongst whom the cream of the 11+ - in other words, that the 11+ child obtaining the highest pass percentage goes to Harrison College, Lodge, Combermere in the case of the boys, then Foundation in the case of the girls, Queen's College, then their second choice is St. Michael's, so that when a girl is sent to Alexandra School, you are willing to admit, Sir, that the girl who goes to Alexandra was not considered fit for St. Michael's Girls'.

It would mean then, Sir, that it would be impossible for the Alexandra, Coleridge-Parry, the Alleyne School, Foundation School to produce children to compete at G.C.E. 'O' level standard, because children who were considered much brighter than they at the 11+ were sent to Harrison College and Lodge and the like; in other words, the teachers at

these schools like Coleridge-Parry have got to try to make something out of little or nothing. Perhaps the Minister will be willing to admit at this stage that the results of children taking the 11+ examination, children from private schools, who had been taught privately, have been gaining a higher percentage of marks than children coming from the Government secondary and Government primary schools. It might not necessarily be so, but we have passed the stage where that might be necessarily so or not; we all know the facts before us today. We know that there is a private school in the Garrison, and from the number of passes at that school we can gather the very high standard attained by the children. It is something to the credit of the teachers at that school. Not one of those children would ever reach down to the Coleridge-Parry, Alexandra or Alleyne Schools; so you will have to admit, Mr. Chairman, the Minister will have to admit that the children entering the Coleridge-Parry, Alexandra, Alleyne and the Foundation Schools are definitely children who have gained a lower percentage of marks than the children who took the same examination and are eventually posted to Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge and Combermere, St. Michael's Girls'. You cannot get away from that, and for those children from the country district schools, so to speak, when those children come to compete at O-level with the children who had a much better foundation than they at the very beginning - nevertheless it shows plainly that the teachers in those schools, they had to work overtime....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I think he is really trying to make an argument which has not been made, because as if to anticipate the point he has just made, I said that while I congratulate very heartily the three, or whatever the number is, leading schools on their Sixth Forms and the successes obtained, I said it would be interesting to discover what percentage of those successful Barbados Scholars have, as it were, originated in the schools in which they won the scholarships, or have come from other schools. It would probably be discovered that a sizeable proportion of them come from the other schools; so because of certain disparities the hon. member thinks the teachers have to work extra-ordinarily hard.

3.40 p.m.
It may be that at Queen's College, Harrison College or Lodge School the teachers have to work hard on that material in order to bring it up to the standard which the children from other schools outside coming in seem to reach with such ease. The argument therefore that because somebody gets into Harrison College and stays for a five or six-year course he is necessarily, as it were, a better type of material than the one that goes to another school and then goes into Harrison College or Queen's College in the Sixth Form does not hold good because you might get a shock if you had the opportunity to see the Barbados Scholars who did not originate in the two or three leading schools but came into these schools at the Sixth Form level from other schools.

The last point I would like to make is this: of course nobody is quite satisfied with the Common Entrance examination. It is a good enough examination, but it can be improved. It is not, however, true to say that it is the type of examination which enables private school pupils to do better than any other. The school he mentioned does have a good reputation, but I can tell him that it would also be of interest to take the figures for the last three years, look at the percentage of passes at that particular school, look at the percentage of a school like Holy Innocents and a school like St. Giles, and he will see that in our primary schools, in about half a dozen scattered all over the island, the records are as good as any private school; so this is something you will have to know about Holy Innocents.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for the replies he has given so far, but there is one other point. With regard to the question of libraries in these schools, I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us what is the total number of books in the Libraries, let us

say, at Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge School and Combermere together as compared with the books in the Libraries of all the other Government Grammar schools together.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I see that the hon. member is taking his Parliamentary duties very seriously - and this is a good thing; but I am too old a hand at this game not to reply that "I do not know, I can find out."

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 36, I would like to know what this is exactly. It is a new item and calls for \$137,000, and the note merely says "to cover operational cost of Mobile Units; purchase of Documentary Films and equipment and supply of uniform for driver." I take it this is a recurrent amount.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not think the hon. member was in his place when I dealt with this. The numbers "36" and "37" are in bad juxtaposition. In other words, "37" ought to be "36" and "36" ought to be "37", because if he reads them, they each of them seem to contradict the item against which they are put. The explanatory note to item 37 actually belongs to item 36 and *vice versa*, I think this is what he will see if he reads them in their proper sequence. This is a large amount as the hon. member says, but the hon. member may not have known that since September or October, 1966, we did come in for a supplementary of \$94,000 for an expanded adult education programme. We have got now about nearly 2,500 young people apart from the regular Evening Institute attendance probably at 20 centres all over the island doing all sorts of continuation classes such as Domestic Science, academic classes, commercial studies, electricity, woodwork and metal work using the industrial arts facilities of the Boys' Secondary Schools, and this has been going on, I think, since September. I speak under correction. We supplemented the original vote by some \$94,000, and this adult education programme here is to do with that.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Is all of this money going to Government-employed persons or is this given to a private institute to carry on Government-sponsored classes? Could the Minister enlighten us on that? Could he tell us how many lecturers there are and the basis of their employment, whether full-time or part-time?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is part-time, and all of it is Government-sponsored. As I said, speaking under correction, there are more than 2,000 young people in the 14+ age group who have left school, and we have been trying to encourage them to come back into continuation classes; that is, for those who show any aptitude for purely academic subjects, we provide that type of training, and we provide for commercial subjects, woodwork and metalwork, electrical installation, Domestic Science and what not. This is a purely Ministry activity and it is a continuation, if you like to put it that way, of activities voluntarily started by some people in some schools over the island. It is nothing to do with any private agency or anything like that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on this question of Domestic Science training, a situation obtains in St. Peter where young women have to leave Boscobelle district and journey to All Saints, when at the same time there is at the Boscobelle Girls' School a Science room that is partially equipped for some time and the doors have not been thrown open to these people.

3.50 p.m.

There is no doubt a hardship created on people to leave next door to the school at Boscobelle and journey to All Saints. The difficulty is that after the classes are over, these people have to journey to Boscobelle again. I would be glad if the Minister would tell us when the Boscobelle centre would be re-opened.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the complaint which has been made by the hon. member seems to be a genuine one. It must be contrary to policy that any facility provided

by the Ministry of Education should not be immediately available to people of a certain area. However, I will investigate the matter. There is nothing which comes into my mind to enable me to answer the hon. member's question as to these facilities existing at Boscobelle School, and if I can have this regulated by the beginning of next term, I will see that these facilities are made available, provided, of course, that there are people who want to participate in them. We had a case some years ago where the Domestic Science Centre at St. John's Mixed School had been closed down. I found it closed down and I re-opened it at your request, Mr. Chairman, because you convinced me that there was a sufficient number of persons in St. John and St. George who could use it. Since the Centre has been re-opened, there has been some complaint about another breakdown. It may be that this is a case where the Centre fell into misuse, but could be re-activated if there is the demand. I do not put any limit on the number; if three, or four, five or six people can be taught something, then they have as much right to be taught it as if they were as many as three hundred. The number of people is no hindrance.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, a part of the request came from the Minister's own constituency because the Grave Yard district is a district in his constituency. I have had quite a number of people asking me if we cannot do something about that district.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on item 38, "Film Unit, \$21,703." The note says that this sum of money is to provide films for the Government. It has always been my impression of the films made for the Government and the Technical College, that the work is of quite a high standard, and yet the films made by the Government Film Unit do not seem to get the distribution which one would reasonably expect them to get. I have been trying to see a film in which I myself took part, and it was possible to see it at the Headquarters of the Government in the Jamaican territory; yet I have never received any substantial distribution. I think it is possible in Barbados to get a commercial shooting of these films. I do not anticipate the Government; I have never heard of any attempt to get these films of commercial shooting and I think we should see exactly what is being done by the Government Film Unit. We see things in films of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation rather than those of the Government Film Unit. In the same way that we put a film over television, the same principle is applicable to shooting a film of a commercial centre where it can be seen by a large number of persons. Why do you go on to make these films if you are only shooting them of a relatively tiny size in places where people may not be in a position to see commercial films? Perhaps, you could shoot them in Bridgetown as well.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer the hon. member in any detail now, but I will still study that matter. If we spend a considerable sum of money out of the revenue, I do not see any reason why agencies abroad should not be able to have possible sales of any of these films. However, I will think over this matter more carefully, and if the hon. member raises it again I will be able to speak on it.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In connection with item 41 "West Indian Students' Centre, \$1,272," this question is one which has always occupied the attention of Barbadians in Britain, and it is interesting to see that there is an increase of \$5,696 in the current Estimates over last year. It is also interesting to see that there was an arrear of \$1,624. I remember when I was on the Committee of this West Indian Students' Centre that the money was short, and it was short from Barbados which did not pay its contribution in time. I remember that it was mentioned by the Minister of Education that the funds were paid. I wonder if the Minister can explain what is the machinery for the transfer of funds and what measure of control he has of this Centre in London. It has its ups and downs. A lot of non-students go there. On the whole, it has been very well run, but I would be glad to hear the reason for the increase. I would also be glad to hear how well informed the Minister is kept of the Government's money at this stage.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member who has just sat down, I can tell this House that none of us appear to be satisfied with this Centre. First of all, there is a total of 1,469 students and there is expected to be an enrolment of 240 Barbadians. 4.00 p.m.

To be quite honest, I have not been kept very much informed on the guidance of this particular centre, largely because these matters until very recently used to be dealt with by the Regional Council of Ministers, and unless the Ministry specifically was brought into any matter we did not have anything to do with it. We were responsible for controlling the vote and we did so, but what has happened is that since the Regional Council of Ministers is dissolved, some individual Governments have to undertake more responsibility for contributions than they had been in the past.

There has been a readjustment of finances and we have had to make our proportionate contributions of this readjustment. Part of the trouble, as far as I know, is that it has almost ceased to be a West Indian Students Centre; my opinion is that probably because one would expect a Students Centre to have certain facilities, and perhaps have prices more cheaply than are being charged in a restaurant or a catering establishment, because of the subsidized food and drink, my opinion is that a considerable number of Commonwealth personalities have been flooding the centre merely to eat and drink, and this has been done to the exclusion of West Indians.

It is a disgraceful state of affairs. I cannot understand how in a place properly administered this could happen. In an institution which is specifically a West Indian Students Centre, I do not know how the management could allow other Commonwealth nationals to come in and take over. What we have done is to ask for a report on the whole situation because if this is to be what it is supposed to be, if our money is to be well spent - and I think that this applies to Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad - if we were to get value for our money, I would think that the Governing Body of this Students Centre ought not to be ad hoc persons who are brought together because of any special ties, but ought perhaps to be representatives of the Governments of the region, so that if anything goes wrong you would have a Governing Body - somebody has to be responsible to somebody, this is the only way it can be done. Until the centre is administered by a Governing Body directly responsible to the Governments of the region, you are going to have this kind of trouble. I think there ought to be eight representatives - students - representing half of the Body, and four to five Governments, and five or six students, as the case may be, but the Governments ought to be able to know what is going on.

As things stand with the nationals of other national territories invading the place and taking over and enjoying the most of these facilities, only the Governments can take up this matter with the Commonwealth countries concerned. Nobody else can, but this is very unsatisfactory; and since as far as this Government is concerned, we are prepared to pay our fair share of the cost of the upkeep of this centre, we would be most happy when it is fully and effectively a Students Centre, and not a Students Centre in name which other persons - not students - now use.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am glad that some debate was provoked on this, because when I was in London at the Constitutional Conference, I did go to the West Indian Students Centre, and I agree there seems to be some doubt in the minds of people as to whether one finds the students there or a majority of people who are not students, but I think the case itself calls, as the Hon. Minister has said, for a report. I understand that one of the Governors, Mr. Bryan King - he is a lecturer in International Law at Cambridge, and he was down in the West Indies not so long ago trying to enlist financial aid. I think that certainly he is aware of the problems that they have with these people who are not genuine students themselves. This is done not only by non-Commonwealth people, but from other West Indian immigrants who go up to England as immigrants and not as students. It has developed some sort of reputation for

I agree with the policy of asking for some sort of report on the centre, and I agree that the High Commission's office in London - this may be one area in which they could join action in trying to improve the government of this institution. Anybody who has ever been a student in London would know the value of a centre to provide for students who are staying in other universities and who go to London for the holidays. One would never like to see it collapse for lack of administration.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can go a little further on this. The difficulty with the Students Centre has always been that the associate members who go to it outnumber the genuine full-time students. That has always been the case. When it was first opened, I remember that I was involved, not in the sense of quarrelling with anyone, but at the time there was the controversy as to whether all the members of the West Indian Students Union would automatically be members of the Students Centre, and as to whether the membership list of the West Indian Students Union should be made available to the Governors. After some controversy - I was then Vice-President - I remember Mr. Garnet-Gordon wanted us to make our membership list available. This was back in 1956. This was made available for the purpose, as we understood it, of those then responsible for the handling of Government funds in the Colonial Office administration to make sure that only genuine students were members of the Centre. The President of the West Indian Students Union was working in the Colonial Office. It was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and at some stage Sir Garnet-Gordon had to dismiss him, and I think things got into a bad state. I remember I was responsible for membership of the West Indian Students Union, and I made a list according to Government rules of those doing full-time study. There were also those who were working and some not studying that year because they had failed in the examination, and there was strong social pressure. There was the genuine attitude that full-time students felt they were more important than part-time students who lived in London, and at any given moment the majority of full-time students who came from the provinces as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, were never able to establish themselves.

I spent many years in London and used to search for good quality West Indian food, and I have never known it cooked as well as it was cooked by the Chief Cook at the Students Centre whom I was glad to see last year was still there, who comes from the constituency of Christ Church and has a staff of all Barbadians underneath her still. She had been there for many years and her cooking was as good as ever, and where you get this cheap West Indian food, it is an irresistible magnet to go to that centre. I remember when we were fixing the bar prices - I myself served in the bar on the first night - we agreed that the rum which would cost two shillings a shot would only cost 1/6, and we made a profit that way; and where rum cost two shillings elsewhere and 1/6 at the Students Centre, it attracted a large number of students.

The other thing that diluted the membership is the fact that once you are a student, it is very hard to get off the list even after you have passed your examinations. I recall I took my final examination in 1958 and I continued to be a member for years thereafter. Indeed I think it was only towards the end that the Warden finally said to me that I had been a Barrister now for four years and it was really time that I ceased to be a student member of that place. I noticed on the same occasion that the hon. senior member for Christ Church went there that the barman - this is a student doing duty that particular evening - was a person who six or seven years ago had decided to give up studies, but continued his food and drink membership and card-playing membership of the West Indian Students Centre. He was still there and his manners had not changed for the better for all the six years since I had last seen him.

On the question of control, I would suggest to the Minister that Barbados does have a representative, as far

as I recall, in Dr. Roy Marshall. Dr. Marshall is a person whose advice is obviously useful. He is a University teacher himself. We have heard Bryan King mentioned. These are persons who are not in London in normal cases; and as far as exercising day-to-day control over the Students Centre is concerned, these persons could not do it as well as a person based in London and probably attending regularly at the High Commission in London would be able to do. It would be good for us to restore the Centre where full-time students can go and use the library, for instance. Students are expected to use the library, because I myself was greatly assisted when I was reading for the Bar during the last few months of 1958 by being able to go there at night in a quiet room and study. When I went back there that room was used, I believe, for playing cards. I think if the Minister would take the steps he has indicated to make sure that the High Commissioner has control on the Board of Governors and have it meet more often, its reclamation might serve as more than a food and drink centre; it might restore it to its original purpose.

The question that the sum of 1,851,685 under Head 41 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (2) ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 41 - Ministry of Education (2) Erdiston College - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$49,704 under Head 41 - Ministry of Education (2) Erdiston College - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (3) TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Head 41 - Ministry of Education (3) Technical Institute - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$104,46 under Head 41 - Ministry of Education (3) Technical Institute - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Under Item 21 - Hotel Training - in connection with the original plan of training waiters and training in subsidiary occupations in the hotel industry, the Hon. Minister promised at this stage to talk about the plans of the Government with respect to what we might call the managerial occupations in the hotel industry - the supervisory occupations - bookkeepers, Assistant Managers, chefs and things of that kind. We know that there are two Barbadians who are being trained now at the Vancouver Technical College, British Columbia, under the Canadian Aid Scholarship Fund, but I would also like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that this concept of hotel training in management is something that has taken over the new universities that are being established in Great Britain. At one of London's Polytechnics, part of the new University of Surrey, they have gone in for a complete University Course in hotel management and catering, and if one considers in the whole of the West Indian area - from the Bahamas right back down - that this is the fastest growing industry, it is the most dynamic sector of the economy throughout the area - then I think that at the Technical Institute level or at the University level we in this area should pay increasing attention to the provision of facilities for training our own management material in this area.

4.20 p.m.

I was heartened in this matter by the Report of the Tripartite Commission and I saw a copy of it not long ago. One of the biggest points made about the development then in tourism was that although the gross income was rising and rising rapidly, the economies of those countries were not getting the greatest benefit out of it, because so much of the earnings had to be remitted back abroad and part of these earnings was for the payment of expatriates, men in responsible positions in the hotel industry. I would be glad to hear what plans the Government has for training of the top level.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member did ask one part of his question when we were dealing with the Head which we have just passed, and I explained to him - as a matter of fact, he repeated the answer which I gave him; therefore he is well aware of what is happening up to that point. I also told him that we propose to institute a training course in management as from September this year. What has actually happened is that we have tried to work out a six-year plan for the development of a Hotel School. In this plan for which we have elicited external aid in respect of this proposal, we are envisaging an institution which gives training in all aspects of catering, institutional management, in all aspects from the beginning to the very top; and within this six-year programme it is not only proposed to extend the courses, or the duration of the courses which we have begun and will continue, but also to go on to more and more aspects of training as, for instance, management. That is very important because it rests on the well-accepted principle that it would be undesirable that the people of Barbados who contribute through their taxes to a training school in the hotel industry should, at the same time, be debarred the opportunities for rising to the highest position within the industry.

We should like, for instance, to treat hotel training as we would any sort of specialised training and get the best people in at their earliest years, and we would like that people who show aptitude for being trained for managerial positions, should first acquire some basic knowledge of the practical aspects of the hotel and catering industry and the housekeeping departments. It is not merely learning how to be a waiter or bartender. It is in the same way that a doctor would do anatomy and physics as valuable subjects before he goes on to surgery. Then these persons would go on to the managerial part of it so that when they enter the ultimate year of training they would be thoroughly seised of all the basic ingredients of the course itself.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can say any more. The hon. member has raised this question of Hotel Training and courses. I would promise him that not only when we put forward our own plans, but whenever scholarships are available and are offered to any of our nationals, I would see to it that quite a number of Vestries and fellowships be awarded in this direction as well as any other Scholarships which may come our way. That, of course, applies to those who show the aptitudes. If the hon. member would like me to send him the initial Progress Report for the month of January, I should be quite pleased to do so because I think he would be very pleasantly surprised with the progress we are making, and that all the things which he has drawn to the attention of the House are already current policies for this School.

The question that the sum of \$104,446 under Head 41 - Ministry of Education - (3) Technical Institute - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (4) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 41 - Ministry of Education (4) Housecraft Centre - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$15,416 under Head 41 - Ministry of Education (4) Housecraft Centre - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Housecraft Centre.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please state the item on which he is speaking?

Mr. HINDS: I am speaking on Items 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15..

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give me a chance, I started to listen, but I did not hear the hon. member.

Mr. HINDS: Item 10 is "Stationery, \$450", and the notes state: "provides for examination requirements of Housecraft Centre and Domestic courses." It does seem as if the note is wrong.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member were to give way, I do not know what he is dealing with.
4.30 p.m.

The question that the sum of \$15,416 under Head 41(1) - Ministry of Education, Housecraft Centre - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (5) SCHOOLS

Head 41 (5) - Ministry of Education, Schools - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$4,816,998 under Head 41 (5) - Ministry of Education, Schools - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (6) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 41 (6) - Ministry of Education, Industrial Schools - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Insert new item 3A Welfare Officer (G. 6-5) \$4,680; Item 21 - Vocational Training - For amount \$3,428 substitute amount \$3,536. Item 24 - Books and Stationery - For amount \$50 substitute amount \$600. Item 27 - Furniture and Equipment - For amount \$1,456 substitute amount \$2,248. Amend note by adding after the words "and 6 benches" "1 filing cabinet and one Frigidaire". I beg to move that the sum of \$63,359 under Head 41 (6) - Ministry of Education, Industrial Schools - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (7) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 41(7) - Ministry of Education, Public Library - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$78,101 under Head 41 (7) - Public Library - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (8) PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 41(8) - Public Relations - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$19,837 under Head 41 (8) - Public Relations - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (9) ARCHIVES

Head 41(9) - Ministry of Education, Archives - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,335 under Head 41 (9) - Ministry of Education, Archives - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 42 - ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 42 - Ecclesiastical - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$88,189 under Head 42 - Ecclesiastical - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

After Head 43 (7) Sports insert new Sub Head 43(8) Handicraft Development as follows:

Item 75A (1) Handicraft Development Officer (G.5 - 3)	\$4,880
Item 75B (1) Assistant Handicraft Development Officer (G.7 - 5)	3,600
Item 75C (1) Clerical Officer (G.12-8)	1,320
Item 75D (4) Craft Supervisor (G.9)	2,220
Item 75C (1) Typist/Receptionist (T.6)	1,440
Item 75F (6) Unestablished Staff	8,290

The total number of officers of staff will be 14, and the note to Item 75F to read "Paid at key scale rates. See Appendix D." Head 43 - Item 128A - Upkeep of Tractor \$2,345 "Provides for maintenance, upkeep and Insurance of Tractor and wages of driver." Head 43(8) - Handicraft Development - Item 129A, Furniture and Equipment, \$1,330 "To provide 1 adding machine, 1 carrier bicycle, four desks, 8 chairs, 1 gas range, hat blocks and miscellaneous tools."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in moving the passing of Head 43, I do not know whether hon. members want me to give them additional information at this stage or whether they will require it, but I just want to make one observation. Through the integration of the Ministry with the Department, you will find that in the case of certain sub-divisions which have been integrated with the Ministry for the sake of economy of staff, the notes are not as explanatory as they should be or could be, and it may be helpful if I draw attention to some of these activities for which the Ministry is responsible. I beg to move that the sum of \$884,657 under Head 43 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Head 43, Item 124, I would like to know from the Minister something about the expenditure of the Committee of Management of the Speights-town Assembly Hall.
4.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As I understand it, the hon. member wants to know how this money is to be allocated. For the Speights-town Assembly Hall the sum of \$600 has been provided. This is broken down as follows:- supervisory caretaker's wages, part-time \$366; electricity \$39; cleaning \$75; upkeep of furniture \$50; toilet paper, water and other incidentals \$100.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 125 - Christmas Festivities - there is provision for \$1,200 which includes provision for electricity for illuminating Public Building trees, for replacement of minor fittings and for prizes for village Choirs. My view, Sir, is that this sum shows plainly that the Government does not intend going very far in promotion Village Choir singing or any function connected therewith. There are trees in the Public Building and elsewhere which ought to be illuminated, and just as Choirs are asked to sing under the Public Building Tree, it is time that they be invited to go elsewhere. There is an Esplanade at Speights-town and there is a tree which can be illuminated and under which Choirs could be invited to sing, and I am sure that whatever pieces they render would be well received and applauded when necessary, and perhaps with much more meaning than has been exhibited for such events at the Public Building.

Since prizes for Village Choirs are included in this sum of \$1,200, it shows that an appreciable prize cannot be given to a choir coming from St. Andrew or from St. Peter for whom some expenditure must be involved. This amount of \$1,200 is all that is being asked for to provide electricity, to replace minor fittings, and for prizes for Village Choirs as well.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention that this amount has been increased. In the last Estimates the amount was \$950; so there has been a substantial increase, and the money is allocated this way: Christmas Tree \$200; illumination \$250; prizes to Village Choirs \$500; transportation of equipment \$25; electrical fittings etc \$200; and miscellaneous expenditure \$25. I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention that it is only last year that Village Choir has been revived. It is true that the people in St. John and the Northern parishes should be considered and given the necessary amount of entertainment at Christmas time, but we are attempting here to improve on things, and we have increased from \$950 to \$1,200, and I think that the prize money of

\$500 is some inducement for choirs to enter. Fortunately, I have a person who may be regarded as one of the experts in this matter on my right, the Minister of Agriculture, who plays a very major role, along with his colleague Mr. Rock, in bringing cheer and entertainment to the people in the almshouses, and he may be able to add to what I am saying and explain it at greater detail.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, first of all I should like to point out to the hon. junior member for St. Peter that this \$1,200 provided is not all the money spent on Christmas festivities. Two years ago when the Village Choir movement was resuscitated, we approached the Jaycees and other interested parties to make a contribution to the prize money for these choirs. As a matter of fact, the first prize for village Choir competition is something like \$300. There is a first prize for the best singing, then the best turnout, for the Road March and so on. A contribution comes from the Jaycees in this respect and I should like to point out that there are other Christmas festivities carried out in other parts of the Island beside St. Michael. I remember myself going down to the hon. member's constituency and presenting a programme at the Esplanade with the Choir for which I am responsible. His Colleague was there that evening, and I suppose when I go this year he will be there.

Over and above that, where there are housing estates in the parishes, the Housing Authority arranges programmes and invites various Village Choirs to participate and they have a provision in their Estimates which actually do not come here. This is part and parcel of the Government's policy on Christmas festivities. The Social Welfare Department also do organise these activities in St. Michael under the ever green tree in the Building Yard or in Independence Square as well as at various Community Centres and they go to the leader of the Choirs and ask if they can sing for them, and it is organised not only on an official basis as this provides, but you find voluntary workers entering into it.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if what I have said is enough to satisfy the hon. junior member for St. Peter; only \$1,200 has been asked for and that amount could not be in respect of one-half of the work which could be done by the Christmas Choirs. A lot of voluntary work goes into this matter.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, in relation to Item 72, "Assistant Sports Officer", I would like to make an appeal to the Minister, who is responsible for the appointment of another Officer or two in this important Sports Department. We have not arrived at the state in this development.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on Item 72?

Mr. LYNCH: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, as I see it, that item is fixed by law.

Mr. LYNCH: Let us say Item 74, "Specialist Coach". I am just asking the Minister if he would pay some attention to the fact that we have now arrived at the stage in our development when the number of these officers must be increased. There is every likelihood that in the near future the Central America and Caribbean Games will be held in Barbados. These games comprise a large number of Sports, and if the children in the schools are not trained along the lines whereby they will be able to compete against young people of their own age groups from the other islands and territories in Central America and the Caribbean, then we are all at a decided disadvantage. It is obvious that we pay a great deal of attention to cricket in Barbados. We have been fairly put in our place, as far as cricket is concerned; recently when we played Guyana and again when we attempted to play the Commonwealth team. There are many countries, some of them within eighty minutes flying time from Barbados, where cricket might

not have been heard of; but the other games and sports are universal, games such as basketball and football which would need a specialist Coach if we are to take our rightful place in the Caribbean in these sports.

Do not let us lose our perspective where cricket is concerned. There are people who have never heard about it. Let us bear in mind that the school children must receive specialist training in games other than our revered cricket. We stand a very good chance of taking part in our area games now we have launched the project of building a Stadium. In this Stadium we will have to show our worth in games such as football, basketball and swimming. It is a strange thing, Mr. Chairman, that very few Barbadians can take part in competitive swimming against young people from the surrounding territories. I have seen them myself jump into the pool in Chicago and they almost got drowned because they were not aware of the turn of the water. They could not turn at the end of the lane and so on; but it is not their fault. We are looking forward to the arrival of the new day when our young people would be properly coached in these things so that they can take their rightful place as competitors against young people from other Caribbean territories.

I am hoping that the Minister can take the suggestion I am making that these games should take place insofar as specialist training is concerned. We are still suffering from a population explosion. As we drive or walk around the streets, we see people who could take part in some specialised sport instead of sitting under the lights at night and making nuisances of themselves. We have seen them at basketball able to become interested so that they can have a higher standard of living. They are careful to keep out of the clutches of the law so that they will not let down the teams to which they are attached. Those are things inherent in teaching people to take part in sports and games. I hope that the Minister will do what he can to see that these Departments are strengthened in the near future.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Item 74, "Specialist Coach", I rise to support the plea which has been made by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown relative to the lack of coaches in Barbados, as a matter of fact, the lack of coaches in the entire sports department. This Department is comprised of a Sports Officer, who is the Head of the Department, a Cricket Coach, an Assistant Sports Officer, a Sports Assistant and a Specialist Coach. The Sports Officer is the Head of the Department and the Cricket Coach is very well known to us. The Assistant Sports Officer assists the Sports Officer with his duties and the Specialist Coach is for athletic reasons, the track and field in particular. Now, Sir, there are one hundred and fifty schools in Barbados, and to these schools the Athletic Coach must find some difficulty in carrying out his programme in the way in which it should be carried out, and more so, to see the fruits of his hard labour.
5.00 p.m.

One of the problems, I am told, is the actual lack of playing fields. Sometimes the Athletic Coach would set out to coach one school, but then at this school there is no playing field. There are no facilities - as a matter of fact, there is very little equipment. I remember - I think it was the Central American Games, and it was really embarrassing to see how badly our athletes failed against the specialised training from other countries like Jamaica and Trinidad.

I would like Government to take into consideration that it is almost impossible for the Athletic Coach in particular to service 150 schools. We have abroad two Barbadians who are doing courses overseas by way of athletics, and I am quite sure they are due back in Barbados within another year or so, and I hope that Government will find it fit to employ them as Athletic Coaches. We have been fortunate in international recognition to have Patsy Callendar who really did a very wonderful job for Barbados.

We have \$6,620 here in the Estimates for Specialist Coach, but I know they are finding a difficulty in playing

fields. I wonder if Government could provide transportation by a way of a wagon which can carry about 30 children, and I believe that will probably help, because the Coach will be able to get these children to a central playing field or the best facilities we have for training. We hope this is specialist training. Failing that, it would be actually hopeless for a Specialist Coach; having all of these things to do, 150 schools to service, it would look to me like almost an impossible task. I am wondering if Government would not find it possible to provide them with transport, because at times they would have to carry around hurdles, etc.

As far as Football is concerned, some time ago I think this Legislature passed legislation whereby they sent up the Assistant Sports Officer to England, who was a reasonably old man and out of the game, to train boys, and as I see it, it has been a failure. We have, Sir, talented young footballers in Barbados, and I think you will agree with me, Sir, that football has reached a very high standard. We have people like Reggie Haynes and the Gregoires who have actually put their own teams at the top of the ladder by watching films and reading books by way of improving the standard of football in Barbados. I feel that if you are to improve the standard of any game at all, you must start in the schools.

I wonder if Government could find it fit also to provide a Football Coach whereby he would have an opportunity of going to the schools and imparting his knowledge to the school boys. I remember quite well there was a master at Lodge some time ago when Lodge School won the Third Division and Second Division cups that year, and they went to Kensington for the Knock-out and they gave the First Division teams a very good time for their money.

If they had a Games Master at the schools who was a top footballer - in Trinidad they used Graham Wilkes, and he did a very wonderful job at Mapp's College where he is now Headmaster. I am appealing to the Minister to provide transportation for the Sports Section whereby they will have a van that can take the boys and girls from the various schools and bring them to a central playing field or whatever facilities are available for the purpose of allowing a Specialist Coach to carry out his functions. I think we will then see a better standard of Athletics in Barbados. I am also appealing to Government to provide this country with another Specialist Coach in the field of Athletics. We have always prided ourselves that we have some of the finest cricketers in the world, but everybody is not interested in Cricket. Girls do not play cricket, and you must also find some outlet so as to relieve them from some of these juke boxes around the corner, if you could have some good community planning going. I would even be happy to see Government bring down in the Estimates about \$24,000 for these improvements in sport instead of \$6,820.
5.10 p.m.

I am sorry that provision cannot be made for a Football Coach, an Athletic Coach and a Lawn Tennis Coach. When the present Government came into power some years ago, the Savannah Courts were taken over and made public courts, and I remember seeing quite a few young boys and girls go there on evenings, but there was no one to coach them. It was just a matter of knocking the ball around. If you are going to provide them with playing facilities, you must provide somebody to give that Specialist coaching, and I appeal to the Government to make provision for more Specialist coaches in the Department, and provide the Department with transportation for the purpose of carrying out their functions better. I hope the Minister will note my comments and let us see some progress in the future.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 129 - Sports Centre, there is provision of \$2,000 for Blenheim. I do not see any provision in here for the National Stadium, and I want to know whether Government has abandoned it. Perhaps the Minister will be able to tell us this or whether Blenheim is going to be the substitute for that.

Now under the provision for Blenheim which I understand is in My Lords Hill, yesterday we had a lot of talk

about the Rural Amenities Fund, and I was given to understand that Blenheim was bought out of those funds. The increase now is due to the addition of a pavilion. I cannot gather whether this is capital expenditure or recurrent expenditure. All the note says is "provision for Blenheim. Increase due to addition of a pavilion." Is it for payment of groundsmen or part of capital cost? What I want to know is what is the policy of Government in relation to the parishes other than St. Michael. What happened to the Rural Amenities Fund? In large agricultural areas like St. James, Christ Church and St. Peter, other than in the housing schemes where you have a pasture vested in the Housing Authority, there are no community centres or playing fields, and it was years and years that a playing field was promised in the stranglehold of the Hon. Minister in Silver Sands, and up to now although he has been a Minister with successive Government, he has not been able to get the ears of his colleagues yet to get them to put a playing field in that area. In a large area like Oistins, Silver Sands and Lodge Road you cannot get a playing field however you try. I see that they are putting a pavilion at Blenheim, and I hope soon that they will decide on one for Sandy Ground in Dover which is important and dear to the heart of another Minister because it is a tourist area, and tourism nowadays can get the world. This year they promised to do the roads, and you know that they have a special connection with the tourist industry because it is near to St. Lawrence. I hope the Minister will be able to persuade the Government to provide a proper pavilion for the people at Dover. They were promised one of the buildings from the Old Hospital site, Hon. members on the other side who are in the Southern District Council know only too well that just as Blenheim is to have a pavilion, we want to have one at Sandy Ground and Dover. We have always been providing facilities more or less for young men, but due to the achievements of a few young ladies who take an interest in netball and athletics, it seems to me that facilities can be provided for a Netball Coach as well as the baskets for netball to be played by the young girls in the area. I understand that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is a specialist in recreational facilities for young ladies, so that he will know how important it is to provide proper netball poles. They can be constructed here in our wrought iron industry, and I do not see any provision for that here. There seems to be a lack of policy in this Department.

Mr. Chairman, nothing is provided for the whole of the Northern coast or Southern coast, and only St. Michael seems to be able to get these things. I hope that the Minister, now that he is in charge of community development, will try and get in his constituency and in his strangle hold proper playing fields for that area. When young people in the areas of Oistins and Silver Sands do not catch fish, they indulge in a little gambling. There is nowhere for them to learn the art of weightlifting. They are watchers and talkers, and we want to have proper facilities for them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I may answer the hon. member who has just sat down first. Now I will first of all deal with Blenheim. Blenheim is a sports centre and was acquired primarily to provide additional playing fields for various sports which function still at Weymouth and which may be removed if the Stadium is placed there. Blenheim also provides playing fields for many schools and clubs and serves a useful purpose. As far as the amount requested is concerned, it is a recurrent expenditure which is to be used for cleaning, motor equipment and upkeep of equipment, electricity, etc. Blenheim has about twelve acres of land ideally suited for recreational purposes and for providing playing fields for thousands of children who live primarily in St. Michael. St. Michael has a population of 90,000 or thereabouts, and because the hon. member and myself represent Christ Church, it does not mean that we must ignore the necessity of providing playing fields in the metropolitan area.
5.20 p.m.

As far as Christ Church not having a Community Centre is concerned, that is not correct. We have one at Sargeant's Village which has served a very good purpose. It was provided by the people who sat in the old Vestry. I had no hand in that. I would not have sited that Community Cen-

tre in Sargeant's Village; rather I would have sited it at Below Rock. After all, the Government has recently acquired about 15 acres of beach land in that area. There is ample space for a playing field and provision has been made for a playing field, but you have to satisfy interested parties like the Town and Country Planning Department and so on. Anyhow, Sir, 15 acres of land have been acquired for the purpose of providing this playing field, but the matter had not yet been knocked into shape. There are also four and a half acres of land at Silver Sands, not far from the Girls' school, which is used as a playing field. It has not got any pavilion but, to all intents and purposes, it is used as a playing field and I want to say that it is to be put on proper footing at an early date. I would like to see a comprehensive school up there, which is a very central site.

The Site for the erection of the stadium has just been resolved, as far as I know. Instead of siting it at Weymouth it is now proposed to site it at Waterford, so that Waterford would be the site for this Stadium, and by the end of next year the first stage of the stadium would be erected and the necessary arrangements made for holding games and sports generally. It is well known that the Junior Chamber of Commerce has already made substantial contributions to the Government to the tune of not less than \$300,000 and has given an undertaking to provide about \$50,000 in another year or two to help the stadium fund; however, the Government will still have to find a substantial sum of money. The first stage of this money will run into some million dollars. The plans are still going ahead, but in dealing with important matters like that, you cannot rush into it blindly without considering it. It is a good thing that the erection of this stadium has been delayed in that a better site has been selected. The hon. member spoke about Sandy Ground which has not yet been given a pavilion and it needs one. It is a central area which provides the necessary facilities for many people in the adjoining areas. To say that the parish of Christ Church has not got any playing fields is not quite correct. I quite agree that the Government could probably do something more, and now that I have the opportunity, hon. members can rest assured that I will do my best.

I agree that cricket is not the only game in which we are involved although it may be considered that we are very outstanding in that field. I want to report that preliminary arrangements are going on at the present time in negotiating for a Football Coach. We have had two meetings, one of which took place quite recently, and another was held some months ago with the business community and Football Association, and we are going into the question of securing a Football Coach. We have in mind Mr. John Mortimer who has been here on a contract some years ago. He is an outstanding coach in that he is a Schoolmaster and he knows how to impart things. We are hoping, by way of assistance from the Football Association and the business community, to raise an amount of money to the tune of \$28,000 or thereabouts in order to engage the services of Mr. Mortimer, the Football Coach of great talent and ability, for a period of two years. We are looking into that question.

As far as the Specialist Coach in athletics is concerned, the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. James and also by the hon. junior member for the City, I agree that the time has come when we need more than one Specialist Coach in athletics. One Specialist Coach in athletics cannot be expected to cover the entire Island. On that basis, it is desirable that we should look into this question of having this Specialist Coach along with the Football Coach of whom I have just made mention.

As to the Lawn Tennis Coach, we have had preliminary talks about that post. Certain Tennis Clubs are on the point of approaching the Government in the hope of getting the necessary assistance or the services of a Tennis Coach. When the matter comes to the Ministry it will be discussed

and within a very short time we will have something done along those lines. We will have discussions with the outstanding Tennis Coach who was here some time ago.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference to bringing Mr. Mortimer here on a dollar for dollar basis, along with the efforts of certain sections of the business community. Mr. Mortimer was here some years ago and I think that some of the businessmen engaged him when Chelsea played in Barbados. When Mr. Mortimer was here on a two-year contract, I knew that that would be only a seasonal matter because Mr. Mortimer would have his duties to perform for Chelsea. When football is being played in England, Cricket is being played in Barbados. What I am hoping, or what I would suggest to the Ministry is that they should find it possible to send a Barbadian to England to one of these coaching seasons. It could hardly cost more than what it would cost to bring Mr. Mortimer here. That Barbadian who was sent out to England would be seeing a good standard of football against the top clubs and he would be in a position to impart the knowledge to players here. He would be able to impart the knowledge for which I am asking the Ministry to provide this coach. When Mr. Mortimer comes here he trains Barbados to play against Guyana and he had at his disposal people who were seasoned players.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. Mortimer is going to be here when he is not playing football in England; he cannot carry out the duties of a coach that is resident in Barbados to be in the schools. We are going to find Mr. Mortimer having evening sessions showing people who will hardly change their style of football. I would rather see Government - I am only giving this Minister my views - but you have a lot of young footballers in Barbados who are very good and they have the ability to impart their knowledge when they are qualified to do so. Unless this is done, we are going to find ourselves again having Mr. Mortimer coach some Barbadians to try his style, and this is not going to be satisfactory because it will only work out to be a vacation for Mr. Mortimer. As far as the national stadium is concerned, they have acquired land at Waterford.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of explanation, the land at Waterford is Government land which was formerly used for agricultural research purposes. It belonged to Government for a considerable number of years.

Mr. CRAIG: Which Government acquired Waterford years ago, Mr. Chairman? I do hope that Government will find it fit when they erect the stadium to call it Sir Frank Worrell stadium. That, at least, will be a tribute to a great West Indian, when we erect this national stadium. As the Minister said, are we going to have John Mortimer coming down to Barbados? All the Minister has replied - all that he has said so far is that it is under Government's consideration; but it has been under consideration for a very long time, and I think the Minister and the former Minister who was in charge of Social Services at the time - they could not find it possible for a period of almost six years. I hope that Government will not wait until they build a stadium and then decide to send away somebody to train as a coach, but get somebody now and send them out and bring them back when the stadium is erected so that they will be able to carry out the functions of a Specialist Coach in Barbados. That is my appeal, Sir.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Item 85, Court Costs, \$350. The note reads "Provision for Court Costs arising from prosecutions under Public Health Act." Is it anticipated that the Government will be paying costs? I will be very glad to have this explained.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The amount remains the same as last year's Estimates.

Mr. ST. JOHN: I take it that relates to prosecutions under the Public Health Act, and they have to pay for the cost of filing the action. It is usually dealt with by the Bridgetown City Council for people putting water in milk,

but I hope that the Government will prosecute the milk plant at the Pine Hill Dairy for selling people milk that clogs. I hope the whole of this \$350 will be used for a series of prosecutions against the Pine Hill Dairy.

Sometimes the Analyst comes in and they have to pay the costs to the other side. Under this same Ministry of Health, the whole of the section dealing with the dairies and the milk regulations which is under Public Health or administered by the Public Health authorities, the whole thing wants revising and standards have got to be laid down, and one of the reasons for the failures of the prosecutions is that we do not have a standard regulation for the percentage of fat content in the milk. We want a whole set of Food and Drugs legislation. Even with the inadequate standards that we have, the Pine Hill Dairy cannot meet them.

Item 134, Pan American Health Organisation. What I want to know from the Hon. Minister is whether this Organisation has anything to do at all with any of the OAS agencies. Is this an agency which is part of the Organisation of American States which used to be known as the Pan American Union for some time?
5.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Pan American Health Organisation is an organisation in the area; it is an integral part of the World Health Organisation and recognised by the United Nations. What we are asking for in this case is Barbados' contribution as an independent nation. There can be no gainsaying the fact that Barbados along with other West Indian territories has benefited materially and substantially over the last few years from the Pan American Health Organisation and the World Health Organisation. Fortunately for us the Headquarters of these two Organisations are sited here in Barbados, and we have greater facilities and greater opportunities to secure their services. This contribution of \$8,130, therefore, is a mere bagatelle not in terms of money as far as I am concerned, but in terms of the benefit which Barbados has derived over the years for the services which are put at our disposal and the expert advice which we secure at first hand from time to time.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 11 - Milk Sampling, this is perhaps where it is more appropriate to ask whether the Ministry of Health is satisfied with the milk that is being produced by the Pine Hill Dairy, because the consumers are making a great number of complaints with respect to this milk. I am not talking about pasteurized milk; I am talking about the Green Pastures evaporated milk, where in every case you are liable to find 50 per cent or 60 per cent that you cannot use. It turns hard. Something is wrong. I hear that the tin is marked "shake vigorously"; but although you shake vigorously, you cannot get the lumps dissolved.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, milk sampling normally refers to fresh milk, but the hon. member who has just sat down is referring to evaporated milk. I suppose the health authorities would be engaged in testing milk at Enmore's and at the Government Laboratory, as a result of Government intervention. This matter was brought to attention, because everybody realised what was going wrong and the Chief Medical Officer did step in on the question of the evaporated process. I think they slipped up, but things have since been rectified. Do not think that the Ministry of Health was sleeping.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under Item 21, Temporary Staff, there is provision for staff engaged in Dental Health programme for children. The Government's policy on this is to give dental care as well as care for the eyes to children, but they also stipulate that these children must be between the ages of five and fourteen years. It is possible Sir, that a boy or girl at the age of fifteen might need care for his eyes, but his parents might be in straitened circumstances and could not afford to buy spectacles. I would like to ask the Minister if it is possible to extend the age so that children whose parents are in straitened circumstances could receive this type of treatment. I am told that the Dental Clinic which was given to Government by

the Jaycees is doing a good job, but there is no equipment available for filling cavities. I should like to know what is Government's policy on this and if it is possible to extend the age limit to school leaving age instead of making it fourteen years. I hope the Minister will look into this matter and make sure that equipment is provided for the saving of teeth and not only for extractions.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member is speaking under Item 94 where the sum of \$65,100 is provided. There are five dentists paid on a basis of \$45 for a three-hour session completing about fifteen sessions per week; two medical officers engaged in the schools' optical medical service are paid at the same rate, and do 25 sessions per month. These services hitherto included ophthalmic and dental treatment to school children, but the treatment of deafness in children has recently been added.
5.50 p.m.

In 1960, the number of children receiving dental care was 7,447. This number rose to 10,285 in 1965. Corresponding figures for the treatment of school children for visual defects were 465 in 1960 and 845 in 1965. The number provided with spectacles in 1960 was 610 and in 1965 the number was 717. We are extending the scheme and I will pay particular attention to the points which have been raised to the effect that greater facilities be given not only to those who are attending the schools but for periods before and after school attendance. I will make a special note of that and see what can be done in that respect. However, we are doing our best and trying to see that further assistance is given.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In connection with Item 86 "Medical Aid Scheme, \$12,000". I should be very glad to hear from the Hon. Minister what is the average number of persons assisted under the Medical and Surgical Aid Schemes during the course of the year. The note to this Item states that this sum of money is to assist persons in Medical and Surgical Aid which is not normally available in Barbados. I would like to know what is the number of persons assisted last year and what is the estimated number for 1967-68. I should also like to know what is the basis of selecting persons, the illness and the surgical conditions for which treatment is not normally available in Barbados. I should also like to know whether any saving could be effected by having these services here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Under this Medical Aid Scheme, Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$12,000 is required. Approximately, thirty cases were referred to Jamaica and Trinidad for treatment and for surgical operations during the year 1966-67. The Scheme is being taken good advantage of and we see to it that there is no delay in these matters. These cases are attended to very urgently in that they are of a very routine nature. As I have said, the Scheme is being taken advantage of and we are receiving full co-operation from the West Indies and certain Specialists in Trinidad. The amount paid for the passages for patients was \$9,400; passages for escorts, \$2,300; flight insurance, \$50. You can rest assured that the poorest people in the land are being assisted in every possible way in securing specialist treatment both in Jamaica and in Trinidad, as advised by the Specialist here. These cases are attended to in a very expeditious manner.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Hon. Minister has not explained the nature of the ailments for which the proper surgical treatment is not available here. It may be that there is a shortage of Surgeon Specialist Staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which necessitates this expenditure in sending these people abroad. There are certain diseases which occur in every few years and they require Specialist treatment. However, Sir, I am surprised to hear that surgical treatment in Trinidad and Jamaica is more advanced than it is at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Is it a question of not having the requisite Specialist staff at the Hospital? If people have to be flown out for treatment the families of those people may not be flown out and they would be worried. I feel that it is better for a person to be treated in his or her own home as far as possible. I am sure that the

Minister will agree with that, I do not think it would be envisaged that we will not have to seek this surgical treatment overseas. If the Minister could give us a breakdown as to the operations which are carried out overseas, perhaps we would be happier on this side.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the cases treated overseas are of all types. There are cases of T.B. Neurosis retina of the eye and cases dealing with the head.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister to say that the operations involved were for the cure of T.B. Can the Minister say whether having a Neuro-Surgeon in Barbados could result in a saving of some of this expenditure?

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I was expecting an answer from the Minister. I was expecting an answer from him in relation to Item 113 "Control of Infectious diseases." I see that the matter of rat extermination has been removed to this item. It is a regular thing in Barbados to hear that we are suffering from destruction by rats. This is on the increase. Every year you hear of the situation that rats have caused damage and the damage they are doing to warehouses and to crops. You have field rats and other rats. I will draw something to the hon. member's attention in connection with this question of rat control.
6.00 p.m.

One of the anecdotes about the Duke of Wellington related to his being asked to advise on a group of sparrows that was infesting the Crystal Palace in the year 1851, and he tried everything to control them, but to no avail. He was advised to release some hawks, and true enough all the sparrows left the Crystal Palace. Recently Professor James Bond who is an authority on the birds of the West Indies made a suggestion which the Minister might think about in connection with the rat problem in Barbados, and that is if a sufficient number of owls from the Windward Islands were imported to Barbados - I think about 20 birds would be sufficient - and released in suitable places in Barbados, they would devour the rats. This is the relevance of the Duke of Wellington's suggestion, and we are asking the Minister to look into this. It might very well prove that you are increasing the bird life of Barbados, but it might very well be a great benefit in the control of rats. Certainly it might be worthwhile rather than have a recurrent expenditure of poison methods that are now in use; it could do no harm.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this question of rat extermination is becoming more and more serious. Only the other night when we were having a meeting in the Market Square, I had never seen so many rats as I saw in the Fairchild Street Market that night. It is a serious problem, and I understand that nobody knows accurately the amount of rat damage to the sugar cane crop. This Ministry has got to exercise its mind very carefully about this; there are quite a number of rats in the scavenging areas where there is not a proper system of disposal of refuse. When we think of the amount of money we are spending in an attempt to eradicate rats, serious consideration should be given by the Ministry to provide a proper system of refuse disposal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to this Ministry is well aware of this problem of scavenging dumps and how the rats breed in them. I take it he will persuade the Ministry to see the importance of this; it is getting from bad to worse. I do not know if the Government or rather the Parliamentary Secretary after two years in his other capacity in the Southern District Council has been trying to get the Ministry to make up their minds on what type of scavenging disposal unit is the best for Barbados - incinerators, or whether, as some people suggest, to put the stuff in barges and put them out to sea. The Government cannot make up its mind on it, but in the meantime the Fairchild Street Market is a racing ground for rats.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The question of refuse disposal is engaging the active attention of Government, and a Committee has been appointed by the Central Planning Committee recently in order to advise Government as to which plan should be invested in, whether incinerators or barges or what have you, and on receiving the recommendation of that committee we will then be in a position to go forward. The matter is being attended to by our local experts to make up their minds in favour of the plan to implement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Item 143, Day Nurseries. The note reads "Comprehensive grant payable to Central Council for Day Nurseries for distribution as follows....." I see here, Sir, Children's Goodwill League \$1,200; Golden Rock, New Haven, Belleplaine, St. Matthias Women's League and all the others - except Brenmore Day Nursery \$200 and Indian Ground Day Nursery \$150 - all the others \$500 each. I would like to know if the Minister is in a position to tell me what is responsible for the Indian Ground Day Nursery receiving a mere \$150. It must be borne in mind that Indian Ground is in a small district, an agricultural district with working class mothers, and I am sure that it has been established that there was a necessity for a Day Nursery and that it ought to be treated differently. What can \$150 really do? That is not enough. I would like to know if the Minister has any information as to how these allocations were arrived at.
6.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: These allocations have been in existence for some time, and it may well be that representation may not have been made by the hon. member in order to regularise it to the figure which the others receive, that is \$500 each. I suppose the size of the area, the demand and the number of children served are relative factors to be considered in making these grants. If Indian Ground is an area where, relatively speaking, fewer children are in need of assistance, then the amount allocated will be proportionately suited and be smaller than in a very densely populated area. If the Indian Ground Day Nursery or the Brenmore Day Nursery only received \$200, if they make out a case it will be considered, and they may probably qualify for an increase. That is how I met it and that is how it still is. In addition to those Day Nurseries which are listed, by way of information to the hon. member, there is \$500 each provided for the Thorpes Day Nursery and the Sayes Court Day Nursery not mentioned here but also included. These two additional Day Nurseries will receive \$500, and very soon we hope to have quite a few more. In St. Matthias we are having a new nursery built in the housing area. The multiple units which are being constructed at present will provide ample accommodation, and special provision will be made for the Day Nursery at St. Matthias on the land bought by the Government some time ago.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if these allocations are made according to the size of the area served, I am sure that if I ask the Hon. Minister to consider the necessity of having such a Day Nursery established at Boscobelle in St. Peter, he would find that in the first year an amount of \$12,000 would be insufficient because of the number of working mothers who would be glad to take advantage of such a centre.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under Item 130 - Family Planning Association - I think we in Barbados are very conscious of our teeming population which we can safely say is bursting at the seams, and this Association is trying its best to control the birth rate. They are given a grant of \$42,500, but I hope the Minister will give some consideration to Government actually taking over the professional services of the Association so that nurses can go out into the agricultural areas and instruct people. It is amazing to see young girls between the ages of 16 and 17 with two and three children through the lack of education in this particular field. The Government should provide vans and maybe more films on family planning; otherwise you will always have this problem if the professional services are carried on by the Association. If something can be done to bolster the Association, then we may lessen this unpleasant situation of 17 year old girls having two and three children.

I believe that the doctors and nurses are not paid for this service, and as a result they do not put their whole weight behind it. I feel that the grant should be used for the purpose of buying equipment and a Mobile Clinic with which to carry out this service, which I am sure would do the country a world of good and tend to reduce the birth rate.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on this question of family planning, there is an increase of \$7,500 to this Association. The work of this Association has been steadily expanding over the years and whereas the clinic attendances stood at 7,000 for the year 1963-64, this figure increased to 13,000 for the year 1965-66. It is possible also for the Association to claim some credit for the decline in the birth rate from 33.5 per thousand in 1960 to 26.1 per thousand in 1965. The grant this year is for \$42,500 and represents approximately 55% of the Association's estimated expenditure for the year.

There will be a conference held in Chile next month, and Barbados will be strongly represented by the Permanent Secretary and also by the Social Welfare Officer, the President of the Association and one or two others, and it is hoped that they will benefit from their experience in that this Association is part of the Family Planning Association in the Caribbean area, and they will be able to secure some sort of assistance through the contacts they make by attending the conference in Chile.
6.20 p.m.

This money is urgently needed for a revision of salaries for the staff of the Association.

The question that the sum of \$889,657, under Head 43 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 44 - LAZARETTO

Head 44 - Lazaretto - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$21,427 under Head 44 - Lazaretto - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 45 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Head 45 - Local Government - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$2,687, under Head 45 - Local Government - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 46 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 46 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,809,787 under Head 46 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we are now dealing with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Some time ago we passed a Bill to deal with the administration of this Hospital by way of a Statutory Board. What I want to know, first of all, is what is the present intention of the Government with respect to the administration of the Hospital. Have the Government decided that they no longer want a Board to administer the Hospital or that they will administer it as a Department of the Civil Service or have they got any modifications in the Bill as passed? Why is it, Sir, that the provisions of this Bill have not been brought into force up to now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, because of the proposed takeover of the medical functions performed by Local Government and for other reasons appertaining thereto, it is desirable to wait until these medical functions are taken over before we set up this Hospital Board. It is for those reasons that the Board has not yet been set up. The Hospital Board will be set up to integrate the entire medical services. It has been advised that this Board be set up when we take over the medical services which used to be performed by the Local Government Councils as such. That is the reason why this Board has not actually been set up as yet.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking in connection with Item 17, "Overtime pay, \$20,000." The note sets out that the increase of \$6,000 is due to the revision of wages, the reduction of the working week from 48 hours and the increasing demand on the vote. Sir, there is much dissatisfaction among certain members of the Hospital Staff on account of the fact that they are now being called upon to work for 44 hours a week as against 48 hours a week formerly. Why is that? They have been working for 48 hours a week and they were being paid for 48 hours. They are now working for 44 hours a week and they are not getting what they expected to get. These workers expected to receive 48 hours pay for 44 hours work and Mr. Chairman, the pay envelope is not what it used to be when they had the 48 hour session. We feel that a matter such as this should be gone into very carefully.

There are some of these workers who are represented at Trade Union level. The Trade Union shouted it loud and long that there would be no longer a 48-hour working week, but the Trade Union did not explain to these people that they will earn less money for less hours of work. Sir, in an Institution such as this you must find that there will forever be squabbles here and there and misunderstandings here and there because the workers are not satisfied. A worker whose pay envelope might have been \$32.50 a week when he was working for 48 hours a week, now finds that he only gets \$29.00, perhaps, because the Trade Union has introduced a 44-hour working week. Mr. Chairman, this is a matter on which I feel the Minister will be able to throw some light.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot imagine there has been any Trade Union intervention, but I must rise to support my colleague who has just sat down. These workers who formerly worked 48 hours a week will expect 48 hours pay although they work 44 hours. There seems to be some laughter at the remark, but there is an ordinary industrial practice if an employer wishes to curtail hours of work he does so, and he can do so; but if he desires to have that done and the workers agree, he can do so at no disadvantage to the workers. In other words, now that the pay packet of these workers is reduced at the employer's bidding, because the employer wants a shorter number of hours per week - I can call many instances but just to refer to a single one, the British American Tobacco Co. Workers some years ago had a 48 hour week instituted, then subsequently they required the workers to work a shorter week but at no disadvantage to the worker. The worker still received pay for 48 hours.

I do believe that the Minister himself will be sufficiently informed, and that is why I do not believe that any human being will agree that the workers should get less because the employer wants him to work shorter hours. That does not obtain now; that might have been 20 or 30 years ago, certainly not since the uprising of trade unions in Barbados; so I would like the Minister

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the honourable member that the reduction of the working hours per week from 48 to 44 should not interfere in any way with the pay packet per week. In other words, just the working hours will be reduced and not the actual wages, and I will have to look into that part of it. You will see that on this occasion in the 1967-68 Estimates the amount we are asking for to be voted - my information is that it affects mainly the Laboratory. The question as to a union matter I will have to investigate.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Items 66, 67, 68 and 69. I just want to enquire, Sir,.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Just on a point of order, I think the hon. member may not have noticed that these items are under the column "Statutory Expenditure".

Mr. HINDS: I am not enquiring about,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled this evening that anything under statutory law is not to be debated.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, are you ruling in respect of posts under statutory law or the amount of money? I am not discussing money at all. I just want to know if we are just voting money because we can vote money. Do you have officers to fill these posts? I want to know if there is a Dietitian or Catering Officer and how many they are; that is all I want to know.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as far as I am aware, there is no Dietitian at present on the staff; there is a vacancy and someone is acting and trying to do her best. I think the other two posts are filled. If the hon. member happens to know where any one duly qualified as a Dietitian can be found, perhaps he could pass on the information and the Public Service Commission will consider it.

Mr. HINDS: I thank the Minister for his ready reply, but I am to wonder if the Minister could tell me how long that vacancy has existed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As the hon. member would realise, I am no hospital expert and I have not been attached to this Ministry for any lengthy period; but as far as my memory serves me, I think it is two or three years that the post was vacant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have made a ruling this afternoon that anything fixed by law will not be debatable as long as I am in the Chair, whether by a Minister or anyone else. We are not studying the Appropriation Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would like to tell the Committee that in accordance with the Chairman's ruling, this amount is fixed by law and I will not of necessity have any further explanatory notes on these particular matters, because in the normal course of events they are not to be debated as such.

The question that the sum of \$2,809,787 under Head 46 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 47 - MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 47 - Mental Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$524,379 under Head 47 - Mental Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 48 - HOUSING

Head 48 - Housing - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$4,500 under Head 48 - Housing - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, where is this Housing to be?
6.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this amount for Public Officers' housing is really the difference between what the Officer pays, which is at a lower rate of interest of 4 1/2% and the borrowing rate by the Government from one of the commercial banks at 6% or 6 1/2%. This is the difference we have to vote in order to see that the Government Officers are given some sort of consideration.

The question that the sum of \$45,000 under Head 48 - Housing - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 49 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM, CO-OPERATIVES AND FISHERIES

Head 49 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend Head 49 as follows: under Item 11 - Non-Established Staff - for provision of \$35,167 substitute the amount of \$35,527; and amend the note by adding "provision includes an allowance of \$180 per annum payable to each of the Grade II Clerks."

I beg to move that the sum of \$1,111,204 under Head 49 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 21 - Expenses of Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas, we have recently heard that there have been strikes of natural gas in Barbados in the course of oil drilling, but no statement has been made by the Government as to whether it is proposed that the Natural Gas Corporation will exploit the gas found. From time to time also we have heard a great deal along the lines that gas resources in Barbados are going to run out, and it is a well known fact - and I am sure the Minister will agree - that advice has been given in the past to the Ministry by former officials that the only way you can keep the natural gas service running when the natural gas dried out after a time is constant exploration and constant investment of money in new gas wells. We would like to know exactly what the part-time Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been doing. I notice that it is a new item, but the whole question of the exploitation of Barbados' natural gas resources is very soon indeed going to come up, and I would be glad if the Minister could make a statement about the position of the Director and the position of natural gas.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, the Director of Natural Gas is a part-time Officer, and advises Government on matters relating to oil production and natural gas. One of the main functions of the Natural Gas Corporation has been to service as many of the areas as possible rather than use large quantities for commercial purposes. It has been discovered that for similar amounts used for commercial purposes, lower rates were paid, and the amount of money received has been less than for a greater quantity of gas used by private enterprise. It is the intention of this Government to extend gas wherever possible in this Island. With the exploration and drilling being carried out, we have discovered gas at one of the wells at the Mount, but one cannot ascertain to any extent the amount of gas that would be in the well at short notice. Apparently you have a very small area with high pressure which can fall in a considerably short space of time, while you may have far less pressure over a big area which lasts much longer. We expect soon to have someone come into the Island to give us more information and to carry out further explorations in the Natural Gas Corporation for the benefit of furthering the distribution in the Island in most of the built-up areas.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If I could just ask the Minister something about this as well, what will be the relationship because of the striking of gas at St. George by a private company and the Natural Gas Corporation? I understand

that the Natural Gas Corporation owns the Turners Hall well, and therefore the cost is only the cost of maintaining what I must say is a very low cost of the distribution system. At some stage in the future, we are going to be faced with an overall increase of subventions to the Natural Gas Corporation or alternatively an increase in the price of gas, and perhaps having to pay for more expensive machines.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, this is included in the Agreement. If this company finds any gas, it must co-operate with the Natural Gas Corporation as part of the Agreement.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there is an item here under Co-operative and Friendly Societies, Item 31 - Audit and Promotional Expenses. This is a point I have been raising on many occasions in this Chamber, and I take this opportunity to raise it again. One of the troubles we are having with Co-operative Societies in Barbados is the question that by law under the Co-operative Societies Act the accounts must be audited by the Co-operative Division. I am not suggesting and I do not intend to suggest that there is anything wrong with the Societies' Accounts or that there is any fraud or anything taking place, but what I know as a fact is that a number of financial years have passed and the work load is too much for the existing officers in the Co-operative Division to be able to audit the books in time for the various societies.

6.50 p.m.

I am not suggesting that the Officers are not doing their work or anything like that. We have a large number of Credit Unions, we have Agricultural Societies which do a lot of marketing and, naturally, priority is given in the Co-operative Department to the Marketing Societies because they operate every crop season and they must have things done. The Marketing Societies must be paid for their crops. Unless increased staff is appointed, it means that the new Consumer Societies are being formed in Barbados, and that is something which has got to be developed. You cannot encourage the development of these Societies when the books cannot be audited within a reasonable time at the end of the year. It is either that the Co-operative rules are amended to allow outside auditors approved by the Registrar, and the Cabinet could give instructions as to whom are competent auditors and have a survey of the satisfactory auditing of the books - it is either that, or increased staff is necessary. We have a long backlog of work to be done and they cannot do it with the existing staff and carry out their usual activities at the same time. I understand that the same situation obtains where the Friendly Societies are concerned.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I have noted what the hon. member has said and I will investigate and go into the matter for him.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, speaking on the same item of the Co-operative Friendly Societies, I will ask a question about some money which I think the Hon. Minister already knows about. If the matter has been settled, I hope he will stop me and not allow me to go any further with it. If the money has not been paid, I hope he will allow me to go on. Years ago there was a Friendly Society in the parish of St. Joseph - I cannot remember the name of it - but one of the Government Officers has caused this Society to lose a great sum of money. In other words, he was responsible for it, and it is high time that the Government tell these people that they are going to repay it or not, because the Government is responsible for its servants. If one of my servants does anything wrong, I am responsible for it; so it is time that the Government pay these people their money. Nobody who ever robs a Society can see good. He will be living and still be dead as soon as he interferes with these poor people's money. This Government knows that this Officer has robbed these people out of their money and they are dragging their heels year after year and are not prepared to pay these people one cent. I hope the Minister will be able to tell me something about this matter; otherwise I will instruct the people to sue the Government.

Sir, it is some time now that these people's money has been swindled by an Officer and the Government is not prepared to do anything about it. I have done some of everything which lies in my power to see if I can get anything done. I have gone to the Permanent Secretary, to the Ministry and to everybody, and I am now airing this matter on the floor of this House. I will instruct these people to go to the Law Courts and let the public know what is happening. I was promised all along that something would be done and nothing has been done about it. I hope the Minister will be able to tell me something about it or I will be the Leader of a delegation somewhere. I cannot stand for it any longer.

Mr. St. JOHN: I know the incident which is being spoken of, and I feel that the person involved has departed. Even if the Government has to bring down a special Resolution to cover this money, the point is that it is a fact that this is a supposedly responsible officer with whom this has happened. He was carrying out Statutory functions, and all of us have to participate in it. Many a Solicitor's firm has been held responsible for the fraud of an articled Clerk. The same thing happens with the Government. There is no doubt that it can be proved that this is fraud. You cannot even fire the person because he has gone to the Great Beyond. It is hoped that the Government will accept the responsibility which everybody has got in these circumstances. It is usually done in private industry by having an insurance policy taken out against fraud committed by an employee, and the Government must carry its insurance policy.

This is unfortunate because a settlement has not been made in this case. Here is an officer who is carrying out his Statutory functions and the officers of the Society could not prevent an officer from doing what he did. He was an Inspector under the Friendly Societies Act, and he had a right to go and make a check. The Minister does not know the facts, but the point is that this is a sore point and they will have to come down with a supplementary Resolution to deal with it.

7.00 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I have made a note and I will investigate for the benefit of both of the hon. members. No file has ever come to me on this matter, but I will go into it as soon as possible.

Mr. SMITH: Speaking under correction, if the present Minister in charge does not know anything about it, I think the last Minister knows about it. I went to the Permanent Secretary about it and was promised that something would be done; so the Minister would not have to go too far, and the Minister on his left would be able to tell him about it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It is a matter on which I have a slight knowledge. It was some time in 1961 or 1963, this gentleman in question was the Registrar of Friendly Societies and then he committed suicide. I do not know everything about it because I am not in it; I have never seen the file. I think the amount is around \$7,000. I speak from memory, and Mr. Ramsay who is now at the Marketing Corporation will know more about it in that he was officer in charge, and he is Registrar and will be able to furnish all the information. The actual files, I believe, are in the Court House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Am I to understand that this is something pending?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have to satisfy them as to my knowledge of the matter. The files are not in the Ministry.

Mr. St. JOHN: This is nothing pending; you cannot hold a case against a dead man. Originally the Registrar of Friendly Societies used to be responsible to the Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal and it was then transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, and this is a serious thing. As the hon. member has said, Mr. Ramsay was Registrar when the incident occurred; somebody died as a result of this incident. The point is that a sum of money to the tune of some \$7,000 was handed over to the officer, and what my friend is asking for is, he wants the

files brought over to the appropriate officer. By virtue of powers under the Friendly Societies Act, an Inspector can come into a Society and demand all cash in hand for the purposes of checking. That is why it is drawn to his attention that it is a case in existence. Mr. Ramsay knows all about it; Mr. Parris is now looking after Friendly Societies and he may know about it. Instant action should be taken on it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the hon. member moves on to another item, Mr. Laurie was then the Inspector of Friendly Societies, his office was situated in the Court House and he was a Clerk at the Registrar's Office for a number of years. I think that it is through that to some extent that the files are there. Mr. Ramsay will help us.

Mr. SMITH: I am appealing to the Minister to work as fast as possible. I can give a little history on it. What has happened, the Society was about to be wound up and the officer at that time instructed the officers of the Lodge to draw the money off the bank and give it to him for the purposes of winding up. Since then I understand that they found some money in a safe at the same office, and it is accepted that that was some of the same money in the safe at the office, and I believe it must be still there now. Something must be done as early as possible.

The question that the sum of \$1,111,204 under Head 49 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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 progress and that the Committee is seeking leave to sit again.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for three-quarters of an hour.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, this sitting is suspended for three-quarters of an hour.
7.15 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: Prior to the Suspension, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

1. ANNEXED ESTIMATES - POST OFFICE

1. Annexed Estimates - Post Office - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend Item 41 under this Head by substituting provision of \$14,616 for provision of \$10,531 and to amend the note by adding after the words "3 clocks" the words "5 chairs, 6 safes, 9 filing cabinets and 5 desks."

Before I move the passing of this Head, about two weeks ago the hon. senior member for St. Thomas raised a number of points, and I promised him that in dealing with the Estimates I would give him some facts on the Philatelic Society and the Crown Agents.

In the year 1962, we had a Boy Scouts' issue in three denominations, four cents, twelve cents and \$1.20. The number of 4 cents stamps sold was 891,603 realising \$35,664.12; the number of 12 cents stamps sold was 353,921 realising \$42,470.52; the number of \$1.20 stamps sold was 64,545 realising \$77,454. The Crown Agents sold for us \$73,362.

In 1965 we had the Churchill issue in one cent, 4 cents 25cent and 35 cent stamps. I should have mentioned that the number of first day covers of the Boy Scouts Issue was 4,000. The number of first day covers of the Churchill Issue was 3,500 of the 1¢ stamp realising \$350; of the 4¢ stamp 900,000 realising \$36,000; of the 25¢ stamp we sold 52,829 realising \$18,490.15. The Crown Agents sold for us \$18,721. I would like to add that they got 10% of this amount for selling for us.

In 1966 we had one issue of two denominations on the Royal Visit of 3¢ and 35¢. Of the 3¢ stamp we sold 229,228 costing \$6,876.84, and of the 35¢ stamp we sold 44,943 costing \$15,730.05. The Crown Agents sold \$161,357. On the Independence issue, we had 4¢, 25¢, 35¢, and 50¢ stamps. Of the first day covers, we sold 6,875 of the 4¢ stamps we sold 1,124,400 costing \$44,976; of the 25¢ stamp we sold 249,750 costing \$62,437.50; of the 35¢ stamp we sold 129,016 costing \$45,155.60; and of the 50¢ stamp we sold 58,079 costing \$29,039.50. Now we have another issue on the UNESCO Stamp, but I cannot give figures because these stamps only came out five days ago.

This is the information which I promised the hon. member for the Philatelic Society, so he will see that although I am not a philatelist myself, yet I am readily cognisant of what the Crown Agents have done for us, and it is not true to say that they have done nothing. They do a lot in selling stamps because I was surprised to see the commission they got.

I beg to move that the sum of \$605,960 under 1. Annexed Estimates - Post Office, as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I am very obliged indeed to the Hon. Minister for the information he has supplied. I would particularly like to congratulate the Post Office in selling one million Independence stamps in three months. It is an enormous number of stamps to be sold and supports my argument that we should have more issues, although not so many as the Minister referred to in his speech some time ago.

The question that the sum of \$605,960 under 1. Annexed Estimates - Post Office, as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

HEAD 101 - AGRICULTURE

Head 101 - Agriculture - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend the Head as follows: Under Item 3 - Markets Improvement and Construction - for provision of \$26,900 substitute provision of \$156,900 and adding to the note "also provides for shed, renovation of two-storey building, paving the area for parking facilities."
8.10 p.m.

Hon. members would remember that, as a result of a query made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, the Reply to his Parliamentary question was answered just about two weeks ago when he was advised that the Government was taking action as regards the establishment of marketing facilities in Speightstown. This money is for the purpose of clearing the site. I can tell the hon. member that the site will be cleared as soon as possible. There was

a sum of money put in the Estimates for that purpose - the sum of \$13,551 which is a revote. The site is to be cleared and the sum of \$130,000 is provided for the construction of sheds and various blocks and to accommodate 100 open stands. A survey of the incidence of business there, has shown the number of hawkers plying their trade in this area. There are about 100 vendors who ply their trade in this area, and we think that these stands would be a sufficient number for them.

The building has to be renovated and we have to provide certain facilities. I think the hon. member will be happy when this large sum of money is spent on the establishment of this market in Speightstown. The cost of the land is approximately \$100,000. A part of this provision is also made for the construction of the frontage 60 X 10 feet to provide additional accommodation at the Cheapside fish market. The sum of \$1,000 is for the supporting walls and cold storage at the Cheapside Market. The Bay Street Market will also have \$8,000 spent on it in order to provide improved facilities for fish cleaning and boning.

I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if hon. members want to ask any questions about the Soil Conservation Scheme, but I shall be very pleased to answer any questions which may be asked. Item 4 provides for incentives for farmers and I may state here that this scheme has been made use of to the extent that we expected. The Government is adopting the policy of assisting farmers, especially in their efforts of diversification. There is an amount of \$87,500 provided in the Estimates under this Scheme, and of that amount the sum of \$12,500 is provided for the establishment of 500 acres of grassland. Any person or any farmer who wants to establish grassland cultivation is given assistance by the Minister of Agriculture and he is allowed a loan of \$25 on every acre of land or 30% of the cost of providing the grass. Also he is assisted in the matter of fencing. He is allowed a loan of 50% per acre, a free grant and a loan of 40% of the cost of fencing his grassland. Therefore, with the total contribution which is available to anyone who is establishing grassland for the purpose of diversification where animal husbandry is concerned, he stands to benefit to the tune of 70% of the cost of establishing this grassland from the Ministry of Agriculture. I am afraid that this Scheme is not made as much use of as we would like to see made of it. However, Sir, over the past year, people have become more interested in cattle and I think that there are about twelve applications for assistance in this respect.

We go further. From Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, provision is made for assistance to small farmers for the purpose of acquiring irrigation equipment. The farmer is allowed a maximum grant of \$1,500 and the maximum acreage on which he is allowed this grant is 20 acres. He is allowed 50% of the cost to provide irrigation. When I say that he is given this allowance to provide irrigation, I mean digging a well and putting in equipment and erecting a wind mill or whatever he wants to do. That is for the provision of irrigation on the site. If the total acreage will cost more than \$3,000 he does not get 50 per cent. He gets \$1,500 or whichever is the less. With the policy which is now before the House, I think that more people will make use of the Scheme. We are making provision for units where irrigation is concerned. People are interested in keeping market gardens and this is to assist these people because we find that we import too much vegetables as well as too much meat and other products which we can produce here. We are therefore giving assistance to persons in this respect. With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,229,776 under Head 101 - Agriculture - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Under the head of Livestock Development \$75,000, I take it that at the present moment the policy of the Government is to improve the milk producing in Barbados, and that with the importation of Canadian cattle there will be an improvement in the amount of milk produced in Barbados.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, from this \$75,000, \$51,000 is provided for dairy animals; the importation of 60 dairy animals; \$10,000 is provided for other livestock. Late last year we brought in 35 pigs from Jamaica. Jamaica has about seven different species of pigs and we have brought in five of the seven species, and some of them are at Groves Agricultural Station. This is done to improve the breeding of pigs in this country. What has happened in the past is that there has been a lot of in-breeding in the pigs in the country, and therefore we are not satisfied that we are having our pigs developed as swiftly as they normally should; therefore we have brought in these different species in various areas so that we can cross these breeds and therefore improve the industry.

It is not isolated to the importation of dairy animals alone; as a matter of fact we are only making provision here for the importation of 60 dairy animals. We hope that we will not have to bring in any more because we are now negotiating with the Canadian Government, under the Canadian Aid Scheme, for 240 animals. We were visited by the Canadian representative who was in Trinidad at the time, and he said that there was every likelihood that we would get these animals. He saw the provision only at Greenland, and some hon. members have seen the provision there.

I should like to point out that this \$51,000 is recoverable since this is provided for the importation of Canadian or Puerto Rican or whatever animals the Ministry of Agriculture feels should be brought into the country, and these are for re-sale to the various farmers; they are not to be kept by Government. What Government is doing to increase and improve the industry is to ask the Canadian Government not only for the 240 cows, but we are asking them for everything connected with the establishment of a dairy or dairies, including equipment and machines. We are starting with this project at Greenland and perhaps we will extend to other estates of Government. I do not know if that satisfies the hon. member.

Mr. St. JOHN: That satisfies me as far as the milk producing animals are concerned; but what I want to let the Hon. Minister get clear is that there are a number of Agricultural Stations other than the Pine. Hitherto businessmen used to be able to buy the best breed of animals, particularly pigs, from these stations, and so the improvement in the strain of animals used to follow right through the business; but it has not been the habit in the last few years. I hope that these different species of pigs will be distributed right through the island and not kept solely at the Pine.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I should just like to take up the hon. member on that point. Emphasis has been placed on certain types of agriculture at certain of the stations. For example, at Sayes Court we are experimenting and placing emphasis on vegetable crops, and we have our Agronomist, Mr. Jeffers, who is here carrying out experiments at Sayes Court. Some of the hon. members have gone to the Marketing Corporation only this week and purchased some of the most excellent onions that have ever been marketed in this country, and these have been grown here at Sayes Court.

Now we are concentrating on other things at Balfour Agricultural Station; and we are concentrating on the breeding of pigs at Groves. The type of pigs from Jamaica will last for a longer period of years because those from the Northern section - three or four years from now we will cross them. I know that hon. members like crossing; those living in Christ Church like to go down to St. Lucy instead of breeding in Christ Church or Wallingford Street. For example, what we will do is to take certain boars from the Northern area and carry them to Christ Church - and send them to St. Andrew, so that there will be an overall equalisation of the breed of pigs in the country. This is the idea. I hope that satisfies the hon. member.
8.30 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, what we in Christ Church want to be assured of is that some champion sows are available and that they are not all kept for the people in St. Michael. I can understand the specialisation at the various Agricultural Stations, and even if it is not possible to maintain a piggery in some areas, at least there should be some facilities whereby peasants can go to these areas such as Groves or wherever else the Minister has established a particular station.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder what Government is doing for peasants with regard to promotion the rearing of sheep and goats. I understood the Minister to say that they are concentrating on the type of work that an officer might specialise in at a particular station. I think it should be the other way around and services should be made available at a station for people who have need of them in the immediate vicinity. We no doubt need these specialist officers; we understand what is being done with respect to these pigs at Groves; but what we would like to know is that though these pigs are on sale to peasants, there is also a service rendered at Bullens, Jerusalem and other places where a peasant who might not have an A-1 pedigree animal could go and get a pure-bred service to improve the strain of his animal. My information is that Government used to make a service available to peasants at pretty cheap rates and this helped the peasants in one way, but so many peasants tried to make use of the service that it put a severe strain on the physical stamina of the animal.

I am wondering whether the Hon. Minister has tried to import some good breed of sheep and goats, especially the black belly type. I know that quite a number of our local black belly sheep were being exported to Venezuela and other places, and this tends to reduce the strain of those left behind. I wonder if something can be done in this respect.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member wants to know what we are doing for small animals like sheep and goats, and mentioned that black belly sheep are being exported from Barbados to Venezuela and other territories. There is a demand for Barbados' black belly sheep in other Caribbean territories because this is the type of sheep that stands up best to tropical conditions. Some years ago we imported the Wiltshire Horn, but we are now getting rid of them because they do not stand up as well as the black belly.

Now the position is that the Government itself does not export sheep bred at the Livestock Stations. We sell them to the peasants who in turn breed them, and if one is sold to a butcher for \$25 and he can sell it to Venezuela for \$250, should the Government refuse to give him a licence for that? This is a sort of industry for peasants, and I do not think the hon. member would want us to deny peasants from getting ten times what they would get from a butcher for a sheep. However, we make sure that only a limited number is exported. We always assess the population of sheep in the country, we know how much we need for breeding purposes, and it is only after we satisfy the needs of Barbados that we grant a licence. The Chief Agricultural Officer is responsible for issuing the licences after he is satisfied that our needs are met. The point is that they may sell the sheep for a good price and invest the money in some form of agriculture, whether it be more sheep, pigs or something of the sort.

I would like also to advise the hon. member that the services are available. It is true that because of the zoning experiment in agriculture which we have been carrying out and which we are not sure whether we will continue, there was not the amount of livestock kept at the various stations that we kept years ago, but this is understandable. When those animals were kept at the various farms, they were crossed to animals which the peasants had and improved the stamina of the animals.

8.40 p.m.

Today in certain parts of this Island peasants keep better sheep than those which are kept at the Central Live-

stock Station. Look at the sort of Exhibitions which you have of sheep and goats in December every year or, in the case of last year, in the month of November at the Agricultural Exhibition! Look at the type of animals that were on exhibition there, and look at those of the Central Livestock Station. The peasants' animals are better. It does not mean that all the breeding which is carried on in this Island is carried on by farmers. I keep three rams and they are for service throughout the Island. Some peasants keep better rams than those which are kept at the Central Livestock Station. It may be possible that they are a little crossed in the black belly and they may not be like those kept at the Central Livestock Station. It is not only that, but they are more hearty than those kept at the Central Livestock Station. I should like to assure hon. members that the points which they have raised are well taken. If they are going to be any further points raised by hon. members which need investigation, I can assure those hon. members that I will investigate those points so as to satisfy him.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, during the past few months householders have found it very necessary to supply their own milk, and in that respect they are keeping more closely than ever in this matter by keeping goats. You will be surprised to know that the price of a good pedigree goat has stepped up greatly. The Hon. Minister would not know that what has brought this about is the failure to get adequate supplies of milk from the Pine Hill Dairy and householders are trying to see if they can, wherever possible, keep their own goats for the purpose of supplying their children with milk. We all know that the goat does not carry the Tuberculosis germ as is carried in the case of cows. I am asking the Minister to do whatever he possibly can to assist these people because in the long run it is the peasants who try to get assistance if it is no more than increasing the pedigree of their animals, and I am sure that the Minister would be very happy when all of this is over.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item 3, 'Markets Improvement and Construction', to which the Hon. Minister has made reference. I am more than happy. I am almost elated, because two weeks ago I could not envisage that an additional vote of \$130,000 making a total of \$150,000 would have been supplied in connection with Market Improvement and Construction. As the Hon. Minister has reminded the Committee, it is only a fortnight ago that I asked a question relative to the Marketing situation in Speightstown. I am happy to say that I can go back to my constituency and tell them that the Government is now getting on with the service of providing market facilities for the hawkers in the area around Speightstown. It has been long overdue and the fact that it is now coming about means that the point which has been raised has been well taken. I sincerely thank the Minister for the steps which he has taken in connection with this matter.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would also have to thank the Minister and ask him to get more tins and give us something to drink out of those tins. I think they should try and get something in the tins. (Laughter). Relative to Item 1, 'Soil Conservation', I want to say that this Soil Conservation project is a very costly one. It is now some years since we have been passing money for this Soil Conservation Project. It seems to me that no sooner than the rain sets up, the land begins to slip. It is time that the Government should declare their policy and let us know what they are doing in respect of this Soil Conservation Project. Every year we are voting large sums of money for this project and that is all. Hon. members know that there are some danger areas in the parish of St. Joseph not very far away from where I live, and it is now over ten years that I have been complaining and asking the Government to do something as quickly as possible so as to stabilise the land at Mount Wilton, Spa and St. Bernards. The areas in which the Government is carrying on work - most of all in St. Andrew - are in non-residential areas, and I feel it is time that the Government should see to it and let the people in the same areas which I have just mentioned, see that it is doing something for them and that it is helping them to live more happily in these areas. The Government must do either one thing or the other. Let them try and stabilise the area or remove the people.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Government should keep the people in suspense. We have just had a heavy rainfall, the land has slipped and this Government is still marking time as far as the matter of re-siting these people are concerned. We do not know when we will get another rain-fall like that which we have just had, and it would seem to me that the Government would prefer to let the people's houses fall down with the people in them and cover them up rather than do something in order to re-site these people. We have spent a lot of money in these areas, and in the St. Bernard's area the residents are still exposed. I cannot see that there is anything being done as regards trying to stabilise the land, or anything of the sort. I understand that the Minister has lived for the most part in the parish of St. Michael, and we do not have any landslides in St. Michael, so that those members do not have to fear as far as their families and themselves are concerned. I would have to fear where my family and the people are concerned. It is a long time since Ministers visited the same site and promises were made that something would be done. 8.50 p.m.

Something might have been done by the last Government, but as you know the broom worked too fast. Since this Government is in power it is time to get up and do something for these people, and as I have said you should resite these houses. I will wait until the time comes for this because the Chairman may say that I am out of order, although there is some rule that I am out of order even when I am in order; so I will have to be very careful. I think the time will come soon when I will question this particular point, but now we are under this particular Head, Soil Conservation, conserving the soil in those areas up there. This is the Minister's time to say something and to do something in the area because he knows St. Joseph as well as I know it, and he knows that there are people up there living on the brink of disaster; another good rainfall and everything will collapse. I hope that it would not happen during the night while people are asleep.

This Government is telling us about everything here, and will not go to the people's aid. They should resite the houses and leave the land to itself and let it run down in the sea or try to stabilize it in some way; but they are sitting back all the time and making nice flowery speeches. That is not good enough for the people. We must do something for them. You will notice now they are voting the sum of \$788,681 - which is a tidy piece - and it is going to be spent all in St. Andrew. They were working in St. Andrew very long. I am not against the work that is being done in St. Andrew, but help St. Joseph too. All is to be done.

Some time ago I was told that equipment has arrived; I do not know what type of equipment, but then if you have 4 tractors, why can't you put 2 to work in St. Andrew and 2 to work in St. Joseph rather than working all in St. Andrew?

Now, I cannot help mentioning overtime. You have a Soil Conservation Act, a very rich one; it is as rough as the roughest sea; and that is that the Soil Conservation Officer, so long as he declares that this particular area is prohibited it is prohibited.

I have seen during the rainfall that a woman wanted to move from one side of the road to the other side of her land and she was told by the Officer that she could not do it and the Government has not prepared a site in the non-prohibited area for this woman to put her home. She had to stay on the same spot and try to get some stones and do something to keep the house from dropping down. They did that rather than allow her to move to the other side. The officer tells you that you cannot move, and if you do there is a penalty. Do you want something worse than that?

Sir, if the Soil Conservation Officer tells you you cannot tie your cow on your own land, you cannot. The law is there. Now, Sir, if the Department is working in a particular area, and when they are finished they plant trees and grass there, I agree with prohibiting all grazing; that is the only way you can stabilise the land; but if you are working in St. Andrew you should not prohibit grazing in St. Joseph. 9.00 p.m.

The experts in some cases know more about a particular job than we do; but when we apply our commonsense, we would be able to convince an expert. Now if an expert took me to a particular area where one could not tie stock, I would ask the reason, and if he could not convince me, then I would convince him, because the tying is only necessary to prevent animals from grazing the grass off the land which is then liable to slip. But in a flat area where there are no breakages, why proclaim that area prohibited? These people are in charge, and I do not believe the Ministry is prepared to go in front of them; but you must go in front of them sometimes, because in making laws you have to look to see how far it will go and how much hardship it is liable to create on people even with their own land. In the country, there are people who prosper by rearing their stock. There are some people with six heads of cattle who do not own one cane hole. Some time ago the Minister informed me that they had received a petition from people in St. Andrew asking them to be more sympathetic on the question of tying, and the Minister also said that not one of the signatories owned land. I did not ask about land owners; I asked a question about stock owners. I can tell the Minister that there are more stock owners than land owners, and he cannot create such a hardship on these people. You have to make sure that they are not violating the Order by going on an area on which you are spending money now, but you could allow them to tie their stock on the land which you have not yet approached.

There was an instance in which a man wanted to cut a track to get out his canes, but the Soil Conservation Officer advised that no road can go there. Now how is this man going to get his canes cut? It does not matter what you do, the land is going to slip. You should be more sympathetic and amend the Act or do something in this matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the question of soil conservation in the Scotland District is a very serious one. To do a comprehensive job in this district will cost approximately \$72 million in five years' time and we cannot afford it. We have begun work on a programme for international aid in this respect, and when this has come we may be able to progress more rapidly in this scheme. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph has pointed out that all efforts are concentrated in the St. Andrew section on this Scotland District. The reason for this is that the small amount of equipment which we have is heavy and cannot be transferred from Sedgepond to Chalky Mount and to Mellowes continually. In the Conservation Scheme you cannot run hither, thither and yon; you have to concentrate and do a comprehensive job in a particular area. What we need is more capital to be made available annually. As it stands, we can only afford \$3/4 million on the scheme. Now it must be remembered that the scheme becomes more expensive every year, and the new work makes it necessary for a certain amount of capital to be expended; we also have to maintain the old work. For example, when these pipes which drain off the water to make the soil less subject to erosion are put in, they have to be serviced.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, \$3/4 million per annum cannot give the type of comprehensive scheme that is absolutely necessary for the Scotland District, and we are discussing with International Agencies the possibility of assistance through which we could spend \$10 million per annum on a comprehensive job.

On the question of grazing, nobody has suffered worse as a result of the Prohibition Order under the Soil Conservation Act than your humble servant, but I like to face facts. The Scotland District is one-seventh of the agricultural area of this country, and you can imagine what it would mean cutting off one-seventh of Barbados. Hon. members are aware that every time there is rainfall, all the top soil in the Scotland District, because of the oceanics, is susceptible to slipping. The land goes into the sea and the area becomes smaller and smaller while the population becomes greater and greater. In order to avoid or minimise the incidence of slipping when there are heavy rain-falls, we must have something to hold the top soil, and the only thing to do this would be vegetation, trees and grass.

I would like to take the hon. member as far as Walkers in the Scotland District and show him where there is no sort of vegetation and other areas where there is vegetation, and he will find that where the grass is growing the top soil of the land is much higher than the top soil in areas where there is no grass. The more top soil that is washed off, the longer it takes for grass to grow, or for it to have anything to hold that soil.
9.10 p.m.

The position is that only this morning the hon. member was in one of these areas. Three years ago if the hon. member had passed the Cambridge area all he would have seen in that area would have been the Joes River moss. Today, because of that Prohibition Order, there has been no slippage in the area because grass is growing there. That is because the Chief Agricultural Officer, under the instructions of the Soil Conservation Officer, used his authority to stop the grazing in this area and the land was saved. On the contrary, the hon. member can go down to Mellows and Richmond areas and he will see that, because of the fact that there was no Prohibition Order against allowing animals to graze in these areas, the land has slipped. People were allowed to graze their stock in these areas, and what has happened is that more and more of that land was finding its way to the east. When I was a boy, Mellows district was a very different looking place from what it is today, but the incidence of grazing by animals in the Mellows and Richmond districts makes the land more susceptible to slipping when there is a heavy rainfall than would be the case otherwise.

There has been no slipping in the Cambridge and Chalky Mount areas because of the restrictions with respect to grazing over the past three years. The hon. member would remember that in November almost everybody in the Mellows district was anxious to get out from there. Why was that? It was because of the grazing which took place. There was not any restriction as to this grazing, and, as a result, there was nothing to hold the land. I am saying, Sir, that any person who owns any flat land in that area, as long as he applies to the Soil Conservation Officer or to the Chief Agricultural Officer for permission, he can graze his animals on it. Despite the fact that there is an Order made against grazing in a particular area, there is a provision in the Act which allows the Chief Agricultural Officer to use his discretion, and a part of his discretion is to give people permission to graze their animals on lands in the Scotland District.

It is only six weeks ago that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, the Chief Agricultural Officer, the Soil Conservation Officer and myself made a survey of certain sections of the Scotland district in St. Andrew, and permission was given to the owners of land in that area to graze their stock. Until there is an Order made restricting the grazing of stock, permission was granted to these persons to graze their stock on the flat land. I should like to tell the hon. member that people are allowed to graze their stock on these lands under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Board. The grazing of animals on these lands is controlled; people are not denied the right to graze their animals on these lands, but the grazing is controlled. Even if the animals graze for a week or two on the land, the land must rest for about three or four weeks. If any of the hon. member's constituents want permission to graze their animals on the land, provided that the land is reasonably flat and the grazing would not be a danger to the residents of whom the hon. member is so much concerned, permission would be granted to these persons. All they have to do is to apply to the Soil Conservation Officer and permission will be granted. I think I have answered all the points raised by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is telling me that the Soil at Spa and Richmond.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I never mentioned Richmond.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member mentioned Spa which abuts and bounds Richmond. He said that if these people were not allowed to graze their stock down there, they would not be in the position in which they are now. I should like to tell the hon. member that it is a question of the soil; it is not the grazing; and when the rain falls, the very way in which the land is situated, causes it to slip. Mount Wilton plantation has a portion of pasture; the grass is not cut, animals do not graze there and whenever you have these abnormal rains, the grass and everything goes down the gully. If the expert is telling you that the grazing causes this landslipping, I am telling the expert that it is not because of the grazing that the land slips, but it is a question of the soil. The land sinks and do you think that the grass could hold it? Where the land sinks, grass is still in the area.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I would like to mention to the hon. member that very often it is not the direct place where the land slipping takes place. Miles away from there, the soil may be four or five feet under water, and that water can run from a long area and remove the land, whether it is grassland or otherwise.
9.20 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. Minister talks as if he is a country man, and the other hon. Minister talks as if he is a town man. The hon. Minister in charge has told us that it is the grazing and the other hon. Minister says it is the water, and I agree with him it is the water; but if it is the water, we still feel that if the Department could start and make an effort we would still be able to save something. I know when I was a boy we used to go and play bat and ball on a certain spot; now it is all gone. That is because no attention was ever paid to that area, and the longer we stand it will be worse. If it is a question of money, we have to find the money somehow. Where did you find the money to drink out so much drinks for Independence? Where did that come from? Are you going to get it from the OAS? I hear Dr. Caddle say you have to spend. If he is right, where is that going to come from? Are you going to come in here for it? We cannot get anywhere to walk; I am leaving that part to Dr. Caddle, I hear it is \$80,000

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us stick to Soil Conservation.

Mr. SMITH: He has now got up from sleeping. Now, Sir, I am still on this Head, Soil Conservation. I am still appealing to the Minister; he said they must stay one place and fix that first. In other words, if St. Andrew takes about 40 hundred years, stay in St. Andrew. That policy is wrong. Do some in St. Joseph and some in St. Andrew. You will be doing no harm; you have been working in St. Andrew for the past five years

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would just give way, I can assure the hon. member that we will come to St. Joseph as soon as funds are available.

Mr. SMITH: You cannot put that on me; that is only to get me to stop, but you will only start me up.

Mr. HINDS: I would like to take the Minister back to Item 2 which is to provide for the purchase of animals, quarantine facilities, etc. Now, Sir, the Government no doubt has embarked on a programme to encourage people to keep livestock. It is very good indeed, but it will be incomplete, to my mind, if Scholarships are not offered to train officers. There is a very serious situation obtaining at the moment where people who keep livestock find that in case of illness they encounter much difficulty in getting a vet, to give of his services. Some people still rear good animals, but under certain circumstances they cannot get a Vet, because there are just a few, as the hon. Minister would know, available; and what you find is that the old-time methods are still being employed in some of these country districts. You will have a good man in a particular area who knows about pushing his hand in this soap lather and performing certain operations on domestic animals. I am sure that our hon. Minis-

ter of Education has considerable experience in that respect and he will bear me out, but I want to go from there now, because I believe that the Minister has been giving some consideration to the point as regards the training of Veterinary Officers, etc. I am just asking this one question, if these quarantine facilities are available in the cases of importing dogs, and I should ask in the cases of importing dogs from the United States of America, Germany and Canada, what is the position obtaining today with regard to people who want to import dogs from those areas.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the answer is that they are not permitted into the country because of certain diseases which are excessive in these territories, and in the interest of Barbados we do not want to bring them in here. We do not allow horses to come from France to Barbados because of diseases, and there are various other diseases which exist in other territories that we do not have in Barbados; therefore there are restrictions against importation of dogs from certain territories.

I do not have all the information available here; if the hon. member would like me to bring in information of the territories from which we allow importation of animals, I can promise the hon. member to get it for him by the next sitting of the House.
9.30 a.m.

On the question of the training of Veterinary Officers, this is engaging the attention of my Ministry now. We are taking up Scholarships which we have been offered by the Government of Israel, and we hope in the near future to embark on a programme of training not only of Veterinary Officers, but of officers to take care of agriculture because agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. The demand for agricultural products in this country is great, and more emphasis has to be placed on it. We have people trained in food technology and in various other fields, and the question of training of Vets is very high in the priority rating of the Ministry.

Mr. HINDS: Would the Minister give the assurance that in the training of these officers in agriculture and agricultural techniques the facilities available at the University of the West Indies and the St. Augustine's Branch will be taken into consideration?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We have people being trained at St. Augustine's. We have nine vacancies on the Establishment in the Ministry of Agriculture, and we hope to be able to recruit a considerable number of people from the University to fill them. As a matter of fact, only today we were considering sending either the Chief Agricultural Officer or the Soil Conservation Officer, who is Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer, to scout around and see if he can get more.

The question that the sum of \$1,229,776 under Head 101 - Agriculture - as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 102 - COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 102 - Communications and Works - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$3,973,986 under Head 102 - Communications and Works - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, under Item 7 - Subsidiary Roads - the note reads "For road construction and reconstruction in residential areas." I wonder if the Minister could give some information on this, because there are tenancies where people live, and these areas would also be residential. If I live by the side of a highway where there are a lot of houses, that is a residential area. If I leave there and go where there are all canes, you would not call that a residential area; but in a tenancy where people live, that would be a residential area. I should like to know from

the Minister whether he means tenantry roads and highways also.

On Item 13 - Cane Tracks - for which the note reads "To provide for cane tracks and roads to facilitate reaping of canes", I notice that \$5,000 was voted last year and the estimated expenditure for the same period was \$1,000. In spite of \$4,000 remaining unspent, I still saw people up to last week having to get a tractor on their own to cut cane tracks to get out their canes. These people pool together and rent a tractor to get out their canes. This money cannot be spent before the crop is ended because this is March and people are reaping their canes now. This money should be spent at the beginning of the crop season to assist these people. These people have asked me to ask the Minister to help them with two tunnels since they have cut the roads already, but at the entrance they would like the road raised a bit.

Now I do not think it is fair that money is voted here and these people have to pull their own pockets to cut these cane tracks. I do not know if the fault lies with the Department, or if these people have got tired of asking for Government's assistance and have gone ahead on their own. The price of canes is dropping, labour is still high, and these people would have very little left if they have to do so much. I do not remember how much per hour they pay for the tractor, but you would be surprised to hear that while the tractor is clearing the road a lorry is loading, because they cannot take any chances. As soon as the rain comes, they still cannot use the cane tracks.
9.40 p.m.

I cannot blame the Ministry for this, I do not know who it is, but the hon. member can find out. This money is not spent and the people are spending on their own. I was rather ashamed when I was told that. You would remember, Sir, that I had to lift up a certain man who fell down. The people said: "You and Mr. Corbin did your best, and you did not get any help." You know where I mean.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. SMITH: I am not going to stop; I am not fighting. When I cannot beat you, I will not challenge you. I have already drawn the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary to these two tunnels and at the same time you will be able to try and help these people as soon as possible to get out their canes. I would ask you to show them the receipts for the rent of the tractor and you can help them in giving them a berry. Anyhow, Sir, you can help them and do not let money be in the Treasury when the people are suffering. The people are accusing their representatives of not helping them but it is not the representatives who are to be blamed. The money is there, but the cane tracks have not been cut.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, concerning the cutting of the cane tracks for the transportation of the canes, it is a fact that I was asking the Department of Highways and Transport to send me down this tractor. The tractor had to be used in repairing the main roads which had been broken down. We were able to get the tractor out for the last two weeks and that tractor is now cutting the roads. I am sure that the tractor has cut one road in St. Andrew at Lakes; it has now gone to the White Hall and Hillaby areas. I can assure the hon. member that the tractor will soon be coming to St. Joseph and help the people in the gathering of their canes.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Item 1, there is the sum of \$100,000 and the note explains that this sum of money is to pay the salaries, travelling and other expenses of the staff required for capital works as follows:-

2 engineers, 2 Assistant Engineers, 2 Surveyors, 1 Engineering Draughtsman, 4 Construction Superintendents, 2 Assistant Draughtsmen, 1 Plant Superintendent and 3 Section Leaders.

I am wondering if the Minister will tell us if these are temporary Officers or if these people are already on

the Staff of the Ministry and what is it that has caused them to have this \$100,000 here. If these Officers are on the staff, I should like to know whether their salaries would be fixed by law or what. Are these people going to be additional officers? While I am on my feet, I hope that I would not be annoying the Minister by asking him to explain to me where is Fairfield Street Terminus. There is a re-vote of \$72,600 and I see that it includes provision for the re-design of Fairfield Street Terminus.

Relative to Item 8 "Additional Roadworks" there is a vote of \$250,000 and the note says that it is for the purpose of strengthening road structures, construction of concrete haunches, adjustments of widths and levels and provision of essential drains. Mr. Chairman, in the construction of some of these drains, I can speak in respect of two drains in the parish of St. James. What happened was that tractors were used for preparing the foundation before the drains were actually cast and the mould and other material was taken up or removed from the lands which were cleared. You will find that the drains had been built on the cavities then left, and they now form receptacles for water. The drains were constructed to lead off a certain amount of water, but there is as much trouble there as there was before the drains were constructed. I am asking the Minister to remedy any inconvenience which may be caused in this way as soon as possible.

I am hoping that people would be good enough to grant permission to the Government to use their lands so as to relieve the heavy flow of water, and I am sure that the Minister would not like to relieve one sort of inconvenience and then create another sort of inconvenience. When we come to Item 15 "Parking Systems, \$30,000", I see that this amount of money is to be voted for the purpose of providing a system of parking on the City Streets. I see that this amount also includes a re-vote of \$15,000. I think that the time has come when the Government should consider and lay down the conditions whereby, in the City of Bridgetown particularly, no building project should be allowed to take place where it does not make proper provision for parking facilities for the staff employed on such project.
9.50 p.m.

I would like the Minister to tell us what is this system of parking that is going to cost us this \$30,000 provided here at Item 15. We feel that the Town Planner should not be able to approve any plan submitted which does not make provision for a certain amount of parking for staff.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, in connection with drainage, I remember some weeks ago in this Place, immediately after the heavy rains of last year and early this year, that due to the plight of the residents living in the low lying lands of Barbados this is a big question and it might be alright for the Government to come down here and ask us to vote money for one particular aspect; but when the heavy rains come every year, the same thing will happen all over again. I would draw forcibly to the attention of Government that this question of drainage has got to be considered in a much bigger light; if you take it piece meal, it is not good enough. This is a long term business like Soil Conservation.

I appreciate very much the action of the Minister, the member for St. Thomas; it is a quick and ready action *vis-à-vis* drainage of the Salt Pond area in Speightstown. That is a matter which I am very anxious to see go into execution, but that is restriction to a particular - anyone living on the west coast of Barbados must remember the sea and remember how serious it was for residents there to get in and out of their homes. I saw in the Gibbes area, St. Peter a motor car neatly parked when it was run off the road and was almost on the beach. Of course the occupants had to bale out. I ask the Government to take into consideration this question of land drainage on a much wider scope than they have been regarding it in the past. I appreciate what is being done now in more than one of the particular areas, but we must have the rains; they are seasonal. Something must be done lest we have fatalities on the low-lying lands.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Head 102 deals with a substantial amount of expenditure. We see here \$2,051,000, an increase of \$200,000 on the last Estimates, and even if the Government was only able to spend \$1.1 million during the course of the last financial year, this is still a very substantial amount of money. There are a number of items here which really ought to be dealt with, starting with Item 5 which has already been dealt with by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, and I think we can take this item to include the Fairchild Street terminus which is the one referred to by the hon. senior member for Christ Church where the rats run a hotel. It is not being used as intensively as possible. A lot of buses have been taken away and yet we see that \$72,000 is proposed for redesigning of the terminus. I feel that if the terminus could have been redesigned, it could have been redesigned in such a way as to carry the traffic it was carrying. You do not take a load off a bus terminus such as this and then spend money to redesign it.
10.00 p.m.

It is difficult to see what possible justification there can be at this stage, with the other bus stands that have been provided, to spend this amount of money on the Fairchild Street Terminus if that is the only one intended. We would be very glad to hear from the Minister exactly what bus-stand terminus projects are contemplated under this item.

There are two items dealing with parking, Item 6 and Item 15. These items are particular items in which all three of the Departments I have mentioned would have some interest, because no doubt the Town Planning Officers will want to have their voices heard as to where car parks should be; the Police certainly will want to go into the details of parking on side streets; then of course the Department of Highways and Transport will decide what parking facilities will have to be provided. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if there is any where in the world that has such a jungle of parking arrangements as Barbados. We are told how narrow our highways are, yet cars are allowed to park in such a way that you have to draw up behind to allow cars to pass in moving where such conditions prevail, and I say it is illegal to leave a car so that another has to pull up behind and wait until another passes in the other direction. It is those who leave their vehicles in the road and occupy a piece of it that prevent vehicles from passing and repassing, and I think that if there was a little consideration given to obstruction by parking on the part of the Police, we may perhaps have to think a little less about the system of parking on side streets.

I have never seen an obstruction in James Street where people leave their cars in spite of "No parking" signs. On the other side in Roebuck Street, a busy commercial street, every day vehicles are left next to white lines and near to corners and yet nothing is done about it. When you have this type of parking chaos, naturally the Department of Highways and Transport is going to have to provide parking systems on side streets. When you allow parking in a street such as Roebuck Street where big lorries park on the side of the street and there is double parking, slow moving traffic and incessant blocks, naturally the Minister is going to have a great deal of worries along this line on the whole question of parking. It is not only the commercial persons who park. Unfortunately as has been drawn to my attention recently, there is a certain amount of privileged parking even now left in Bridgetown. Imagine that if the car M. 1003 is parked in James Street opposite the James Street Methodist Church, very few policemen would inform the driver whether he was the owner or otherwise, that he was going to be prosecuted. That is only by the way, but it is something I have seen. For example, you have privileged parking just in the road behind where we are now talking. We used to have privileged parking for the Venezuelan Consul and the American Consul. Now the Americans have an Embassy, I understand, in Broad Street, and the American Embassy is given privileged parking, and there have been complaints made to me that this is already squeezing out not only private persons but taxi drivers who have a livelihood to gain from parking in this area. These are things that should be con-

sidered by the Minister, and not just in my view the provision of a system of parking in side streets for \$30,000 which includes a revote. He should have a serious look at the entire question of parking in Bridgetown.

On the question of the construction of car parks under Item 6, it seems to me that the car park which has been constructed after many years facing the Careenage is working very well. There are other districts in Bridgetown where in my view all that is needed is for someone to show people that it is more convenient to park their cars there than to carry them to the centre of Bridgetown. The car park on Constitution Road was abandoned, and there is an obvious reason why it was not wanted; it had no communications with the centre of Bridgetown. It was possible to build a walk along by the Constitution River and put steps to the Victoria Bridge, but that was not done. I believe it was possible in engineering terms to have put a little bridge over the river leading into the Fairchild Street Bus Stand. No doubt this will be done in rebuilding, because in having bus stands so close together, commonsense tells you that you should join them by the shortest possible route. This is a car park on which Government spent money, but because of the lack of serious thought, it was a failure as a car park.

Mr. Chairman, Item 9 provides for widening and improving junctions on main highways, including sidewalks. There can be few examples more evident of the lack of real co-operation between Departments, and indeed in some cases the forcing of the views of one Department on the other than you get on this question of road widening. Anybody who goes along Martindales Road will wonder what kind of planner built the road. The width of this road opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is satisfactory, but it narrows as it gets closer to Belmont and Constitution. There is an argument as to whether Martindales Road should be a ring road, but the Department of Highways and Transport has made the road narrow by the St. Michael's Girls' School by erecting sidewalks where there was ample land to make the road wide. There has never been a more crazily built road, and it could have been avoided by serious consideration by the Department of Highways and Transport who may have a more balanced attitude towards these things and should make their voice felt, a little bit more than they did on this occasion. There is another project where road widening took place, and I should like to ask why at the Aquatic Club Gap an enormous road widening project was carried on, and a little by the Yacht Club the wall has been set back 4 feet, because to set it back any farther would encroach on the Yacht Club's tennis Court. The road was widened and suddenly again we see it go narrow as it passes the Boutique. If road widening was going to be done, it was madness not to make a proper width so as to have a proper three-lane highway all the way down. The road by Government Headquarters is a modern road and certainly ample for Barbadian conditions. It would even allow parking and the easy flow of traffic. There has been a pavement built going south of Bay Street on one side of the road, and when the road reaches by the Yacht Club, the pavement changed sides. All these are things which we would be glad to hear something of from the Minister.

With respect to drainage, the Constitution River appears to be the main drainage project, but before I reach that, I would just like to make another plea to the Minister about this question of drains. I do not know anything about the technical aspects of road building, but it seems to me that for a new modern re-surfaced road like Maxwell Road, there has never been worse drainage than at the present.
10.10 p.m.

The slightest rainfall causes Maxwell Road to be a series of lakes along which you have to drive at your own peril. I want to say, Sir, that if this is the standard which we must expect as to these roads in the future, then we must take a very serious look at some of these items. Let us take the construction of the Constitution River drain. Again, I wonder how far the Department concerned in these matters

have tried to drain the Constitution River. The Constitution River should really divide Bridgetown from other areas just as rivers which still have water in them divide other cities. When you start coming down from Glendairy Prison or further out, this River is a natural barrier which cannot be crossed, and that is where the problem starts. The problem starts from the fact that it is a natural barrier running through the heart of Bridgetown. The first Bridge that crosses it is at the Bridge Road and there is an insufficiency of bridges which cross it. You cannot get from Waterford into Bridgetown without crossing the Bridge Road. The Bridge Road is the first bridge which crosses this barrier and then after this bridge, Constitution Road and then the two bridges in the City. At any rate, these bridges are always crowded because the traffic makes a great demand on them.

We need bridges in the Fairchild Street area and so on, but this work on the Constitution River has always been done in a piecemeal fashion. I want to say, Sir, that the last point at which this work should be started is at Bridge Road. Apart from the hazards to health which you get behind the Hospital, I repeat that if you want to have a proper drainage system, you have to start at Bridge Road. Higher up the Bridge Road there is a gully, but I am submitting that the Bridge Road must be the starting point of whatever is going to be done. I notice that surveys have been made, but we have never had any of them put into effect. This part of the area to which I am referring is really the part where it is most unhealthy. Anybody who knows anything about the Halls Road area would not say that it does not want reconstruction, having regard to what heavy rains can do there. Of course, it is not unusual to have heavy rains to effect this bridge, and we do need a reconstruction of the entire area. This is the type of area which would require a roundabout. In this area the buildings have been removed in contemplation of the construction of the National Stadium and a new plan must be worked out which would replace the whole thing. What is needed is a unification of the whole area, and I would urge the Minister to think of that.

Now, Sir, we come to the new Constitution Bridge. This project has been put in there like that and the approaches at the Belmont end are so low that it appears as if you are driving through a river whenever the rain falls and the water comes down. I am saying that that whole road with the bridge up there needs reconstruction. When you put a bridge there, you force the water and thereby create a greater hazard than what was there before. I see, Sir, that the connection between the road and the canal is not complete. The area at Delamere Land is now being cleared and I presume that the houses will go in the process of time. You have the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at one end and there is a great deal of land from which the building will be visible. Here is an opportunity for the Government to provide more parks in the vicinity of Bridgetown. That whole area of Delamere Land, which is now intersected by the draining system, should be planted up as a splendid area for a park. If a road is properly made or constructed along this site to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, people would use it to get to the Hospital. I urge the Government to give the Hospital patients something nice to look at. Let the Government make Martindales road something along which you can drive easily and have something to be looked at. That can be done with some of this money which is being provided here, this sum of \$518,491. I look forward to hearing the Minister say what is going to be done.
10.20 p.m.

I can remember when the river behind Constitution Road used to accommodate fishing boats, and I have seen photographs of boats. I understand that there was also a boatyard there. There might well be additional mooring places by the Fairchild Street Market. There were some small river fish in the river, and it was somewhat pleasant to go there on afternoons if you had the opportunity. I would suggest that the Careenage could be encouraged to go a little further up by the bridge or by other works as long as it will be tidy and flush itself out, and not create certain difficulties on River Road. All these are things, Mr. Chairman, on which I will be glad to hear something from the Minister.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, apparently members on that side do not want to get out of here. Item No. 1, Staff. The junior member for St. Peter wants to know the reason for 2 Engineers, 2 Assistant Engineers, 2 Surveyors, and so on. The reason is that this is a Capital Works project and these people are paid from the Capital Works vote. Also, I think two of the Engineers are contract officers. That has answered the first question.

On the Bus Stands, the senior member for St. Thomas asked what \$72,000 would be required for. We are planning to, I would say, revolutionise the bus stand because it is not as it should be. For one thing when people go there to catch the bus, especially those who have to go to the country, they fight to get into the buses. We will bring up legislation to make people queue, but we are going to revamp the bus stand area. There is a possibility that there might be a building on a part of it, but when the senior member for St. Thomas said that as a result of moving some of the buses a hardship has been created, I am sure that if on one of the nights we were having one of the heavy rains, one of the buses going down the wharf had gone over the side he would be seeing a lot of the families in Court trying to see how much money he can get out of the Government. We have to think ahead of the people. I cannot understand how he could blow hot and cold on this matter, but at the same time he went on to say that we should provide parking spaces outside of town. What he must be realistic about is this; the whole island has become a bit sophisticated; people do not like walking. We built a car park in Constitution Road and you could not get a car to go in there, no matter how you tried. People will go and park their cars all over town, and every day the telephone is ringing and people calling me all sorts of names, including short.

We are living in a sophisticated and small community where everybody knows everybody else and as things are looking, the senior member for St. Thomas would not have much time for the House of Assembly because when the police start reporting them he will be trying his best to keep them out of the Court. We will have to take the bull by the horns, but at the moment, I am a politician - or according to my friend, a politicianer, and whilst doing good for the country I have to take a lot of hard things.

I agree that parking along the streets is bad. People park along Bay Street causing obstruction along the road. I agree with what the senior member for St. Thomas has said, and the time will have to come when we will have to take the bull by the horns, but I think since everybody wants to park in town, I have my own ideas about what will take place and I cannot tell the Chamber yet; but I feel that if people want to park in town they will have to pay for it. People who work in Broad Street, if they cannot park by the Shipping Office they are annoyed. We have a car park here in Independence Square and people think hard to park their cars there and walk down Board Street, and they give the reason that it is not that they do not want to pay 25¢ or 50 ¢ but it is closer to where they are going. I think I have made that point as clear as I possibly can. We do intend to bring in legislation to restrict parking along the roads as the senior member has said, but you have to do these things at the right time.

10.30 p.m.

Now the hon. senior member for St. Joseph asked about subsidiary roads and tenantry roads. If he looks at the bottom of Item 15, he will notice "tenantry roads and other roads" written in italics. You will notice that "tenantry roads" have been removed and "subsidiary roads" inserted under Item 7.

Now the hon. senior member for St. Thomas spoke about highway improvement and the widening and improvement of junctions and sidewalks. I must point out to hon. members that almost every day I am in town I get into an argument with somebody over the Bridge. We have gone to the expense of building a six-foot sidewalk for the accommodation of pedestrians, but people prefer to walk in the road, and I ask them if they think a car is made of rubber. What is surprising, Mr. Chairman, is that these same Barbadians leave here and go to Venezuela, the United

States of America, Canada or England and live to a ripe old age without getting killed. A few days ago coming across High Street, I told a woman who was walking in the centre of the road to use the sidewalk which was provided for people, but I cannot repeat what she told me. They feel the roads are to walk on and not the sidewalk, and if the police arrested people for jay-walking, you would have a lot of questions coming into this House saying that this is the thin edge of the wedge and we are starting a dictatorship. As my colleague has said, the people in Barbados only use sidewalks for talking other people's business and blocking their passage.

Mention was made, Mr. Chairman, of the East Coast Road. The money allocated here is for drainage of the East Coast Road. The hon. senior member for St. Peter said that we have to take an overall picture of drainage for the Island. Nobody could be more in agreement with him than I am, but this is tantamount to a man working at a small sweet drink factory for \$15 a week and wants to go to the Hilton to drink champagne. We do not have the money and that is why we have to tackle these things in a piece-meal fashion. If you look at this Item, you will see that we intend to spend \$518,431, and I can tell the hon. junior member for St. Peter that in this drainage programme I have in mind doing the Salt Pond in St. Peter which is long overdue. It is true we are not discussing the Organisation of American States, but it is probably through joining this Organisation that we might get some help. I do agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter that the biggest problem is blockages, and all the way on the West Coast you will find that problem because of sand dunes, and when the sea comes in, it forces the water back on the land. This is something we will have to tackle once a year. Besides this, people in Barbados seem to think that if they do a hard day's work somebody will laugh at them.

With regard to cane tracks, I am extremely sorry to hear, as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has mentioned, that people had to engage a tractor on their own to cut these tracks, but as the hon. junior member for St. Andrew pointed out, the problem is that we have had rain from Christmas 1966 until, I think, this morning. I am trying to hand this matter over to the Department of Agriculture, because they can best handle it. The smallest bulldozer we have at Highways and Transport is a D6 and you can understand the weight of it. If the land is wet, you cannot put a D6 to cut tracks, because then it would take a D9 to pull out the D6, and I would still have to pay the man who was driving the tractor for the time he was there doing no work. This is something that has happened through unforeseen circumstances. I am very sorry that the people had to use their own money when there was \$5,000 in the vote. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph will remember that I took him and the hon. junior member for St. Andrew into St. Joseph to examine these cane tracks; so this would show him that the Government intended and still intends to help these people get their canes out. The hon. member will also remember that one of the people who had made representation to him to get these cane tracks, Mr. Cobham by name, had moved not only his body but the house. It is only through unforeseen circumstances that this situation still exists, and it is not my fault or the fault of anybody in the Ministry.

10.40 p.m.

Now as to the Constitution Bridge. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas has said that he does not like the construction of it. He was saying that the road should have been raised in conjunction with the Bridge. I admit that the hon. member is a lawyer; therefore I am not arguing any legal point with him. On the other hand, this is something which he had never looked at. If we had raised the road in line with the Bridge we would have created a worse problem than he thought. We have to take these things into consideration and we have to make the best of what we have. Do not let us forget what happened in the year 1949. On the 29th August, 1949, I think it was (Mr. St. JOHN: What are the plans for remedying that now?) We have just had a very heavy rainfall and nobody has lost even a fowl in that area. I am wondering if the hon. member has looked at these plans. He talks as if he has seen them. Every hon. member in this House can rest assured that we intend to do an

elaborate job on the Tweedside Road Bridge, making it a proper bridge for the traffic to use.

The hon. member would remember that we bought a house which was situated right at the corner of that road because we intend to improve the entire area. We did not embark on the project last year because we were looking after the construction of the Stadium. (Mr. St. JOHN: The money was tight.) It is not that the money was tight. The hon. member has criticised the Martindales road which is wide at one point and narrow at the other. The Government was taken for a ride as far as Delamere Land and the land on the other side were concerned. Up to now you can see that we cannot get the people removed from the land. That is the problem. I agree with the hon. member as to the position at Martindales Road. The road has been improved because at one time just in front of the St. Michaels Girls' School - I do not know who was the engineer responsible for it, but the sidewalk was the closest thing I had ever seen to a pregnant woman. You have a nice road and somebody has placed a sidewalk there in a bulge.

Hon. members do not know what headaches we have in the Ministry. Anyhow, Sir, you will see that the place has been lined up somewhere. It is only a part of Martindales Road which is out of proportion, and as soon as we get these other houses removed from the area, we will be able to carry out an elaborate improvement there. We are going ahead and right through with these improvements. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that there is anything more to be said.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the whole Programme of Capital Works was taken on. In respect of item 18 "Post Offices and Branch Library, \$120,175" the note states that this money is to provide for the construction of a Sub-Post Office and Branch Library at Black Rock and a Post Office at St. Thomas, and it includes a revote of \$104,500. As to this Post Office which is to be constructed in St. Thomas, we have an interest in this. The people of St. Thomas have been promised that they would be given a Post Office. We hear that there is to be a rebuilding of the Court room, but I would like to suggest that the whole of Rock Hall wants rebuilding. The Post Office up there is a very small building, and when the system of National Insurance comes into being, you will have relatively large sums of money being kept at this Post Office. I am told that nowhere in this Post Office you can have a space for a safe. This is an extremely small place and the Postmaster is all squeezed up. The place is on the site of a hill, but it is not beyond the ability of the engineers to overcome it. The horse stable is the most impressive building up there because it is bigger than the Police Sergeant's quarters and it is certainly bigger than the Postmaster's office.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very substantial re-vote - a re-vote of \$104,500. We have seen in the Estimates provision being made for effecting changes and I hope that the Minister will give an undertaking that the whole of the building will be re-designed. We cannot see why this money was not spent during the year 1966-67. A great deal of money was voted in respect of Public Works, but not a great deal was spent. We do hope that the Minister can give us an early date for the building of this Post Office in St. Thomas.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on item 21, "Property Acquisition, \$50,000". The note to this item reads as follows: "To purchase land necessary for projects in Development Plan to be undertaken by the Ministry."

I would like to know from the Minister if the Lammings site will be undertaken in this proposal - I am referring to the purchase of the land. There is some reason why the debate on this matter was postponed, and now you are going to spend \$50,000 for the purchase of the acquisition of land necessary for carrying out projects. I would like to know if the Minister can tell me whether the purchase of the Lammings site is in this amount.
10.50 p.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that this money is a revote, but I wonder if the Government plans to build a new Post Office at St. Thomas and the erection of a Library at Black Rock. I think it is much better if this House knew what money will be spent separately. We all remember that Government funds were provided for something in St. James and transferred to helping with the Alms-house in St. Lucy; I do not want a recurrence of this happening. I would like to know how much will be expended on Black Rock and at Rock Hall, St. Thomas for these two different projects.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member's question on item 18, the note to which reads as follows: "To provide for the construction of a Sub-Post office at St. Thomas. Includes revote of \$104,500.00. Increase due to increase in Labour costs." The truth is that the plans have not yet been finalised. The senior member for St. Thomas asked about the Post Office in St. Thomas. I could not agree with him more. He said that they could not get a safe in there; I doubt if you will get a post box in it. I am surprised to hear that he has heard or - I am not saying I heard or I know so, but what has happened with the money for the St. Thomas Post Offices is this; the Town and Country Planning Officer, after carrying out a survey, has discovered that it would be better if you were to put another Post Officer between St. Thomas and St. Andrew, because the truth about it is the people in St. Andrew - White Hill, Turners Hall, etc. - prefer to go to the Rock Hall Post Office in St. Thomas than to go to the Belleplaine Post Office in St. Andrew.

We have decided to put a new Post Office for the residents of St. Thomas and St. Andrew to relieve some of the pressure off the one in Rock Hall. I do agree we have to do something about the one in Rock Hall. I will put the next Post Office, may be, in Welchman Hall where a big section of the people live.

Item 21. The senior member for St. Joseph asked me if Lammings Pasture will be one of these parcels of land to be purchased by the Ministry. Lammings Pasture seems to be his theme song, but I could not at this stage say "yes", nor would I say "no"; the matter is under consideration.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, item 23 under Head (11) water Supplies. I would not like to hold the Minister any longer, but this is \$125,000 to continue laying of new subsidiary mains and connections to new standposts. I would like to know what is the Minister's policy on this. In this particular area, in the parish of St. James, Springhead, there is approximately 500 residents and there is only one stand post.
11.00 p.m.

As far as roads are concerned, what the Minister said earlier will do justice to this area; but I would like to draw to his attention that in the area of Spring Head where there are approximately 500 residents, there is only one standposts, and I would be very grateful if the Minister would give that some consideration under item 23.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on the same item 23, at Bends Hill in St. Peter, I understand that the main does not come down the Hill to Rose Hill, and there are some houses half way in the hill that cannot get water installed. I would be glad to know if there is anything the Minister can do for the people in that area.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. senior member for St. James, I always like to go and look at these things myself, and I assure him that I will go and have a look. I do this because I know that some years ago when the Barbados Labour Party was in power - although I am not trying to castigate anybody - the people at Dukes Village in St. Thomas had to walk almost a mile to get water. This place is difficult to find unless you know where you are going, because there are canes on the front and the people live in the back. When they asked the Minis-

ter about it, he told them that they would never live long enough to get water in this area. After I went and looked at it, I informed the Waterworks that there was a possibility of getting water to the people in Dukes Tenantry, and they are now getting it. That is why I will look at the feasibility of putting a pipe in for the hon. senior member for St. James and also for the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

The question that the sum of \$3,973,996 under Head 102 - Communications and Works - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 103 - HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 103 - Health and Community Development - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend Head 103 by inserting Item 9 (New) Simultaneous Interpretation Equipment - \$10, and insert note "token provision for a set of equipment for simultaneous interpretation".

I beg to move that the sum of \$1,219,010 under Head 103 - Health and Community Development - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for what purpose this simultaneous interpretation equipment is required. I know of simultaneous interpretation equipment existing in multilingual assemblies. The United Nations and Paris have it. At the United Nations where I have seen it, this is required for the simultaneous interpretation of Russian, English, Spanish and so on. Would it be possible for the Minister to say in what Department of the Ministry of Health or what conference is anticipated where this equipment would be needed?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there is a Mental Health Conference which is due to take place later in July and early August this year, and at this conference there will be delegates from Martinique and some of the Dutch Islands, the Dutch Antilles and places like that attending. There will probably be some from Caracas and Venezuela. It is for this reason that we need this sort of interpretation equipment. It was felt that the Hilton Hotel would have that equipment, but there is no such equipment in the Conference room; so this equipment will be available for this conference which I made mention of, and other future conferences which will be held at the Hilton and in the Island generally.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 3, the amount of \$200,000 is to be voted and the note says "For construction of six quarters for medical staff". I want to know whether the Government has not considered the advisability of completely revising the policy in relation to medical staff, and in particular to senior medical staff at the Hospitals in this country. It seems to me to be a great waste of resources in this country if we are to pay senior medical staff the salary that we pay them at the present moment, give them 75 per cent of the fees collected in the Hospital, allow them outside practice, and at the same time must subsidise their housing. Nowhere else in the world are medical officers housed as lavishly as they are done in Barbados, and it is time for the Government to completely revise their attitude in relation to the senior medical staff. It is possible as one would know that some staff has to be recruited from overseas, and one would be willing to give a concession in that respect, but there is no excuse for this Government pandering to any back-dated tendencies by Barbadian staff for these extravagant quarters, people who already can put tremendous pressure on the Government with respect to salaries in that bracket.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to rise again on this subject of simultaneous interpretation equipment, but am I to understand the Minister is thinking of having this installed at the Hilton? I would urge the Minister not to let anybody pull the wool over his eyes on this equipment. There is a token vote of \$10, and it is only a sort of loudspeaker system with different knobs that you turn from language to language; but in fact what is expensive in simultaneous interpretation equipment is getting simultaneous interpreters. It is one of the most skilled jobs, and simultaneous interpreters at the United Nations command an immense salary, and there is great danger of having this equipment without having people skilled in how to use it.

I heard the Minister talk about Dutch, but I am sure that those members of the House who know the Dutch Islands would agree that English is likely to be widely understood there and in Martinique; but still if you say that conferences may occur in which this is necessary, I hope the Minister is not being led astray by the authorities at the Hilton to have a room wired up and to get this equipment which in the normal course of affairs cannot be satisfactorily used. You would not expect to find skilled men in Barbados, because anybody who is a competent simultaneous interpreter would normally be employed, and there is a great demand for them in all international agencies. This interpretation confuses the listener, because if he has an inkling of the real language, he cannot by reason of having earphones over his ears check what was actually said because he never heard the original thing. There is always the risk in simultaneous interpretation of false interpretation, and I hope the matter will be gone into by the Minister. All token votes are open to suspicion, and this \$10 vote is being made when we do not know that the facilities will in fact be usable in any sensible way. I would suggest to the Minister that this is very suspicious indeed. 11.10 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I would like, on behalf of the Mental Health Association, to thank and compliment the Minister on this equipment for this Conference which we think will be taking place at the end of July. I have seen this equipment employed at a similar Conference last year. It was used in Martinique last year and we have been advised that unless we can make it available to them, they would not come. I would like to thank the Minister very sincerely indeed for making this equipment available to us. I have been trying to obtain this equipment from various sources. Formerly there were certain places from which it could be rented, but these sources have now been closed down. We are told that this equipment will cost \$7,000. Even if we were to get this equipment for this \$7,000 we would be left with very little money for expenditure in other years. That would, of course, be a saving to us, and it is bound to create a good impression of Barbadians in its reputation itself. Distinguished people come here not only from United States, Great Britain and Canada, but from as far abroad as Australia.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, in connection with Item 1, "District Hospital \$166,000", the note states that this amount is a re-vote of the provision for a District Hospital in St. George. That causes me to enquire as to what the position will be with the District Hospital at "Farrs" and the removal thereto of children. I wonder what is now contemplated as far as the use of the present almshouse building as a District Hospital is concerned, when the proposed change comes about. I am wondering if the Minister can give me any information about that now. I would also like to enquire if it is true that the Almshouse has been acquired for other reasons. I am wondering what there is now in the offing relative to the erection of a District Hospital at Farrs.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the hon. junior member for the City explaining the position insofar as the Mental Health Conference, which is expected to be held shortly, is concerned, and the necessity

for this equipment. As the hon. member has rightly said, if we fail to secure this equipment, then the Conference will not be as successful as we anticipate it would be, and there would be fewer people participating in it. The hon. senior member for Christ Church has raised the question as to the requirements for the Medical Staff. The hon. member should appreciate the great difficulty which is experienced at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in securing the services of Specialists, and they will only come out here on contract. They will only come out here on contract if they are given additional fees as are provided now, that is to say, 75% of the fees and adequate salaries and conditions of service, including accommodation of a reasonable standard. If we fail to do that and therefore fail to secure the services of the Specialists, then we will have a complete breakdown in the services. Now that we are doing this we find that objection is being taken by the Opposition in that we should provide for the Specialists without any accommodation.

Mr. Chairman, we are trying to build up the services of the Hospital, and as a result of the experience which we have gained, we have decided to provide a reasonable accommodation for experts and Specialists who can assist us with their services at the Hospital. As far as the junior House Surgeons are concerned, they are provided with accommodation which is almost comparable with that enjoyed by the Specialists and these House surgeons live within walking distance of the Hospital or at "Enmore". We have just built a maisonette which is as comfortable as a bungalow. You may as well talk about that too. However, we have to do these things if we are to encourage and retain the services of the doctors in the interest of the public and in the interest of the better use of the Hospital as well.

As to the last question posed by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, the answer to that question is that having regard to the new Hospital which has been constructed by the Roman Catholic community at Ashton Hall in the parish of St. Peter, we have a similar priority, but the matter will be further examined. Provision has already been made by the Sorrowful Sisters of the Roman Catholic Authorities for providing a District Hospital in St. Peter which has about 130 beds.
11.20 p.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister feels that the existing Roman Catholic hospital would benefit the public of St. Peter; people of certain means can find accommodation there, I am speaking about people of poorer categories. You may not imagine the people who get free nursing, free housing, free medical care, free drugs; but the Hospital served by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother does not serve the poor of St. Peter. As a matter of fact, I understand that there are a limited number of beds; there is no casualty attention at all. I myself have taken people there. I cannot believe that the sort of service that presently exists there can be called hospitalisation - it is not available to people of the means that I am talking about.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the authorities at the St. Joseph hospital at Ashton Hall have made provision for 20 per cent of their beds to be at the disposal of the public free of cost. That was a condition based on the duty free entry of their equipment and things of that sort when they were establishing the hospital, so that 20 percent of their beds is free for the use of the public.

Mr. St. JOHN: One can understand 20 percent of the beds for the use of the public free of cost, what about the drugs while you are in the beds? Are they provided free, or can the Government District Medical Officers attend to people as in the manner in Christ Church and St. George?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I thought I had succeeded in making myself understood; apparently I have not. 20 percent of the beds are free; not only the beds, but also the attention, the food, the medical care, the medicine, the drugs and all the paraphernalia that go along with the treatment of the sick.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Is the Minister perfectly sure that one-fifth equates to the number of old sick people presently getting relief from the Speightstown Almshouse? Let us say the number of beds is 100 and there are 65 old people accommodated at the Speightstown Almshouse, what happens now in the event of the shutting down of the Speightstown Almshouse? Of 100 beds, the poor is entitled to 20 of them and you have 60 old men in Speightstown; tell me now if you are providing for them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member seems to be confusing two trends of thought. The former Almshouse patients of St. Peter are now housed at St. Lucy; so let us face what we are dealing with. If we are dealing with Almshouse patients, let us not confuse them with patients at Ashton Hall, St. Peter. The Almshouse inmates are now at St. Lucy, and in so far as the sick patients are concerned, we are saying that with the setting up and establishing of the St. Joseph Hospital, which is a modern hospital, people go there from all parts of the island and from all parts of the Caribbean for treatment. The people in St. Peter have been blessed, and are very lucky in getting some of the best attention at the St. Joseph hospital - far better than at the Almshouse years ago.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, let us now take the alternative cases for hospitalisation, the number of people who usually get treatment at the St. Peter's Almshouse; let us see if the number of places provided at the St. Joseph Hospital is adequate to cope with these matters as they were formerly taken care of at the Speightstown Almshouse. Will the Parochial Medical Officers have the same services to minister in these alternative cases as they formerly had at the Speightstown Almshouse?

I heard the Minister talk about a modern hospital and there are quite a few privileged - well treated - in this island, who live there as a home. I know a man whose behaviour has been so abnormal at the St. Joseph Hospital that the Sisters were shocked; I happen to know the old man very well indeed.

The question that the sum of \$1,219,000 under Head 103 - Health and Community Development - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 104 - EDUCATION

Head 104 - Education - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head as follows:

Insert new item no. 18 Archives Department, \$35,100 and the explanatory note will read "Provides for equipment, renovation of buildings and upkeep of grounds." I beg to move that Head 104, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about school meals. This is Item 13. Now, Mr. Chairman, how can the Minister come and ask the House to pass a vote for the expansion of the school meals service when all that has happened in this Chamber over the last four weeks following what has happened in this country has been left in the air like that? Now, Mr. Chairman, there is a certain history of the school meals service this year. First of all in St. Thomas at Holy Innocents School little children were subject to some type of food poisoning after eating the Government school meals. They had gastro-enteritis, they were sick in the streets, their parents were caused much distress, they had to go to the hospital and to private doctors, and the Minister was not even told on the first day.

His Ministry did not think that the sickness of a large number of school children in the parish of St. Thomas was important for the Minister to be told. A courageous and enterprising newspaper published the facts. Again in the following week more school children, a really large number, were made sick at Holy Innocents, at Welches and I believe at another school at Airy Cot, and at this stage the Minister is told and talks to some of the parents to find that these parents were not unduly worried. I do not know what kind of parents the Minister could have talked to who were not unduly worried about his or her children being taken sick in these circumstances. There were teachers also sick. I know of one case, Mr. Chairman, subsequent to that where a teacher was telephoned and warned not to eat the school meals from the centre, and it was still served on a particular day. He was told to bring his own lunch.

Now the history of this affair in this Chamber now is that a question is put to the Minister about it; this question was objected to on the grounds that it contained the words in the Government's Press Release. The Ministry of Education is responsible for Government Press Releases, and the Minister may be questioned about any Government Press Release whether it appears in the Press or not. If you have a Release you can ask the Minister if what was said is true; so we on this side of the House are forced to the conclusion that it was a conspiracy to stop the matter of school meals being discussed in this House. If nothing had happened it would be bad enough, but what happened even after that? There was yet another outbreak of sickness in the parish of St. George. This is the Government's record in school meals, and now they come here at this hour to talk about expansion when they cannot give an answer to questions. They cannot make a statement to the House about school meals, but we see statements in Government Press Releases. I do not care whether they were published in the Press or not denying that it was the cold lunch that caused these things when we now hear that a hot lunch has been substituted for a cold lunch. Let us not forget that it was originally denied that it was even a cold lunch from which these children were being made sick, and now what is perhaps the most insulting thing to this House after this question about the school meals, is that no reply has been vouchsafed here. It has not been treated as a matter of urgency. The urgency has been applied to keeping the question off the Order Paper. On the day after the matter appeared in the Advocate, the Minister replied to an editorial in the Press.

Now there is one thing; news will out. It does not matter that there have been efforts to suppress and keep down school meals discussion here; it is known; so it does not have to be talked about at length. As far as this Head is concerned, Mr. Chairman, in the absence of an explanation which is satisfactory to hon. members on this side which can convince us that this expansion of the school meals service will not be an expansion of gastro-enteritis, will not be an expansion of sickness, will not be an expansion of confiscation of the facts, will not be a cover-up, this is not a Head which we can support as it is. I will leave the matter there for now. Let us hear from the Minister what he has to say about the three outbreaks, and why the House has not been vouchsafed any explanation about them.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 1 - New Primary Schools - there is a sum of \$106,200, and the note just says "For construction of New Primary School at Grazettes." Well Sir, some time ago I made some reference to the existing conditions of the building and grounds at certain primary schools in Barbados. I remember specially referring to the St. Peter's Girls' School touching the grounds that children and staff had no privacy when classes were engaged, people walked through the grounds at instruction times, and teachers had difficulty in controlling such classes out of doors. During the rainy season small ponds are left in the yard, the building is old and has been expanded on one occasion and needs repairs, the teachers are complaining that it has an unpaved yard, and nothing has been done for a long time.

1.40 p.m.

When the Hon. Minister is replying, he can tell the Committee something about this matter. As to the extension to primary schools and those overcrowded schools, it may be that the Minister may have something to say when he comes to that. I hope that he will give me some assurance about the schools of which I have complained in the matter of their being overcrowded. I was happy to see that work at the Alexandra School has been resumed. I remember that work on this school was stopped last year and I am very happy to see, as I have already said, that work has been resumed at this school.

As regards Item 11, "Broadcasting \$29,850", I should like to say that years ago I made a plea in this House relative to the type of appliance rented from Rediffusion. It was a very noisy and uncontrollable type of appliance. When the volume of control was turned down to get the minimum volume yet it remained a disturbance in the school. In other words, it was more useful when the school had been closed down. People who were standing around the school would hear it and nobody in the school could understand what was being broadcast. I understand that the same conditions apply up to this day. I hope, Sir, that a different type of appliance would be used. For some reason or other Barbados Rediffusion had a sort of appliance which should have been kicked out and not have been placed in the school at all. I do not know whether it was too cheap or not, but I am quite certain that the Minister would not have one of those things in his home. Years ago these appliances were rented for private schools and they remained to be rented. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if you have ever had the misfortune of being present in an elementary school when one of these appliances was turned on. It is really too loud, too noisy and a real disturbance. I think it is time that the schools be supplied with the type of appliance which we would have.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if there is anything of a capital nature which has been left out vis-a-vis the establishment of a Cadet Corps at the Coleridge-Parry school. I think that there has been sufficient complaint for one to make at this juncture and I await the Minister's reply.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps I had better deal firstly with the points which have been raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter. With respect to the question of the establishment of the Cadet Corps at the Coleridge-Parry School, this is the time to discuss this matter, but I think I can tell the hon. member that he will get this Cadet Corps. There will be a Cadet Corps established at the Coleridge-Parry School and it is a question of doing quite a number of things. In the first place, a Cadet Corps at a secondary school is set up under certain regulations under the Act. We are determined to extend that to assist the Coleridge-Parry School, the Foundation school and one or two, possibly three schools in the City area. This matter is being looked after and I would like to tell the hon. member that it will be put into effect by next September or at least next January.

With respect to the Broadcasting by Rediffusion in schools, the hon. member spoke about the type of receiving-box set up in the schools. That is not a matter upon which I can say very much just now. I think I understand that they are some of the cheap and noisy ones, but it is possible in the class rooms to moderate this noise. The hon. member also asked about the Speightstown Girls' School. The items which are listed here are really for extensions and/or replacements. I cannot now tell the hon. member when that particular school is to be numbered among those which are covered, but it is in a very bad state and it is more likely than not to be attended to. That is the most that I can tell the hon. member now but I can have this matter investigated. I am quite aware of the problem surrounding the Speightstown Girls' School.

As to the problems which seem to be bothering the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, I would like to say, first of all, that as I understand parliamentary conduct, if an hon. member gives notice of questions, those questions

are placed on the Order Paper and they are questions which are meant to be answered. If therefore, that hon. member expects the question of which he has give notice to be answered, he cannot expect me to answer him now in detail on the points which he has raised. I think that is only fair. The second point which I would like to make is this; it is true that there have been three outbreaks of the kind which he seems to know quite a lot about. These outbreaks have been regretted by myself and by all the people concerned. I wish, however, to say this, that it would be impossible for me to give either the House or the public for that matter, the fullest and most detailed explanation unless I myself knew it. Since this is obviously a matter in which investigations have to be made by people outside of my Ministry, by expert authorities in the Ministry of Health, out of courtesy to them I have to await their full and final report before I can make any pronouncement.

11.50 a.m.

Anything, therefore, that I say, whether here or in answer to any criticism which may have been noticed in the newspapers especially, it is to deal with specific issues raised in the criticism, and the discussion, and not to disputes of the matter; so to accuse me of wanting to evade the issues is certainly unfair to me, not only as a Minister, but as a Legislator. But I am not giving the hon. member or anybody for that matter, all the information which he may rightly require until I myself have seen the report of the health authorities, studied them and am in a position to say what steps, based on the advice given, have been taken to prevent a recurrence.

The next thing I wish to say is this. Naturally if you are opposing a Government, a matter like this would appear to be just right for opposition tactics. Nobody likes the idea of children being ill after eating, whether it is in the school meals service or at home. When I was in this House, perhaps for as long as he is in it now, the same sort of situation occurred in about 10 schools of this island. Nearly 200 children, spread over a week or two in about 8 or 10 schools, became very grievously ill and it caused me to panic - as a matter of fact, 40 of those children happened to have come from a school of my constituency.

I was new to the House; naturally the temptation was very strong indeed to try to make out that the Government of Barbados to whom I was then opposed, might have been trying to spite the people of St. Lucy by being careless in the way the milk and biscuits were being administered. There is always that temptation. I am not claiming any special virtue in this respect, but I did not bring this to the floor of the House. Do you know why? Simply because it would never have occurred to me, first of all, to run my politics on that basis, and secondly, I well knew at the time as I know now, that wherever bulk catering is concerned - I do not care where it is - a risk of being upset through food consumption is always present. This is always present. Mind you, if you really want to take a true assessment of this matter, I wish to emphasise that when a thing like this happens even once, is once too often, but it can happen. This is what you have to bear in mind, not the fact that something happens on one Tuesday or Thursday and then on two following Thursdays and two following Tuesdays. You have to see this against the background of the whole service. The School Meals Service was in operation since 1963; this is the fourth year now.

I have to ask myself certain questions. Why is all of this happening now? Why is it happening at a time when everybody knows that we are negotiating to support its expansion by substantial gifts from the World Food Programme? Can somebody really understand this kind of thing? If we want to be strictly political and controversial on this matter, a lot of questions we can ask. We can ask, for instance, why it is that two of these three outbreaks have taken place in certain parishes. One was in a parish where the political allegiance of the people is divided; and secondly, why is it one has taken place in a parish where the Labour Party spokesman not now in this House had gone on record in this House that his Party was so determined in their opposition to the School Meals system that he said that whenever they got back to power all the pots and pans

and the knives and forks would be sold to Victor Chase for old iron. As a matter of fact, there may not be any significance in the fact that that particular member is no longer a member - and he used to occupy the seat which the hon. senior member for St. Thomas now occupies - but there are a lot of questions you can ask yourself.

If you are saying that this is something which can absolutely be prevented, I have to contest that because it is well-known all over the world that wherever there is bulk catering there is the risk of upsets at some time or other. This is a fact, and this is attested to by medical experts. As a matter of fact, while there have been certain precautionary measures which we have taken at the advice of our medical experts, the medical experts themselves have pointed out that it will take them some time to be able to explain with certainty what has been the cause of these outbreaks, and they have also said that they cannot possibly guarantee that it will not happen again.

All that I can say in this respect is this. This trouble we are now facing has occurred, for instance, where a prepared sandwich lunch has been consumed. It has never taken place where an ordinary hot cooked lunch had been served, but even this is not in itself sufficient to enable you to pinpoint with certainty all the possible causes that you can remove them without the shadow of a doubt.

12.00 midnight.

The most I can say about it is that all that has to be done in order to minimise not only the effect but to obviate the causes will be done, and every hygienic and medical precaution which we are advised to take obviously we shall take, but it is difficult not to feel a bit worried when an hon. member obviously wishing to make political capital out of this little difficulty

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I object to that. It is an improper motive, and I ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw it, and I say "taking a political interest in this little difficulty" could say that he had been told - this I did not know, and I would normally not expect to know - that somebody did ring somebody up and advise him not to take lunch. You see the sort of thing you are up against in this country! (Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Do you want the names?) That is not necessary. Obviously there must be something more peculiar in a situation like this. Here am I thinking that by some means or other, probably through a certain amount of inattention on a certain day hygienic or other matters may not have been looked after as well as they could, with the consequence which we know, to hear the hon. member say that he knows that somebody rang somebody up on a certain day and asked him not to partake of the meal. This makes me now really think. I had not heard of this, and I want to tell the hon. member this: I really do not bear him any resentment for raising this matter, because it does not embarrass me and it cannot embarrass me because nobody would think that I or any member of this Government or anybody in my Ministry or anybody anywhere in the service of the Government of Barbados, no matter what their personal views are, would be other than interested in seeing that the best kind of meal is served. I think that you would have to concede this to your enemies and certainly as far as this Government is concerned, we would be more than foolish in not seeing to the best of our ability that a service which is peculiarly our own is not put out to the children of this island in the best possible way. I therefore would not have to be warned or threatened in any way, because it is in my interest and the interest of the whole Government and the interest of the entire Ministry of Education to see that this service is maintained at the best level so that no possible blame can attach to anybody who has this matter in hand, except as I said when somebody can ring somebody up and tell him not to eat. This is really striking a blow at a service which deserves better treatment, because when all is said and done you have to admit that the children of this country need this meal, and it should be in everybody's interest to have seen that this expansion takes place as

readily as possible, because I do not believe - I think that one ought to be fair to one's political opponents - that if the Barbados Labour Party were in power now, they would dismantle the school meals programme. Freddie Miller said that, and this was grist to the mill. I am not saying that for the sake of argument, because being politicians like anybody else they would know for themselves how popular this particular venture has been. Of course they opposed it; but if they had it to run, they would try and run it the best way as we are doing, and they would have - and I throw out this challenge to them - to go a long way to improve on what we are doing.

When therefore, and I say this as much to the members of this House as to the people outside, these scarifying things happen, and I call them scarifying because if only a single child in a single school got upset one day, that would be enough to sit up and take notice, because it is something that should not happen, but it is also something that could happen when you are engaging in bulk catering, and this is what has to be understood, be understood.

One last point I wish to make. One has to take what doctors and medical advisers say, and one has to evaluate it not because one has any doubt about the specific type of medical advice, but it is, after all, expert advice and has to be given due weight. In 1955 when there was this similar panic and as I said, nearly 200 children took in with this vomiting and diarrhoea or whatever it was, Dr. Byer himself cautioned that it would be best not to make too much fuss of the incidence of the sickness because children's minds are so delicately adjusted to one another that you could have hysterical or sympathetic illness. This is true; so that it can happen that whereas among a good number of children three or four may be genuinely ill, another three or four or five or six or any number can be ill at the same time through sympathy. This I think has some truth in it. What one has to do, of course, if there is an outbreak of illness is to investigate it. I think I can safely say that in these outbreaks there have been under 200 altogether in each case so far as it has been reported and known, and prompt investigation has been made. On one occasion I did go to the Hospital, because as Minister of Education I felt I must know for myself what is the range and scope of this particular difficulty. While I am on this point, I wish to say that of the Hospital authorities on that occasion who operated, I want to thank Dr. Cato for the alacrity with which he responded to my request in seeing that prompt and effective treatment was given to the children. I cannot do more, therefore, than watch the situation carefully, and institute all the necessary precautionary measures - hygienic, medical, and administrative - that have to be instituted. I would not be so foolish as to give any guarantee that it cannot happen again, because it can; but I should certainly hope to be able to take all the necessary precaution so that if it does happen again, it is a long time from now, and that its effects, if any, would be circumscribed and of no consequence whatever. This is as much as I can do to accommodate hon. members. I cannot say much more than this. I just tell them that this is the kind of thing that could rebound. If you say now because school meals may be going through a temporary difficulty that this is happening because children are eating meals provided by the Government and you harp on this, the time will come when the service itself will be so popular, all the words by the Government will be remembered by people and all the rest that you are saying now will be forgotten.

12.10 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have some sympathy for the Minister in connection with this matter of School Meals and sickness in children. I have as much sympathy for him in this matter as I have for the children who were affected, and their teachers. I should like to say that it was not until I heard from the Minister that there is some attempt to associate politics with the matter that I really began to give the matter second, third, fourth and fifth thoughts, all at the same time. I can quite see the Minister's point in trying not to allow the World Health Organisation, the World Food Organisation or any other Organisation who may be willing

to contribute to the Scheme, to know about this matter; but no matter how you might have tried, you could not keep it from the parents of the children. Even if some of the children became ill, they would have had sympathy for the other children. What happened was that the children were vomiting along the streets from Holy Innocents School to their respective homes, and people had to come out of their homes and rescue some of these children. All of the children did not go to the Hospital; quite a number of them were treated by private doctors.

What seemed to have worried the Minister somewhat is hearing from the hon. senior member for St. Thomas about a telephone message and from one person trying to advise another as to what should be done. It is a fact that there is one gentleman, an official of the Ministry, who ought to have been home long ago. I have nothing against the officer, but I say this definitely to clear anybody from being suspected. I can tell you, Sir, that a telephone message was dispatched advising a school teacher to take to school his own lunch today. I am prepared to go on oath on that; that did take place. What perhaps the Minister has failed to investigate is an aspect of this school meals administration, and I think that the Minister should just address his mind to the possibility of having one officer exulting in getting the programme off to a very good start. There seems to be one officer causing jealousy to another officer and one officer believes that the Minister is paying too much attention to him and accepting his advice.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Minister is going to tell this House that as to the very meal which is reported to have caused this upset, he had advice from the officer in the Department to the effect that he should withdraw the meal before any outbreak of sickness had occurred. I am telling you these things. I will repeat that in connection with this meal which is believed to have caused the upset, you had the advice from an officer in the Department that you should discontinue that meal before there was an outbreak of sickness. I understand that the Minister is waiting for final reports from the Ministry of Health, but we think that the Department was advised to discontinue the programme even temporarily. They were given that advice and not by notices. The Minister replied in words to this effect "under no circumstances", which means that if all the children who ate this meal were to be found sick - all the Minister was concerned about is that the school meals would go on even if there is nobody to eat them.

I know perhaps that I, personally, will never be forgiven by the Minister because my newspaper "Truth" was the first one to make the information available to the public in general, and the world had it that there was an outbreak of sickness at Holy Innocents School. If it had been brought or drawn to the attention of the Minister that there was such an outbreak of sickness, I feel that the Minister, who is the type of person who is interested in children, would have carried out investigations there and then; but it would seem to me as if there were other people interested in this Scheme who wanted to outshine even the Minister on this occasion. There was a second outbreak and a third outbreak, not this time at Holy Innocents school, but the outbreak had spread to schools in St. George and even to the Turner's Hall School. St. Augustine's had their outbreak too. The Minister had it at his finger tips that in 1955 there were two hundred children there, but do you know, Sir, that the Minister has shown so much interest in these outbreaks of sickness that he cannot tell this House how many children had been affected in the various schools in his Ministry.

12.20 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I think he will remember that I did say in reply to the hon. member next to him that he has to put down his questions which will be answered, and one of the questions covers this point.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has his question down, the junior member for St. Peter is speaking now, and what I am saying is this. It is a

fact that a sizeable enough number - I wonder if the Minister would like me to give him the number. We do not want to get away from the fact that we did have these outbreaks, and there is nothing whatsoever to tell us what was the cause.

This is what I want to tell the Minister now. Children who were affected on the second occasion at Holy Innocents happened to be treated on that occasion by a medical doctor; children who were affected at the Westbury School were treated, some of them by this same doctor; and what I am saying is this, that they went on these various occasions as ordinary patients without A knowing that B had gone to this particular doctor. That is the way I think it happened, because the Holy Innocents people live in the St. Thomas area, the Westbury people live in the St. Michael area, and I am to tell you, Sir, that I discussed the matter and I should tell you that the Holy Innocents children were accompanied by a teacher from the school who had also been affected, and the doctor who treated these people, in discussing the matter with me, was not satisfied that the complaint of the Holy Innocents case was on all fours with the complaint from the Westbury schools.

In other words, that while there might be a certain degree of food poisoning that could be caused by some particular diet or some particular item of food which might have been exposed to too much heat after having been under cold storage for some time or whatever it might be, in other words, he was not satisfied that the type of food poisoning at the Westbury School was the same or identical food poisoning at the Holy Innocents school.

These are problems with which the Minister should set about to deal, but he should first remove any cobwebs that might be hanging anywhere about his head. Do not associate politics with it at all. Right now in your Ministry it might be a wicked thing to find that one person, male or female, who would possibly have been having the same affairs as another in a particular direction, whether four years ago, two years ago, but now we are brought together under the same roof and the same project, and I feel here is an opportunity for me to undo all that the other fellow tries to do, even if all the Head Teachers, the Assistant Teachers, the children, if all of them are for the undertaker the next morning.

You know, Sir, there is envy in a certain type of people that knows no bounds, and I hope all I am saying here at this hour might be of some help to the Minister in carrying out his investigations. I do not know what advice the doctor might have given him about these sympathetic illnesses, but it is certainly a case where there was not too much sympathy being shown between officers in competition one to the other in this programme. More than anything else, and as you know, Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows that I mind my business.

We may have the Minister on some future date giving us all the details on this matter. I would suggest to the Minister that from this side of the House we view this matter very seriously, so seriously that we would invite the Minister to get somebody from outside of Barbados altogether to carry out the investigation, and nobody in Barbados who might be related to Mr. X or Mr B, get somebody who would have no interest in the matter apart from giving the Minister the results of a careful and intensive investigation into the matter.

The Minister is hoping that the day will come when school meals supplied by Government makes his Party and his Government very popular. I warn you, Sir, this same school meals programme can bring your Government down if you are not careful. You might go on hoping and praying, but this instance calls for a Minister getting help because he set out to help himself.

12.30 a.m.

Prayers will not do all, hoping will not do all; Have the matter investigated and I am sure that just as we on

this side could get information on the matter, the Minister ought to be in a position to get it better. You are not the type of Minister I can say that people will withhold things from. I feel if you approach it in the right spirit you will get a far way, but I am asking you for the last time to remove from your mind any association with politics bringing about the school meals sickness. It is not true at all, and anybody who tries to suggest that to you is trying to throw you off the real trail.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Now, Mr. Chairman, I listened with interest to some of the revelations of the hon. junior member for St. Peter. It is very interesting indeed to hear some of the things, and I would be interested to hear the result of any investigations which the Minister will carry out following all the suggestions made by the hon. member; but there are one or two things in what the Minister said that I found a little tantalising. Now the Minister was explaining the thoughts that went through his mind when he compared the different outbreaks, and said that one happened in a parish where political allegiance is divided. It is true that in Barbadian history political allegiance was divided in St. Thomas at the last election. I think it has been worked out that 154 people could have been satisfied with the result, that is the 98 who split and the 56 who plumped for one or another of the two members; but I could not myself say that I see what the significance of the result of the election in St. Thomas has in the light of the school meals programme; neither, I must confess, do I see what the relevance of a speech made by Mr. Miller could possibly have had on the school meals programme. I would be glad if the Minister could explain its significance. These were tantalising matters the Minister lead us up to, but took us no further when he reached the brink. But there was something more serious the Minister said, and this related to the World Food. As I understand it, the Minister was saying that the parishes of St. Thomas and St. George where the particular outbreaks took place are part of the expanded school meals service, and that the expansion of the school meals service was associated with supplies of food from overseas agencies. I would be interested to hear what the Minister says about this, because I was not sure if he meant to infer that it is possible that the foreign food is in some way causing the outbreak. I could not other wise see what relevance the foreign food programme would have.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Well now, the hon. member is making more difficulties for himself. There is no such thing as foreign food in the sense in which he means it, because these supplies are not yet to hand. They would not be here until the month of June anyhow, but this is not what I was saying. I said I asked myself why it was when we are on the point of receiving overseas aid that these things are happening.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am very glad the Minister had made himself clearer. It is an interesting point; I think I appreciate what he means now, and I hope he will in fact investigate the present suppliers of food. But I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I have some sympathy with the Minister's explanation. It has been a sympathetic outbreak on this side as well, but I think the Minister perhaps is unfair, and I do not mean this in any personal sense, when he has inferred in the suggestion that politics enters into it. This is what the hon. junior member for St. Peter also made clear. If politics entered into it, objection would have been taken and the questions would have been tabled at the very first on-set of sickness. Immediately the children were sick, casual politics would have said "Oh, look the Government's school meals have made you sick!" It was the second out-break that occasioned inquiry, and this is the point which the Minister should consider. It was the Press Release that said the Minister was not informed that occasioned inquiry, and when the third outbreak came after, in journalistic parlance, the story had broken right open. That was the stage at which inescapably the finger pointed to administrative incompetence.

When you draw to people's attention that something is going wrong and it continues to go wrong, that is the stage at which the Government is as a result deserving

of censure - if not the whole Government or indeed if not the Minister personally, then the machinery for which the Minister is responsible, and this is the aspect to which we would ask the Minister to direct his attention. It is a fact, Mr. Chairman, that advice was given on the question of allergies and food handlers. Specific hygienic aspects have already been mentioned as possibilities to the Minister, and it was after all this that another outbreak still took place, and the stage was reached where the public was entitled to an explanation as to why this went on. This is not like 200 children being sick in a week in St. Lucy and elsewhere, and I cannot quite see the relevance of the question of trying to spite people in St. Lucy. I do not think the Minister would suggest that we raised school meals because we think people would spite the people in St. George for electing the Parliamentary Secretary and the other member for St. George or the people in St. Thomas for electing the Minister of Communications and Works. I am sure nobody is going to suggest that we raised the question because we thought somebody would spite the Chairman of the Southern District Council. I do not see the relevance of trying to spite people in St. Lucy.

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, we have had the Hon. Minister explain that he meant no affront to the House in having given an explanation in the Advocate newspaper before he gave an explanation to the questions on the Order Paper. We appreciate it will take time for all the details in that question to be worked out. We only hope when that day comes that they will in fact be worked out completely. It is unfortunate it has had to delay the proceedings of the House and made a greater burden on the Shorthand Reporters, and the officials kept here until this hour, but we hope this debate has assisted the Minister in making investigations.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I have not got up to raise any controversial issue on this. I just want to say something since the parish I represent was affected by this food poisoning or what we thought was an ordinary case of gastro-enteritis. Now tonight for the first time we have heard something completely different. None of us on this side knew anything about this, but in fairness to the Minister I do not think it was fair for anyone whether in or out of this House to really think that the Minister could have been indifferent or callous.

12.40 a.m.

If, for instance, a sincere informer had informed the Minister that there would have been food poisoning today in a particular area, what was there to stop the Minister in accepting that as just a hoax? This school meal service has been going on for about four years now, but what I would like to instil in the minds of Barbadians in particular is that I am one of those people who will suffer either from old age or poverty. I want to say, Sir, that if a thing is right, it is right no matter who raises it, and if it is wrong, it is wrong. Judging from the way in which the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and the hon. junior member for St. Peter have spoken, they apparently knew that there was something brewing. The hon. junior member for St. Peter knew about a telephone call. He is a responsible member of the community; it could have been my child or it could have been his child.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I should like to let the Hon. Minister know that I only knew about the telephone call after the third outbreak of illness. I can tell you that after I published in my newspapers something about the first outbreak, information came to me. As a matter of fact, there were persons at the schools who were angry with me for not publishing the fact that these schools were affected.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I do not mean any offence by that. We are Barbadians and that is endemic. There are people who will stand up and see that there is something wrong and if you ask them to say what they have seen, they will tell you: "I am going into the court; I am not doing that." I thank the hon. member for the light which he has thrown on this matter. I am asking him as a loyal citizen

of Barbados, to give the Minister not only the facts that he has given to this Committee, but also the names. This is a serious matter; this is a deliberate and callous act on the part of somebody to try to poison these innocent children and it is only an act of God that these children did not die. I repeat, Sir, that these children could have died in the circumstances. I am appealing to the hon. junior member for St. Peter as he has thrown so much light on this issue which is before us now - I am appealing to him to give the names of those culprits to the Minister so that he can have a proper investigation carried out in this matter.

The question that the sum of \$1,784,050 under Head 104 - Education - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 105 - HOME AFFAIRS

Head 105 - Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,591,188 under Head 105 - Home Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I think that on the last occasion when the Minister of Communications and Works was dealing with the matter of construction of a Post Office in St. Thomas, I indicated that there had been a new survey and it was suggested that there should be another Post Office. I gather that there was some element of re-committal. I would like to urge very strongly on the Minister responsible that it was the public Works Department which did the rebuilding of the District "D" Court room and I would urge very strongly on the Minister to do these two things together. There would not be any point in building a Court room and then go all over again and build a Post Office which is greatly needed. Speaking as a barrister, I do not know a Court room which is worse than District "D" Court room. When you have matters of assessment and appraisals of land, there is no place where the assessors can sit down. They have to sit where the prisoners sit. I do not know if the public are so badly accommodated as lawyers and magistrates are, but I would ask the Minister to see that all of this work is done together.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 3 "Urban Development Project, \$536,000", the note says:-

"To meet the cost of administration, main utility services, local roads, main roads and storm damage, electricity supply, beach acquisition, development pilot project and other incidental expenses of the Urban Development Project. Includes a revote of \$431,000."

I would like to know why the Urban Development Corporation found it necessary to ask for sums of money to acquire beach lands in connection with the project. My understanding is that this was a portion of 11 acres of land in Cave Hill between the parishes of St. Michael and St. James. Am I to understand now, Sir, that as a part of the facilities which are being offered to potential owners of land at Cave Hill, there is not going to be access to the beach? I am a bit disturbed about this. I know that this Corporation has shown a propensity to be extravagant. Under this Capital vote we are dealing with the cost of administration of this project.

12.50 a.m.

I want to know if it is a fact that this Corporation is the same one that rented an office in Broad Street at a very expensive rate from the Brethern people, and only when pressure was put on them they decided they were going to remove to Roebuck Street. It seems to me amusing that this Corporation finds it necessary to set up an office in Bridgetown for the purpose of carrying out these functions. When there is development of this kind in Barbados, they find that it is far more convenient to prospective customers to set up an office on the site where the land is being sold. The simple reason is that many people are not skilled in reading topographical

maps showing the terrain of the land, and they like to see the land pointed out to them; so the necessity for having an office in Bridgetown, unless there is some very good explanation coming from the other side, seems to me to be a matter of extravagance.

The Manager of the Urban Development Corporation is going to receive more than any Manager on a Statutory Body in the Island of Barbados; what I want to know is what is going to be the policy with respect to the sale of land by this Corporation. Up to now no policy has yet been made public with respect to this, but they have a lot of administration costs, and perhaps the Minister will be able to give us some information at this stage as to whether this policy has been worked out or not. We want to know whether the land has been divided into lots, we want to know if the land is to give housing to local companies or going to foreign companies. All of these things we want to know.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, this is really not my Ministry, but I can try to answer the senior member for Christ Church as best as I can. The first question he asked is about the sale of beach land. This is true. What has happened is that the Urban Development Corporation have decided that if you are going to build these middle income and top bracket houses, the people must have somewhere to bathe. As a result, just below the Bats Rock road they are going to put a road straight through so that everybody can go and get a dip.

The other question about the land. Something like 100 acres will be sold out - when you said the place in St. Lucy and the other place where you say that the developers usually operate on the site, it was not practical in this area, because if you had known Cave Hill before we went into it and put this road in, you would know it was impossible for anybody to live there. They are putting in the other intersections into the road and then they are going to erect six houses of different designs so that the general public can examine these houses and see which is most favourable.

These houses will range from \$10,000 and \$12,000 to something like \$30,000. This is, the house with the land. They have, I think it is, 20 to 25 years to pay off the debt. What I have been told is that if you have a \$12,000 house, I think you have to deposit something like \$1,200 and then you go on paying at an average of about \$74 a month with this insurance policy, which is a kind of mortgage insurance.

Administration. Well, I really cannot answer that one because I do not know, but I can tell you I agree with you about the renting of places down there; they have now been removed to Roebuck Street, but I really cannot tell you because it is not really my Ministry.

Mr. ST. JOHN: What I want to get at is the policy in relation to this Urban Development project, because this is a project which has been going for a considerable number of years, and it was supposed to be a plan which would contain multi-purpose housing units, not only the middle income and upper income brackets. This was to have been a policy like the Housing Authority to build working class homes; there is no Party politics in this.

This is what I want to get at. I hear a lot of talk in Barbados about how you are going to provide these houses at this price. Is this Authority going into the construction industry, or is this Authority going to invite people to do the construction?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The question you asked about having contractors to build this place, the answer is yes, as far as I know. I should also add that if you also want to bring in your own contractor you can do so, subject to the specifications laid down.

1.00 a.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 4 - Beach Control and Development - I remember the Hon. Minister, the hon. junior member for Christ Church some time ago shared my views on this matter of having proper beach con-

trol, and I am glad to see that this seems to be the first major step in this direction. This item calls for a vote of \$93,000 and it says here "To erect a Boulder Groyne at Rockley, to enable the Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University to carry out a programme of Beach Studies, to meet the cost of a visit by an expert to advise on the establishment of an authority to control National Parks and Beaches, and to provide facilities at beaches for public use." Ostensibly this is very good. It looks as if this is really research work before the actual execution is done. The Government has my blessing on this, and, as I said, I know the Minister and I have been in entire agreement on this matter, and I am glad to see something is being projected. But when we hear about some research being done, it gives us the idea that there is going to be a long detailed period of study before anything is done. Beach control affects the entire seacoast of the Island. Already on the leeward side of the Island there is a lot of foreign investment, and the public are beginning to have little or no access to beaches in Barbados. In St. James, I think, there are a few spots owned by the Government for many years now, and only very recently the little strip adjoining Sandy Lane has been well marked and defined.

Not so long ago there was a big hotel project being envisaged at Heywoods in St. Peter. I see now that these people who own that property are now offering lots for sale to the general public. There was the understanding some time ago that in case this Heywoods project had been developed, beach access facilities would be forthcoming to the general public. Traditionally Heywoods has been a picnicking ground for a long time. People from all over Barbados on public holidays go sea-bathing there and take their picnic lunches. Now that this land is being sold to individual owners, who is going to ask them to lease facilities? All this research business now may take two, three or four years. When these experts come down they will go to Rockley and will study this and that, and that to my mind makes the thing look complicated, but I really want some action to be taken. We want to know if the people who have for years and years been able to make use of the beach at Heywoods and other spots on the West Coast will continue to have these guarantees. I cannot find any place to bathe in Speightstown.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, speaking on this same item, it is not only providing the actual facilities. We are publicising the Island to improve the tourist industry, and what is very important is the embarrassment which one can run into at beaches where there are no facilities. At Dover where crowds go and where there are no facilities, you find some very awful things going on, and I hope the Government will not wait until they get an expert to advise them on this. I am quite in favour of having an expert to tell you about putting up groynes, but I appeal to the Minister to provide these facilities immediately, and see that the beaches are kept clean.

The question that the sum of \$1,591,188 under Head 105 - Home Affairs - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 106 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,935,500 under Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 107 - TRADE, TOURISM, CO-OPERATIVES AND FISHERIES

Head 107 - Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$23,307 under Head 107 - Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 - METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE - RECOMMITTED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 - Meteorological Service - be recommitted.

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. Chairman, for Head 17 "Meteorological Service" is to be substituted Head 17 - "Training Division". Under this new Head 17 as substituted the items are as follows:

Item 1. 1 Chief Training Officer (F) \$ 11,040

Item 2. 1 Senior Training Officer
(G.3 - 1) 8,120

Item 3. 2 Training Officers
(G.54) 9,720

Item 4. 1 Administrative Assistant
(G. 5 - 4) 4,985

Item 5. 1 Clerical Officer
(G.12 - 8) 1,500

Item 6. 1 Stenographer (T.6 0 3) 1,440

Item 7. 1 Messenger (L.6) 1,392

Item 8. Training Fund 100,000

Item 8 Insert note "To be paid into the Training Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Training Scheme Fund Act 1963, previously provided for under the Department of Service Commissions."

Item 9. Training Expenses 5,000

Insert note "includes fees to part-time Tutors, Office expenses and other incidental expenses of training."

Item 10 "Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute"

Insert note "To meet the cost of training six students at the E.C.F.I. includes provision for passage expenses."

1.10 a.m.

I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$125,708 under Head 17 - Training Division - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

RECOMMITTAL OF HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 43 Ministry of Health and Community Development - be recommitted.

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. Chairman, I am asking leave to insert under this Head a new item "Tractor, \$5,000", and the note is to read "For the purchase of one tractor." With that amendment I beg to move that the sum of \$899,657 under Head 43 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I hope that this tractor which is to be acquired will be available to the Interim Commissioner in connection with the execution of his duties as Local Government Commissioner in Barbados.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I hope that this tractor will be early used under the auspices of the Housing Authority at the Bagatelle Playing field in the parish of St. Thomas. It is a period of many years now that persons have been trying to make attempts to get a proper administration of the conditions at Bagatelle. I hope that this tractor will turn out to be the type of tractor which will be available to boys and girls for use on the playing field there. I understand that the eastern part of the place is called Belleplaine because of the fact that so many people down there come from St. Andrew.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am grieved to hear that people will have the use of playing fields in other places and there is no playing field anywhere in St. Peter.

The question that the sum of \$899,657 under Head 43 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the Schedule as amended stand part of the 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. It reads as follows:-

"The Accountant General may, on the warrant of the Minister or of some person authorised by the Minister in writing, issue out of the Consolidated Fund and apply towards making good the supply granted for the service of the year ending on 31st March 1968, a sum not exceeding in the aggregate forty million four hundred and thirty-eight thousand, eight hundred and four dollars."

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with respect to this Clause we have to make an amendment. I am asking leave to delete the words "Forty million four hundred and thirty-eight thousand, eight hundred and four;" and substitute therefor the words "forty two million and eighty-nine thousand, two hundred and thirty-five," which will take care of all the amendments which have been passed.

With that amendment, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

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

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

Clauses 3 to 6 inclusive were called separately and passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to thank hon. members for their co-operation at this sitting of the House. It shows the splendid working of the Parliamentary system and I wish again to thank hon. members very much. I beg to move that you do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee with amendments.

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, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

1.20 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will proceed with the next Order of the day.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, we will have to do two more things unfortunately, the Resolution under the name of the Minister of Communications - Annexed Estimates - and also the Expiry Continuance Bill. I beg to move that Order No. 5 standing in the name of this Minister 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.

ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass, I am asking leave to amend it as follows:

On page 173, Port Department, Item 60, Static Facilities, for provision of \$49,698 substitute provision of \$89,269. Amend note by inserting immediately before the words 'for the repairs and upkeep of rubble banks' the words 'Includes an amount of \$51,571 of which \$39,571 is a revote.'

Item 61, Marine and other Equipment, for provision of \$29,060 substitute provision of \$32,500. Amend note by adding after the words 'and trailer' 'Includes a revote for the purchase of an engine for the old Pilot Launch'.

Item 62, Radio Telephone Equipment, for provision of \$23,000 substitute provision of \$23,934. Amend note by adding after the word 'Port' the words 'Includes a revote for the purchase of a radio telephone set for the signal hut'.

Item 64, Buildings, for provision of \$62,200 substitute provision of \$70,169. Amend note by adding after the words 'Port Contractors' 'Includes a revote of \$7,969 to meet expenses of an architectural competition.'

Item 65, Repairs to Carenage, for provision of \$23,000 substitute provision of \$43,200. Amend note to read 'To provide for the repair of approximately 800 feet carenage walls. Includes revote of provision for the first phase of this project'

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Annexed Estimates, Port Department, as amended, stand part.

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

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

BILL TO CONTINUE VARIOUS EXPIRING LAWS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 9 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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the indulgence of this Chamber to take charge of this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking the indulgence of this Chamber to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the hon. and learned Prime Minister. If there is no objection, permission will be so granted.

(A PAUSE)

Permission is hereby granted. Let the Hon. Leader of the House proceed.

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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the Preamble be postponed.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

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. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Preamble to the Bill.

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. 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.

1.30 a.m.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business. I had been hoping to be able to suggest a recess, but unfortunately I do not think I can do this now; so we must meet again next Tuesday. Perhaps after next Tuesday we may be able to have two or three weeks' recess. It is unfortunate that Easter is so early.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER
PENSION SCHEME FOR MEMBERS
AND MINISTERS

Mr. SPEAKER: I gave an undertaking some time ago to the House that I would consider the question of terms of reference for the appointment of a Committee in connection with recommendations of a pension scheme for Members of Parliament and Ministers of the Crown.

I have the honour to inform the House that the terms of reference as agreed upon between the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. and Learned Deputy Leader of the Opposition and approved of by me are as follows:

"To consider what provisions, if any, should be made for the payment of pensions to Members of Parliament and Ministers of the Crown, past and present."

I am asking the following hon. members to be associated with me on that Committee:

The Hon. Leader of the House, Mr. Tudor;
The Hon. Deputy Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition,
Mr. St. John;
The Hon. junior member for Christ Church, Mr. Talma;
The hon. senior member for St. Peter, Mr. Husbands;
The hon. junior member for St. George, Mr. Hoppin;
The hon. junior member for Bridgetown, Mr. Lynch.

May I assume that those hon. members whom I have named is each willing to serve?

(Hon. members replied in the affirmative).

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank you gentlemen, and I need not assure you that this is a Committee which for obvious reasons is going to be expected to proceed with its labours expeditiously.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR JUNIOR MEMBER
FOR St. JOHN

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for one month's leave of absence from my duties as a member of this House as from 11th April 1967.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. John is asking for one month's leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House as from 11th April, 1967, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 28th March, at 2.30 p.m., and in moving the adjournment I would like to extend to you, Sir, and to all hon. members my wishes for a happy and joyous Easter.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the Hon. Leader of the House for his kind wishes, and I have no doubt we will all recover sufficiently by Easter Monday. So enjoy that happy holiday bearing in mind we will return on the very next day, Tuesday.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 28th March, at 2.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
1.40 a.m.

