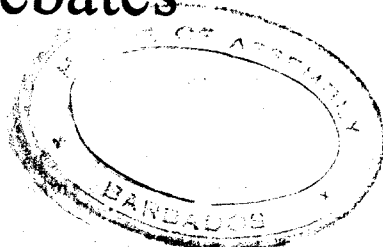


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd May, 1967.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance); His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy Speaker) and Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.

Prayers were read.

Sir Grantley Adams, Messrs. J. M. G. M. Adams, Husbands, St. John and Hon. E. W. Barrow entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I am advised that the Minutes of the Meetings of this Chamber of the 24th January, 31st January and the 21st February, 1967, respectively have been duly circulated and if there is no objection offered to the confirmation to any of those three sets of Minutes, I will deem them to be confirmed. (After a pause). Accordingly, I declare the Minutes of those Meetings to be duly confirmed. There are no other Notices on my Notice Paper for today.

Mr. Craig entered the House and took his seat.

PAPER LAID

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay the following:-

An account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for the quarter ended 31st March, 1967.

The Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 1967.

The Barbados Union Oil Company Refinery (Levy on Petroleum Products) (Amendment) Regulations, 1967.

The Public Employees Pensions (Amendment) Regulations, 1967.

Barbados Statistical Service - Quarterly Digest of Statistics Nos. 38 and 39 June - September, 1966.

Barbados Statistical Service - Selected Monthly Indicators: July - September, 1966.

Statement showing net Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve (12) Months ended 31st March, 1967.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1967.

The Customs Duties (Materials for use in the manufacture of Trowel Plastics) Order, 1967.

The Customs Duties (Materials for use in the Manufacture and Packaging of Toilet Water) Order, 1967.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Local Government (Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1967.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1961.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Old Age Pension Act, 1937.

REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 12, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, is now ready.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 17, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, is now ready.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised by Mr. Deputy Clerk that there is a Question which was filed in good time at the office here and which he has had the opportunity of perusing and which he deems to be in order. That question stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for Christ Church in connection with the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

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

1. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that it has been reported to him that financial irregularities have been committed at the Barbados Marketing Corporation?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state whether any member or members of the said Corporation was or were involved?

3. If any member or members was or were involved will the Minister state the name or names of such member or members and whether any and if so, what steps have been taken against such member or members?

4. Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation has resigned?

5. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state the date of the said resignation, and whether the said Chairman resigned voluntarily or was called upon to resign?

6. If the said Chairman was called upon to resign, will the Minister state by whom he was called upon to resign, and for what reason?

7. Is the Minister aware that the Corporation now carries on the business of buying and selling pork? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state whether this aspect of the Corporation's business is operated at a loss or profit?

8. If the said business is operated at a loss, will the Minister state how much was the loss incurred from the commencement of the said business of buying and selling pork up to this date?

9. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact or not that a number of employees of the said corporation working in the Abattoir and/or pork-processing section of the said Corporation have been dismissed?

10. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state the reason for the said dismissal?

11. Is the Minister aware that the Reports of the Corporation for the financial year 1965-1966, 1966-1967 have not been laid on the Table of the House of Assembly?

12. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state why the said Reports have not been laid?

13. Will the Minister state whether the said Corporation operated at a profit in its financial years 1965-66 and 1966-1967 or at a loss?

14. If it operated at a profit in any of the said years, will the Minister state how much was the profit for each and every year?

15. If it operated at a loss in any of the said years, will the Minister state how much was the loss for each and every year?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am further advised by Mr. Deputy Clerk that he deems to be in order, and has passed certain Questions in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph apropos to the Stabilisation Fund, I am satisfied that these Questions were handed in in good time. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph may proceed to ask those Questions about the Stabilisation Fund.
2.55 p.m.

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

Will the Minister state the total amount of money in hand in the Stabilization Fund from the levy on each ton of canes yearly from 1958 to 1966?

Will Government consider the advisability of placing some of this money at the disposal of the canegrowers of

Barbados so as to help them offset some of their losses sustained during the 1967 reaping season.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill to amend the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1967, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. A. DuC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, the Bill to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, 1937, was read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

Mr. HOPPIN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Hon. Junior member for St. George be appointed Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

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

(Cheers)

Mr. SPEAKER: From the acclamation on all sides of the House, I take it that the appointment is unanimously approved.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, before I take the Chair I would just like to thank you. In doing so, I also noticed that hon. members of the Opposition have cheered along with members of the Government in support of me as Chairman. I shall be as impartial as I can be when I am in the Chair and shall co-operate with all hon. members as I am expected to do.

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

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

RETARDATION IN THE RECOVERY RATE OF PATIENTS AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the first question to be dealt with is Parliamentary Question No. 12, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before we take that question, I was wondering if we could deal with the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 14 first. I was wondering if some hon. member on the opposite side could ask question No. 14 first so that this House can dispose of that question.

The Reply was ready on the last occasion, but the hon. member in whose name the question stands was not in his place and he is still not in his place.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was reminded that the reply to this question was laid at a previous meeting, but I will deal with that after the one which I have just mentioned.

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

1. Is Government aware of the possible retardation in the recovery rate of certain patients, or the increase in the death rate of certain patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, due to the fact that doctors attending such patients prescribe diets, but that such diets as may be prescribed are not properly compounded or are not compounded at all?

2. Is Government aware that the Chief Catering Officer attached to the said Queen Elizabeth Hospital is charged or entrusted with performing the functions of a dietitian at the said Hospital?

3. Is Government aware that the said officer is not a trained or qualified dietitian?

4. Does Government know that this untrained and unqualified officer undertakes such duties as require the knowledge of a trained and qualified dietitian - not only in respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but also in respect of the Health Centre at Speightstown in the parish of Saint Peter?

5. Will Government examine the staff structure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Kitchen Department and bring into immediate effect such changes as would improve conditions at this Institution for the benefit of patients and doctors there as well as for patients and doctors attending at the Health Centre at Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter?

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

(1) No, Sir. The allegations contained in this part of the question are without any foundation in fact.

(2 & 3) Yes, Sir.

(4) The catering Officer's only contact with the Speightstown Health Centre was in respect of a copy of the Hospital diet sheet for diabetics.

(5) A World Health Consultant in diabetics has been carrying out a survey of all the dietary arrangements at the Hospital, and her findings will receive the attention of the Ministry.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask a supplementary. I would like to know if the Hon. Minister has tried in any way to find out if the death - and I repeat "death" - has occurred to any patient in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital resulting from the fact that the patient did not receive dietary treatment by a doctor?
3.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is the precise question which I have answered in detail. The reply is: "No, Sir. The allegations contained in this part of the question are without any foundation in fact."

Mr. HINDS: There is one other supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Senior Catering Officer there a qualified dietitian?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again, Sir, I have answered that question. The answers to parts 2 and 3 of the question are "Yes, Sir" in each case.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us what exactly are the qualifications of this qualified dietitian who, he tells us, this Senior Catering Officer is.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that will form the substance of a substantive question. The hon. member will have to give notice of that.

BEACH FACILITIES STRUCTURE AT HOLETOWN

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question to which the Reply has been laid is Question No. 17. That stands in the name

of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph relative to the erection of the beach facilities structure at Hometown.

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

1. Will Government state the cost of erecting the beach facilities structure at Hometown, St. James erected by the Tourist Board?

2. Will Government state if or when the said beach facilities will be open to the public?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:-

"1. The Cost of erecting the structures for the Hometown beach facilities at St. James was \$28,751.29.

2. The facility was open to the public

(a) from 1st October, 1966 to 19th January, 1967 and

(b) from 1st February, 1967, to the present date."

DANGEROUS TRAFFIC SITUATION ON ST. SILAS CHAPEL - GAMBLE HILL ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: The Oral Reply to Question No. 14 asked by the hon. junior member for St. James has been laid, but that Question was allowed to stand over in the absence of the hon. member in whose name it stands. That hon. member is again not in his place this afternoon and he has not obtained leave of absence from this Chamber. I do not know if any other hon. member has been given permission to ask that question on behalf of the hon. member.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, if you would permit me, Sir, with the leave of the House, I have been requested by the hon. junior member for St. James to put the question on his behalf.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed to put the question.

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

Is the Minister aware of the dangerous situation to pedestrians and vehicular traffic on the road leading from St. Silas Chapel to Gamble Hill in the parish of St. James due to there being no guard walls where the road crosses a gully?

Will the Minister authorise the erection of guard walls as soon as possible?

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

"1. I am not aware of any accident to pedestrians or to the vehicular traffic on the road leading from St. Silas Chapel to Gamble Hill in the parish of St. James.

2. It is not considered that guard walls would relieve the problem of the narrowness of the road. Consideration will be given to the practicability of widening the road and providing adequate road reserves."

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.

HOTELS AID BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the instant Order of the Day. The first Order under that Head stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries:- To move the House into Committee on a Bill to consolidate and revise the law relating to the encouragement of the development of hotels and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith. When this Bill was last under consideration, it was read a second time and further consideration was postponed on the motion of the hon. senior member for Christ Church seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Minister of Trade is not in his place today, I am asking leave for the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to take charge of this Bill in the absence of the Minister of Trade.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave is being sought for the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to take charge of this Bill which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade who is absent from the Island at this time. If there is no objection, that leave is granted. (Pause) There being no objection, I declare the leave which has been requested to be duly granted. Let the Hon. Minister of Agriculture proceed.
3.15 p.m.

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 9 were called separately and passed.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: I ask the Clerk to ring the bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Clauses 10 to 25 were called separately and passed.
3.25 p.m.

The four Schedules were called and passed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move, Mr. Acting Chairman, that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

The Acting Chairman reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who, took the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.5) Order, 1967

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

"A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.5) Order, 1967."

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution is a Resolution to approve "The Civil Establishment

(General) (Amendment) (No.5) Order, 1967. "This Order seeks the approval of the Legislature for the establishment of certain posts in the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education in relation to the Industrial Schools, the Ministry of Health and Community Development, the Handicraft Development Section in relation to the Handicraft Development Officer, the Assistant Handicraft Development Officer and the Craft Supervisor and the other posts which are sought to be established. Provision is also made in relation to the Lands and Surveys Department.

I beg to move that the Resolution to approve this Order do now pass.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to Item 9A - Lands and Surveys - I am wondering if the Prime Minister can inform us as to what progress is being made in this Department with a view to the introduction of Land Registration. I am wondering if the Prime Minister can tell us whether any progress has been made up to date.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question of Land Registration needs legislation to make it compulsory. When we speak of Land Registration in Barbados, one is never quite sure whether the registration of land or the registration of title is meant. Of course, the registration of title would make it easier and more convenient for property owners to get conveyances. The question of the registration of land is one which will entail a much more detailed and final survey of the Island as regards title. The Government is actively pursuing both matters, but the question of valuation is one which is bound up with the exercise. However, we are also pursuing the question of land valuation and the setting up of the appropriate Department. The Department of Lands and Surveys is currently engaged in getting an accurate picture of the land which the Government owns. The Government is actively pursuing the question of Land Registration in either or both senses of the word, but I could not inform the hon. member that we have reach stage 4 or stage 5 or that the matter would be concluded next month or next year. If the hon. member should like to ask a substantive question, I shall be glad to answer it.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.6) ORDER, 1967

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

"A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1967."

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1967." The Order seeks legislative approval for the establishment of posts in the Ministry of External Affairs which includes the High Commission in the United Kingdom, the High Commission in Canada, the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the Consulate General in New York and representation in Washington. It is necessary to have these posts established by this Civil Establishment Order; in fact, hon. members will remember that the Ministry itself was established by a Civil Establishment Order, which is the Home Desk, as it were, and this Order seeks the approval of the Legislature for the establishment of these various posts in the Overseas Offices. I beg to move that this Resolution to approve this Order do now pass. The details are set out in the Order.
3.35 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, reading the Addendum to this Resolution, there are certain matters which arise out of it. In the Addendum, it is stated that it is proposed to pay the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom \$24,000, but there is a Note which says that the expenses of the High Commissioner is to be shared with the Government of Guyana. Barbados' share is expected to be \$24,000.

We then read that the High Commissioner in Canada is to receive a salary of \$12,000. We on this side would like an explanation on that. We would like to know why there is a difference in pay between the two - why it is that the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom is to receive more than the High Commissioner in Canada. As I understand it, the salary of a High Commissioner has nothing to do with allowances. The Note says that Barbados' share is estimated to be \$24,000 and that the High Commissioner's expenses are to be shared. This \$24,000, therefore, must include things other than salaries and other emoluments.

As regards the proposals for the Consulate-General in New York, there is provision for a Senior Assistant Secretary. What we on this side wish to enquire is whether our representation in New York and in Washington is to be done by this small number of officers or whether the Permanent Representative to the United Nations will carry out the headship of these representations. Are these offices being included under his representation?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: In the first place, their salary is never put above that which the Permanent Secretaries get, but they get allowances. I think that hon. members of the House may want to know what is the proposals of the Government as far as High Commissioners are concerned. The \$24,000 to be paid to the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom is 40% of the joint-office which he is holding on the part of the Government of Guyana and the Government of Barbados. The office is shared between the two Governments. The total emoluments of High Commissioner of the United Kingdom would be in the vicinity of \$59,800, or pretty close to \$60,000.

The office of High Commissioner is not an established one. It is not a part under the Establishment.

We have not appointed all the officers in the offices. We expect to recruit some people from the country to fill these offices.

As far as the United States Mission is concerned, we have an Ambassador there, and the top salary paid to any Ambassador or High Commissioner is never on the line of what he receives here. They get allowances in order to bring their pay in line with the hierarchy which they are in. They cannot draw a higher salary than the top post in the Establishment; so you cannot get a salary of more than \$12,000. You get personal emoluments. Likewise the Senior Officers, the ones we are recruiting; they get other allowances such as living allowances.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would just like to say

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just rise on a point of order to say that the Hon. Prime Minister has already replied to the questions raised on this matter by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. The hon. member who has now risen to speak is out of order.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The Hon. Prime Minister rose and began to speak before I could get on my feet but the Hon. Prime Minister has the right to reply to anything I have to say. The Hon. Prime Minister did not allow a reasonable time to elapse before he started to reply.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am on a point of order. If the hon. member wants me to say it again, I repeat it for the fourth time. He says that a reasonable time did not elapse before the Minister replied. If the hon. member had intimated that he had a question to ask at that stage, I would have been glad to give way. The hon. member

rose just only to carry on a rum shop wrangle. He cannot question whether a reasonable time had elapsed. We cannot have this departure from the usual procedure of the House.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Your Honour did not ask if any other member wanted to speak on the debate as is usually done. I began to rise, but the Hon. Prime Minister had risen before me.

I say again that the Hon. Prime Minister can speak after me. I wonder if the Hon. Prime Minister realises that the Leader of the Opposition is an official of this House. The Hon. Prime Minister has not yet begun to do his duty towards the Opposition particularly where this Resolution which deals with External Affairs is concerned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard all that has been said. I really did not mention if other hon. members who desired to speak on the matter should do so now before the Minister replies. However, the Hon. Prime Minister has replied already and I do not think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition can speak now.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am asking the permission of the House to speak now.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is now asking for leave of the House to speak now. I object.
3.45 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I thought you actually said that you had granted me the leave of the House to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was not in my power to grant permission to the hon. member to speak.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking the leave of the House to speak at this stage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking the leave of the House to speak at this stage and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Objection!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Objection having been taken to leave being granted to the hon. member to speak at this stage, he cannot speak.

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

A division was taken as follows:-

AYES: Mr. HOPPIN, Honourables J. C. TUDOR, E. W. BARROW, C. E. TALMA, A. DaC. EDWARDS, N. W. BOXILL, Messrs. LOWE, CORBIN and SPRINGER - 9.

NOES: Messrs. HINDS, CRAIG, ADAMS, HUSBANDS, ST. JOHN and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS - 6.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, nine hon. members voting "Aye" and six hon. members voting "NO". I declare that the "AYES" have it. I further declare that this Resolution has been duly passed.

FISHERIES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulation Act, 1904.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking the leave of the House to deal with this Order in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Fisheries.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Objection!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should just like to have your ruling in this matter. Hon. members on

the opposite side of the House have registered their objection as to the conduct of Government Business by a Minister of the Crown on behalf of another Minister of the Crown who is not now in his place. I do not think, Sir, that this is a valid objection, subject to Your Honour's Ruling, and I would ask Your Honour to guide the House on this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not consider the objection permissible and the Hon. Minister

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if objection is taken, objection is taken.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as an objector, I should like to say that my objection was a serious one.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to say that we are not facetious over here when we make an objection, even although some other hon. members may be facetious when they make their objections. (Asides). Your Honour has been asked for your ruling.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall say this, whatever happens. The Chair owes a duty to the House just as the House owes respect to the Chair. If an hon. member is wrong, then he is wrong, and that is so whether he be a member of the Government or a member of the Opposition. These things which go on in here must stop. The chief objector in here is the hon. junior member for St. Lucy. He trots out things and they go because he has the numbers; and I am saying that parliamentary tradition must guide us.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I was addressing the Chair specifically.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I must point out

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you are told by an objector that he makes his objection seriously, then you must rule.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already ruled.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I must point out, as I was about to say just now, that over the past five years about 4,600 young turtles have been brought into this country by the University of Bellairs Research Institute. That was in keeping with an effort to increase the number of turtles available to us.
3.55 p.m.

Many of these young turtles have been killed, whether by spear fishing or otherwise before they reached a matured stage. As a result of this, it was thought necessary to have this Bill introduced. It seeks to amend the Fisheries Regulation Act, 1904 in order to see that ample provisions are made for the preservation of these turtles up to a certain age.

Many people who catch these turtles do so when they come on the shore to lay their eggs. This Bill makes it an offence for any person to buy, sell or expose for sale, or to have in his possession for sale, any turtle of a less weight than thirty pounds or any turtle which has been captured on or within one hundred yards of the shores of the Island.

The Bellairs Research Institute is trying to bring turtles to this country in order to increase the number of turtles and to improve the turtle industry, and I think that is a good thing to have provision made for the safeguarding of turtles up to a certain age.

This Bill makes it illegal for anyone to catch a turtle of less weight than thirty pounds or to capture a turtle

within one hundred yards of the shores of this Island, I do not think that there should be too much ado over this Bill.

It also seeks to increase from \$50 to \$100 the penalties for offences committed under Part 1 of the Act.

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

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am glad of this opportunity to speak on the matter concerning the Marketing Corporation. Some time ago this Government brought down a Resolution to guarantee a loan for the Marketing Corporation.

There is no Department of the Government which is run as badly as this Department. Piecemeal legislation dealing with the Fishing Industry is not good enough. The whole of the Fisheries Department is improperly run, and no amount of legislation brought down here can cure that ill until the Ministerial "Head" is "axed" and the members of the Marketing Corporation Board are changed.

Day after day fishermen go out to sea, particularly fishermen from the constituency which the Hon. Minister of Health, Local Government and Community Development represents. The fishermen were asked to improve their catches, and the Barbados Marketing Corporation was set up for the purpose of assisting them in the Marketing of fish; but fishermen today are receiving discriminatory treatment, and I am saying on the floor of this House that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is run incompetently, and something should be done about it.

Certain fishermen who go out and catch fish do not get their fish taken at the Marketing Corporation. They are turned away with the excuse that the cold-storage capacity is filled already; but yet when other persons go there later with fish, their fish is taken.

Some time ago, the House was asked to approve of a loan to provide more cold-storage for storing so that the Barbados Marketing Corporation would have more cold-storage space for fish; but up to now the situation has not changed. Due to the state of affairs there, fish is being sold at unremunerative prices. The Marketing Corporation is incompetent to deal with marketing of fish. I challenged the Hon. Minister of Health to deny that fishermen from the constituency that he represents have come to him and told him that they are dissatisfied with the way the Ministry of Fisheries is being run.

Can you imagine that they say they are filled up with pork? Of course, they do not know how much pork they have down there. They came to the House and the House granted them a further sum of money to further the operation at the Marketing Corporation so that they could provide more facilities for the benefit of the mass of fishermen throughout the Island. Up to today no new facilities have been added. Of course, we on this side agree with that proposal. Up to now there is still a quota system in force. The fish market at Oistins is woefully inadequate, whilst at Silver Sands, where the Government had acquired land, no facilities for the fishing folk have yet been devised.

As regards the cold-storage facilities, there were also plans to erect other centres about the country. Why were these not done before?

The only policy which the Government should put in force as regards the Marketing Corporation is to get rid of the Minister and the whole Marketing Corporation Board, because they do not know what they are doing.
4.05 p.m.

In any area you go to, Bathsheba, St. Philip or Speights-town you will hear this. Imagine that a quota is being used at the Marketing Board, that you are only taking so many thousand pounds of fish per day and when that is done, they are holding back for some people and some bodies. If the Minister of Health were to go into any area, he will realise what is happening. The marketing facilities are woefully inadequate. They have bought land at Silver Sands in the parish of Christ Church for providing beach facilities and they have not erected a proper market yet. That is under the portfolio of the Minister of that area and we will see whether he will press his colleagues in the Cabinet to see

that that land is utilised for the purpose of putting up proper beach facilities. All of this legislation cannot cure the present state of affairs. The Fisheries Officer has retired and there is an Acting Fisheries Officer. Of course, I see that the Prime Minister has said that he does not want to see any fish caught in Barbados either. That is his attitude.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have listened attentively to the hon. senior member for Christ Church, and I should like to point out to him that I am not aware of any basic discriminatory treatment where the purchasing of fish by the Barbados Marketing Corporation is concerned. However, I shall investigate the matter, and if that is the case, the matter will be treated in the way in which it ought to be treated. We do not believe in any discrimination. I do not see why there should be any discriminatory treatment where the fishermen of one part of the country and those of another part of the country are concerned. I must say, Sir, that we are hoping that the cold storage provided for the fishing industry will soon be in operation so that we will have more cold storage space and we will acquire more space for the fishermen who have to come from Christ Church and other parts of the country. I am quite aware of the fact that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is not in a position to purchase all the fish that are caught by the fishermen from all the fishing districts, but when the new section is put into operation, the space which will be provided will ease the situation and I am sure that there will be less cause for concern over the fishermen from any part of the Island. I will promise the hon. member that I will check on this question of discrimination and if it is so, the parties concerned will be disciplined.

On the question of sub-centres for the Barbados Marketing Corporation, that is a matter which is now engaging the attention of my Ministry. I should like to point out that consideration is now being given to using a part of the Market which was built in St. Philip and which has never been used, for making provision for cold storage. Perhaps the fishermen from St. Philip will be able to make use of the cold storage facilities provided there.

On the question of the Acting Fisheries Officer, I should like to say that we ourselves are not happy about the number of acting appointments in the Government Service, and we are encouraging those persons who are responsible for making appointments in the Government Service to do something about the number of acting appointments which obtain at the present time. I do not think that there is any other question which has been asked.

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

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

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

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:—

2. Section 2 of the Fisheries Regulation Act, 1904 is hereby amended in the following respects—

- (a) by deleting from paragraph (iii) of the section the words "ten pounds" and substituting therefor the words "thirty pounds or";
- (b) by substituting the words "or under thirty pounds" for the words "under 10 lbs." in the marginal note to paragraph (iii) of the section.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Acting Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Acting Chairman, I take it that this is the operative Section of the Bill, but there is nothing of any increase of twenty pounds in the weight of turtles. It may well be that they have been caught on or within 100 yards of the shore of this Island. I have listened to the Hon. Minister and it would be hard from his introductory remarks to understand that this Bill was about the weight of turtles. What I would like to know is this; and this is one of the reasons why I took objection to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture being granted leave to deal with this Bill, because this Minister does not particularly know about this matter of fishing. What does this section really mean? It is many years now since I have heard of turtles being sold in Barbados. As a matter of fact, it is some time now since I have seen a turtle on the market weighing either ten, twenty or thirty pounds.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Hon. Minister in charge how many turtles have been caught and sold during the last five years. I will also like to know what need does this Bill meet and what the Bellairs Research Institute has to do with us as regards this. Is it necessary to waste the time of Parliament dealing with this matter? Can the Hon. Minister tell us what is the number of turtles that have been caught and sold around the shores of Barbados? It would be of interest to know the answer to that. I would be glad if the Hon. Minister would be able to give some information on this point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has asked how many turtles are caught all around the coast of this Island. Especially at Gravesend Beach many turtles under the weight of thirty pounds have been caught. In the last five years the Bellairs Research Institute dropped a lot of young turtles around the shores of Barbados. When a mother turtle is ready to lay, it comes in to the shore. The hon. member must be aware of that. He has asked how many of these turtles have been caught and sold, but he should be aware that many of these do not reach the Marketing Corporation.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, just before you put the question, I would just like the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to know that you do not catch turtles around the parish of St. Thomas, because there are no beaches around that parish. Many people frequent the beaches around this Island at night, and as soon as a turtle comes in, they catch it. They even destroy the eggs which these turtles lay on the shore. I do not know for what reason they do, but these female turtles lay as many as fifty eggs; so hon. members can well see the injury that they are causing to the turtle industry of this Island. We do not know the number of turtles which are caught, but hon. members can well understand that many of these turtles which are caught around the shores of this Island do not reach the Marketing Association. They are sold to the hotels and those places.

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

Clause 3 was called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. N. W. BOXILL, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do not stand adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd May, 1967, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in seconding this motion, I would just like to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir John Stow, would be completing his term of duty in this Island on the 17th May, 1967, and the new Governor-General, Mr. Arleigh Winston Scott, would be sworn in as Governor-General in the Senate Chamber at five o'clock p.m., on the 18th May, 1967, and it is proposed that hon. members will attend and will receive notice of this in due time.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it has been drawn to my attention that Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business, a Resolution which stands in my name will fall to the ground by that time. I do not blame the Government of doing anything to cause that; I am just pointing out that it will happen.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has happened before, but the Government has no power at all to take anything from off the Order Paper.
4.25 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is quite within the province of the hon. member to table the Resolution again. There is nothing to prevent him from doing so. You cannot adjourn the House in order to give him the opportunity to fulminate; he can fulminate later.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Hon. Prime Minister is speaking on a point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought so, but I wanted clarification of that.

Mr. St. JOHN: What is the hon. member speaking on? (A MEMBER: On the motion before the House.) I do not feel that this is the stage at which to adjourn the House. There is no reason why Private Members' Business cannot be dealt with now. It is one of the fundamental rights of private members to have the opportunity of dealing with their business. The Government have used their majority to suspend the Standing Orders and to make the motion for the adjournment of the House so as to prevent private members from exercising their undoubted rights and privileges, and therefore we, on this side of the House, must object. Why should any member of this Chamber be deprived of his rights and privileges when the Standing Orders of the House provide for a specific period of time for doing Private Members' Business? If the Standing Orders of this House make that provision, why are the Standing Orders being circumvented by members on the other side merely because they have the majority of people who do not understand these fundamental principles or, on the other hand, if they understand them, they intend to flout them?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot agree to the adjournment of the House at this stage. Must an hon. member put another motion because members on the other side want to exercise their authority? I counsel hon. members to keep reading the Parliamentary journals and they will understand what has happened in other countries. In boxing matches you have to play according to certain rules, and the same thing applies in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did the hon. member say something about boxing?

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I can quite understand Your Honour not hearing because of the rude objections which are being made by members on the other side.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it falls to me to reply to the debate which seems to have engendered some heat.

First of all, I should like to say that hon. members on the opposite side of the House cannot complain of not having opportunities to deal with Private Members' Business. It is true that they did not give any indication today that they wanted to do Private Members' Business, but at any time when such an indication is given to this side of the House those facilities have been granted. The next thing is that the hon. member has not been in this House long enough to know what used to take place when hon. members of his Party were conducting the Government. We have gone on for about three years without doing any Private Members' Business. You look back to 1951 and you will see, I can remember being in the Opposition when notice of Motions and Addresses was given and I sat down after having tabled an Address and the present Leader of the Opposition said this: "Even if he gives notice of it, we will not give him any time to debate it." Those are things which the hon. member does not know. As a matter of fact, a case in point was the occasion when notice was given by the D.L.P. opposition to debate Federal Constituencies. No sooner had notice been given of it than the hon. member got up and said that the Government does not propose to turn this Island into five constituencies and that the hon. member was wasting his time. You have a situation in the years before this Government came into power when Opposition members had to deal with Private Members' Business on a grace-and-favour basis.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is the hon. member speaking on the motion for adjournment which alone can be discussed now?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is speaking on the motion for adjournment in reply to the speech made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. That is what I understand.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I was saying, Sir, that you had a situation in the years before this Government came into power where Private Members' Business was done on a grace-and-favour basis. (Mr. St. JOHN: You are continuing it.) That is not true; the situation has been radically altered. In the first few months of this session Private Members' Business has been done. Just two weeks ago, a Resolution which was sponsored by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was debated and it was supported by the Government. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is doing his Parliamentary work as he should do it, then he should know that even if his motion is running into difficulties, it is not because of the time lag but because he will not deal with it. Further, Sir, since the Opposition Party seems to be running two distinct wars, they have allowed one of their Party members to ask questions on the same substantive matter which they have put in a Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that matters which are discussed in the Other Place are not proper for discussion here.
4.35 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, I was told not to start it and deal with it in the absence of the Hon. Prime Minister. The hon. member now says that I would not do it. If that is the sort of example of the conduct of hon. members on that side, there would be blows, blows, blows, blows.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has put his point already.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not guarantee that I will be in the House except on those days I have External Affairs and Financial matters to deal with. I have listened to the fulmination of the hon. member for twelve years and have no desire to hear more. I am not coming to the House to hear people distort the truth.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I object to that. The Hon. Prime Minister means to call me a liar.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister did not make direct reference to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He said that he is not coming here to hear people distort the truth. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has put his point already.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. member has not spoken, so how can he speak now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Hon. Leader of the House has not completed his speech. The point of order is this. At the last meeting of this House, Private Members' Business was dealt with, and by arrangement the Hon. Leader of the Opposition intimated to me that he proposed to deal with this matter when the Hon. Prime Minister was in his place; therefore the Opposition cannot say that we have attempted to prevent them from doing their business. They cannot come in here and say that we have prevented them from dealing with Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been made.

The question is that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday 23rd May, 1967, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. members in favour will please say "Aye" and hon. members who are not in favour will please say "No". Methinks the "Noes" have it.

A division was called for. The House divided as follows:-

AYES: Mr. HOPPIN, Hon. J. C. TUDOR, The Hon. PRIME MINISTER; Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. LOWE, Mr. CORBIN and Mr. SPRINGER - 9.

NOES: Mr. HINDS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. HUSBANDS, Mr. ST. JOHN and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS - 6.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I adjourn this Chamber, I wish to inform the House that I received an invitation to be present today at the opening ceremony in Zambia of their Parliament Buildings. If I was not able to be present, well then His Honour the Deputy Speaker could fill the breach. I wish to inform the House that I sent a cable on behalf of myself and this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: What was it really?

Mr. SPEAKER: The invitation came to me personally, but I wish to inform this Honourable House now that I sent the Cable in respect of members of this House and myself.

The House now stands adjourned until 23rd May, 1967, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.
4.50 p.m.