

THE

# House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 28th March, 1967.

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

#### PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Once again I have, with regret, to express to hon. members that there are no minutes for confirmation.

#### PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I am commanded to lay the following Paper:

'Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 28th February, 1967.'

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following Papers:-

The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Contributions) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Classification) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Persons abroad and voluntary Contributions) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations, 1967.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Determination of Claims and Questions) Regulations, 1967.

### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 16 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders No. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the balance of the day's sitting.

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 standing in my name be the first Order of the Day.

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

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

#### RESOLUTION re NOTE TO ITEM 143 OF HEAD 41 QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. SPEAKER: The First Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 143, Laboratory and Laboratory Equipment of Head 41, Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the Estimates for the year 1966-67.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Addendum sets out, it is proposed to amend the note to Item 143 of Head 41, Queen Elizabeth Hospital so as to permit the purchase of a microscope, and that is why we are seeking approval. It may be well that I give some idea as to the reason for this proposed change in the Note. Honourable members will recall that the sum of \$2,000 was included under this item of the Approved Estimates 1966-67 for the purchase of three microscopes. It has been discovered by the Government that quite different models from that originally provided for can be purchased at a saving of approximately \$490. The Senior Bacteriologist and Pathologist has therefore advised that permission be sought and that this saving be applied to the purchase of a fourth microscope. The Senior Bacteriologist and Pathologist noted as follows:-

"I have had an opportunity to look at various types of microscopes recently. We have three microscopes from Wild, one given to the Hospital by W.H.O.; also a Loitz, and in Trinidad recently I saw a number of different microscopes at the Government Pathological Laboratory there, and in the Regional Virus Research Laboratory."

He then went on to recommend a Japanese Olympus Research microscope Model ECE/B1/11 and that is the standard one which he recommended. I beg to move that the advice of the Senior Bacteriologist in this matter be accepted and that the Resolution be now passed.

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 4) ORDER, 1987"**

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking permission for the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to take charge of No. 5 in the absence of the Prime Minister.  
2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Health has asked leave of the House for the Minister of Communications and Works to take charge of Order No. 5 standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister. If there be no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted for the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1987.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is in my opinion non-controversial. In 1964 the Northern District Council asked the Central Government to take over the roads, and as a result the Central Government took over 93 miles of road for which the Northern District Council was responsible. In April last year the Central Government took over responsibility of all the roads in the Island. Hon. members on the other side would know that the Councils were not giving of their best in the repairing and upkeep of these roads. Roads were only repaired in areas where somebody had a friend, and as a result the roads in the North deteriorated immensely. The Government has, however, taken over another 166 miles of road in the South, and has decided that the whole Works Department, that is the Public Works and Highways and Transport who are the two biggest spenders of public funds, should be amalgamated for uniformity. In taking over these roads we had to employ more road menders, more cantoniers, more superintendents and supervisors and so on. Since in our opinion a lot of human resources were being badly used, such as a Director of this and a Director of the other, we decided it would be better to have a Director of Works and integrate the Departments.

The Civil Establishment Order to which I am asking hon. members to agree provides for this uniformity by creating these new posts, because no legal change can be made of somebody from a position in Government without coming back to the Legislature; but as long as the Legislature has given its approval, we can make these changes. The changes are set out in the Schedule, and I will go through them. If there are any queries which are posed, I will try to answer them to the best of my knowledge. The powers which were delegated to the Director of Highways and Transport, such as regulations for the roads and so on, will be transferred to the Minister. You will have in the Department a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary, and a Permanent Secretary who is Head of the entire Department

- he is responsible for the Works Department, the Port, the Post Office, the Printery - 2 Senior Assistant Secretaries; 1 Senior Personnel Officer; 1 Personnel Officer; 2 Assistant Personnel Officers; 1 Senior Accountant; 1 Accountant; 3 Assistant Accountants; 2 Storekeepers; 1 Stores Clerk; 1 Caretaker, Public Buildings.

In the Technical Department we are going to have 1 Chief Technical Director; 3 Deputy Directors; that is, you will have one for Public Works, one for Highways and Transport, and one for roads and designs. This is to alleviate the Heads of Department having to do a lot of paper work. Sometimes when you asked why a particular road had not been done, there was the excuse that the officer had to do a lot of book work as well as technical work. There will be a man looking after drafting and people to make sure that the cantoniers give the Government a full day's work and stop the "Truth" newspaper from writing these things about how many bags of cement have gone somewhere. There will be 3 Executive Engineers. You might want to know why we have "Executive Engineer". "Executive" does not mean much, but if you abolish such a name, you have to pay out somebody. There will also be 1 Mechanical Engineer; 1 Architect; 1 Assistant Mechanical Engineer; 6 Assistant Engineers; 1 Superintendent of Works; 5 Senior Highways Superintendents; 30 Highways Superintendents; 1 Senior Draughtsman; 1 Draughtsman; 1 Draughtsman Computer; 1 Junior Draughtsman; 1 Pupil Draughtsman; 1 Chief Inspector; 3 Inspectors, Grade I; 2 Inspectors, Grade II; 2 Senior Foremen; 5 Foremen; 9 Construction Supervisors; and 1 Welder.  
3.05 p.m.

Then we have to substitute the figures "20" for the figures "18" appearing in the column headed "Number of Officers" opposite to the offices "Administrative Assistant and Cadet". Then we have to substitute the figures "37" for the figures "40" appearing in the column headed "Number of Officers" opposite to the Office "Senior Clerk". Next we have to substitute the figures "494" for the figures "49" appearing in the column headed "Number of Officers" opposite to the office "Clerical Officer". Next we have to substitute the figures "130" for the figures "128" appearing in the column headed "Number of Officers" opposite to the offices "Secretary, Stenographer, Typist."

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I do not see that there is anything controversial in this matter. However, I am willing to answer any question which any hon. member may ask; I am willing to answer any question to the best of my ability. I beg to move that this Resolution to approve this Order do now pass.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, although this Resolution can be regarded as being non-controversial, there are certain matters which I would like to draw to the attention of the Government. Will the Minister inform us whether the Government has considered this matter and rejected it? Dealing with Staff structure, professional and technical, it seems to me that the time has come when, with the addition to the Staff, the Ministry should consider the office of Quantity Section headed by the Quantity Surveyor in the Department. It is part and parcel of the duty of Engineers to do a certain amount of quantity. In Engineering, the post of Quantity Surveyor is regarded as essential in that it helps as to the various types of materials to be used together with an idea of the approximate costs based on experience gained from island wide practice. Now that the roads have been taken over in the North and the South and in the City of Bridgetown, I understand that the position is that one would have an Engineer in charge who would be responsible to the Deputy Officer of Highways and Transport for each of these areas. I would like the Minister to consider whether some sort of release should not be given so that people who, in the past, in the Northern and Southern Districts used to make minor complaints to the Superintendent of Works - such officers are well known in the respective areas, and minor matters could be dealt

with and remedial action taken without the necessity of having to go somewhere else and raise questions over matters which are comparatively small.

I hope that this Staff Structure which is being created will cater to complaints of this sort. I think that the best way to get this over is by a Press Release or Press Conference where the matter would be explained very clearly. Those are the observations which we would make with regard to the structure of this Department.

One other matter which the Government should take into consideration is this: For some time now it has been the complaint of the Minister of Finance that there is a tremendous amount of leakage in the Works Department. In one of his Budget Speeches he said that if they were able to save 25% of the leakage in the Works Department, he would not have to bring down the proposals which he had brought down. In the construction industry in Barbados there is a certain amount of theft and go-slow working techniques. I am wondering if the Government, as a means of checking their own efficiency, would not consider each year giving a proportion of the work on contract in order to check periodically the relative cost per square foot or area to the Government as is the case with private enterprise. Perhaps the experience would be useful to their own Engineers and the competitive spirit may act as a spur to the responsible Superintendents and people of that kind.

I hope that the Government will consider these matters. This Department is responsible for the execution of the Capital Works programme, and I do not think that anybody in here could fail to appreciate that if there is wastage in this Department, it means that the whole economy of the island has to bear the burdens which it should not have to bear. Finally, there is a subject which is dear to the hearts of members on this side. We receive complaints about job discrimination in the Works Department, on the grounds of alleged political opinions of workers, and this attitude appears to be most serious when there is intense political activity going on. I do not anticipate any intense electioneering going on. I hope that the technique for employment will be efficiency in jobs and not the feeling that 'if you are not this, you are not with us' and you should not earn your daily bread out of the Government. There are taxpayers on all sides of the House, and we should not carry politics to the extent to which it has been carried. It is wrong for people who are in charge of the destinies of others, to discriminate against people who are of different political opinions. There are fundamental rights under the Constitution which we have, and I hope that a strong directive will be issued as to appointments that the criteria will be loyalty, efficiency and the contribution which employees make to the work which they are doing.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister what he meant when he said that the people in the North were not giving of their best. He did not state in what way he meant, because when he said that, it made me believe that they could have done better and they did not do any better, or that it was the best of their ability financially.  
3.15 p.m.

When one says you are not giving of your best, it is so wide that it leaves me to think if the men in the North were not equipped to do what they were doing. He may not know, Sir, but the reason for asking the Government to take over these roads in the North.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation, I do not mean to interrupt the hon. member, but I did say the North when I meant the South.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point has been duly made.

Mr. SMITH: I was only letting him know the reasons why those in the North asked Government for assistance. During the years gone by, the Commissioners in the North could not carry on their roadworks programme through the entire year due to lack of funds. When it comes to August and September, all the funds have been exhausted

and they have to lay off the workers until the next year while the workers of the Government would be able to continue. So it would be that the men do not know what they were doing in the North, because if you are going to compare the limited amount of skilled men that we had in the North with what Highways and Transport have, we only had one or two, and with the little money we had, I think we have done a magnificent job; but the only thing we could do was to turn it over to the Government who had the money; we had the brains and not the money.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Two questions were asked to which I would like to reply. I could not agree with the senior member for Christ Church more. I also sometimes have to wonder if these files are being dealt with with the amount of secrecy which they should be dealt with, because he has pushed an open door when he talked about the Quantity Surveyor. If he had looked on the Civil Establishment Order we brought in here this month which was for a Quantity Surveyor - the reason why we did not have a Quantity Surveyor before was this. As you know, a Quantity Surveyor is a highly skilled technician, and these people are difficult to get. If a fellow who is really worth his salt is appointed, you have to pay him some money to come down here. We are looking now to see if we can get hold of one, because when you are spending this kind of money you really need somebody to give you an estimate. What I think happens is that most of the time a fellow might know that a job would take \$1,000 to do and he puts in an estimate for \$3,000 or \$4,000, but I am glad to hear the senior member for Christ Church say this. I am going to ask members on this side and on that side of the House, since we are all taxpayers - some of us cannot afford to pay the taxes - since you are taxpayers, I am not asking you to get yourselves into any altercations with anybody, but it is your duty and mine, when you are going to work and you see some of these people taking breakfast before they come to work, it is your duty to call on them, just ask them about the job they are doing. I remember as a result of an article appearing in the *Truth* Newspaper I went up to Regency Park and saw for myself the evidence that the *Truth* had given; but when I went to investigate the thing more thoroughly, Mr. Speaker, I ended up with a cuff in my chest, and the same *Truth* newspaper castigated me about 'the poor man losing his job.' These things are not fair; it is the duty of the newspapers to expose wrong things wherever they are. Telling us about theft from Government property, I appreciate it very much; but I would also appreciate if you would get on the telephone, call me or call my Parliamentary Secretary and let us know about them. All I am saying is that it is the duty of each and every one of us, because we are taxpayers and we should not allow people to get away with these things. When they are working in a private firm, you are apt to wonder if it is the same person who was so much a slacker in the Government service. If it is your Party in power, do not bring your Party down; you should work to keep your Party up, and in doing this you would be keeping up the economy of the country; but as I have said, this is a small community, and the *Truth* newspaper knew that the poor man had lost his job, but the *Truth* newspaper did not publish that I got a job for the same man, and how many jobs we got for other people.

I do not know if I am able to answer the second question. He asked about places for complaints; between you and me the best person to complain to is myself or the Parliamentary Secretary. I have known that people said they have reported leaking faucets to the Waterworks Department for days before they would come and turn off the taps. Not only that; some of the people working at the Waterworks would pass and see a leaking faucet, and before they would try to do something about it, they go along and wait for somebody to send them there. They would leave it running. I sometimes have to get out of my car and do something which is not in my province, but I cannot see water wasted. It is your duty, not only as a politician but as a citizen of Barbados, whether DLP, BLP or PPM or BNP in power, to try to make some of these wrong things right. I am appealing to each and every one of you; if you do not report the matter directly to Mr. Johnson of the Waterworks Department you will get little help. If you ring in and any ordinary person takes the message, that pipe would run for days.  
3.25 p.m.

Sometimes there is a hole in the road for months, though these people are paid to go and see these things; so I think the best person to complain to is either directly to the Ministry, or to Mr. Lowe or Mr. Thompson who will immediately take action. We also have depots in the country. At Groves in St. George there is a depot with Mr. Wymer in charge. We are going to put one in Christ Church, and in St. Michael there is one in Country Road. If you ring these persons and get no results, just call me or the Director and he will deal with it; but if you call one of these youngsters, they will listen to you if you are not rude, and nothing will be done.

Before I sit, I would like to appeal to hon. members, if they are going out in their car and see a leaking faucet, to call the Waterworks and inform them. The hon. member mentioned what the Prime Minister said about graft. I have tried to tighten up on this; but when you live in a small community you know how it is. Everybody wants to make a little "progue" even at the risk of getting locked up. We are trying to tighten up the loopholes as much as possible; but you will get the "odd man out", and it is your duty whenever you find these things to report the matter. I think we should set up something like the United States and England, a Senate Investigating Committee, where as soon as you know a man works for \$100 a month and he has a big limousine, you should be able to investigate. This is done in America and in England. How can a man working for next to nothing, with a family, spend more money than a person working for more money, and have two and three cars? There is a man who, I am told, married a rich woman, who works for \$200 a month, and he has a boat and three cars. How can a man working for \$200 a month keep these things?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid we seem to be riding above this Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I agree, Mr. Speaker, but I was just pointing out to hon. members on the opposite side that we on this side do not condone these things, and I am asking them to assist me in fighting this graft and corruption.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, whom I do not observe instantly to be in his place.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take charge of this Order, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

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

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

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1966-67 No. 56

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, I think I should explain for the benefit of hon. members the large amount of \$1,800. The Note states that this amount is necessary to meet firm commitments totalling \$1,730.54 to the 31st January, and the additional expenditure for the remaining two months in the financial year. The amount of \$2,700 was voted in the Current Estimates under this Head, and this amount was to meet the cost of extractions, supply of dentures and spectacles for prisoners. Of this amount \$2,696.34 was spent up to 17th November, 1966, leaving a balance of \$3.66, and at present there are further commitments totalling \$1,730.54 to the 31st January this year. Some of the reasons for this state of affairs are a balance of \$588 in respect of commitments from the previous financial year having to be brought forward and met from this year's vote, and improvement and more expensive drugs are now being ordered and administered; fees have also been regularised, and, in some cases, increased in respect of extractions from \$1 to \$1.50 fillings from an ad hoc basis to \$3 and repairs now \$4.

3.35 p.m.

Those are some of the reasons for these increases. Therefore, what I have said in connection with Item 20 - Maintenance of Hospital - generally speaking, applies to commitments which have already arisen and which have been brought forward. In each case, commitments have been brought forward from the last financial year. There was a sum of \$100 outstanding from the previous financial year which had to be met in this financial year. The same thing applies to Item 21 - Incidentals. These amounts have depleted the vote considerably and it is for that reason mainly that we are asking for supplementary votes in respect of Items 20, 21, 25 and 28, for which sums of \$1,800, \$125, \$300 and \$150 respectively are required. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1966-67 No. 56

##### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - ARCHIVES

*A Resolution for the sum of \$565 was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution to place the sum of \$565 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67 No. 56, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. This amount is required under Head 36 - Ministry of Education, Archives Department. As the Addendum to the Resolution sets out, this money is for the purpose of meeting the cost of those items of equipment which were ordered during the financial year 1965-66 but were supplied during the current financial year. No provision has been included in the Current Estimates to meet this Expenditure. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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 you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

# RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) ORDER, 1967

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3, standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development is asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister to take charge of this Order which is to move the passing of the following Resolution:—A Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1967.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum to this Resolution sets out, this Resolution seeks to give effect to the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1967" which has been made by the Governor-General. In accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Pensions Act, 1947-20, it is necessary for the Order to be approved by Parliament.

This Resolution therefore deals with this Order. The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1967 is to take the place of the Old Order which was in effect prior to Independence, so that this is more a formality than anything else, but it is absolutely necessary to pass this Resolution. 3.45 p.m.

"The Governor-General, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 2 (1) of the Pension Act, 1947, as amended by the Barbados Independent Order, 1966 hereby makes the following regulations." As you will see, as set out in the Schedule the Resolution deals with the posts of Governor-General, service Commissions, Crown Solicitor, Registration Office, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Prime Minister and all of the various Ministries and Departments, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Accountant General, Customs and Excise, Inland Revenue, Police, Fire Service, Statistical Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance, Ministry of Communications and Works, Post Office, Printing Office, Waterworks, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Community Development and all the various Sections, whether it be the Central or Health Services, District Hospital, Mental Hospital, Local Government, etc. Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Co-operatives and Fisheries; so this Order deals with the entire Govern-

ment Service. I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

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

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

## QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Question here which I would like to answer. The Oral Reply to a question which I should like to answer is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who is now in his place. I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly this is Question Time. I am advised that the Question standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has had an answer laid in this Chamber this afternoon. It is No. 16.

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

1. "Is Government aware that the Plantation known as Tamarind Hall in the parish of St. Joseph abutting and bounding on Blackmans Plantation and the highway leading to Bathsheba via Horse Hill is for sale?"

2. Will the Government consider the immediate purchase of this plantation to establish a housing area for the upper part of the parish and embracing those residents of Hackleton Cliff, Church Village, Barnes Land, Surinam Village and all the other surrounding areas where, as evidenced recently, people are living in great danger due to the insecurity of the land they now occupy?"

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

"1. Yes, Sir. The plantation has been offered for sale to the Housing Authority.

2. The offer is being considered."

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no other replies laid, so far as I am advised.

## ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 18th April at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 18th April, 1967 at 2.30 p.m. 3.55 p.m.