

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 30th 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); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); 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. YEARTWOOD, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A.

Prayers were read.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS and Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN 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 Meeting of the 28th February and of the 7th March this year have been circulated, and unless there is any objection, each of those Minutes will be confirmed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to sound obstreperous, but I have just got into this House and found these Minutes on the Table of the House. I am therefore asking that the confirmation of these Minutes be deferred. I do not intend to agree with anything which I have not read. I am therefore asking that the confirmation of these Minutes be deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: I could not agree with the Hon. Minister more. There need not be any more talk. These Minutes will not now be confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Financial Statements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for the years ended 30th June, 1964 and 30th June, 1965.

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 the following Resolutions:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$14,225 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1967-68 No. 1 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$6,520 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 2 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 21 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, is now ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders No. 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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. senior member for St. James takes his place, we will be able to take Question Time. However, as the hon. member is not present now, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

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

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

BARBADOS FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for the City whom I do not observe is instantly in his place.

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph whom I do not presently observe to be in his seat.

The third Order of the Day is in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for Christ Church:- To move the second reading of a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to create a legal entity to be known as the Barbados Family Planning Association Incorporated. The Bill follows the pattern of a number of other Bills which are on the Statute Book of this island, such as the Bill to incorporate the Law Society, the Cricket Association and such other Bodies. The Association has found it necessary to promote this Bill

because of the fact that, existing as it does as an unincorporated Association, a number of difficulties result in the ownership of property and things of that kind. The Association is one of which members on both sides are fully cognizant of the purpose and the objectives and, accordingly, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the passing of the second reading of this Bill which is to incorporate the Barbados Family Planning Association. As Minister of Health in this Government, I have been in connection with the work of the Barbados Family Planning Association for many years and I know what it is doing and the contribution which it is making to the community of Barbados.

Since this Government was in power I have had the good privilege to be Minister of Health and on two occasions I have had to go to the Cabinet and ask for increased grants for this Association, so it can very well be seen that this Government has given by way of grants the fullest co-operation to this Association.

I think when we came into office the Family Planning Association was receiving a sum of \$25,000 and the sum which is given by this Government now is in the neighbourhood of \$40,000, so hon. members can see that this Government is fully in favour of this Bill and we feel that in incorporating the Barbados Family Planning Association as a legal entity this Association would be more able to perform its duties in a more full and beneficial manner to this Island.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am moving that this Bill be now referred to a Select Committee.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of this House I shall invite the following hon. members to serve on this Committee: The hon. and learned senior member for Christ Church, (Mr. St. JOHN); the hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas, (Mr. ADAMS); the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the Hon. Minister of Health (Hon. C. E. TALMA); the hon. senior member for St. Phillip, (Mr. WEEKES); the hon. senior member for St. James, (Mr. CRAIG); the hon. junior member for St. John (Mr. YEARWOOD).

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY IN RESPECT OF SIR JOHN CHANDLER'S DEATH

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House proceeds with Government Business.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is Private Members' Business time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House proceeds with Government Business I want to move the passing of the following Resolution.

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy at the death of Sir John Delisle Chandler, a former member of the House of Assembly;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his widow."

Mr. Speaker, I do not suppose that any of us in this House, except perhaps the hon. junior member for St.

Joseph, have had the privilege of sitting in the General Assembly with the late Sir John Chandler. I think he left this House in 1935 which was perhaps a year after the hon. junior member for St. Joseph came into this House and about two years before Your Honour came in. The only link is with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and I hope the House will hear more of the late Sir John Chandler from the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

I think hon. members are well aware of the contributions which the late Sir John Chandler made not only in this Chamber but during the time he was in public life. Sir John Chandler was a member of the Legislative Council as well as a member of this House. In addition, he served as a member of the Executive Committee and then as a member of the Executive Council so that you can very well say that his public life brought him into contact with a wide variety of people.

It is true that he entered public life before public life of this country had made the exacting sacrifice which it now makes on people but still in the narrow compass of public life then, Sir John Chandler did add a contribution to it.

It is true that in the public life of that day there was not a public life which did not contain the name of a Yearwood, a Pile, an Austin or a Chandler. In those days there was not the demanding exertion of public life and most of the people who exerted their time in public life did it in the narrow compass of their own interest. I think it can safely be said in this respect that Sir John Chandler because of his background, played the fullest part in that generation.

We in this House scarcely knew him but that is no reason for us not expressing our sorrow at his passing and for expressing our appreciation for the contribution which he made to the public life of this country.
3.05 p.m.

I do not welcome to speak on this kind of Resolution, one does it as a duty of course, but I certainly feel privileged to be able to pay this tribute to a son of Barbados although the circumstances are certainly not ideal.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very glad for the opportunity of paying a tribute to the late Sir John Chandler, an absolutely sincere tribute. Sir John it is true, was born in America, but I think I would be almost slandering his memory if I made any reference to that. Those of us who knew him and saw him either in the House or saw his activities with the Council of Boards, Committees and the Vestry of St. John know that Sir John was a great man in any age and whatever the franchise of the country may be. I go further to say this: that with a lowered franchise in his time he would still have got into the House for St. John. He was broad-minded, he was sincere and above all he was courageous and an absolutely honest man. When I ran for the House in those days before I got into the House I was told that another hon. member also deceased, who had also at some time represented St. John was a most liberal member of the House. I was glad to hear that, but I was not long in this House before I came to the conclusion that Sir John Chandler was a most liberal member of the House of Assembly in those days. He was a planter, an aristocrat, a rich man, conservative, and he never failed to see the point of view and the arguments of those people who differed from him and I can say so without the slightest bit of exaggeration. I have never respected any member whose political philosophy was different from the political philosophy of people like myself and I never respected any member of the Legislature in the same degree as I respected him. I say he was a courageous man. If he made a mistake - there is an outstanding instance to which my memory has been recalled where he made a mistake. He was criticised for it and he went to his constituents in St. Peter and told them that he had made a mistake and he

went about from place to place apologising for his mistake. That is the act of a very courageous man. Very few politicians admit that they have made a mistake but to admit it and then to go to his constituents and tell them he was sorry for it is the act of a great man.

As I see it, I came into this House thinking that he was just another aristocrat. He was quite different. In spite of the fact that there were one or two people like Mr. Douglas Pile and Mr. Mahon who were liberal-minded and who could at any rate see the argument of the other side and admit even though they voted against it but I placed him well above all the politicians that I knew and worked with. I am sorry that I did not know of his death until late this morning when I read the newspaper, and had I known I would have prepared myself for some of the things that I should recount as to his political activities; but I have noticed that in both newspapers a really excellent account was given of his political and other activities and I invite hon. members to read it.

He served on numerous committees after he left this House in 1934 the year in which I entered it incidentally. He went to the Legislative Council and later became like his father who I now speak of from hearsay, but he could hardly have been said to be a liberal although he was one of the magnificent brains that Barbados has ever produced. Sir John was more liberal than his father. In politics and I repeat what I have said earlier in effect that with his disposition he was a very great man. I saw a little of the human side of him when I was a member of a Commission comprising Sir John Saint, Sir John Chandler and myself on the question of bulk exportation of molasses from Barbados to Canada. We travelled for about 3,000 miles meeting and making enquiries of people who imported our molasses as to what the situation was when we exported molasses in puncheons as before and what it would have been in bulk. I got the impression that Sir John Chandler was a human being and not just a planter or a politician or a lover of horse racing. He was witty, he was humorous and he could readily smile and give you a joke. He was a man in all respects and I am paying tribute to him today because it is difficult for me to think of any other politician with whom I was associated in those very early days and for whom I could say as much as I have said this afternoon.

As for his other activities, his love for horse racing, I know nothing. I do not even follow the press or the radio on such matters and I cannot do more on that than to say that I am told he did much for the Turf Club in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing more than I could say could really bring to the knowledge of the House the tributes that are his due. We can only say that it is misfortune that people like him can no longer face the starter at election time. The hurly-burly of modern politics, the butting and boring prevent them from entering the race. At any rate I can certainly say that in his time he did his duty to all the classes of the community.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot make as long a contribution as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition because it is well known that the Hon. Leader has been in politics for so long a period of years that he must of necessity have been associated with the late Sir John Chandler. I speak on behalf of his constituents in St. Peter for this particular reason that he had been a representative of mine for St. Peter and I have had to come in contact with him on many occasions when he was a member of the Legislative Council. What the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said is true; he was liberal in his views and as a representative of St. Peter I could not but hold him in great respect.

As a trade Unionist, I have had to come into contact with him, and as a former Speaker of this House I have been associated with him, and I do say that he could appreciate the other man's point of view. He has been long spared to live a long life. He was from a generation of planters about whom I made reference when I made my speech in the parlour of St. John in the 1940's. He was the type of individual

to whom I referred as one who, if he had been in the audience at the hustings meeting, when I was delivering that electioneering speech at which I referred to the justifiable growth of socialistic ideas in the island, he would have appreciated it. I tried to persuade him that he could no longer try to hold up the system of socialism which was passing through the West Indies. People like Sir John Chandler understood what I meant when I spoke at that meeting in St. George. I held him in high esteem.

Death is no respecter of persons; he lays his icy hands on everyone of us. Every mortal being must pass through that vale. I do hope that those whom he has left behind, those of his kith and kin, will be able to bear their loss as lightly as possible for they can rest assure that, as a man, as a politician and as a planter, he has been regarded as one who was one of the best of his day and generation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before putting the question for the passing of this Resolution, I would like publicly to associate myself with the tributes which have been paid to the former hon. senior member for St. Peter, the late Sir John DeLisle Chandler. I happened to be associated with him in later years as a co-director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and I can bear witness to the wisdom of his counsel and the enthusiasm which he put into the work and organisation of that very worthwhile public Organisation which, I know, will be very much the poorer for loss of his salient counsel. I will ask hon. members to signify their assent to the passing of this Resolution of sympathy in the normal way by standing in their places for a period of two minutes.

Hon. Members stood in their places as requested by His Honour the SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I now declare the unanimous assent of this House to the passing of this Resolution and, in consequence thereof, I shall direct the Clerks at the Table to send a copy of this Resolution together with a covering letter to the widow and other close surviving relatives of the late Sir John Chandler.

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 APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 7) ORDER, 1967

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day. This Order stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and unless there by any objection, leave will be granted. *(After a pause).* There being no objection, leave is granted to the Hon. Leader of the House to move the passing of the following Resolution:

A Resolution to give effect to the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members will see, this Order makes provision for making certain temporary posts permanent in two Ministries - the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Communications and Works. In the Ministry of Finance, there is the establishment of the permanent posts of Administrative Assistant and Senior Clerk, the replacement of the post of Currency Officer by

the post of Administrative Assistant in the same salary scale, and the replacement of the post of Senior Clerk, Secretary to the Standing Insurance Committee, by the post of Administrative Assistant.

In the Ministry of Communications and Works, there is the creation of the post of Quantity Surveyor. This is to be done in the interest of efficiency of effective planning but the services of this Officer will be available to other Departments and Ministries to help them with their portion of the various development plans. I do not know if there is anything else which hon. members would like to know, but if there is, I will be very pleased to answer them, although I will draw their attention to the notes which are set out at the bottom of, or half-way down, the Addendum to the Resolution. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, speaking on this Resolution, I notice that there is provision being made for the post of currency officer, who will be concerned primarily with the executive functions of banking, currency and exchange control. I think that this would be the appropriate time to request the Government, if possible, to have published at an early date a copy of the Regulations which deal with the transfer of money out of Barbados into foreign countries and also a copy of the Regulations dealing with Currency Control.

I understand that the position is that to a large extent the present regulations passed in the war time are still available but they are extremely difficult to obtain in Barbados. You are unable to receive the regulations from here in Barbados and on account of that, the development in Barbados have suffered.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the question of a quantity surveyor, while members of the House are very glad to see that our plea for obtaining a quantity surveyor has been accepted, yet I wonder if we are able to get down a competent man to fill the post. I would, therefore, like to know from the Hon. Leader of the House what are the qualifications required before the appointment of a quantity surveyor is filled. That sort of man does not grow in the bush.

Mr. Speaker, I was glad to hear that the Government proposes to get down a quantity surveyor but I would like to know what sort of surveyor the Government is getting to fill this post.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would like to inform the hon. senior member for St. Thomas that much of what he says about the qualifications of this post is true because as he knows, and we know, quantity surveyors are specialised persons in the same way as specialist physicians.

We have decided to keep this post open for a person who might not mind the money that is attached to the post but because of the conditions prevailing in Europe, he might want to come here. This is a post which takes ten or twelve years' experience. The person we have in mind is one who should be affiliated to the A.R.L.B.A. or those who are qualified.

I think that is all I see here. The conditions are those of what a qualified engineer would get in the West Indies.

I should also like to say to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, as he knows, as well as I do, this sort of gentleman we have in mind is going to give us some trouble to find. However, we hope we will get the right type of person.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE TO QUARRY

PRODUCTS, LTD.

I think the West Indies have produced one quantity surveyor. He passed through here two or three months ago but I do not think he is interested in working here. However, we are still hopeful we would be able to get this person. I hope that satisfies the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the speech made by the hon. senior member for Christ Church as regards the regulations, I may tell him that to my personal knowledge, I know this matter is looked into and for some weeks, my ministry and the ministry of the Attorney General were looking into it.

The hon. member would appreciate that it is a matter of vast proportions but at the same time it is being looked into and I hope very shortly from now we would be able to satisfy him.

The question that the Resolution be now passed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister for Communications: To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease to Quarry Products, Limited of a portion of land at Bagatelle, St. Thomas for the operation of a quarry thereat.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not saying this to stultify debate on this matter but as far as it looks to me, there is nothing controversial in this matter. However, any question which is within my province, I will answer it. As is pointed out in the Addendum—

"This Resolution seeks the approval of the Legislature to renew the lease to Messrs. Quarry Products Limited for a further period of five years at an annual rental of \$2,400 plus royalty of 20 cents per ton of all material extracted, of an area of land known as Bagatelle Quarry, situate in the parish of St. Thomas and containing approximately 20 acres, 3 rods, 12 3/10 perches.

The renewal will contain the usual general provision having regard to the provisions of the Quarries Act, 1963-66, and will be on the same terms and conditions as were contained in the previous lease."

3.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, as some members on the opposite side would remember, I think it was in 1967 the then Government in power decided that it was time to have a Deep Water Harbour and some experts came down here in order to get stones for the Deep Water Harbour and they roamed all over the island and fell on a part of St. Thomas, Bagatelle, where they claimed that the hardest stone of the island was to be found, and that that was the most suitable stone for this purpose. I do not know exactly what transpired then, but I do know that the Harbour was opened in 1961 and as far as I know, the agreements of the contract with the then quarry owners and Government had expired. In 1962 after the Democratic Labour Party came into power, the Government decided because of the crying out of the small quarry owners, to put up a proposal to the quarry owners and the then Minister who is now Minister of Tourism and Fisheries called in a delegation of quarry owners and put up this proposal to them that in their own interest if they wanted to set up their own investigation they could have done so and the Government was quite willing to rent them the quarry that they may be able to run it. I am sorry to say that before the meeting got off to a good start, it almost broke up, because everybody wanted to run it and as a result there was no alternative than to allow the present operators to go on operating the quarry. Some water has flown under the bridge since then and the quarry products as they are known started bringing down machinery and using a lot of modern methods. They do not know how dynamite in a hole but hundreds of yards away they set it up by an electric charge and as a result it is less likely that there

will be damage to persons. That being as it may, quarry products have been operating for some time now in the island, and this Government decided they had made representation to have the contract renewed, and since they have been bringing in revenue as well as finding employment for people of the island of Barbados, putting Barbados on the market with some of its products, that is the reason why this Resolution is here before the House today asking for its approval to allow Quarry Products to go on operating the quarry for another five years. I am quite willing, as I have said before, to answer any question that is within my province that will come from the other side. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Speaking of the Deep Water Harbour, Mr. Speaker, I see the Minister of Communications and Works could tell us with a solemn face that he does not know with whom the contract was for building the harbour. Not only was there a contract, but the present Attorney General came in here and praised the Government of that day for making a contract in which the contractors would suffer if a hurricane took place and not the Government.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bagatelle quarry, a lot has been said about it from time to time, and we on this side of the House would like to know, first of all, how many contracts, if any, the present operators of the quarry have with various Government Departments. That is one of our first concerns. We concern ourselves again with this; what is the position with regard to employing labour, workers generally, on this particular quarry in view of the high degree of mechanisation.

In addition to that, Sir, there have been and there still remains quite a number of residents near the quarry whose property, their chattel houses and the like, their health to some extent has been impaired, and it would be of some interest to us if we could be told what compensation, if any, has been given to these people. I remember that some time in 1961 there had been some objection from some of these people living near the Bagatelle quarry for the granting of a lease or a contract to them. I also remember that some manoeuvring did go on and that some of the people who had been objecting in the first instance eventually withdrew their objections; however, certain objections remain.

While we understand that there has been a nuisance which has reduced in some measure the incident of damage to property and to the health of the residents nearby, there is time no doubt for a thorough investigation to be carried out to see exactly what benefits these residents derive, or if it is a case where these people suffer to such an extent that the like deposits from the quarry have been known to severely hamper the growth and production of their crops, it might be an occasion where the Government could see to it if these people would not be willing to offer their present plots and let Quarry Products take over or some other way to relieve them of this nuisance.

8.45 p.m.

Now, Sir, of the Bagatelle Quarry it can safely be said that its high degree of mechanisation has brought about a considerable reduction in the number of persons who were formerly employed in quarrying throughout this island. Sir, the small quarry owners or operators to whom the Hon. Minister made reference earlier, have been offered, as the Minister has said, an opportunity whereby they could have taken over Bagatelle Quarry; but remember this, Sir, these people, we are sure, were not as skilled in this type of work as perhaps the present operators; or what I should say is that the doors of credit that might be thrown open to people of the standing of the present operators, might not be thrown open to the small operators. We are quite sure that our small operators, if they had gone about seeking in any way to grasp the opportunity that the Government pretended to be throwing open to them, it would have entitled that we might have had to go and mortgage their homes or any other little property they might have owned

at the time, and created quite a difficulty for them within the limited time that might have been at their disposal.

We know that the Bagatelle Quarry has thrown quite a number of workers in the quarry industry out of work. That is so, because these small quarry operators no longer enjoy the patronage, the business which they got from various building concerns, contractors and the like; and there is the case where we feel that they really cannot compete price wise with the Bagatelle operators. That is so, because you will find that the Bagatelle Quarry operators are operating in an area of approximately 20 acres, 3 roods, 12 3/10 perches and the annual rental is \$2,400 plus royalty of 20 per cent or 20 cents per ton. However, Sir, all of this you will see, places the small operators at a disadvantage. We do not for a single moment suggest that there must not be an improvement in the quarrying of stones; we do not suggest that the know-how that the Bagatelle operators have got does not stand the Island some good; but in any venture such as this the Government should take into consideration the large labour force which was formerly employed and some consideration should be given to what the present position is since the present Bagatelle operators have been carrying on their business.

At this stage, I should like to ask what progress has been made, because I remember at one time that it was the Hon. Premier who made a statement that he was just awaiting the return of his Attorney General and how many prosecutions we would have as a result of what has gone on before or what we have been led to believe has gone on before in respect of leases, and what not. I would therefore like to ask what progress has been made in that respect and how many, if any, have been prosecuted for anything that has gone there before.

We, on this side of the House, have got to look, I must repeat, at the small operator, and not only the small operator, but there have been a number of motor lorries being used. As to these small operators when they had to carry out Government contracts, they had to employ lorries which were owned by small men, in order to help them to fulfil their contracts. Therefore, Sir, you will understand that when the small operators were encouraged, it meant that the employment covered a larger number of persons because these lorries employed three to four persons each, and it is in the interest of these people, well, some of them have found it very difficult to operate, and I may say that in these days of increased taxation on motor vehicles, I do not know how some of them will make out.

You will understand that the Bagatelle Operators have their own fleet of transport lorries, but I am willing to say that there are times when they find it possible to engage the services of other lorries as well. In any case, one must understand that they can only be expected to engage extra motor lorries when the lorries of the Bagatelle Quarry owners are engaged to such an extent that they cannot fulfil orders as quickly as one would expect.

3.55 p.m.

So you will find, Mr. Speaker, that this type of lease which the Quarry Products, Limited, had, at one time it was said that the Quarry operators had been quarrying stone belonging to the Government and that they were selling the stone which they quarried back to the Government.

I would like to know how many square yards of stone were sold to Government by Quarry Products, Limited, and what sums of money became involved as a result of quarrying Government stone from the Government quarry and selling it back to Government.

No, doubt, in his reply the Hon. Minister of Communications will be drawing on the reserves of the Bagatelle owners. As it has been said, I still believe that the stone from Bagatelle Quarry is not as hard as the head of some Hon. Ministers on the other side. No doubt, the Hon. Minister of Communications is going to draw on the reserves of this quarry. I want to know how this is going to work out.

Some time ago, there was damage to part of the Deep Water Harbour and at that time, we were told that there was no accurate check kept of the cubic yards of the stone at the Quarry as well as to the question of loads of stones which left the quarry.

I am sure that, as the Hon. Minister said, that he would answer such questions as are reasonable I feel he would be likely to give an answer to this question. However, I do not want to make the Hon. Minister feel uneasy in any way.

We want to know today what is being done to the property owners who live near to the quarry. We know that their properties suffered damage by the operation of this quarry. We also would like to know by renewal of the lease to the persons operating the quarry if it would be doing justice to the large number of quarry workers who have been displaced.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is one thing, Mr. Speaker, that this Opposition undoubtedly, has over previous Oppositions and we have had an example of the years 1961 to 1966 of how an irresponsible Opposition does its work, therefore, it is with interest that I have listened to the hon. junior member for St. Peter as he brought a few pigeons home to roost. Who can forget a former hon. member for St. Thomas who was Minister of Communications who they said was so dishonest. They said that he was taking the Government stones and selling them back to the Government and that he was responsible for the small quarry owners being put out of business. They accused the former Senator Mapp of being dishonest. Now, the present Minister of Communications has found it possible to support a policy which was laid down by a former Minister of Communications who was also a member for St. Thomas, Senator Mapp. All that we can say of Senator Mapp is that the present Minister of Communications saw the wisdom of carrying on the same up-to-date method of quarrying stone. It was Senator Mapp who engaged the large-scale quarrying of the hard St. Thomas stone to be used in the Deep Water Harbour.

4.05 p.m.

The Government of today is now in a position of asking us to approve the lease to Quarry Products. Once again Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister; he likes to say this matter is controversial and this matter is uncontroversial. I hope that this matter will be uncontroversial. How long is the proposed lease? There is nothing in the Resolution about it, is it for 99 years?

(AFTER A PAUSE), I beg the Hon. Minister's pardon, I did not read the Addendum. The Resolution itself, Mr. Speaker, says nothing about the period of the lease. Let the Minister read the Resolution if he doubts me. The Addendum is not part of the Resolution, so before the Honourable Minister bear that in mind. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have nothing against Quarry Products, a number of points has been raised by the junior member for St. Peter, and no doubt the Minister will answer them in due course. For my part I have heard one minor complaint, and that is that sometimes lorries are overloaded and consequently the roads are always in need of repair. I trust that if the Minister is also aware of this complaint he will investigate, and when he is considering the complaints of the hon. junior member for St. Peter I hope he will look into this as well.

My information is that the Quarries Act is faithfully observed by the operators and that, apart from the nuisance which has now existed for some time to certain adjoining land owners - I am told in the parish of St. James - apart from the nuisance to those persons, which is another matter to be taken into account by Government, that generally speaking, the operation of the quarry cannot be violated, but there is something, Mr. Speaker, to which the Minister referred in his speech and which, I think, can justifiably be the foundation of a more general complaint.

The Minister took some trouble to praise Quarry Products for its evident employment for people, but as an argument that is not worth very much because I think all of us will agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter

that on balance Quarry Products has resulted in a failure. They do not quarry the same quantity of stone which operators use and which requires a larger number of persons. I refer to a more general type of complaint, it is a complaint that has unfortunately had to be levelled against this present Government. It is a complaint that unfair pressures are brought to bear, unfair methods are used by members of the Government in securing political allegiance in several cases. I know of one case, Mr. Speaker, where a former driver - and I would speak his name if the Minister did not know his name quite well - I know of a case where this driver was fired from Quarry Products shortly after the elections because he and his wife were accused of being political supporters of the Barbados Labour Party in Rock Hall, and his name was on a list of 30 persons that was handed to Quarry Products by the Minister for employment at an earlier stage, and in Rock Hall,....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I would like to know if I have heard correctly, that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that I handed Quarry Products a list of these 30 names and this man's and his wife's names were on it. I want to know if it is this Minister.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not think that in his wildest imagination the Hon. Minister would justify that as a point of order. He is the Minister and if he will listen carefully he will hear the end of the complaint, because I am not saying something that I am not prepared to justify. I am not saying something which is coming up here for the first time. I am saying that at a certain stage a list of persons was notified to Quarry Products as persons suitable for employment by the Minister and the name of the person to whom I was referring was among those. Come the elections, this person was an active supporter of the Barbados Labour Party in Rock Hall and he lost his job at Quarry Products immediately subsequent to the elections, and he has had to face people coming up to him in the road and saying to him - "I went and tell the Minister about you and that is why you get race way!"

I am in no position to say - I am going to be fair to the Minister, something that I daresay is a courtesy he would not extend to myself - I am not only not in a position to say that it is true that he was fired for his politics, but I think some people thought in fact his dismissal may have been on the cards anyway. I am going to be fair, but a situation in which a Minister, whether through the foreman - whose name I know well, the Minister knows well - it is not fair, it is not right that a Minister should be involving himself in appearing to invite a person who has to do business with the Government to employ a list of his political friends; and if the Minister does that he must expect that when persons on that list who turn out not to be his political supporters lose their jobs, he must expect the allegation that he is responsible not only for getting them the job, but for their losing it as well.

The spoil system is dear to the hearts of politicians in some places. Centuries of tradition have given the appearance of elimination of the worse vices of the spoil system.

4.15 p.m.

We are all human frailty and the politicians are human beings. As in the United States, there are systematized politicians, but the elected members have a right to select their supporters, their yard fowls, for employment. It is the case with the Government and the Opposition alike who are in a position to get jobs for their supporters because it is a recognized fact that politicians reaching out for votes will do anything that is in their power to do. I do not necessarily admire the American system, a man goes out of office and there are the page boys, secretaries, porters, and so on, whom he has nominated for jobs with the Government but even in the United States it would cause a political scandal if a business corporation which had to negotiate with the Government was told by the Minister with whom they had to negotiate - "See if you can do something for these people in Rock Hall for me." Even in the United States that would be regarded as shocking. It is one thing to ask your friend to accommodate you, but it is an-

other thing when a lease is coming out for renewal to suggest that your employment policy should be directed according to the political beliefs of those whom you employ. Of course, even the Minister could not be responsible for accurately forecasting the exact political views of his nominees. I could send somebody to the Minister and say: "Chief you have an ear, so go and ask Mr. So and So for a job for me." The system is tempered and ameliorated by the fact that the Democratic Labour Party cannot predict which way the "X" is going. That does not make it anyway the least wrong.

When we were dealing with quite another matter, I had occasion to suggest to hon. members on the other side that justice should not only be done but it should manifestly be seen to be done. You must not allow people to get the impression that a decision has been made on political grounds where the political grounds are not applicable to such a decision. In truth and in fact, if this were a matter upon which the Opposition would divide the House, let us consider for a moment what would be the position of those persons who had got jobs, through the ministrations of the Minister, at Quarry Products Limited? Suppose the rental of this lease were a matter on which there was some division! Could it be doubted that these people would assume that the Minister was advised to give this lease because Quarry Products Limited were scratching his back because he would scratch theirs? Could it be doubted that that is what these arrangements amount to? There are a lot of persons who feel, when the Government changes, that a favour has been done to them by a Minister of one political Party and these people would go home and tremble. You would have to look for a favour to be done on the other side.

Let us again consider the feelings of the particular persons to whom I have referred. Does the Minister honestly wish to be regarded by any of his constituents as a man who is so spiteful and malicious, or who is so steeped in human malice that he would send a person out of work merely because the person expressed political opinions in the way that any citizen of Barbados is entitled to express them? I do not think that the Minister would want to be regarded in that light. Let us also consider Quarry Products Limited. The foreman of Quarry Products Limited, who is a renown supporter of the D.L.P., would be in a responsible position to appreciate what he is doing to Quarry Products himself by allowing the impression to prevail that Quarry Products Limited scratches the Government's back in return to quarry stones to this building site, and for the renewal of the lease and so on. Those are the dangers of the situation and the only people for whom you must be sorry are the unfortunate ones who find themselves in this age of back-scratching.

Having said all of that, I would just like to say something else which is in the nature of a warning to the Minister. It is always easy to think that you are getting political support by those things which I have outlined here today. In the long run, I think the Minister will know that if you do a favour for a man today you are doing a favour for somebody else. The quarry owners were done a favour by the mouthings of the Democratic Labour Party in 1961. They thought that the Democratic Labour Party was pleading their cause and the Minister can consider whether he is confident of the support of the quarry owner, and if he had their support in 1966 and the support of these contractors many of whom would not support the Barbados Labour Party. The Minister can consider whether he is confident that he had their support at that time. Let the Minister ask himself if he has the support of the employees of Quarry Products Limited, many of whom he has suggested for employment. Let him ask himself these things.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out whether a Minister or a member of Parliament has the support of quarry owners, that is not the debatable terms of the Resolution which should meet with the approval or otherwise of this House. The hon. member has made his point. At least, he is now speaking outside the bounds of this Resolution.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am obliged to Your Honour for permitting me to make the point at such length.

In conclusion, I would say that I personally would not be asking the Hon. Minister to tell any falsehoods because I am satisfied that the allegations which I have made.....

Mr. SPEAKER: It is improper of any hon. member to tell falsehoods.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I hope that I would not ask any hon. member to tell any lies. Perhaps if the Hon. Minister of Communications was engaged in a war with me for the parish of St. Thomas, we would have to tell lies for the good of our parish. I invite the Hon. Minister and Quarry Products to wash their hands of this thing and free themselves of any possible suggestion that their transactions are not in order and I invite them to be careful.

It is fortunate or unfortunate that there were so many Ministers of Communications and Works that were members for the parish of St. Thomas.

There is no political favour which we cannot fight. Notwithstanding Quarry Products, although they may have our approval, they would not have my approval if I thought that, but I am glad to say, I do not think that they were employed on political grounds and if I were not satisfied of that, I would not vote for this Resolution. If I thought they fired a man because he spoke for me in any election, I would not vote for this but I am satisfied that the person has not been fired through that.

I do not place any blame on the Hon. Minister himself for what happened but the Minister is not only a Minister in the House, he represents the parish of St. Thomas. If he were to show goodwill, if he wants to show there is no possibility of victimization, I invite the Hon. Minister to go into Rock Hall and see those people.

Let the Hon. Minister cleanse himself.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, I hate to interrupt the hon. member.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Will the hon. Minister give way. What is he speaking on?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member said that he was speaking on a point of order but I was waiting for the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to complete his sentence before I intervened to say anything. In respect of what the hon. member was saying, I saw the hon. member go very close to a breach of Standing Orders when he spoke of the Minister cleansing himself. I wanted to hear how he was going to complete his sentence.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I wish to say that I was speaking metaphorically.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The hon. member asked me to cleanse myself. I take offence to this statement. Whether it is political, social or economical, I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I heard the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to say "Let the hon. Minister cleanse himself".

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I intended to say, Let the Hon. Minister cleanse himself from the taint of political malice.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member meant to say "to cleanse himself of the taint of political malice" I regard that as an insulting statement. It must be insulting to speak of cleansing himself of the taint of political malice. I ask the hon. member to withdraw those words.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Which particular part.

Mr. SPEAKER: "Cleanse from the taint of political malice. I believe that the Hon. Minister has taken objection to the phrase.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I withdraw the remark and substitute therefore, "cleanse the Government from the taint of political malice." I suppose this will meet with the approval of Your Honour.
4.45 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, being a member of the Government, I take offence to those remarks being used. I object to your saying that the Government has a taint of political malice, and I am a member of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Government comprises not less than six. There is audible on my left that which closely amounts to great disorder. The Government comprises not less than six Hon. Ministers, all of whom are members of this House, irrespective of any other. The reference is made to the taint of political malice of the members of the Government. The Government must include and cannot other than include the Ministers who are members of this House, and as well, their Parliamentary Secretaries. I rule that that expression is a contravention of Standing Order 26 (5) which states "it is offensive of members of the House... even although it is offensive of other people too. With that I am not concerned. Will the hon. and learned member withdraw?"

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was waiting for the ruling, Your Honour. I unreservedly withdraw those remarks and I substitute there "cleanse the Democratic Labour Party and its supporters of the taint of political malice." Mr. Speaker, Sir, the case of the tractor driver at Quarry Products is not the only instance where the hon. Minister has been accused of what I would call political malice were it not for Your Honour's ruling. Employees of his own Ministry came under his lash during the election campaign, a Postman in Redman's Village, a Sanitary Inspector in Reeves Hill, they all had their names splashed about on political platforms, as evidenced by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, and that is something if the hon. junior member wishes I will repeat it outside this House, so the hon. junior member for St. Thomas must not think that either it is unknown that he is guilty of these things sometimes, or that it will not be objected to on any grounds whatsoever by members of the Barbados Labour Party. This is something we have to stamp out. I hope I will never in my political career be a member of a Party where public servants are spoken about in this manner on political platforms and threats of victimization.

These are things which I suggest are also being followed in this Quarry Products matter, the matter of the dismissal of a lorry driver shortly after the elections, and it takes me once more to another point on the question of justice being seemed to be done. What sort of place do we want to make of Barbados? Many times I have heard the hon. member say that when you lick down the house it falls on all of us. If he uses political favour as a weapon he involves himself in the kind of thing that I have with some regret placed before this Hon. House today.

When Quarry Products employs whom he recommends, he involves himself in the accusation of the necessity for cleansing. Take his points of order, I myself, Mr. Speaker at all times bow to your ruling, and I assume those occasions upon which in the House of Commons the Government was accused of murdering..... it would have been out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: It certainly would have been out of order in the context here.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that Quarry Products.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just as hon. members are out of order when they contravene Standing Order No. 29(6) which deals with the behaviour of members not speaking, while a member is speaking, all other members shall be silent or shall speak only in undertones.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that Your Honour is disturbed by interventions. I thought it somewhat strange when I first came into the House that my junior colleague from St. Thomas - I thought it strange that he intervened so freely, and I am glad that Your Honour has now pointed out to him his error in his ways. I beg Your Honour not to be too harsh with him, he cannot help it, the heat is on. I think that I do not need to be protected from the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, his interruptions are all so entertaining, even if they only illustrate what we have all discovered about him. After all, we had the junior member for St. Thomas discussing hard stones and hard heads, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter drawing a parallel between hard stones and hard heads. That is my contribution to this Resolution; I hope that the Hon. Minister will not think that an attack is being made on the principle of the Resolution.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this Bill, but I am going to speak now. Some years ago, when another Government was in power, it was said that if that Government lost power, there would be many revelations, the like of which would make members of that Government tremble. That was said by members of the Democratic Labour Party and the supporters of the Democratic Labour Party. They also said that a revelation would be made vis-a-vis the Bagatelle Quarry and the members and supporters of the Barbados Labour Party would have to hang their heads in shame. The Democratic Labour Party has succeeded the Barbados Labour Party.
4.45 p.m.

I have not heard of any heads being hung in shame; I have not heard of any prosecutions having been brought against anybody. As a Government they have been attacked in this House, not as individuals. But, Sir, if this Bagatelle Quarry Company, or whatever it is, is to be given another trial at running this quarry, I hope that it will not be given that trial at the expense or at the inconvenience of that large number of quarry owners around Barbados who need the support of Government contracts. It is an open story that this firm of Bagatelle Quarry Products is among the prime producers of stone for Barbados and as far as the building trade is concerned the buildings of Government cannot be insignificant; and I feel that more consideration should be given to these small owners who are not favoured sometimes, as I have heard it said, because of their political allegiance. I have heard so much about political allegiance these days that I have never heard when the Barbados Labour Party was in power. The Labour Party used to employ everybody and nobody was taken advantage of or exploited as far as I have heard, because he was not a member of the Labour Party; but I hear a lot of these things these days.

There is a big change today. I saw a change on the last occasion when people were threatened. It appears to me that those who work in the quarry are right-lipped and what is Barbados coming to? Quarry Products Limited is being given a lease for another five years and am I to hear during the five years that people are exploited and victimised because they belong to a different party? Do not let us gloss over these things because the people are speaking them openly. We are members of this House. I do not want to say that the people have elected me as one of their representatives for St. Peter

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Are we here to hear who got elected or are we dealing with this lease to Quarry Products Limited?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not making a point of order.

Mr. HUSBANDS: That is a ridiculous interruption by an hon. friend.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. senior member for St. Peter proceed with his speech and forget the hon. friend?

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I will soon get back to the meat and substance of this Resolution. A period of five years is a respectable period and, in my view, hon. members who have spoken have been more knowledgeable than I am on this matter. My colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, is more knowledgeable than I am of what is going on there. The hon. member has dilated on the happenings and advantages of any company pervaded by the Democratic field. I am saying that where there is any discrimination, as a member of this House I will quite effectively move that the lease be lessened to one year instead of going on for five years because you can do more harm in five years than you could do in one year. I want every stone crusher or stone blaster, who cannot talk for himself and his colleagues, to be protected and he must not be victimised because he does not belong to the ruling Government Party.

What are the terms of the lease? I do not know. This House is the highest, or it should be the highest, tribunal in this country and it has to be treated with respect. We should know the terms of this lease. The Government governs and people make the Government. The Government is an impersonal thing. Mr. John, Mr. Rouse or Mr. Hope is no Government. The people have sent me here whether I am in the Opposition or in the Government Party. Sir, I swore and made a solemn oath to Her Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs and Successors, not the Government. What Government? All the Government I swore to is the Queen's Government.

4.55 p.m.

It is the Queen's Government when it comes to that. Thank God that it has not become a dictatorship.

Mr. SPEAKER: I trust that the hon. member is not using Her Majesty's name to influence the House.

Mr. HUSBANDS: The Hon. Speaker is too wise to make use of such a statement.

Sir, the terms of the lease should be known to us. Mr. Speaker, you are the representative of this House. I hope that in due time the terms of this lease will come to this House. That is something which we should know.

I am told that the Hon. Minister of Communications said that offers were made to the group of small quarry owners but that they did not get together. The efforts to get them together proved fruitless. I do not know. Perhaps the terms offered to those small quarry owners may not be so encouraging. It may not be the same thing as the terms offered to the Quarry Product or the terms we are being asked now to renew. This is a serious matter.

There was much talk about the Barbados Labour Party, especially the then Minister of Communications, about stealing that I thought by now there would have been several series of court cases brought against the then Minister. Parliament is the place where you deal with these matters. When a matter comes before Parliament the Minister has to give members of Parliament a full statement.

(LOUD ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: The conduct of hon. members who are not addressing the Chair is such that I cannot hear the hon. member who is addressing the Chair.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Sir, thank God this is still Parliament and Mr. Speaker is still in the Chair and this is not any dictatorship.

Now, Sir, as regards the accounts, we are too ignorant in this Chamber to know of the doings of Government. We are treated as the laughing stock of this Parliament. People who do not belong to Parliament but who belong to a certain group are in a position to be apprised of anything as regards the doings and workings of Government. A lot of things are not known to members of the Opposition. We know that a lot of money is being paid back to certain corporations under the Government. I hear something like \$14,000.

We would like to know the terms of the lease to the owners of Quarry products. We do not know what is wrong; what is right; what is going amiss. We would like to know the conditions of the lease that was being offered to the small quarry owners, whether they thought that this lease was reasonable or else. Today, we are trying to show off the aims of one, but if we are doing it in one way, we must do it in all, especially when we are sitting and debating the issues of the day. I am not only suspicious but there are things which lurk in my brain.

I wonder if this lease is to be re-approved. They might be getting credit from the Banks, I do not know. I am ignorant but I know that I will be well informed after I sit down.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Hon. Minister of Communications has all the information as regards the terms of the lease, the reasons of the lease and also the terms of lease which was offered to the small group of quarry owners who were rejected because, according to the Hon. Minister, they do not get together.

In the laws of this country the Leader of the Opposition is the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. That is so in all advanced constitutions. That shows that the Government cannot work as if this Chamber is only a rubber-stamp.

Mr. Speaker, I hope when the Hon. Minister of Communications gets up to reply that he would deny what we said. Since the Hon. Minister has come to the House to renew the lease to Quarry Products, we want him to tell us the terms of the lease. I hope the Hon. Minister would give us the answer. As a matter of fact, I hope the Hon. Minister would allow his Parliamentary Secretary to give us this information which we are asking so that the Minister himself will be able to speak again. I suppose the Parliamentary Secretary knows how to deliver himself. The Parliamentary Secretary is a responsible member of the Government and a responsible member in here, therefore, he must have something to say on this. He is not a dummy. Let the hon. member get up and say something so that we can reply and then the Hon. Minister after perusing his file can tell us the answer.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to intervene in this debate, but having listened to the hon. introducer of the Resolution and having seen the conduct of the hon. minister, the junior member for St. Thomas, and having seen the utter failure of the Parliamentary Secretary to get up and give the House the information that is desired, I am forced to intervene, because it seems to me that it is the habit nowadays for important matters, and this is an important matter because it is seeking legislative approval for the leasing of Government property on certain terms and conditions, and it seems to me that at least as a matter of common courtesy, either in the introduction of the Resolution by the hon. minister, or during the course of the debate by someone of the appropriate Ministry, the information requested would have been given, but nowadays we are seeing a new process taking place in Barbados, and I mean the parliamentary process, we have addenda to Resolutions being scantily prepared, and we have been granted Parliamentary Secretaries at great expense to the taxpayers in this country.

All of the formerly constitutional patterns of behaviour which are accepted in democratic countries are being allowed to fall here. Nowhere else in the Commonwealth would any Minister get up to introduce a Resolution, give scanty information, after a request made by the Opposition, have a Parliamentary Secretary who would not get up and give the information so that the Opposition would be able to make comments on the basis of the information requested, and then let the Minister give his final reply. But the way how this is done it means this, that the Minister can get up after everybody has finished, he is under no obligation to give a reply at all, so Parliament can be tricked without due disclosure of the facts. That could never be right.

As regards the points raised about discrimination, I hope, Sir, that this is not so, because whether it is by way of a lease, whether it is by way of contract, I would like to see the Public Clauses Contracts as well as all the lists granted by the Government of this country containing a specific clause whereby the lessee, or the contractor, with the Government, as a term and condition that there should be no discrimination in his employment tendencies, because the same thing is going to happen sooner or later with the Statutory Boards. It is contrary to the Constitution of this country to discriminate. Let the Public know and understand that, that it is a breach of contract to fire a man on those grounds.

It is stated here that this lease is to be renewed for a further period of five years at an annual rental of \$2,400 plus royalty of 20 cents per ton of all material extracted. It does not say what was the previous rent, nor the Minister in introducing it has not told us what the previous rental was. Are we to understand that after a lapse of five years there is no increase in rental? Are we to understand that in spite of the increase of the cost of living in Barbados the amount per ton is going to remain the same? The hon. Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. senior member for St. Philip is an expert on the terms and conditions which quarries and soil rights set in that part of the country. He will know and understand that he would not rent his quarry at 20 cents per ton, he would want a little bit more. If what I am saying is correct, I am sure he will get up and tell us what are the terms usually granted to the people in St. Philip where there is a large amount of quarrying taking place.

These are very important matters, and I hope, Sir, that hon. members on that side, in particular Parliamentary Secretaries, would learn and understand that one of their Chief functions is to provide information and not just sit down and just say "aye, aye, aye".

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the many accusations and questions levelled at me, I would like to say first and foremost that for the five years plus that I have been in this Chamber, I have always held it in high esteem and I have always made sure that whenever I arrive in this Chamber that I have my equilibrium and at no time, I hope, as long as I am a member of this Chamber will I indulge in the contents of a rum bottle and to come here to this Chamber to vilify members of this House.

All the speakers on the opposite side spoke on this Resolution, but what was hard for me to understand, Mr. Speaker, was that nearly every speaker tried to approbate and reprobate at the same time.
5.15 p.m.

Objection has been levelled at me for a most dastardly act, but that is just like one of those cases in Court where a man asks you if you have stopped beating your wife. If you were to say "Yes", it means that you had not stopped beating your wife. (Laughter). I have been accused of doing everything, but the first time that I have been accused of being dishonest is today by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I did not accuse the hon. member of being dishonest, and I ask him to withdraw that accusation. It is an accusation which is going outside the ambit of the Standing Orders of this House by imputing improper motives and accusing an hon. member of dishonesty.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas did not, in my hearing, make any accusation of any hon. member being dishonest. I therefore ask the hon. to withdraw the remarks.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to withdraw the remarks, but the hon. member did say, in the presence of all who could hear, that because of political gerrymandering some man and his wife were dismissed from Quarry Products Limited, and this man lives in Rock Hall. I do not know many people who work at Quarry Products Limited.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member said that; "Because of political gerrymandering a man and his wife who lived in Rock Hall were dismissed from Quarry Products Limited." I went to some trouble, as one hon. member has described it, to be generous and say that I have satisfied myself that it was not because of politics that the man and his wife, who were political associates of the Barbados Labour Party, were dismissed from Quarry Products Limited.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has elucidated his point; he may not elaborate on it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, it is either that the hon. member has seen the light or he is feeling the heat. The hon. member, whilst playing to the gallery, tried to impute

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is imputing improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do regard the remark about playing to the gallery to be a contravention of the Standing Orders relative to the imputation of improper motives. I think it is an unfortunate remark to make and I would not make it if I were in the hon. member's place. It is therefore my ineluctable duty to direct that that remark be withdrawn.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be rude to the House. I was not playing to the gallery. I would like hon. members to know that when you level accusations against others, you get a high play-up in the press. We all know that. I am not going to allow anybody to come in here and accuse me or anybody else on this side of the House of doing anything dishonest. I have been accused this afternoon and the impression was given that dishonesty was implied, not only by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas but also by the hon. senior member for St. Peter. Of course, what the hon. senior member for St. Peter said was audible but not intelligible. Those hon. members did not deliberately accuse me of dishonesty but they implied it to the House and the general public that because somebody did not support the Democratic Labour Party, that was a reason why this particular person was dismissed. I do not know who the person was. I am asking the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to go to Bagatelle Quarry at any time and ask the manager up there or anybody else, if he has seen me at Bagatelle Quarry more than once. When I went there, I was accompanied by my Permanent Secretary and other persons.

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying, I went to Bagatelle Quarry once in my Parliamentary life. I do not drink rum to the extent that I would not know that. I went there on one occasion with my Parliamentary Secretary, my Permanent Secretary and the Chief Technical Director. There was nothing hush-hush about what I went there about. When the hon. member gave the impression about back-scratching, I should just like to say that if you start to scratch my back, you have to go fairly low down. And you have to do quite a lot of it, because my back is broad and then I would have to be on stilts. As soon as a person comes from among the people, he is always accused of doing something dishonest. I bought some land in 1947, some twenty years ago, and I suppose as soon as I build a house on it I will hear that it is from back scratching.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must mention all of these things, because the impression is given that because I, as a Minister, am a poor man financially speaking, I am scratching somebody's back in order to get a favour done. It has been said of me that sometimes I am a bit short when speaking to people. I can assure you that I do not intend to be disrespectful to people, but sometimes they come to me with all sorts of impossibilities and expect that because one is under obligation that he must break the law for them. I would be only too glad if the hon. member were to accuse me outside of this House as he tried to accuse me in here.

and then he would know who is who. The hon. member comes in here and hides behind a political privilege. He accuses me of something which I have no intention of doing.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, is the hon. member accusing me of hiding behind a political privilege? I heard him say that I come in here and hide behind a political privilege. If the hon. member is accusing me of that, I object to those words. No accusation of dishonesty was made by me against the hon. member.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am extremely annoyed about is to think that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas only in last Saturday's *Beacon* (Mr. St. JOHN: He cannot mention that) somebody told me that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was congratulating me.
5.25 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to draw to the attention to the Hon. Minister that the Rules of this Chamber do not permit any member to refer to newspaper reports.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I was only refreshing my memory of something. Only the hon. member will say that I was talking of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and the hon. member has good reasons for saying this. I was told this.

It is true as I have said already in this Honourable Chamber, the duty of the Opposition is to make the position of Government as uncomfortable as it can but it is not the duty of the Opposition to malign the Government. It is unfair to do so. It is unfair to come in here and try to score a debating point and to give the impression that somebody did not vote for you. Sir, look how many people came to me and told me that they voted for me? If the amount of people that told me "I voted for you" had been counted I am sure that more people would have voted for me than they were at the elections. People always tell you that they voted for you.

I am extremely shocked to know that my colleagues should be held up to the general public for ridicule. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that he was told so. What I would like to ask him is: "Did he take it upon himself to go to Quarry Products and investigate this thing?" (A VOICE: Yes) Are you sure?

Here it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is coming here to use this gimmick as a weapon against me. I want him to understand that if Mr. Prefumo had not given up his seat and had gone back to the electorate, he would have been elected again. I am only showing that when you are trying to score these points these trivialities do not hold.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am extremely shocked and surprised to hear of all these things in here. I did not think that I would have come for all this vilification by members from the other side.

Dealing with the replies to the questions which were asked, I have warned the hon. member for St. Thomas that in here is a Chamber for debate. It is true that we would say things to irk each other but I do not think that I would have got up in here and spoken against him if he were in my position and talked of victimising somebody because they did not vote for me.

Mr. Wiles is a postman who used to work in St. Thomas but in truth and in fact he did more canvassing than delivering mails. I did say that you can do your canvassing, but I cannot encourage you in that. But Mr. Wiles is still working. Furthermore, if a member of the Barbados Labour Party say that I caused him to lose his job, there is nobody who can say that I caused them to lose their job.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, am I to be interrupted by this sort of thing. Ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph how many people he victimized?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The hon. member called my name. I will deal with the hon. member if he does not withdraw that remark. I challenge the hon. member to say it just outside of this House.

I object now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to what does he object.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I object to the remark made by the hon. member. The hon. member said: "ask the junior member for St. Joseph how many people he victimized".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have now a copy of the words objected to and it reads: "Ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph how many people he victimized". I consider this unparliamentary and I ask the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to withdraw that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not here to challenge your ruling. Of course, I only said "ask him whom he victimized?" I withdraw the remarks. There was a time when Dorian Farrell better known as Kid Supplike and Napoleon Layne better known as Masher were hounded down in this country.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the Hon. Minister to stick to the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am sticking to the Resolution. Members on the opposite side have accused members on this side of victimizing people and I challenge them to name one person who has been victimized.
5.35 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been handed a copy of words objected to, and I quote: "ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph how many people he employs." I consider it to be unparliamentary and I ask the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to withdraw it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not here to challenge you. Of course I withdraw the remark that the junior member for St. Joseph objects to, but what I am saying now is that during the reign of the Barbados Labour Party, in 1950 Dorian Farrell (Kid Supplike) and Napoleon Layne were hounded down in this country at the pipe, in the street, everywhere they went.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would prefer the Hon. Minister to stick to the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am sticking to the Resolution. Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I am saying is that when members on the opposite side accuse members on this side of victimisation, they must remember - and I have already challenged them and I challenge them again to name one person who has been victimized since the Democratic Labour Party came into power. As a matter of fact, as I have just been reminded, the Barbados Labour Party used to boast in 1961, 1962 and 1963 that the Democratic Labour Party has the Government but they are running it.

When the junior member for St. Joseph got up earlier and said that he was thankful I mentioned the contract being made during his time, an agreement was made during their time in order to supply stones for the Deep Water Harbour, but a long time after the contract had expired, or the agreement rather, but it was a verbal agreement as far as I know, the operators were operating the quarry and they were told to go ahead until after the elections, but you see what had happened was they did not reckon with God. An election landslide came about, and through the odds the Barbados Labour Party went, where they will remain for the next 60 years. The Democratic Labour Party came into power, and as a result that is why this Resolution is before you today.

As I have said before, it is always difficult to understand what the senior member for St. Peter is saying.

maybe he speaks a foreign language which I do not understand, and as I have said before, what he says is generally audible, but never intelligible.

The senior member for St. Thomas said he will support the Resolution if he is given the assurance that no interference from the Government in power would arise to those people working down there, but as far as I know and as far as I have been told, I honestly do not know who works with Quarry Products or who does not work there. Maybe he knows. He went on to say, both himself and the junior member for St. Peter were saying that some of these trucks that are being operated by Quarry Products are being overloaded, and he remarked on a statement which I had made only Thursday, that when you pull a house down and you are stupid to remain inside that house it is going to come down on you as well.

If he knows this, he is the same Barbadian as I am, Barbados is his country, why can't he come and tell me? I know he is afraid when he sees me, but I am not that bad, I am always genial. You can come and see me or see the Permanent Secretary or the Parliamentary Secretary and you can explain to them. I am not expecting you to wait until the roads have been destroyed then to say something, because whenever the roads are to be repaired, whether the Democratic Labour Party or the People's Progressive Movement is in power, the money that is going to be spent on the roads is your money, my money, the taxpayer's money, so do not try to stand back and wait for a catastrophe, because when there is a catastrophe here, remember this in our country and with me Barbados comes first, this is my country, I come second, the other people come after, but I am appealing to hon. members on the other side to wait your chance, it will never come, of course, but do not sit idly by and see the country being run to ruin and then tell somebody that we cannot run the country, you are wasting time. If you see there is a point which needs bringing to my attention, it is your duty to draw it to my attention. If you do that and I do not act on it, it is your duty then to castigate me. Let me know exactly what is happening, I am a Minister of Government, and it is your duty to come to me with things that will affect the Government or the country. The biggest expense that we have this financial year is the Salt Pond in St. Peter.
5:45 p.m.

Hon. members have said that we do not give them enough data on the quarry. I know that hon. members will vote for this Resolution because this is something that will bring in revenue, but they should not try to make dynamite of everything. In the Ministry of Tourism, Fisheries and Trade, we called a meeting in 1963 and we ask the small quarry operators if they were willing to form a company to run this quarry, because we felt that they could make money out of it. But as you know, Sir, that is one of these lamentable things. I can remember coming along as a child, that Messrs Johnson & Redman used to have a building in Roebuck Street and that name still stands. You have Messrs. Goddard & Sons, a firm which is still going on, but the moment you come to our people, I do not know why it is, you always hear about something going through the eddies.

The Hon. Minister called in these people to explain why they should run the quarry but this first meeting was broken up before it started, so that when you ask how much was offered these people, nobody would join with anybody else; therefore you cannot get any information. There is a saying that you can carry a horse to the pond, but you cannot make him drink. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas was talking about putting quarry owners out of operation. These people operate in other places. I do not know much about their going out, but I make sure that they will stick to their agreement and do not get away from it. We do not want to be paying three or four times as much as what we should pay. When the contracts were awarded - I am saying this for the benefit of the hon. members on the other side. I do not award any contracts; people submit tenders to the Tenders Committee and the Committee goes through these things and make sure that somebody is producing what we ask for, the specifications which we want and then the con-

tract is awarded. The Tenders Committee is comprised of officials, not Minister. When I discover that something can be obtained more cheaply, that is the only time when I will come in. Mr. Farnum, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Broomes, Mr. Hinkson and Mr. Boyce got some of the contract too, therefore, there is no question of backscratching; I do not want any back-scratching. The contract is divided among several people; it is divided among those who submit their amounts. It is unfair for people to come in here for political prestige and accuse me of some sort of trickery; I do not go in for that sort of thing. I am a poor man. I always have high hopes of myself and, as a human being, I have not yet seen the amount of money that can buy me. This contract is a one-year contract and every year there has to be a fresh tender. We are asking hon. members to allow Quarry Products Limited to carry on operations for five years but that does not mean that the Government is tied to Quarry Products. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a Minister, I have to be very thorough in bringing down Resolutions here.

As far as I know, I think the rent is the same thing. It is \$2,400. (MEMBERS: The cost of living has gone up.) The cost of living has gone up for these people too. (ASIDES)

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry to disrespect the Chair with all this cross talk. The quarry was bought by the Government for the sum of \$47,950 for the purpose of producing stone for the Deep Water Harbour. All of this is what I said at the beginning. The rental is \$2,400 per year. We have to try and get that money in the Treasury every year plus Royalty of 20 cents per ton. During the five-year period of the lease, the Government received \$12,200 in rents and \$24,638 in royalties. The material removed from the quarry amounted to approximately 148,190 tons.
5:55 p.m.

As I have said before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Quarry Products, Limited, has a monopoly in this country but I will tell you something more. They have to submit a tender like anybody else. They have just submitted one but what I am saying is this. If they are finding employment for people and they are investing thousands of dollars in this island, we cannot tell them to pack up and leave. Anybody who invests over one hundred thousand dollars in this country we cannot tell them to pack up and leave. I am holding no brief for Quarry Products, Limited. I have not got a stone from Quarry Products, Limited, I always pay for what I want.

So far, in 1966, the firm employed an average of 97 persons on whom approximately \$154,000 have been paid out in wages. In addition, approximately \$86,000 was paid for outside transport. These are small lorry owners. It has also paid out \$40,000 for outside wages, so you can add that together and see the amount of money turned over down there by Quarry Products Limited.

(LOUD ASIDES)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the attention of hon. members on my left to Rule 29 (6):-

"While a Member is speaking, all other Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones, and shall not make unseemly interruptions."

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, relative to the amount of the figures which I have just read out, hon. members can add them. I have heard something about reduction in rent. It sounds very strange coming from the hon. junior member for St. Peter. He is asking about a reduction in rent.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. When the Hon. Minister gave his figures, he gave them for a five-year period. As we see it, there has been a reduction in rent by his own figures. In the past five years \$12,200 has been paid out for rent by the Hon. Minister's

explanation. If the quarry is to be rented, there will be a deficit of two hundred dollars in comparison with the last five year period.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, making a quick calculation, roughly, there is an extra two hundred dollars. I do not know how it got in there.

Anyhow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to this copy, I do not know if there is any other point which hon. members asked which I have not answered. Yes, there is one thing which I would like to say.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter mentioned something about a nuisance created down there. It is very strange that you get a nuisance in 1967 and you did not have this nuisance in 1957. Some time in 1966, I think it was, Quarry Products, Limited, had to pay damages to the residents of Halls Village because of this nuisance of the dust. There is still money for one gentleman who went to England so the money is still in the Treasury. Everything possible has been tried by this company to cut out this nuisance.

I think that I have answered all the points. Before I sit, I thought the House of Assembly was a place for debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought the Hon. Minister was addressing the Chair.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Members must realise that there is not everything debated in this Chamber which should be used to try to make this Government or any Government for that matter, look small or as if it does not know what it is doing in the eyes of the general public. Before I sit down, I would just like to say that we on this side know of no lease being signed before this Government came into power.

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

6.05 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, and it is the second reading of a Bill to validate certain marriage licences issued during the period 27th March, 1967 to 7th April, 1967.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that hon. members will remember some four or five weeks ago the House passed the Marriage (Amendment) Validation and Indemnity Act of 1967. This Bill went to the Other Place, was passed there and was assented to in the usual form and became law on the 27th March when it was gazetted. The purpose of that Act was to vest in the Minister of Home Affairs the power to issue marriage licences which until then had been vested in the Governor or Governor-General as the case may be. However, due to an administrative oversight, marriage licences issued between March 27 and April 7 still continues to be issued in the name of the Governor-General, whereas in fact they should have been issued in the name of the Minister. This Bill therefore seeks to validate all such licences which were issued between the 27th March and the 7th April, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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 the Preamble be postponed.

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

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

Clause 1 and 2 and the Preamble to the Bill were called and passed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That, Mr. Speaker, concludes Government Business for today's sitting. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 13th June, 1967 at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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, 13th day of June, 1967 at 2.30 o'clock p.m.
6.15 p.m.