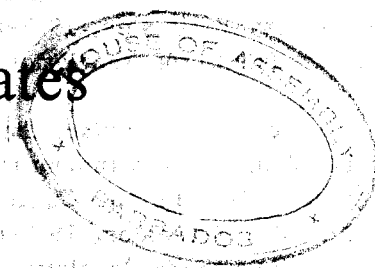


House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st November, 1967.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS and Mr. C. A. E. HOPFIN, J.P.

Prayers were read.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. HUSBANDS, Mr. HOLDER and Mr. CORBIN entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no Minutes available for confirmation.

REPORT IN THE ADVOCATE

Mr. SPEAKER: There is an announcement which I now propose to make. It has been drawn to my attention - and, manifestly, it is my ineluctable duty to draw it to the attention of hon. members - in the issue of "The Advocate" of 6th November, 1967, on its front page, what purported to be a report of something which transpired at a meeting of this Chamber the previous day under the caption:

DISORDER IN THE HOUSE: SITTING SUSPENDED

whereunder is stated:-

"Suspension of the Sitting was ordered by Speaker, Mr. Theodore Brancker, shortly after 9 p.m."

The statement that the sitting of the House was suspended shortly after 9 p.m. is misleading, inaccurate, unfounded and untrue. In fact, the sitting was suspended in conformity with the provisions of Standing Orders, 5, 36 (8) at 8.50 p.m.

I would point out that it is not a mere question of "inconvenience" to the Speaker, but that it is not a matter of grossly inaccurate reporting of Proceed-

ings in Parliament, which (there can be no doubt) constitutes a breach of the privileges of this House. The fact that Standing Order 70 empowers the Speaker to take certain actions in the event of publication of a report of the Proceedings "which the Speaker considers unfair" is indisputable.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Speaking on this -

Mr. SPEAKER: This is an announcement. There can be no debate.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order. I hope that action will not proceed from it at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard what the hon. member said, but that lies with me and the House.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. I wonder if Your Honour would rule as to what time this thing took place. However, I would like to go on record as saying that I agree with the "Advocate's" report and not with Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: This matter does not admit of any point of order, or points of orders, or any discussion, or comments.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I am commanded to lay the Income Tax (Employment) (Amendment) Rules, 1967.

Also, Summary of conclusions of the Conference of Heads of Government of Commonwealth Caribbean Countries;

Also, Barbados Membership of the Organization of American States.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$8,118 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 29 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$25,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1967-68 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 30 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, to give notice of my intention to deal with the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given in all stages at the next meeting of this House.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754.

It is also my intention to proceed with this Bill in all its stages today.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754 be now read a first time.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day under Government Business stands in the Name of the Hon. Leader of the House, and it is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply. I would just like to put this to hon. members opposite. For reasons which they would understand, we should like to finish Government Business or as much of it as we can, including what we have just given notice of, at today's sitting.

I do not propose, however, to move the suspension of Standing Orders. I would like an understanding from the other side on that. If they give up Private Members' Time, we may continue with Government's Members' Business and then, in what time there is remaining, finish such Private Members' Business as they have in mind to do. The point is that, if they agree, the necessary procedural adjustments can be made.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Lest our silence be taken as assent, bearing in mind misleading reports which appeared in the Press, I will say that it is no fault of hon. members of this House.
12.35 p.m.

I want to make it clear to the Leader of the House that if he intends to do all the Bills and all the Government Business of which he has just given notice today, we would strenuously be opposed to any question of amending the Rate of Interest Act today. If that Bill reaches the floor of the House, there is a prospect of an all-night sitting, and any question of Private Members' Business after Government Business would therefore be merely a joke. Any offer of Private Members' Business if called will be nugatory.

I do not anticipate that the hours of darkness will see very much progress made on the completion of Government Business. If such an extraordinary measure has arisen that the Rate of Interest Act is sought to be put through this House in all its stages today, we will not be able to get through. The Act relating to the Rate of Interest has been on the Statute Book for over 200 years. It has only once been necessary to amend it in that time. I will give way.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for giving way. There will be time enough for the hon. member to make his views known to this House on that matter when it is before the House. We are now dealing with a formal motion that the House should go into Committee of Supply. I merely made a request to hon. members, and they may or may not consider it.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I hope that my remarks which I am sure have been understood by the Hon. Leader of the House, will be understood by every one present, including those whose duty it is to make a note of them. As far as this Honourable Member is concerned, this is certainly a question of importance, and we certainly will not be giving any undertaking on these points. We cannot do it. It is a matter of major importance. Bearing in mind the length of time the debate will take, the question of cutting an hour or one and a half hours off Private Members' Business, I can assure the Hon. Leader of the House, will not help in expediting the business.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1967-68 No. 28

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Resolution asks for the sum of \$25,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1967-68, Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1967-68 No. 28.

On the last occasion when the House adjourned, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was on his feet.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$25,000 and the Addendum reads: "It is proposed that the official celebration of the first anniversary of Independence should extend over a period Sunday, 26th November to Sunday, 3rd Decem-

ber, 1967, beginning with the observance of Sunday 26th as a National Thanksgiving Day by the several religious denominations in the Country."

It goes on to list the main events that it is expected will be celebrated during the period before mentioned. Mr. Chairman, I think that this gives me an opportunity to cast my mind back to this one-year period which is culminating in our celebrating Independence. My first observation is this: this is really not the time, in my view, for this country to be following others who might be better able to finance such shouting, howling and jumping, as the case might be. I should say that Barbados should have one National Day and concentrate during that one day on educating the people of the Nation culturally.

One week of rejoicing by a few people will not, to my mind, make up for the other 51 weeks of any year in which thousands have been unemployed, thousands have gone hungry, much suffering has been occasioned and lots of other things. Let us take this opportunity to see what has been done. In other words, we are to pass a Resolution for money to celebrate something. Let us say exactly what we are celebrating. This new nation of ours has had one full year of misrule by the present Government. It has had one year of hate, one year of spite for the Opposition in Parliament; but what have they done to help the youth of the country during the past year?

We have seen them even in this Honourable House - I should say particularly one hon. member of this House has taken it upon himself to demonstrate to the youth, as if to give licence to them, that from henceforth they are independent, they can do what they like, say what they like when they like and where they like.

12.35 p.m.

That is what we are now to pass money to celebrate. I am speaking firstly in the interest of youth because they are the people who are being asked or told to celebrate. We must admit that this present Government inherited an integrated system of education; it was designed to do the best for the child. What do we find today? Immediately that this Government took over, the then Minister of Education began a system of fragmentation. It has gone on, and it has not yet been checked. What we find is that more and more people are being fooled; yet we are being asked today to pass a Resolution for a sum of money to celebrate. What are we to celebrate? Are we to celebrate that the children of the wealthy are being taught free at the leading schools of this new nation - Harrison College, Lodge School, Queen's College - and the children of the poor people and the working class people have got to pay - and pay dearly - for their education? What are we asked to celebrate, Sir? That these people cannot get their children into Harrison College, Queen's College and Lodge School because when these schools are filled with the children of the rich people, there cannot be any room for the children of the poor classes?

What are we asked to celebrate? That the parents of these children have got to go and borrow money to

pay for the education of their children? Mr. Chairman, are we being asked to celebrate the prostitution of the educational system of this island during the past year? Mr. Chairman, during the past year what have we seen to convince us that the wealth of the mass of people in this country has been enhanced in any appreciable respect? Instead of that, the poor people have been misled by the Leaders of the present Government into believing that they were going to take away wealth from the rich and distribute it amongst the poor; but what have they come to at this stage? What has been done with them? We have seen that the Government has employed some of its agencies - the Development Board is one - to establish industries. These industries have been established at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. What are we called upon to celebrate? Are we celebrating the opportunity that an agency like the Development Board has given to some of these second-rate business people to come into this country to represent and rob the young nation? Is that what we are called upon to celebrate? Mr. Chairman, what are we called upon to celebrate? The Government permitted to be known to the world at large that it condones crime at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. What are we called upon to celebrate? The Government by its own behaviour pattern would have it to be expected that the vaunting of homosexual tendencies and propensities and the vaunting of immoral practices have become the criteria for being placed - and highly placed - both at home and overseas.

Mr. Chairman, what are we called upon to celebrate? Are we called upon to celebrate one man taking it upon himself to be lord and master of all? Are we called upon to celebrate the taking away of the right of the registered electors of Local Government without rhyme or reason? Are we being asked to celebrate the declining standards of the religious teaching amongst the youth of this nation?

12.45 p.m.

Are we called upon to celebrate that the Government of this country is prepared to subsidize institutions that forbid the holding of religious worship and morning devotions at schools? Are we, Mr. Chairman, asked to celebrate all this?

Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for \$25,000. Are we to celebrate the Standard set by Government in taking dishonesty and couching it in another name to make it acceptable to them and to society? Are we to celebrate, Mr. Chairman, a complete breakdown in the religious principles and standards in our community? Are we to celebrate the high rise in crime in this community? Is this what we are asked to celebrate?

Mr. Chairman, I cannot forget that we were led to believe that the present Government had every intention to stamp out crime and wrong-doing in this nation. It is a good thing, Mr. Chairman, that you and I are both alive today where we can both ask ourselves: "Is this what we are asked to celebrate?"

What do we find? During the past, under the Old colonial rule, there was the 24th May - Empire Day - set aside for national celebrations and worship, whatever you may want to call it. The children in schools were encouraged to write essays; they were encouraged to listen to lectures given by person qualified to deliver lectures to uplift the children. What have we got today? We have a programme, Sir, and what does the programme in itself offer? Little or nothing whatsoever to establish the national spirit in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the Government has done enough in itself to demonstrate that amongst its members are to be found those who do not believe in God. Mr. Chairman, as you very well know, in the United States of America, it is not in many schools that the Bible as such is taught. You know that the United States currency bears the inscription "In God we trust" and I am to tell you, Sir, that members of the Government of Barbados have demonstrated during the past year that the only God they trust is the one on the U.S. dollar. That is what we are asked today to celebrate.

We feel it is not fair to the youth of this country - it cannot be fair by any stretch of the imagination - to argue that this Government has done anything to which it can point. If we were going to be even asked to celebrate the building of the Financial Building, why are we to be asked to celebrate that?

Mr. Chairman, what are we asked to celebrate? Are we asked to celebrate how the Government went about during the past year relieving the rich of their dilapidated houses, perhaps, which they could not get sold for many years - relieving them of those properties at a good price, and then the Government did not know what to do with them? Sir, what have we been asked to celebrate? We have been asked to vote a sum of \$25,000 for, among other things, an Art Exhibition by the Barbados Arts Council, and presentation of Choral Works by Church Choirs.
12.55 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, these very Church Choirs and other Choirs in this community have been holding out their voices to the Government for recognition. How many persons during the past year have been given an opportunity to go abroad to benefit from Institutions where Choral Works are practised? We are celebrating a thing called Independence. We are now to see and to hear that the voices are to be recognised. The celebrations, we understand, are to be spread widely throughout the Island. We on this side of the House are not certain that the hon. members on the other side of the House know the boundaries of the parishes of this Island. As such, we would find that in certain parishes we would not be able to say that there have not been events taking place, but when or where is another matter.

Mr. Chairman, are we being asked to celebrate one year under a dictator - one year of dictatorship? There are Private Secondary Schools in this Island that do not benefit in any respect from the present

Government, although some do; but these private schools, like other schools, received a directive from the Government ordering that their children should attend school on a particular day in honour of what they do not know themselves. But dictators do not always last long. Mr. Chairman, their rules and their laws are not always observed for any lengthy period. It seems as if someone was sensible enough to whisper to those would-be dictators, and a second directive went out to the schools, including the private schools that do not benefit, in which it was then more wisely suggested - a suggestion and not a directive - a letter was sent that the children should remain in school on the last evening before the day of celebration and do their bit.

Mr. Chairman, nowhere throughout this Island is there a national spirit, and least of all in this Chamber. We have seen that the Government took delight in employing measures which tend to rock the unity of this country. We have seen that neither the Government nor the members of the Government are to be taken at their word. These are the lessons of the first year as a nation. Shall we now look to the future, Mr. Chairman? We ought, at this stage, to be building ourselves. We know that the present Government has not demonstrated itself during the first year of nationhood as a Government fit and proper to enter upon the second year of such a role. I say that the answer to that is this: the Government has failed miserably. Today the poor people who were given to understand that Independence mean taking away the land from plantation owners, dividing it among the poor, who had been led to believe that if a rich man owned three or four houses he could only live in one and the other three could be divided among the poor people who wanted houses and they would not have to work - what are we called upon to celebrate?

We see here that pensioners receive \$1.00. Some consideration will be given to the Pensioners - \$1.00 per head. Mr. Chairman, should we decide to celebrate with a Government which decides to give Old Age Pensioners not more than \$1.00 - a Government which turns a blind eye to other numerous Pensioners in this community?
1.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is but one dollar: and if the Government has expected a person to become a Pensioner, and one has got to make some sort of contribution to the wealth of the nation in order to earn a pension, is it fair to other Pensioners to be considered in this way? Is this what we are called upon to celebrate? Are we called upon to celebrate the proud boast of the Prime Minister who tells us that from Paragon in Christ Church to Pico Teneriffe in the North you can see people at work

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that that part of the hon. members speech is not relevant to this Resolution under discussion.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am just asking for your guidance in a matter of this sort. Am I entitled or not to draw inferences where we are asked to pass

money to celebrate, and thousands of people are unemployed all about the streets? Am I to understand that that is irrelevant to the Resolution under discussion? The Prime Minister spoke about men at work; yes, some of them work for two days a week, and some of them not at all. Twenty at work and two hundred unemployed; is this what we are called upon to celebrate? Mr. Chairman, what we have to celebrate, as is proposed here, is merely an attempt by the Government to give a treat to some whom they may have glossed over on previous occasions. Are we to celebrate the spending of the taxpayers' money to treat people overseas, people who should not have been in Barbados at all, people who have no interest in Barbados? We have seen, Mr. Chairman, that numerous people flew into Barbados to celebrate Independence; they came in by the "two's", the "three's", the "four's" and the thousands and they were housed and fed lavishly. They wine and dine at your expense and mine. They had no interest in Barbados; they turned out to be the friends of members of the Government. They have done nothing to enhance the beauty, the religion or anything else of this country. Is this what we are called upon to celebrate?

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two things which stand before me. I see here that "the several youth groups and other organisations are unable to bear the full cost of the events which they wish to hold, and it is proposed to provide funds to assist them in conducting their programmes." Mr. Chairman, are we being asked to celebrate the activities of a political party which sets up to itself a Constituency Branch in a particular parish, but when the taxpayers' money is to be spent feting these people, they are no longer a Constituency Branch. That is what we are asked to do; but it is money for the Constituency Branches of the Democratic Labour Party to celebrate; in other words, to pay off. Is it fair, reasonable or just? Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for a sum of money for Independence Celebrations. Let us ask ourselves what is there in this programme of events, and if it is going to be spent to create a clean and healthy competition among the youth of this new nation? Is it enough to go on year by year in this way?

1.15 p.m.

It is good enough to leave the poor at their masters' door forever and ever, Amen, and friends of the Government have it all their own way at the expense of the taxpayers? Mr. Chairman, I remember as a boy at what was then an elementary school the day when we were given a bun and lemonade and a few confectionery or sweets pushed in a paper bag. This is what I remember: but, Sir, everybody in this House might not be able to remember these things. One must have been able to go to school to remember these things.

Mr. Chairman, extensive preparations were made before the 24th May. The children were taught to recite. The children were also taught to sing the equivalent of what is today the Barbados National Anthem.

Mr. Chairman, we feel that this Resolution for the sum of \$25,000 is in itself an indication that the

Government is just making a mockery of democracy. We find that there is too much that is lacking in the day-to-day life of our people. We find that there is too much lacking to create or generate a national spirit amongst our people. The Government seems unconcerned with these things; nevertheless, we are going to celebrate.

What, therefore, are we to celebrate? Are we to celebrate that there are hundreds of boys and girls leaving schools - and have left schools during the past year - and cannot find work to do? Is this what we are asked to celebrate when these boys and girls who have been given even a smattering of education are being tossed to the wolves or to find work from Paragon to Pico Teneriffe where you can only see Science men at work?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, have we anything before us to which we can point as an achievement to Government during our first year as a nation, to make us feel proud as being members of that nation? Is there anything, Mr. Chairman? I am sure there is no person who would be more anxious to remind you than your humble servant. Mr. Chairman, what are we to celebrate? Are we to celebrate lawlessness, the use of foul and filthy language which we must hear at every turn and at every street corner? Is this what we are asked to celebrate?

Mr. Chairman, we feel that the Government should have before their minds' eye something to which we can point as an achievement during our first year as a nation. To what then can we point? That the taxpayers are called upon to finance trips all over the world, and that the taxpayers or their representatives cannot then be told to whose benefit the money has been spent? Is this what we are called upon to celebrate?

Are we, Mr. Chairman, called upon to celebrate the disbandment of the three Councils? With this in mind, some of them were so clever as to run with the hares and hunt with the hounds that before the report or investigation was made public, the Prime Minister at the Marine Hotel after some drinking had been engaged in by others, not necessarily by the Prime Minister -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am again for the second time asking the hon. member to observe Rule 26 (2). "A member shall confine his observations to the subject matter under discussion and must not introduce a matter irrelevant thereto."

This is the second time and I am asking the hon. member to stick to the Resolution. Let the hon. member proceed.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have to abide by your ruling, whether I agree with it or not. I pray to God that we would some day celebrate having a common understanding on what celebrating mean, and the \$25,000 celebrations for Independence or whatever it might be.

This Resolution is for \$25,000. If I were to read the Addendum, I think that the Chairman would be very reluctant to tell me that what I read is irrelevant. This Resolution is to authorise the spending of a sum of money the balance so to speak, of an original sum passed by this House. The Resolution seeks a provision of funds to supplement an existing vote in the Approved Estimates for 1967-68 under Head 22 - Independence Celebrations which includes \$11,150 for Old Age Pensions. Then we get the sum of \$11,500 mainly for labour at this stage, whether we should be told if we are going to have two more arches for the Independence Celebrations one of which, as you know Sir, was blown down and the other had to be taken down. I am to wonder if we are going to have arches made for these celebrations again. I am also to wonder if in these local community activities we are going to have what one can consider as reasonable consideration being given to the desires of all in the various parishes.

We must let it be known that wherever one goes throughout this Island today, one can hear the question being asked: what form of activity, what even will be taking place in our village, in our district, or whatever it might be? That is the question. It must be remembered that the day on which the celebration begins is not far away, and everyone of us ought to be told by this time exactly what is going to happen. It may be a case where the publicity arm of the Government has thought otherwise. It may be a case where people whom they want to attend the various functions have already been duly invited. Those who have not yet been told anything must understand they are not wanted. I am wondering if that is what we are asked to celebrate.

We are glad to see that on the first day, or at some stage, there is to be divine worship. We can only pray that in such moments Hon. Ministers of the Government will receive some levelling of the spirit; let us hope that after that the Government will take us into our second year with minds swept completely of hate, spite, malice or anything of the kind - pure minds to do the work.

1.35 p.m.

Let us hope that throughout the Celebrations we will not witness any event which tends to mar our Independence Celebrations, such as what we witnessed just one year ago, or as has happened on a previous occasion when we were celebrating our first Independence. All of these things we hope for. We have seen that part of the programme which hold out very little for the poor and the needy: nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I see here that on December 2nd there will be open air entertainment and other activities at community centres and other places in several parishes. Mr. Chairman, you must be told how I feel when reading this, and to have to make the observation that there is no community centre in the parish of St. Peter. You must know, Sir, how I feel to make the observation that there are very limited places of entertainment at a community level in the parish of St. Peter. Where then and how often will the people of my parish take part in these Celebrations? We see here in the Addendum to the Resolution.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member seems not to be aware that there is an Assembly Hall in Speightstown and that activities are going to take place in that Assembly Hall in Speightstown.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think that I have had to say in this House before, that the hon. member was a schoolmaster, but undoubtedly he does not possess a master's head. There is an Assembly Hall in Speightstown, but I am wondering if the Minister is now having an Assembly Hall as central... (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Peter will understand the Standing Order which says that while a member is speaking other hon. members should only speak in undertones. I can hear the voice of the hon. senior member for St. Peter distinctly and clearly. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I distinctly understand all the Rules and Regulations of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the spirit of celebration seems to have invaded some part of this House already. Undoubtedly, Sir, it has not reached the Opposition benches, but the Resolution states: "Resolved that the note to the Current Estimates under Head 22, Item 22A, Independence Celebrations, in the Approved Estimates 1967-68 be amended to read as follows:-

"Revote to meet outstanding claims and to meet the cost of the first anniversary celebrations,"

We feel that the appropriate Minister would be very happy to give this side of the House the benefit of his knowledge of what commitments are outstanding and what are not; and we leave it to the Government to show by the conduct of its first anniversary of Independence Celebrations that the new nation can look forward to another year, not of personal animosity, but a year in which the poor at least can have something to hope for.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked to vote the sum of \$25,000 in connection with the expenses for the celebration of our first anniversary of Independence. Independence Day itself falls on Thursday, the 30th November of this year, Thursday of next week. When this Resolution first came into my hand, I was willing to speak on it on the very first day, and today I am just as willing to speak on it. It would be normal, I suppose for every National Assembly in every country to feel a bit of pride whenever the anniversary of its Independence comes off. I suppose that would be natural in these celebrations and in every celebration although those who arrange them may have other motives other than propaganda for ushering in the Celebrations. When a Resolution is brought in Committee of Supply in this House, the

reasons for bringing it have to be examined by every elected member of the Committee who has the right to speak on it.

1.45 p.m.

In a country like Barbados which is not a wealthy country, I am wondering first and foremost if every year of our existence as an independent nation we are going to be asked to vote the taxpayers' money to make a show. Although, the sum of \$25,000 is not a very large amount, there is something behind it all which I am not willing to supply at all.

My colleague, who has just sat down, told the Committee that he was not very sure what was happening in St. Peter which is a rural constituency. My colleague is right. There was, and there has been, a definite order to avoid bringing in representatives of certain parishes into these celebrations unless these representatives happen to be directly concerned or directly involved in matters non-political in their constituency. There has been a directive given to those who are in charge of these celebrations. I know what I am saying; I do not talk propaganda; I talk facts. I live in my constituency. Unless it cannot be avoided, representatives not belonging to Government parties are left out; in some cases they are not invited to functions in their particular constituency. If I strike a bitter note, I strike a factual note.

These proposed celebrations are being run by local Committees of the local areas, and people in the Metropolitan area as well. I do not know what happens in the metropolitan area unless it appears in this Addendum.

On Sunday, the fourth day of a cricket match already in progress - I believe it is between the B.C.A. and the B.L.C. - I do not know what part of this \$25,000 will be given to provide lunch for those taking part.

When I go down to look on Wednesday night the 29th November, an artful piece of showmanship will be a feature of the Annual Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition at Queen's Park. If you move the day of the exhibition which generally takes place in the earlier part of December to the 29th November, that is only a piece of showmanship. Independence or no independence, the exhibition takes place in December. It is nothing to us; there is nothing to show that this is a special programme.

There is nothing of what this special programme is, it only says the players and what not. "A special programme for school children at their schools." This is on the 19th November.

Then on the 30th November, Independence Day, in my considered view, I think the celebrations of that day is quite enough. We are a new nation. We have been voting for these particular items to the order of \$25,000.

Thursday, 30th November, we would be having a pageant by school children at the second day of the

Exhibition in Queen's Park and a parade of the Armed - and unarmed - Services at the Garrison Savannah. I find no fault with that. There will also be a reception at the Prime Minister's Residence.

I am not a member of either of the Councils; so I do not know what are the activities of the Councils. I see here that there will be Schools' Drama Festivals, Art Exhibition by the Barbados Arts Councils, Presentation of Choral Works by Church Choirs, Special Film shows - I do not know what that is depicting - Boat and Swimming Races, Athletics Sports - I am in agreement with having Athletic Sports.

I am surprised - rather surprised - not to find the transportation of School children at this time of the year. I am not saying that I am not grateful to read that you propose to provide funds to assist these organizations in conducting their programmes.

I have nothing against this grant of \$25,000, but little of what is being proposed is under the direction of the Social Welfare Officer. Although I would like to see the people celebrating their National Day, yet, from what is presented to this House in the Addendum to this Resolution, it seems to me that the Hon. Introducer has not told us much. I believe what is about to take place in this country is not going to make very much difference.

As I can see from the Addendum. It is proposed to make a special grant of one dollar to each Old Age Pensioner to mark the occasion. The old people would be glad to get this extra dollar, and I do not grudge them for it. It is very good on the part of the Government to introduce this grant at this time, and I commend them for doing so.

This Resolution also seeks to provide \$11,500 mainly for the erection of decorations and illuminations.

1.55 p.m.

The sum of \$11,150 will be expended on Old Age Pensioners, and \$11,500 will be spent mainly for labour for the erection of decorations and illuminations. I am still of the opinion that a week of celebrations is going to cost the whole country \$25,000. It is a large sum of money. As a matter of fact, we are not going to be able every year to put up money to support Independence celebrations. We are not fooling anyone these days. That is why I am surprised that they were not having a crash programme that would be much more attractive to their followers at any other time of the year. At Christmas time much more money would be in circulation. That piece of propaganda, however, has not been forthcoming, but that must be their concern.

I regret very much that there is no community centre in the parish of Saint Peter. The Assembly Hall cannot be regarded as a community centre. Right now there is a local Art Exhibition there. When the Chairman has finished gesticulating, I will continue my speech. What does that mean? Are you about to leave the Chair?

At this stage, it being 2 p.m. o'clock, the DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time being 2 p.m., I declare the Sitting suspended until 2.30 p.m. today.

The Sitting was suspended accordingly.

2.00 p.m.

On re-assembling -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time being 2.30 p.m. o'clock, it is now Question time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are no replies laid today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now time for Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

WEST INDIES HOSPITAL FUND (REPEAL) BILL

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a motion to repeal the West Indies Hospital Fund Act, that motion being moved by the hon. senior member for the City, and I think I am in order to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the last occasion, last Friday, when this Honourable Chamber was adjourned, the Hon. Prime Minister was on his feet when Private Members' Business came to a close. I do not see him in his place now, and I do not think that I can allow any other member to speak, at this stage, because he did not say then that he had completed his address.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this involves a privilege. In your position of authority as Presiding Officer over this House, you have told us that in your well considered judgment and opinion -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not say that, I said "I think".

Mr. HUSBANDS: In your opinion, since the Hon. Prime Minister was on his feet on that occasion and had not yet completed his speech - you have observed, Sir, that the Hon. Prime Minister is not now in his place, and you have noted that I have risen to speak. You have concluded, Sir, and you have told this House that no further discussion will be allowed until the Hon. Prime Minister resumes his place in this House. This is an act unprecedented by any Hon. Speaker of this ancient and Honourable House of Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know; I cannot understand, I would like to have your opinion backed up by Standing Orders, backed up by decisions from the Chair, backed up by precedents and rulings from the Chair on this particular matter. I would sit patiently if you would say that you would waive your decision until you have the time to discover on what grounds you really can declare to us that no other hon. member can speak on the motion to repeal the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake Act today. You will observe that

I am bewildered listening to your pronouncement - utterly bewildered, utterly confounded, if I am prevented from speaking on this motion. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will bow to your ruling, but I only ask you -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not ruled. I said "I think".

Mr. HUSBANDS: May I continue to speak?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, there seems to be some confusion. It is true that the hon. senior member for St. John, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was speaking at the time when Private Member's Business was being dealt with on the last occasion. The hon. member, as you know, was in his place, but he did not know if the hon. senior member for the City would have been in his place today because he was not here last week. The hon. senior member for St. John has temporarily left the Chamber, but the Prime Minister is replying on behalf of the Government. It would, therefore, be sensible, I would think, for hon. members to wait until the conclusion of that hon. member's speech so that they would make their replies in the light of what he said.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I expect all hon. members to observe the Standing Orders of this House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There is no question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of preventing or wanting to prevent any hon. member from exercising what his parliamentary rights are known to be. The Hon. Prime Minister is replying on behalf of the Government. He has not yet completed his address, and it would be more convenient for hon. members to allow the Hon. Prime Minister to conclude his speech when he is in his place.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would just like to say this: this Bill is in my name. I am sure Your Honour knows that. It is my right to reply last of all the persons speaking on the Bill. It is the right of every member of the Government to reply. I do not agree with the Hon. Leader of the House that some particular person should reply on behalf of the Government. Anybody can reply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it is only fitting and right that this matter should be postponed until the Government's Leader has been given the opportunity to reply and has done so conclusively. I therefore beg to move, on behalf of the Government, that further consideration of the matter be postponed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.
2.35 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY On a point of order. Surely, if you do not want to waste time, the Prime Minister can take any time he likes, but I will speak last. If the Prime Minister is not here, there are other hon. members who are next to me who would be speaking on the Bill, and why should we waste time? The Prime Minister can continue whenever he comes. If a mem-

ber is not in his place, he does not lose the right to speak; he can speak when he comes. I am reserving my right to speak last on the Bill which I have introduced. If the Hon. Leader of the House or whoever introduces a Bill is not in his place, he does not lose his right to speak. I do not agree with the motion which has been made by the Hon. Minister of Health. Anybody should be able to speak and the Hon. Prime Minister can continue his speech if he wants to do so.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to draw to your attention that I was on my feet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member speaking on a point of order?

Mr. HINDS: Your Honour should have recalled that I was on my feet when the hon. senior member for the City rose on a point of order. I gave way to him. Immediately as I gave way, up jumped the Hon. Minister of Health.

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

Mr. HINDS: I am telling you, Sir, that I was on my feet speaking in the debate and I tried to explain to you the events which took place and to show to you how it is unfair to me by having a Government Minister moving that the consideration of this matter be postponed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a motion before the House. If you are addressing me on that motion, please do so.

Mr. HINDS: I am addressing the Chair on the motion which is before the House. What I am saying is that before the motion is put

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has made that point already.

Mr. HINDS: Will you stop shouting at hon. members?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I, on a point of order, assure the hon. member that it does not matter what happens this evening? I am not speaking until the Prime Minister has finished his speech. It is bad democracy to ask or to press for the postponement of this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. The question of Private Members' Business is not postponed. This particular matter is being postponed and we can move on to the next matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My colleague is not here so that the next matter cannot be dealt with. I have the right to speak on this matter and I will not speak until the Prime Minister has finished his speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are addressing me on this matter, I will hear you.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is what I am speaking on. It is unheard of that the Government could postpone a Private Members' Bill and want to go on to another Bill when the member in whose name it stands is here. Might is not right.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would not accept what the last hon. member has said. It is stated on the Order Paper

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am addressing you on that. It states here on the Order Paper that on the 17th November, 1967, Hon. E. W. Barrow spoke and was speaking at 4.30 p.m. when Mr. Speaker said

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

MEMBERS: Order! Name him!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair, as it is at present constituted, will not tolerate that kind of behaviour from any hon. member.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am speaking on the motion. (ASIDES)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. member is addressing the Chair, will he please address his remarks to the Chair and not to other hon. members?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I can look wherever I like when I am speaking. If you have on the Order Paper that an hon. member was speaking (ASIDES)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to Standing Order 36 paragraph 2, and part of paragraph 3. 2.45 p.m.

When the Sitting was suspended last Friday, as you have here on the Order Paper, the Hon. Prime Minister was speaking. If you were to allow some other member to address the Chair now, and he is not finished speaking at 4.30 p.m., the Order Paper for the next meeting will show that this person was also speaking.

The question is that further discussion on this Bill be now postponed until a further day. Hon. members who are of that opinion will please say "Aye". Those who are of a contrary opinion will please say "No".

The Question was decided in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. YEARWOOD, Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. N. W. BOXILL, Mr. LOWE, Mr. CORBIN, Mr. WEEKES and Mr. HOPPIN - 10.

NOES: Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. HINDS, Mr. HUSBANDS, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. ADAMS and Mr. SMITH - 6.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who is not in his place.

Orders Nos 3 and 4 likewise.

Order No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for the City who is not in his place.

Order No. 6 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as far as this Resolution is concerned, I am not prepared to deal with it this afternoon. I did not expect we would have got so far.

While I am on my feet, I am appealing to the Hon. Leader of the House. I think we may soon get back to the debate on the Budgetary Proposals and I ask him to make preparations to get the necessary apparatus back in here so that when I make my speech, it will be recorded in the same way as the speeches of the Hon. Prime Minister and my colleague. I want him to look at me in the same way as my colleague and the Hon. Prime Minister and allow my constituents to hear me. I ask him to look at me in the same class; otherwise, I am going to give some trouble.

While I am on my feet, I ask that Item No. 6 be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Orders Nos. 7 to 15 stand in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who is not in his place.

Order No. 16 stands in the name of the junior member for the City who is not in his place.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business can now be reverted to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was suspended, the hon. senior member for St. Peter was on his feet addressing the Chair.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, continuing, I was drawing to the attention of the Committee that in my view, now that we are an Independent nation, the cele-

bration of our anniversary depends on the strength that this country has, in order to bear really an effective week of celebrations at the expense of this country. This \$25,000 will be a token sum when you come to think of it. But it is a point which I am questioning.

We are a very, very young nation. We will be asked again to vote money for the launching of celebrations for another anniversary of Independence, and I feel that inasmuch as the 30th November is a public holiday and is Independence Day that that is enough and sufficient according to our means, according to what this country can afford: because if we just pass this sum of \$25,000 today - I am looking at the propaganda use of the thing over the week - that is not the thing we want.

Independence should make us reflect, and we should reflect very soberly on the issues still confronting us and the nation. When we look at the things that this community needs, the things that we are in dire need of, the things that we are facing today, consequent on the decisions of metropolitan powers, outside of Barbados, matters that take place over which we have no control

I am not going to cut across my speech in Committee on matters that I know are going to come before this House and this Committee. I am not in a mood for rejoicing at the moment. Maybe, I am speaking for myself. There was a time when you could give people a little rum and a little salted pork, and that would drown their sorrows.
2.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. senior member for the City addressing the Chair?

Mr. HUSBANDS: He is not interrupting. I am saying "so not let us hope that we can just throw out a sop, and the people will forget their worries". Our worries are still upon us. The masses of this country cannot even be fully cognisant of what is before them, and what is looming over them, consequent upon certain developments in the world outside of Barbados. To be proud of being a nation is one thing, but to be rational and to deport yourself as a human being in your rejoicing is another thing.

As I have said, the gesture of granting \$1 to Old Age Pensioners is all very good. Whatever motives may have prompted it, its realisation is going to bring some small measure of comfort to the recipients. But I think, like my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Peter, that there are so many things, communally speaking, communally-wise speaking, that the rural communities of this country still lack, and, especially, the parish of St. Peter is without a single playing field.

Now you are talking about assembling people. There is no public playing field in St. Peter. How can they really celebrate? Do you know what they have to do? They have to go to Roach's Car Park and the Es-

planade and they have to be huddled into the recently renovated room on the first floor of what was formerly the Speightstown Police Station. What the Hon. Minister referred to as the Assembly Room is a room of very limited dimensions. It could not even hold the Art Exhibition of local products. It was too small.

We appreciate competition among the bands and musicians at the Esplanade. That is very well and good, but we say that you cannot even demonstrate your celebrations as you would because the country, I believe, has not been able to provide the amenities in the rural areas that should have been provided. When you spend money on certain projects, what you should be spending on other projects is not there. When you spend for showmanship, what you should be spending on relief is not there.

The introducer of this Resolution, I regret to say, has not even told us how these various assemblages, these pageants - are they going to be historical pageants? We should have been, at least, in a position to hear from the Minister what form of exhibitions, what form of culture is going to be put before the masses at this particular time. I see some mention of film shows. You mean that you tell a representative of the people about just film shows? What sort of film shows? Film shows about what? Film shows about what happened on Independence Day? I mean our first Independence Day. Things are so vague here in the Addendum. We just have them itemized. We see just line after line.

As I said, the opening of the Industrial Exhibition is nothing new. To put it back to the 26th November and make it the 29th November to make it coincide with our celebrations is not doing very much. That is trying to call a spade something else, but it is still a spade. The Independence Show at Kensington Oval is an attraction - the Independence Queen Show - and that will attract a great number of people into Bridgetown. The parade of the Armed Forces is a normal thing. By the way, now that I am on this, I know that there was an attempt to have a regimental parade in the parish of St. Peter also to mark the occasion of this anniversary of Independence. It has failed. I say this: the Regiment is the Barbados Regiment, not the St. Michael's Regiment, or the City's Regiment; it is the Barbados Regiment. The Governor General of Barbados is Governor General of Barbados; so is the Prime Minister of this country the Prime Minister of Barbados.

Let me tell you something, Mr. Chairman. Speightstown is the second town of importance in this country. There was a time when it was called "Little Bristol" owing to the amount of shipping it did with Bristol in England. There was a time when you could leave a wharf in Speightstown and go straight to London or South Africa, or the same Port of Bristol. I cannot see why the day is to be forever away and far off when the Barbados Regiment cannot parade, let us say, for instance, at Coleridge and Parry School

grounds. I cannot see any great difficulty in that. I cannot see for a long time why Coleridge and Parry School has not had a Cadet Corps. Do not let us centralise things because you have 90,000 people, probably, in the parish of St. Michael, as the rest of the country contributes the wealth that makes its way into Bridgetown. Let us remember that.

What we are celebrating now is the anniversary of Barbados not the anniversary of St. Michael, but the anniversary of the Independence of Barbados; not the anniversary of the Independence of St. Michael or the City of Bridgetown. I am a Barbadian, no matter where I was born in Barbados; therefore I say that the greater portion of this money will be spent in the metropolitan parish. I have no quarrel with that; you have greater numbers and therefore you have to spend a greater amount of money; but I know that it is going to cost you perilously little so far as St. Lucy is concerned, to call one rural parish, or in St. John, to call another rural parish, unless that has been singularly selected.

3.05 p.m.

Therefore on the question of this \$25,000 which is not a lot unless you can really do something, you have here listed, Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. I am sure that in some of the rural areas, there will be other days. That is not mentioned here. Some portion of that money is to be expended in what is being protective in the way of celebrations in the rural parishes, and I hope that when you see this Addendum, as elaborate as it might appear - and I sound a warning now before the next anniversary comes up that we should restrict our celebrations to one day, as far as the Government is concerned. We are not financially able to spread out our celebrations over a period of a week or more. This amount is just \$25,000, and I do not want to encourage the Government, because if we give them encouragement now, next year they will come for \$100,000 to be spent over the same period. Of this \$100,000 some of it has been spent already and the Hon. Leader of the House has been asked what are still the outstanding commitments of the \$100,000 which we voted in the annual Estimates of this year. I am not going to have myself mixed up. I am giving the Hon. Leader of the House an opportunity to reply to the points raised by my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Peter. *vis-a-vis* the commitments which are still outstanding relative to that \$100,000 which was voted when we passed the Estimates in the year 1967-68. I am not getting myself mixed up; I am not confusing the issue. I want the Minister to be absolutely clear-headed on this, when he gets up or when he exercises his right of reply. We cannot afford to be showing off. We cannot all make propaganda gestures at people, making them believe that we are able to celebrate for a week as we want to make them believe. I am not looking at the \$25,000; but if the Government gets encouragement with this, on the next occasion they will come down for \$100,000 to be spent over a week; therefore we will have to vote twice as much as three times as

much. That is not good enough. That is the month of November. There is not a lot of money in circulation now. Christmas is just ahead of us. We have passed through what we call "the hard time", the hurricane season, from August to late October, and people are still seeing life in a hard way. Celebrations coming in towards the end of November are not putting money in circulation. It is a small spree; it is putting a not, as my colleague would say; it is not very effective anyhow.

As I see it, the best part of this money is the one dollar which the Old Age Pensioners will receive, and if the Government could give more, it would give more. When the Government has got to restrict itself to give the Pensioners a meagre \$1.00, you can understand that they are not telling us how wealthy they are. Nobody has told us that there will be any treating of school children. There will be what is called assemblages of school children and a number of pageants and plays. I do not think that there will be any treating of school children; I am sure that with our school population alone, \$25,000 would be a mere joke. I see that they will not be included. They have not told us what decorations we will have to cost us this \$11,000. I hope that the Government will not try to spend all this money between Bay Street and the Deep Water Harbour because I know that even at local Committee planning level, certain organisations do not possess themselves of a national flag. I think if we were to ask that they bring a national flag, they do not have one.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be a Barbadian. I am quite aware of the responsibility of Independence, but I am not going to lend myself lightly and wildly to these celebrations. There may be those of us who can convince other people that they can drown their sorrows in these celebrations. I am in favour of athletic events all through the year; as a matter of fact, my colleague and I have been asked at our own personal cost, to play our part - not that you are not going to vote matters of prime importance first and foremost. We cannot fool people that we can have a week's celebrations to coincide with Independence. That is what I want to stress and that is the point and the preponderating theme of my speech in Committee. In conclusion, I hope these celebrations will take place. As I gave my assurance on the last occasion I am not against the Resolution, but I only hope that we will not fool ourselves that every time Independence Day comes around we can afford to have a week of celebrations. We cannot afford that, not if we are putting matters of primary importance first and foremost. We cannot fool the people that we can indulge in a week's celebrations. That is what I want to stress.

3.15 p.m.

I hope that the celebrations will take place and not be marred by any unfortunate event. I hope that the Government will look at this matter in the realistic manner that I have pointed out. Do not let us fool ourselves that the country with our economy can ever indulge, at least for a long time, in what we know the people cannot afford. They do not realize the serious-

ness of the times. They do not know what we know is depending now on matters that have taken place, and are taking place, in the outside world with whom we trade, and upon whom we are very dependent.

We are actually hanging on to certain things. There is no way out of it; we cannot call the tune. Countries with whom we trade call the tune for us and they do not indulge in this nonsense. They will not think of voting money for a week's celebrations for their Independence Anniversary. How can we do so with a preponderance of unemployment and with overpopulation, tied to a sugar economy, a country which is seeking entry into the Organization of American States, and so on - and I can go on and on for I do not know how long.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, in agreeing to the passage of this Resolution, I implore the leaders of this country - the members of the Government - to watch it very closely and do not agree to the sort of advice that people give that Barbados can really afford at Government's expense - and not even at their own expense - to have a week's celebrations because that money is being spent recklessly. Money spent for celebrations goes into certain channels in which it may be utilized profitably; but those channels may not provide the sort of usefulness, the sort of continuance of circulation of the money that should redound to the benefit of the great masses of this country.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be very long; there is only one point which I want to make on this Resolution. Now, Sir, we are dealing with children and we want to make children feel happy. We all were once young and were children and I am appealing to the Government.

I notice that you are going to treat school children. I believe so; but it is only those children that are going to school at the moment. I want to draw to the attention of the Government that there are some children who are too young to go to school, some do not have anything to wear and things of that sort: but they would still like a Christmas cheer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Christmas cheer in this Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: I used the words "Christmas cheer", but I should have mentioned "Independence cheer". I am coming to the point. Why did I use the words "Christmas cheer" and did not mention "Independence Cheer"? All of us in here have heard of the Rediffusion Needy Fund which is a fund set up by Rediffusion to give children a Christmas cheer. I understand that they will only be able to touch the fringe of the children in need. There are more children than there are funds.

I am dealing with the children and I am appealing to the Government, now that they are dealing with this Resolution for \$25,000 to make it possible or at least give a donation or gift to the Needy Children's Fund.

According to the breakdown in the Addendum, you are allocating \$11,150 for the Old Age Pensioners, \$11,500 mainly for labour for the erection of decorations and illuminations, \$24,000 for Overseas Receptions, and \$25,000 for local Community activities.

My reason for saying so is that I know there is a home with seven poor children in it, and the sponsors of the Needy Children's Fund can only help two children out of the home. On that day two of those children will be getting into a bus or a motor car and going to the Y.M.C.A. and getting a treat, and, I dare suppose, a little gift to take back home. You must know how those other five children will feel without getting a bus drive, a motor car drive, a little gift or anything of the sort.

This is sympathy. Let us view this thing in its true perspective. I am sure that the Government will be able to make a donation of a tangible amount to the sponsors of the Needy Children's Fund so that these people would be able to extend the list to take 250 children more from each parish so as to make them feel like children.

Sir, I take back to their homes some of the children. As a member of the Rotary Club, we take back home some of the children. I remember at a particular home - I would not call the name of the particular parish - when I took back home some of these children, two of the others that were left behind ran out to their little sisters returning home before they got out of the car and asked "What have you brought for me". Let us now think in those terms. The same way that I put my car at the disposal of the Needy Fund Committee and you may drop in a dollar and the other person drop in another dollar - all of us would be contributing - let the Government contribute too.

Now, Sir, I am not shouting for murder for this amount to be spent. You know my stand on it. I will not repeat that, but I am appealing again to the Government. Give \$4,000 or \$5,000, or whatever it is, to the Needy Children's Fund. Let me hear broadcast over the air, that they will be able to take in another two or three thousand children to make them feel happy during the festival. Christmas has started already. Last week I saw a man who had up his Christmas. We can call it Independence anniversary. Let the children feel at home. Take back this Resolution to the Cabinet and make provision for this. This is the way how I feel about it and I see the hon. junior member for Christ Church is smiling. I know he would be only too glad to give a hearing to my plea, so that they can take in 250 more children from Christ Church. The hon. junior member for St. Michael would like 250 more to come from St. Michael too. St. Joseph is not lucky, but St. Joseph would come in too. Let us come here next Tuesday with a Resolution for a few dollars or so to extend the Fund to the Children. Then this Government will be doing something for the children and building up more popularity for itself for the next fifteen or twenty years to come.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words immediately here now. The appeal which has been rendered here on behalf of the children has been well accepted and at least has received some measure of response.

In so far as the children of Barbados are concerned, I think this Government has done more for the children of Barbados than any other Government in the past. Not only have we provided two Children's Homes, but the Government is about to build another one. The Government and the Ministry of Education have gone all out to provide a good education and all facilities for children.

3.25 p.m.

In other words, we feel that our young children should not be congested with the old Infirmary and the old people who are sick and dying. We want to build a new nation, and in doing so you can rest assured that our Prime Minister and our Government shall go all out and see that you receive the necessary accommodation and assistance which God provides.

Mr. SMITH: If the Hon. Minister wants to prolong the debate, I will assist. I thought the Hon. Minister was going to say that by next Tuesday he would bring down the Resolution. I did not refer to Government as the best, or the worst, or anything else for the children. He gets up now and raises a little "Mammy Pammy" point that was very nearly out of order, I would say. How many children has this Government done anything for, comparatively speaking? What has this Government done for so many children? They have so many naked, starving, children knocking about the place. I am in a position to say that. Do you know that some parents cannot even find food to give the children to go to school? I am not asking for that; I would not expect a Government to do that, but I am only asking for a little sympathy to give them a little Christmas cheer, and the Hon. Minister gets up talking about "this Government did more than the last Government." We are not dealing with the Government in the true sense of the word; I am dealing with children and sympathy.

He talks about a Children's Home. How many Children's Homes do we have? How many children are you feeding? Take in all the children that really want help and see what will happen. The place down there is no bigger than my drawing room. How many children can it accommodate compared with what I am talking about? I think it would have been better if he remained in his seat without saying anything. What has this Government done for children so far? What has it done, comparatively speaking? The Hon. Minister never saw naked, hungry, barefooted children yet, because he is from Christ Church where you will find the big shots. I am from St. Joseph all the way down in the gully where the children can scarcely get out. I am appealing for help for those children. How much will it take the Government to assist them?

As I have said, the lady is telling you on the Rediffusion every day that she is getting more and more calls, and she does not know where she will get the money from to help those children. If parents could help the children, do you think they would be worrying this lady? That is what I am speaking about. You must try and urge your colleagues to try and get money down here next Tuesday, and do not get up and tell me anything about "this Government did more for children than any other Government". Point your finger at something and tell me that this Government did more for children than any other Government, if you are going to compare things. Do not bring in Farris; do not bring in the other place.

There are more children outside than what you have inside. If you are out to help the children, then help the ones that I am now appealing for.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, at present we have a Conference going on, the United Nations Civil Emergency Fund. At present they are sitting at the Marine Hotel. This is something to help the children of not only Barbados, but of the entire Caribbean. If he does not know that, well, I am very unhappy, as far as he is concerned. In any case, the Conference is on right now. This Conference has been organised for the first time on Child Care on behalf of the entire Caribbean.

Mr. SMITH: He is talking about a Conference right now, and UNICEF and all of that, but I am asking to help the children. All of this Conference and so on will not help the children next month, or give them a little cheer. I am asking for a cheer for them. He could talk about three million thousand Conferences; these Conferences are not asking for a little cheer for these children between now and Christmas. It seems to me that the hon. member does not know what is going on, Sir. You know, what has just come to my head and my brains. It seems to me, Sir, -

Hon. C. E. TALMA: A belly full for Christmas is one thing; but something for posterity is another.

Mr. SMITH: What is he talking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given quite a lot of latitude to this children's appeal by both hon. members.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if you are going to tell me that you are giving latitude on this thing for children - now you had better not start it because I will now start it, and keep you here until morning. I have as much to talk on this when it comes to children - so look, do not start it up. It looks to me as though you do not know what is going on yourself, either. It looks so to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am asking the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to withdraw the words, "that I do not know what is going on." I am asking the hon. member to withdraw that.

Mr. SMITH: To withdraw what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That I do not know what is going on in here. You are reflecting on the Chair.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I say again that it does not seem to me as though you know what is going on because I did not say that you do not know, and you are now imputing that I have said so. You now say that I say that it seems to me as if - and you are telling me that I said the Chair does not - well, if you are telling me, Sir, since you tell me that I told you so, well, I withdraw what you have said. I am not going any further because I do not want you and me to get away yet. We are going to get away, but not yet. But when you tell me about children here and about your giving latitude, you are being paid here, Sir, to sit and listen to us when we are in order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the Independence celebrations, at this particular point.

Mr. SMITH: All right, Sir. I am going to show you that somebody is wrong. I want to get through with the work. This money is to be spent on Schools' Drama Festival, Art Exhibition, by the Barbados Arts Council, Presentation of Choral Works by Church Choirs, special Film Shows, Boat and Swimming Races, Athletic Sports. Are you going to tell me that children are not in this? Let me come to it, Sir; I just had it here. There will be a pageant by school children. By school children; by school children. I would say so until in the morning. Are you telling me, Sir, that children are not in this? Are you looking for Independence celebrations only? More than that is in it - children are in it, Sir.

There are a lot more things in this than Independent celebrations, and that is why I have to be very particular in speaking because I see you are out to throw me through the eddies, but I will throw you first. Now, Sir, I have made a promise to the Hon. Leader of the House that I would not tarry, and I am finished.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, when one takes this Resolution and goes through it most carefully, I can certainly say that one is at a loss with certain things, that is to say, the activities. Some members sitting around this Table only know of the different activities that are taking place by what is listed here. In their own parishes they do not know anything. Why, I do not know.

We had Independence; we gained Independence a year ago and it is understood that in a case like this you would have an anniversary. Whether all of this money that I see here is correct in a sense, or should be essential, I am wondering if in some of the direct cases where one can feel that one has something tangible to commemorate the anniversary of Independence are here.

I am only taking one or two of the things. The one that I will take is the gift to the Old Age Pensioners of \$100.

3.25 p.m.

It is a dollar, yes; we are very thankful for that \$1.00. The Committee which sat said that they could only give an Old Age Pensioner a \$1.00; well, as I say, we are very thankful for it; but with the cost of living and the rate of things, by next morning will anyone of the Old Age Pensioners be able to say: "I shall have this in the remembrance of the anniversary of Independence?" The \$1.00 is very useful, but it would scarcely buy one or two yards of cloth. That cannot even make a nice apron so that these people can have it in remembrance of the anniversary. They cannot even have a separate breakfast on it, and change from chicken neck to chicken back or chicken wing. If they want to eat a little more salt fish, a pound is for 78¢. A pound of chicken leg is for more than a dollar. I am wondering if the Committee which sat and dealt with this section of the Resolution could not have thought a little more of the poor Pensioners. It just means that you are giving the Pensioners something. It does not mean a tangible outlook to continue things. It cannot perpetuate in his or her memory that this is a token of our having attained nationhood and we are having an anniversary of it.

With regard to the school children, in my district I cannot say what is taking place. We do not seem to get - in fact, I am wondering if after we have passed this money, programmes will be issued, because the members of the Government bench must understand that, as representatives of the people or people who are moving around in their district, people will stop you and you cannot answer a question or say anything. The only thing I can say, reading from this Resolution, is that we are going to have a Thanksgiving Service. I am exceedingly glad for that; but as to other things that you may read in here, it is just a question of voting money for the little different activities and things of that sort. I am wondering if, as soon as this Resolution has been passed, we will be able to see and get a programme of the activities in the different areas. I do not think that I am too late, as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was just talking about the needy children.

It is all very good to say what the Government has done for the children. We know that; but as regards doing something for the children now, that is a different thing. It was a long time since Children's Homes were to be opened. I am glad to see that Children's Homes are opened now, but they are only taking in the children who were at the different infirmaries and those who, instead of going to the infirmaries, will go to the Children's Home. I do not think that anybody who is asking for help for the Needy Children's Fund will be looking in that direction; it is only for some who are sick. At this time the Independence anniversary is actually something to coincide with the Christmas Festivities. That is what I am thinking about. I hope it is not too late for the Committee or the members who sat and thought only of a \$1.00 for Old Age Pensioners - I hope that they can consider and come down with something else so that these people will have something tangible to commemorate this Independence anniversary.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I had answered by anticipation quite a number of the points which have been subsequently raised in the debate. However, there are three or four important points and questions which have been asked and which certainly deserve an answer from this side of the House. First of all, with respect to the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter with regard to the breakdown of the outstanding claims against uncommitted balances of this year's vote, if he would not mind, a discussion on that more properly belongs to the Resolution which the House has to do when it has to amend the note to Item 22 of the particular Head. I have the information here, and when I am introducing that Resolution, it will be available. I do not know why the hon. senior member for St. Joseph - I am sorry he is not in his place - generated so much heat over his question about the children. The Hon. Minister, at the start of his reply, had said that the suggestion made by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that something should be done for the Children would meet with our ready response.

It may not be that the response could be met in the way that the hon. member suggests. I am not sure myself whether it should be met by the Government making a donation to the Needy Children Fund, but I know that it is possible within the provision which the House is making today in Committee, to do something along those lines for the children. As a matter of fact, this is contemplated by the people who are making these arrangements. The Institutions themselves have within their programmes certain aspects which intend to provide cheer, as we call it, for the inmates and children within the Institutions, and I believe that the Social Welfare Department has other plans for children outside the Institutions. You could not expect that, no matter what hon. members opposite may think of this Government - I do not think that we could be so hard-hearted as they make out, or to be so callous and indifferent as to ignore this aspect of the matter. But, as I have said, I am convinced that it is possible to do something along the lines suggested by the hon. member within the provision which the House is at the moment making, and therefore when the Hon. Minister on my right, whose responsibility it will be, says that the suggestion meets with ready and willing response, I think it is discourteous for any hon. member not to accept the Government's word. When we say that it will meet with ready response, we agree with the person who is making the suggestion. 3.45 p.m.

The last point I want to make in this particular discussion is this. When I listened to the hon. senior member for St. Peter, there seemed to be some confusion in his mind with respect to the celebrations. He is saying that we are holding a week of activities. That is not correctly put. There is a week of activities in connection with the celebrations of the anniversary.

The anniversary of Independence Day falls on November 30. It is true, for reasons which I think you will understand, the school children will be away from

school for two days and they will have their own ceremony marking the anniversary on the preceding Wednesday during the last period of the school.

The Annual Exhibition, of course, is falling in that week and normally the children in school - or in most schools - are awarded a half-holiday. The Hon. Minister of Education has decided that he would indulge the children on this occasion and give them two full days at home on the Thursday and Friday and let them have their ceremony making the occasion of the anniversary on the Wednesday afternoon.

But apart from the children - apart from the school population - the general public will only have one day's holiday which is the date itself, Thursday, 30th November. Friday is a working day.

Now, if the Government had concentrated entirely on activities marking the day itself, we would have given no encouragement to any other activities outside of that day itself and we would have come in - and quite rightly so, I believe - for the severest possible censure. But you cannot have it both ways. If we have encouraged organizations spread over the Island to participate to their full extent in a range of activities to mark the occasion, you cannot now accuse the Government of having a week of celebrations. It is not so. There is one day of celebrations and a week of activities, both preceding and following the celebrations. Those are the facts.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1967-68 No. 27

HEAD 16 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 38 - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Head 38 - Highways and Transport - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND NOTE TO ITEM 22A OF HEAD 22

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 2 is the instant Order of the Day. It stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

A Resolution to amend the Note to Item 22A of Head 22 of the 1967-68 Estimates, and to place the sum of \$25,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1967-68, Part 1 - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1967-68, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are seeking permission of the House by this Resolution to amend the Note to the Current Estimates, Head 22 Item 22A, Independence Celebrations, under the Approved Estimates and the amendment to read: "Re-vote to meet outstanding claims and to meet the cost of the first anniversary celebrations.

Hon. members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would have heard in some detail both in Committee and in discussion, the purpose of this Resolution is in respect of how the expenditure is to be met from the sum already proposed in the Estimates. To do so the Note must be amended.

Now, hon. members in the course of the discussion in the other debate asked to be given some information with respect to the detailed commitments against the unspent balance of the vote. As far as we can ascertain it is about \$5,000 broken down as follows:-

Outstanding claims against the Independent Film, "Family of Freedom";

Certain apparatus in connection with that film, These are claims still to come in; Replacements of Chairs that were damaged in Independence Square; and Miscellaneous Items in connection with Cable and Wireless, British Paints, for electrical equipment and for Advertising.

This is the largest amount of \$3,347.94 in connection with the staging of the historical pageant and another amount of \$442.40 in connection with the production of tabloid for Bimshire. There are claims totalling \$4,836.00 or nearly \$5,000 in addition to the \$21,000 already spent.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I tried my best to understand exactly and precisely what the Leader of the House was saying about the present amounts which

are outstanding. I read in the Addendum that \$21,000 has been spent, but the further claims which are expected to be received before the end of the financial year are now anticipated to amount to far less than the balance in the vote. I also heard an amount of some \$4,800 mentioned which, if my addition is correct, would mean that some \$74,000 alleged revote is going to be utilised for the new purpose of the first anniversary celebrations, and this will be added to the \$25,000 which has been added by the Resolution passed earlier in Committee.

Amendments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of this nature, I think, should always be viewed with suspicion. The House sat down and debated over a long period of time the Estimates for the year which ended 31st March, 1967, and there was no suggestion, at that stage, that first anniversary Independence Celebrations were going to be held at a scale even approximating \$100,000. There was no suggestion then that any balance which was being carried forward was going to be used for an extension - as was said earlier, by the hon. junior member for St. Peter - of festivities and a carry-on of the events of November last year so that all those who did not benefit from the Democratic Labour Party's largesse on that occasion can now be invited to benefit from it a year after, and so that all ruffled tempers may now be put at rest. All those who were not invited to Culloden Farm or to the other Centres of mass spending during the November 1966 celebrations will have an opportunity for this omission to be repaired at this stage.

It is normal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when the House votes money and the money cannot be spent for the approved purpose, the money be repaid to the Treasury and in due course an account given of exactly what became of it. It is difficult, as far as I am concerned, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see how the Claim for Chairs damaged in Independence Square has managed to survive for a whole year. We have never had a very complete account of what, in fact, went on in Independence Square during the celebrations. Perhaps there were even more mayhem, more of a riot, more destruction than we heard at the time. We heard that it was sufficient to cause certain members of the Government to have to flee from the vicinity; we know that the riots in Independence Square caused a great deal of trouble to the police, and a great deal of discomfort to persons who were there about their legitimate business.

I know that one of those sent to prison was one of the young members of the Democratic Labour Party who heckled me on Election night outside Holy Innocents School, but that, of course, is by the way. The question of what damage has been done is certainly a surprising one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, still to be opened at this stage. I do not know indeed even how far a vote for Independence Celebrations, as such, can be transformed into a vote for the repair of riot damages.

The common law of England and of Barbados states that if damage is done by a riot, the cost of that damage must fall upon the parish in which the riot took place. In England this is now been amended by

the Receiver of Metropolitan Police Property Act of 1884 under which the police have to pay all riot damage for any riot taking place within their district. I wonder if the Government has pursued these possibilities. I wonder if, before undertaking to pay for the riot damage in Independence Square, the Government thought that not only might it be outside the scope of the original note in the Estimates, but indeed that some other authority might well be responsible for meeting these claims.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, having passed the Resolution for such things as Old Age Pensioners, labour for the erection of decorations and illuminations, overseas receptions and community activities, we are not seeking, at this stage, to re-open all the matters which were so thoroughly canvassed by hon. members such as the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter, and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. We are not seeking to re-open that, but we would like some reassurance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, along the lines which I indicated at the start of my speech.

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

LEASE OF "SHERBOURNE" TO THE U.K. GOVERNMENT

Order No. 3 was called.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. :Leader of the House. It is a Resolution to approve the lease to the United Kingdom Government of the Property known as "Sherbourne", at Two Mile Hill, St. Michael.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the next Order of the Day.

MR. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not mean to take you by surprise. May we ask why is it that some other member, in the absence of the Hon. Leader of the House, who, I understand, is going to attend a funeral, cannot take charge of the Bill concerning the remuneration of members of the Police Band? Notice was given of this Bill at the start.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Government Business is regulated by the Government side, and not by the Opposition. There is a popular superstition in the country today that this Government is regulated by the Opposition.
4.05 p.m.

The Hon. Leader of the House is unavoidably absent and I asked the Minister of Agriculture to continue with Order No. 5 while I try to get my despatch box opened so that I can deal with Order No. 4 on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House. With all of this malicious sniping all the time

MR. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. I ask Your Honour to ask the Prime Minister to withdraw those words.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If they refer to the hon. member, I certainly withdraw them. I cannot understand why he got so heated. Is he the only malicious person on that side?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether he said I am the only malicious person on this side or he asked whether I am the only malicious person on this side, either of those words is offensive.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I agree that they are offensive words, and I withdraw them.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Prime Minister could have got up and said it was a simple thing. He said that Government Business must be run by the Government, and the Opposition must learn that they are not the people who are running the country.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. There is a motion that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order of the Day. The hon. member made an intervention as to why another Minister could not do that. Since then there was a little contretemps. What is the member speaking on?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will continue my speech in which I was interrupted by the Prime Minister. What I am saying is that we are only too willing to assist the Government in running its business. I do not think that I am here to tell the Government how to do its business, neither is the Prime Minister here to tell us how to do our business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The motion before the House is to proceed with Order No. 5. Unless that is put before the House, there is nothing before the House. The hon. member is entirely out of order and he should discontinue his speech.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am trying to finish my speech. I will do my best to satisfy the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the Minister of Health as fully and as completely as possible so as to avoid irrelevance, and above all, to avoid bombast and pomposity where bombast is not called for. We were and are concerned about this question of the Police Band and the division of the money. All the Prime Minister has to do is to tell us without the preamble - and we do not need his preamble - that he is trying to open the despatch box of the Hon. Leader of the House and matters will be fixed - when he does it. That is all we need to know. I am glad to hear it. I am not opposing the motion.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: In view of the fact that I have not got the key to the despatch box, perhaps somebody on the opposite side will help with a little bit of burglary by breaking it open. (Laughter). I am not very skilled in these arts.

The question that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUGAR INDUSTRY (REHABILITATION, PRICE STABILIZATION AND LABOUR WELFARE) ORDER 1967

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order 1967.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an annual exercise, provision for which has been made by the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Act which makes provision for certain levies made under this Act. The above-average levy is made or calculated on the average of the last year. If, in any one year, the production of sugar exceeds the over-all average for the five years preceding, there is a levy of \$1.80 made on the negotiated quota. When it is calculated, the amount chargeable on the entire production will be \$1.26 per ton. It is calculated on the basis of \$1.80 per ton of the negotiated rate or the negotiated quota in relation to the entire production of the country.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Legislature of the Order made by the Cabinet on the 16th November which states that the amount of the levy out of the sugar industry which should go to the Capital Rehabilitation Fund be \$4.80 per ton of sugar produced, the amount for the price stabilization Reserve Fund be \$2.60 and there will be three amounts which will be taken for the Labour Welfare Fund, that is, \$4.80 basic levy, \$1.26 for the above-average levy and \$1.00 for the Provident Fund Levy. With this little information, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we agree with the Hon. member that this Resolution is but an annual exercise. We need no indoctrination as to the allocation of the various Funds included. But what we are interested in is that every year the Cabinet knows what results from the Order being passed by this Legislature, and how much money they have in the till to allocate to the various Funds - the Provident Fund, the Rehabilitation Fund, the Price Stabilization Fund and the Labour Welfare Fund.
4.15 p.m.

Now, we have it on record already - not that I doubt the Minister's integrity, but he is telling us that it is the administration of this problem. We are voting for this matter today to make matters right.

It is the responsibility of Government to tell the representatives of the people, including your humble servant, that they have made their responsibilities and liabilities right and they have nothing more to do. It is useless going to representatives, political or indus-

trial, about this matter. They have exercised their obligations and they have fulfilled them already.

The Government through their spokesman, the Hon. Minister who introduced this Resolution, has told us that it will soon be right. Now, sometime ago one dollar was allocated to the Provident Fund out of this money, and I remind the Minister again about it because it is my duty as a representative of the people to remind the Minister and bring it before his attention constantly that, with the introduction of the National Insurance Scheme, people have retired and who are not getting pensions are in dire need of what should come to them from this Provident Fund and they want it. They need it; that is not just a desire.

Again, we know that the Labour Welfare Fund is supposed to provide certain rural amenities. There was some land bought in St. Peter some years ago to provide amenities for the people of St. Peter. Lest it be forgotten, it does not mean that because something was not done in 1956, it should not be done in 1967. The responsibilities remain the same to the people.

Let us see a playing field in St. Peter; let us see public telephone booths in Boscobelle, Indian Ground, and so on. The money comes from these sources. That is how it comes. It is for that purpose specifically. No single Government has this expense. Those who are no longer have had it and Colonial Governments still retain this responsibility.

We make matters right every year. This is an annual exercise, and quite rightly. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister is quite right. As an annual exercise, we have to maintain a lot of Colonial commitments.

Therefore, Sir, I do hope that in the ensuing year I would have the assurance from the Minister, as I have had already that he will soon have matters right with the Provident Fund. I hope he will also have matters right with certain rural amenities that are due and owing to the people of St. Peter. St. Lucy seems to be well provided for, and maybe St. Andrew, I do not know.

I take this opportunity again, Sir, to remind the Minister concerned in all seriousness that you have a parish in the North without a single public playing field. I am not doing this just for the sake of criticising, or for the love of it; I do not get any kick out of it; I do not get any fun out of it. Some years back Forde's Pasture was bought to provide some rural amenities for the parish of St. Peter but since then, that project has not been gone through with. As a matter of fact, the land has been returned to its owner by the Legislature and he was paid compensation for it.

There are many Primary Schools in St. Peter that need some attention. The Speightstown Boys' School is in the road; the Minister knows that very well indeed. The Girls' School is now a bus terminal. Since he said that it is the desire of the Government to provide that school with electric lighting, I do not know if it is still their desire to continue with it as

a bus terminal, but providing electric lighting there would enable bus drivers to see how to park their buses without crashing on the school. The school grounds are not only like a racecourse; it is a public walk and a bus terminal.

Let us have some rural amenities and some attention paid to the Primary Schools. The bulk of our children do not get past Primary Schools. We all know that. All of them are endowed with a slant for Secondary Grammar School education, but the bulk still remain at Primary Schools. In all countries that is so.

I say that it is necessary to have these playing fields to serve not only children, but adults too. Just as we see how you provide public parks and so on, let us have, in a modest way according to our economy, some rural amenities. You do not know how hard it is for somebody to get a doctor at night - if he would come at all. To get him at all, you have to try to telephone him. I do not know if there is a school telephone in Boscobelle. If the Manager of St. Nicholas Abbey does not accommodate you or the manager of the Castle Plantation - and they need not do so - you will not be able to get a doctor.

Husbands, Boscobelle, Indian Ground and Black Bess are all isolated rural areas. That is why this provision is here. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is fair and square.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the question is put, I rise to explain that certain activities are on foot in so far as rural amenities are concerned. In so far as these facilities are concerned, Bath, Martin Bay, Silver Sands and the same Black Bess that was mentioned just now, are all under consideration. In some places the land has been acquired already. I refer to Bath and Silver Sands. Black Bess is being negotiated for the first time. Therefore the question of rural amenities does not arise.

Let us not be mistaken; let us get the record straight. There are many facilities which are being provided by this Government, whether they are beach facilities or whether there are facilities along the East Coast Road. This Government is at least making an effort to do something beneficial on behalf of our people and our country.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not mention beach facilities at all. I was talking about rural amenities for people who are living in the heart of the country. The poor cannot afford seaside resorts. What is he getting on with? He is talking at cross purposes. I do not think he can answer me anyhow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I have a right to reply to the questions raised by the hon. member. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it appears to me as if St. Peter has only just become part of Barbados. From what the hon.

senior member for St. Peter has been preaching, it does not appear as if since 1947, when this Act was passed making certain provisions for rural amenities that St. Peter was any part of Barbados.
4.25 p.m.

Had St. Peter been any part of Barbados, there would have been playing fields in St. Peter.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister ought to know that money, or a Resolution, was passed in this House and Forde's Plantation was bought for that particular purpose. The Hon. Minister ought to know that, and certainly St. Peter was on the map then. Since then the present Government repealed that decision and paid compensation to the owner of the land; therefore we now do not have the playing field that we would have had. We were on the map by the decision of the Government to buy Forde's Plantation. We are now off the map by a receding of that decision.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member wants information on it, I can give him all the information. The whole question of the purchase of Forde's pasture was something cooked up. Thousands of dollars were paid out of the taxpayers' money for swamp land against the advice of the technical advisers of the Government. The Director of Medical Services advised against it. The Chief Technical Engineer in the Works Department advised against it. It was a complete racket, and the recommendations not to purchase it came to the Government and to the Barbados Labour Party by the Officers in charge and the technical advisers which they had.

The files are all there. We came in and found them saddled with a swamp down there. Nobody would go to put a playing field there. It cannot carry a playing field; you cannot have a cricket pitch; there is no place to put a cricket pitch; it is under water, and it has crab holes. If you prepared a cricket pitch on Friday afternoon for a match on Saturday, you would go back and find crab holes in it. You cannot have a cricket pitch there. It was really bought more or less for housing. The part of it that could be used, the houses are placed on. The higher portion is used, but nobody can put a playing field in swampland. Are you going to bury the people in the swamp?

What I am saying is that it is only now that there is a St. Peter. Since 1948 money was collected from the sugar industry for rural amenities. Why was it that the Party running the country under his - the Party of which he is a member - from 1947 they had the authority, they had the privilege, they had the funds available to them to provide for all the amenities in St. Peter. Why was it not done? We are not against the provision of rural amenities in St. Peter.

As a matter of fact, the hon. senior member for St. Peter knows that we have been scouting around the Speightstown area - he has gone with us in the Speightstown area when I was Minister of Community Development. We have been looking around there for a site for a playing field because we did not think, on the

advice of our technical people, that Forde's Pasture was suitable for a playing field.

Mr. HUSBANDS: The Hon. Member said that I have gone around with him to select suitable sites for a playing field in St. Peter. I do not remember that. I know that on the last occasion I met the hon. member it was in the yard of the Speightstown St. Peter Girls' School. I remember how he deplored the building, but I do not remember now where he and I ever went specifically to a site. As a matter of fact, it was a mere accident that we met on that occasion. The Government do not tell me when they are coming to St. Peter. I would have to catch them and be quite lucky to do so. They do not pay me that courtesy. I wish they would.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not hold myself responsible for the inability of the hon. senior member for St. Peter to remember. Some of us have convenient memories. Now the hon. member is a bit worried about St. Peter. I can appreciate his worry; I can appreciate his concern.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for St. Peter Order 29, Rule 6.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member knows that he is going to get a playing field in St. Peter, and he is a bit embarrassed over the fact that he has been asking the Party to which he belongs when they were in power for a playing field, and St. Peter will get one under the D.L.P. I can appreciate also the struggle. It is a question of who is next for St. Peter. If the hon. member feels that he can out-talk my hon. friend on the other side to a stronger place in St. Peter by having a playing field - talking about a playing field and talking about things that are going to St. Peter - is a matter for him.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I think it is quite irrelevant. The motion of any competition between myself and a colleague is quite irrelevant from what is now the subject matter before us, and I think Your Honour will quite appreciate that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am replying to the points raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter in relation to the provision of a playing field and other rural amenities for St. Peter. Does he want me to reply to him in this respect? These are the questions that he raised. I did not raise them. But since they have a bearing on the Labour Welfare Fund, it is quite competent to raise them in this debate.

I am treating the hon. member with the courtesy of a reply to those questions. With regard to the question of the Provident Fund which the hon. member raised, what I do not understand is that last week - or two weeks ago - the hon. member came in, and, as a result of a reply to a question raised by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, he raised the question of the Provident Fund.

In 1964 the Act was passed. It was a question of Regulations; but before Regulations could be drafted, a Committee had to be appointed represented by the Sugar Producers, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Government. This Committee had to make its recommendations. It was a Committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Chief Labour Officer. The hon. member knows this. The hon. member knows that the Government can only take action after the Committee has reported. I have explained all of this. The Committee only reported to the Ministry about two months ago. The Ministry then has to go through the Report of the Committee, the recommendations of the Committee, and submit the Government's proposals to the Government's Law Officers for the drafting of Regulations.

This I explained only about two weeks ago. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph will remember this. But because of cheap publicity, and in order to find something to talk, the hon. member will come in here today again to raise the same question.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Because of cheap publicity I have come in here to raise this. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to inform the hon. member that I take objection to the remarks that because of cheap publicity I have come here to raise the question. I consider them offending me.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would withdraw that, and I would substitute for it expensive publicity, because the time they are wasting on the other side by this sort of propaganda, this sort of publicity and playing to the Gallery, is expensive to the taxpayers of this country.
4.35 p.m.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order. I object to the hon. member saying that hon. members are playing to the gallery. We see no strangers here. I ask Your Honour to ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, lend me your ear. To impute that an hon. member is playing to the gallery is a serious charge and it is offensive to a member in this Chamber. I appeal to Your Honour and I need Your Honour's protection. I cannot silence the hon. member; I have no power to do so. I feel that somebody sometimes somewhere is to be responsible for every backbencher. Because I do not shout and harangue, because I cannot do that, am I to be ignored?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has made his point of order. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture was on his feet.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is unfortunate that some of us like to make ten speeches in a debate and they end up by saying nothing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Peter objected to certain remarks used

by the Hon. Minister. When I saw the Minister on his feet some minutes ago, I thought that he had got up to withdraw the remarks complained of.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to know what are the remarks complained of. If I make a statement in connection with the hon. member and he feels so strongly about it, he would have walked from his seat. I do not know what are the remarks complained of.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. I heard the hon. member object to the Hon. Minister's saying that he is playing to the gallery. The phrase objected to is one which is well known to be unparliamentary. I have heard the Hon. Deputy Leader of the House take objection to remarks made about the Prime Minister, and I take objection to the remarks made about the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member is offended by my using the words that he is playing to the gallery, although I know that is what they are doing (ASIDES) Mr. Deputy Speaker, can I be heard in silence? If the hon. member or if hon. members on that side consider the remarks made to be offensive, I beg to withdraw them.

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

POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 4 is the instant Order of the Day. That Order is to move the second reading of a Bill to permit a more equitable distribution of the money paid to the Commissioner of Police for the services of the Band for the benefit of the Director of Music and the other members of the Band.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill which we have before us is a very short one and it is a Bill to amend Section 45 of the Police Act, 1961. That Section before the amendment reads as follows:-

"Whenever any fees received by the Commissioner for the services of the Police Band are paid into the Public Treasury pursuant to the provisions of any regulations made under this Act, the Accountant General shall pay a sum amounting to two-thirds of such fees to the Director of Music and the remainder of such sum to be divided between the other members of the Band in such manner as may be prescribed by Regulations."

As far as I remember, one of the representations made to the Government in respect of the terms and conditions of service of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Band was that this 1961 distribution of the proceeds of fees paid on account of the services of the Band was not equitable, and after consultation with the Association and other interested parties in the Royal Barbados Police Force, we have brought in the following amendment to make it possible for the members of the Band to enjoy the greater percentage of the fees paid in for the use of the Band: The

words "twenty per cent thereof" to the end of the Section will be deleted and the words which it is now proposed to substitute are as follows:-

"Such sum to be divided between the Director of Music and other members of the Band in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations."

The position is that one-third of the fee is retained by the Accountant General for the service of the Island particularly to pay for instruments and other incidental costs of maintaining the Band which, of course, is very popular. The other two-thirds is paid over to the Commissioner and he gave 20% of that 66 2/3 to the Director of Music. Under the New arrangement in the Regulations, the same 66 2/3 is paid over, because we have not deleted that from the Act, but the Director of Music gets a much smaller percentage of the total fees paid over. When the Director of Music is conducting the Band, it is proposed that he should get 10% instead of 20%. The 20% which he was paid under the Old Regulations passed in 1961 was paid regardless of whether he conducted the Band or not.

4.45 p.m.

When he is not conducting, it is two and a half per cent.

The Conductor or Leader of the Band other than the Director of Music will then get seven and a half per cent. An Inspector will get five shares; a Station Sergeant or Sergeant will get four shares and a Corporal or Police Constable will get three shares. An apprentice will get two shares.

Now, the kind of fees which it is proposed to charge according to the Regulations are that when there are more than 35 members of the Band for a period not exceeding two hours, the fees would be \$120. When there are less than 35 members, \$75.

For a dance band, not exceeding 12 members, \$100 for a period not exceeding five hours. If we do a little bit of arithmetic, we will see that the Treasury will get \$40 for an entertainment of only two hours, and the Band will get \$80.

Of that \$80, the Director of Music will get \$8 if he is conducting, and if he is not conducting, two dollars. Whether a Sergeant or somebody else is conducting, he will get six dollars for the two-hour engagement. Let us say that it is a Race Meeting. Other members of the Band will get shares in the proportions which I have outlined and after consideration and discussion, I think that this is a much more equitable distribution of the proceeds than the Band was entitled to before.

Before I move that this Bill be read a second time, I would like to say that when the Band goes overseas, there are different conditions altogether because not only do they get the full amount of any fees paid to them for an engagement overseas, but they get then from the Government a minimum *per diem* approximately of five dollars (canadian) in

addition to any subsistence allowance and board and lodging and the salaries which they would get either from the Canadian National Exhibition, Radio City, or the Exhibition authorities from Edinburgh.

The people who engage them overseas undertake to provide them with board and lodging and to give them some kind of subsistence allowance. We feel that the subsistence allowance is inadequate: so we subsidize the Band in order that they will have a little more money to spend, in addition to the free meals and so on which they get, and this has nothing to do with their pay.

These rates are domestic to Barbados and they have nothing whatsoever to do with the other arrangements which we have agreed to from time to time to contractual arrangements with any authority or country which wants to engage the services of the Band overseas.

I therefore beg to move, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Bill which we are called upon to pass an amendment. Now the hon. introducer read out some figures so quickly that as soon as he sat down and I got up, I forgot all about them. I take it that these figures which he read out should be here in front of me. He has the figures in his files; I should have them in my own.

We are passing this amendment, and I should have been in the position of having those same figures to take home and put into my file too.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to explain to the hon. member that I was under no obligation to tell the House the figures at this stage, because the Regulations are only laid after the passing of the Act. In other words, if the House does not pass this amendment, these figures that I gave you mean nothing. But what we did is to prepare the figures so that the members of the Band do not lose any money, let us say, over the Christmas Season. Therefore, as soon as Your Honour is paid the courtesy of having a short debate and passing the Act, we would lay the Regulations at the next meeting of the House and then members will be entitled to copies of the Regulations.

I was really only telling hon. members in advance information that I have here as a matter of courtesy. We cannot give you these Regulations today. I hope the hon. members will appreciate that I cannot lay the Regulations because the Bill has not been passed.

(A VOICE: Read them a little slower).

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg your pardon; I gave you the figures. I said \$120 for a two-hour engagement of which \$40 will go to the Treasury and \$80 to the Band. The Director of Music will get eight dollars.

We feel that the Police Band is a public service and that is why we do not charge the same kind of rates that the more popular bands, or whatever you call them, charge. I think there is need for revision of the Dance Band rates which I am prepared to recommend because this is where people are making money.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to hold up this Bill because I am in agreement with the Government for making some change in the conditions with respect to the Police Band now that it is an internationally known band. It is known in Canada and Radio City, New York. We are proud of the Police Band and of its performance in and out of this Island.

One of the things the hon. senior member for St. Joseph said was that between the time he rose and the time the Hon. Prime Minister sat down, he forgot the figures that the Prime Minister read out. It is not that these figures are law when the relevant Regulations are laid; they become law forty days after should this House not reject them. But, after all, we would still like to have these figures in our minds.

I hope that the members of the Police Band feel satisfied over what is being proposed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Hon. Prime Minister also is in charge of Police (A VOICE: Oh no!) In his position there may be certain complaints that may still reach me that may not reach him. Any N.C.O. may come up to me and tell me something; but that N.C.O. would not go up to him and tell him. He knows that. 4.55 p.m.

If I were the Prime Minister of Barbados, there is many a thing a back bencher could teach me. The ordinary N.C.O. would approach me, but he would have to go and salute the Hon. Prime Minister of Barbados to pose a question to him. Of course, we know with all those little niceties of protocol, he may never be able to get into Government Headquarters to see him.

What an N.C.O. has to do to get a grievance remedied is to pass through certain official channels: Sgt., Inspector and so on; but if the N.C.O. comes straight to me it may be that when these Regulations are laid and we have time to go through them, it may be then that we will get a complaint.

Once it is an independent country, you will deal with the Royal Barbados Police Band, as part of the Force. Mr. Deputy Speaker, talking directly to you, I would like the Prime Minister to let us all know if the services of the Royal Barbados Police Band, a public institution, are available to any organisation without prejudice, or to any individual without prejudice. Suppose I wanted the services of the Band, or suppose an organisation of which I am a member wanted the services of the Band, would anybody get it?

The Hon. Prime Minister has noddingly and approvingly given me the assurance that not only I, but any organisation or any affiliation of which I am a member may have the services of this public institution, the Royal Barbados Police Band. Sir, I appreciate what the Government is now doing. When it comes to be referring to an equitable distribution of funds, I am with it. It is by those means that we fight other institutions and other 'isms' that might penetrate to this country. The more equitable distributions we have - I must align myself in the forefront of, or in the vanguard of, any such action. There is nothing more to say, Sir.

I commend the Government for this. I hope that when I have the time to peruse the Regulations - I know they will pass in an almost routine fashion. Now I, the Barbados Labour Party, your Party, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you, Mr. Speaker, and all of us can have the services of this very valuable institution of which we are all very proud.

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

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

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

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

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

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

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

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

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1967

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 6 is the instant Order of the day.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 6 is a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act. This Bill was not printed, but it was cyclostyled and circulated.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is now being circulated.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am sorry, Sir, I would like to correct hon. members. On the 17th November notice was given of this Bill, and the cyclostyled copies were circulated in the House on that day. It is possible that some hon. members may have been absent at that time. My information is that the Bill has not been printed, but it was certainly cyclostyled and circulated at the time of introduction. If the hon. members on the opposite side would like a little time - a little further time - to consider it, and that is what they were asking for, then all they have to do is to indicate.

There is an entirely new principle in this Act to make provision for the taxation of units or trusts. This is what is popularly known in the U.S.A. as mutual funds. We do not have any such provision here. There are several other amendments in the 1921 Act, but there has been a lot of agitation from financial circles that there should be unit trusts where small people would be able to buy shares in companies without necessarily contributing to a complete share or block of shares.

5.05 p.m.

That is the only thing new as such that I can remember in the Bill, because in the "Objects and Reasons" you will see this: "To remove the initial allowance now granted to basic industries and in place thereof to increase from ten percent to twenty percent the investment allowance provided by Section 12 (b) (2)" That is already in the Act and then we are allowing a deduction from annual payments by virtue of settlements, payments of charges for a period of no less than three years.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not doing the Bill, Sir. Certain questions were asked and I was indica-

ting the relative complexity or simplicity - it depends upon which way you look at it - of the Bill. That is all. Therefore it is for you to decide on the opposite side I was not attempting to deal with the Bill, Sir. (ASIDES) I was dealing with Order No. 6, but before I made the motion formally, I was indicating to hon. members that all of these matters, with the exception of the unit trusts are normal matters of which I gave notice during the Budget Speech. For instance, to allow expenditure on spectacles, dental treatment and dentures to be included in claims for medical expenses, I said that during my Budget Speech; and to allow deductions by self-employed persons in respect of premiums paid under annuity contracts approved by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue up to an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars or 7 1/2% of earnings. All of this I said in the Budget Speech. The only other matter in the Bill which I remember at the time of its introduction - I hope hon. members will not say that they did not have time to read it - the only thing which is new to Barbados is the mutual trust funds which we are now making provision for. If hon. members do not want to get on..... (ASIDES) I do not suppose a few days will make much difference; we have waited all this time. Taxation measures I always like to get on with as quickly as possible. Hon. members appear to be at sea, and I do not wish to take advantage of them.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

RATE OF INTEREST (AMENDMENT) BILL

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am moving that the Bill of which I gave notice earlier today in connection with the Usury Act, 1754, be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hesitated a little bit to rise because it was my impression that when you seek to alter the investment framework in which you were for all of these years, for 200 years, to set the rate of interest free, you would at least explain to hon. members not only the principle of the Bill but also its urgency. If we allow this Bill to be made the next Order of the Day, we will not be conceding its urgency for a fight. It is clearly relevant that everything connected with interest and the rate of interest could be discussed on this motion to make this Bill the next Order of the Day. I do not want to go into it at that length unless it is necessary to do so. We, in the Opposition, are unutterably, unalterably and immutably opposed to discussing this Bill today, and no member of the Government, if he sits down in his Chair and thinks seriously about it, would really, I think, suggest that we should go ahead with a Bill to set the rate of interest free in Barbados after it has been fixed for 200 years, not to speak of another highly offensive provision contained in the Bill, not to speak of that, which is a matter to be discussed in the discussion on the Bill itself. I call on you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not to allow this motion. This is not something slight;

this is not the Income Tax Act to which the Prime Minister pointed when he gave details of the proposals of the dental treatment; this is not that kind of Bill. This is a fundamental Act dealing with our purporting to deal with a big and fundamental crisis which is now besetting Barbados. Earlier today I asked the Hon. Leader of the House to beg the Prime Minister not to be rushed and panicked to think it is necessary to force through this Bill in a day.

Our information on this side of the House is that the atmosphere of crisis has been borne down on the Minister, and that he has been stampeded and panicked into thinking that this Bill is urgent. We think he should give himself a little time to recall whatever else he learned besides industrial law, and apply the principles of Governmental finance to this Bill and to see, apart from the principle, whether it is correct to accede to whatever he has been asked at such short notice. I am not saying whether I agree with it or not, because I do not know; but what I do know is that orthodox economics, as taught in textbooks, tend to be against a fixed rate of interest, and this is the framework in which I daresay both the Prime Minister and I worked also against a fixed rate of interest which, for practical and cogent reasons - that is to say, that there are companies and bankers, persons who have money to lend and persons who control the lending of money, who will always place pressure on any maximum rate of interest which restricts, or which should restrict, the profit which they hope to make from the lending of money. 5.15 p.m.

My belief, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the banks and the money lenders in Barbados have long wanted the rate of interest removed. They wanted to be free to charge ten, twelve or fifteen percent in appropriate circumstances as all their teachings would have made it clear to them that banks can change in other countries.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. The hon. member said that he is not convinced that this should be the next Order. I have listened patiently and with an amount of amazement and with some bewilderment to the hon. member; but he is not entitled to go into the merits of the Bill and now malign the banking institutions of the Island in the course of objecting to its being the next Order of the Day. I really cannot explain the changes of the Bill until I have permission of the House to deal with it. Hon. members who are not giving that assent can therefore vote against it.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister obviously does not understand. That is another reason for not doing the Bill today. He clearly does not understand what is at stake when we object to the urgency. I would advise him to sit down and listen more carefully. I will try to speak more slowly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I say that the banks want an increase in the rates of interest, I am not

talking about the principle of the Bill; I am just saying that the banks want that anyhow, and I believe that they have seized upon this opportunity. When the Minister of Finance is in confusion, they have seized rapidly upon the opportunity for the Government to push through this measure under the guise of urgency. They had long wanted this in cold blood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is by no means an unusual thing for pressure groups to do. After all, when you see a boxer is groggy and against the ropes, it is then that you rush forward and give him two or three more and knock him down altogether.

This is what the banks are trying to do to the Prime Minister. I am not saying that the banks are wicked and want to do it. They have their money to lend out. I am not saying that the Solicitors are wicked and want to do it. They have a duty imposed on them by their professional code to get the maximum rate of interest that they can for their clients' money. It is their business; but it is our business to see that this is not done at the expense of the Government of Barbados or at the expense of the ordinary citizens of Barbados.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister has said that he wants the opportunity or permission to explain the urgency of this Bill, but he would not get that opportunity unless we agree. That is not so, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If the Prime Minister wanted the opportunity to explain the urgency - not the principle - he could have done so when he asked that this Order be the next Order of the Day. It is within your power, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to protect the minority, to protect the electorate, and to protect the people of Barbados. It is within your power to do this.

This is not a case, I submit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where the power of permitting a Bill to be dealt with in all its stages, should be exercised. I am not going to trespass on the principle of the Bill. As I say, I have not had the opportunity to make up my mind. I know what orthodox economics is; I know what the conditions of Barbados are. I also know that the Usury Act has been on the Statute Book since the year 1754. It received the Royal Assent of King George the Second. It would be at that time. You can look around here and pick him out on the stained glass window.

The principle of a fixed rate of interest was accepted in Barbados at that time. It received King George II's assent on the 19th May, 1754 and now on the 21st November, 1967, the Prime Minister is telling us that something which has stood for 213 years must be overturned in an afternoon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it does not work like that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Will the hon. member give way?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am very glad to give way, but I have not finished speaking.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not making an introductory speech on the Bill to amend the Usury Act at

all, but I realise that the hon. member was away from our native land for a very long time, and in 1958 when he was away, the Government over which the present Leader of the Opposition had the distinction of presiding for a long period of time, introduced exactly the same amendment that I am introducing now, word for word, all the way down the line, and that is how we were able to get it so quickly. In 1962, this Government repealed that amendment because we felt the conditions did not obtain any longer.

So when the hon. member gets up and says that this Act was on the Statute Book for 200 years, when he says that George III had assented to it, my recollection is that George III came to the Throne in 1760. It would be George II. I believe that is what he said. What we are introducing today is what was repealed here in this Legislature in 1962; so this is how they mislead our people all the time by getting up here and saying that this has been here for 200 years and you want to do away with it in a night.

I would like to tell hon. members this. There was no bigger opponent to removing the lid of the rate of interest than myself, and you can go and read the debates in 1958 and see that. I know two people in the Island who opposed it. Fundamentally, I am not in favour of having the lid taken off the rate of interest, but this is not what this Bill seeks to do.

It seeks to make it possible for the banks here to draw on their overseas offices and pay a higher deposit to their customers by way of fixed deposits. That is all it is. So, I do not think we should start off by assuming that everything the Government does is a target for attack, as he says that they are not going to let it be the next Order of the day.

Well, it was a point of order and I am not making a speech. I was just drawing his fundamental error to the hon. member because this is almost *verbatim* to what is in the 1958 amendment to the Act.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was amazed by what the Prime Minister said that he was fundamentally opposed to the raising of the limit of the rate of interest and this Act is only designed to let banks draw -

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not say that. I said 'to take the lid off the rate of interest'. I do not want to go in for refinements of what I said, Sir; so let the hon. member get on.

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. What we are discussing is whether or not it should be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Yes, the Prime Minister said that he did not take the lid off the rate of interest, but this was a Bill designed to let the financiers try to draw on their overseas resources and pay a better rate of interest to their depositors. But this is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where he must forgive

me if at sometime in the future I remind him that he said that this is a Bill designed to raise the rate of interest; this is a Bill to let the banks pay a better rate to their depositors.

Nevertheless, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can read as well as the Prime Minister. He has anticipated the history of the rate of interest which I do not need to bore the House with inasmuch as the Prime Minister has done that for me.

Since 1754 an attempt was made at one stage - and I would say this, Mr. Deputy Speaker - the Prime Minister just chose to let us have an example of how we have to take the Prime Minister's statements. He said the Leader of the Opposition introduced this into the House, and he also said that he was one of the principal opponents.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said that, Sir. I said that the Party of which the Leader of the Opposition at one time had the honour to be the leader. That is what I said at that stage.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reporters will tell - if they are not tampered with in the interval - and in due course we will get the opportunity of checking precisely who said what at the time. The Prime Minister is a little quicker than he has shown himself. He now remembers that he could never have opposed the Bill if the Leader of the Opposition introduced it because he lost his seat and only came back in here at a bye-election.
5.25 p.m.

So let hon. members be in no doubt as to why the Prime Minister is seeking to put a gloss on what he said. He has just recalled that he was thrown out by the electorate of St. George in 1956, and did not come back in until the Leader of the Opposition had himself gone on to a higher place - or to another place. Anyway, we have to admire the Prime Minister's spirit because he is fighting back. Sometimes we on this side have had to say that the Prime Minister gets up and gives blows, but when the blows come back at him he has the Rules changed so that his opponents get disqualified. On this occasion, I am glad to see he is not seeking to make an alteration in the Rules.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are talking about the urgency of the Bill. We are being asked today to return to something which was, in fact, rejected. Taking the lid off the rate of interest, devaluation is clearly behind it, and the Prime Minister should surely tell us what is the relation of the crisis to the urgency.

This is not the first time that the rate of interest in England has been 8%. This is not the first crisis; it was 8% in July 1966. I remember it was 8% in September 1959.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not correct to say that the bank rate was 8% in 1956 or 1959. The last time the bank rate was 8% was in 1914, which is exactly 53 years ago. I do not know why the hon. member persists in misleading the House.

It is not true; the bank rate has not been 8% since 1914 - I think it was in October.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was 7 1/2%. Sometimes the Prime Minister makes a correction and we on this side accept it. I remember once the Prime Minister made a speech in which he said how in 1940, the same year to which he has just referred, he was in London during the Blitz sharing a room with the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House was fire-watching; so he, the Prime Minister, used to sleep under the bed, because in case the Leader of the House came through the roof he would not fall on him. And while all of this - this is in an *Official Gazette* of a previous session - I do not doubt that it is true.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, I do not know what the hon. member is saying now because it is true. I was not going to sleep on top for the thing to fall on me. It was absolutely true. Does he want to ascertain whether I was sleeping on the floor when the hon. member for St. Lucy was fire-watching?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That may be true, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but he then went on to say - this was in the debate dealing with the HARP gun - that gun-fire cannot cause cracks, or is unlikely to cause cracks in buildings, and he said that 70,000 anti-aircraft guns were going off around him and no building was being cracked.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not understand what is the object of this debate. I said that the room that I was in, which was an old building, in a place called Doughty Street next door to where Mr. Charles Dickens wrote *Great Expectations*, was not cracked and it was there when Mr. Charles Dickens was alive. I do not see the relevance of what the hon. member is saying, anyhow. I think he is trying to filibuster.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are talking about numbers. Now the Prime Minister referred to 70,000 anti-aircraft guns. He told the House how 70,000 anti-aircraft guns were fired and did not crack his building. I checked up in Winston Churchill's War Memoirs, and he said that there were only 700 anti-aircraft guns in London at the time, but the Prime Minister said 70,000. So when.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question before the House is whether the Rate of Interest Act 1754 is to be discussed today. That is the question, and I will hear only discussions on that.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I stand corrected. The Standing Orders of the General Assembly say that - Procedure on Bills - this is Order No. 38 -

"The first reading of every Bill shall be proposed immediately after the same shall have been called."

"An interval of not less than five days shall lapse between the first and second readings of a Bill, unless the House on motion made and question put agree to proceed with the Bill at any earlier date, or forthwith."

Then it goes on to say:

"No Bill shall be read a second time until it has been printed and circulated to Members."

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask you to rule that this Bill has not been properly printed and circulated to members. We have a cyclostyled copy - some of us have a cyclostyled copy - coming in today. I am speaking at length because I am hoping that instead of getting up and arguing along the lines which the Prime Minister has been rising and arguing, he will get up and tell us what is the urgency. I am willing to give way at any time to hear why he wants this Bill done today. What is the urgency?

I was saying, on the question of the bank rate, that it is necessary, in certain types of devaluation which are forced on the economy by the economy's own imbalances, to avoid the effect of inflation, both of prices and indeed of wages, by imposing at the same time as devaluation strict deflationary checks on the economy. I am sure that the Prime Minister has heard the words before and that, if he has time to consider them, he will understand them. They explain why it is necessary, perhaps, for Mr. Callaghan to put the bank rate to 8% in Britain. He did this on Saturday; today is Tuesday. They do not explain by themselves why it is necessary on the self-same Tuesday for us in Barbados to be rushed and panicked into trying to do a Bill of which no explanation has been given as to its immediate relevance to the crisis.

The Minister of Finance has not suggested to any of us that something is going to happen between now and, say, Friday if this Bill is not passed. This is not like the last Bill which I recollect being passed through all its stages in one day. That Bill was a badly drafted Bill which is inoperable. It is a Bill saying that a taxation proposal becomes law on the day it is presented in the House. That Bill in itself was badly drafted and pushed through, and it is conceded now by draftsmen to have been put in a form which makes it impossible, if the occasion ever arises, for its enforcement through the Courts.

But that is by the way. It is not a Bill like that. Anybody can see the reason, on Budget day, for saying that the budgetary proposals should become law at once. Anybody can see the reason for that, but not this. We have not had the slightest explanation. It would be the worst, the vilest use of numbers that there has ever been.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. If the hon. member were sincere in his wanting a reason, all he had to do was, as is customary from the 17 years since I first entered here, to move that a certain

measure be the next Order of the Day, particularly when the Leader of the House gives at the beginning of the session notice of his intention to deal with the Bill in all of its stages.

5.35 p.m.

If permission is granted to the House, it is normal to suspend Standing Order 40, which says that the Bill should be printed and circulated. That is something which has been going on since the beginning of Parliament, and it is done at least twice in every month since I have been a member of Parliament; and on no occasion has any member of the Government, whatever the complexion of the Government may have been, found himself constrained to get up and give an involved explanation as to the urgency of the Bill. Now particularly in this case today it is normal to explain to hon. members in the course of the second reading of the Bill what the urgency is. If there was any Bill which was more self-evident on the face of it, it would be the Bill which is here. All the hon. member has to do is to say: "Can you explain it?" If he did not question the urgency which, by his own pronouncement he has disclosed here today, because he talked about the crisis of devaluation, and then he has tried to telescope the passage of time in the 20th century by saying that last year the rate of interest was 8% and therefore there was some urgency. Then I pointed out to him that that was 53 years ago.

What they want to do is to have an interminable debate on every single point until 8.30 p.m. of the clock in the hope that they can bring people back in here at the end of the week; but if the hon. member thinks that I am coming in here tomorrow or the day after or the day after that, he is making a sad mistake. I will say this; I have a duty to discharge as the Minister of Finance. I will have to take it that the harping criticisms which have been levelled by the hon. member on misguided information are a request to explain the urgency, and then I will get myself on the record and I am finished. On Saturday afternoon 1930 hours, what used to be G.M.T. but is now G.T., Greenwich Time, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the bank rate, which is the controlling rate of interest for the whole of the sterling area, was raised to the level of 8%. The bank rate had been raised during the course of this year from 5 1/2% to 6% and from 6% to 6 1/2%. The bank rate had previously been as high as 7 1/2% and has been brought down during the course of last year because of the British balance of payments made. Barbados is part of the sterling area. By virtue of the Eastern Caribbean Agreement, the dollars which we use are tied to the pound sterling by a parity value of \$4.80 to the pound. With the increase in the bank rate to 8%, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the discount houses, the people who control the money market and the sterling area and who buy and sell Treasury Bills, who are responsible for fluctuations in value of the pound sterling *vis-a-vis* the dollar eleven pence fine - these discount houses have been lending to other people, and by their manipulations of Treasury Bills, it turns out that the commercial lending rate had turned out to be approximately 1/2 of 1% above the bank rate. The

Usury Act restricts the rate of borrowing and the rate of lending to 8%. If the bank rate is 8% and the commercial rate is 8 1/2% or 9%, all commercial activities are likely to come to a standstill. There is no law compelling any institution in this island or private investor to lend his money. They only tell you the rate above which you cannot lend the money. Since there is free transferability of funds by the Caribbean Currency Agreement, free transferability to the United Kingdom - and furthermore, to quote the case of D'Aguiar against the Government of Guyana, which had a similar provision in the British Caribbean Currency Board, any Barbadian wealthy person can take up \$100,000 tomorrow and demand payment of sterling in London for it without any let or hindrance whatsoever.

The position, therefore, is that the reserves of the banks would be depleted. There would be no money for commercial transactions; there would be no money for anything virtually except what the depositors have put in there. That is the urgency of the Bill. The hon. member does not understand that. He started off on all the false premises by talking first about 200 years, that it has been there since the reign of George 2nd when the very Party to which he belongs, in a situation which could, by no stretch of the imagination, be deemed to be a crisis - for instance, I will tell you the occasion when the similar provision, which we are now introducing here, was introduced and passed at very short notice in this very Chamber, and it was the occasion when one single company in Barbados wanted to borrow \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and the Corporation sent down a team here. They interviewed the Premier, the Financial Secretary and everybody else and the Government brought down a Bill to allow the Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd., of which Kenneth Russell Hunte was a Director, to borrow money from the Development Corporation. In 1952 the rate of interest was not anything like 8%, and we felt that funds could be transferred free in Barbados. I happen to know that during the past few weeks a lot of people kept a lot of noise and they have been transferring funds liberally from Barbados to London. That was before the bank rate was changed to 8 per cent. As long as they can get more earnings from their different deposits in the United Kingdom for so long will this outward flow of funds from Barbados go on. You cannot have it in both ways. Hon. members can refuse to deal with this Bill tonight; it is immaterial to me. If they think that to have another bad-behaved person in here, which is the sole object of their filibustering, is more important than the economy of Barbados, I do not have to do it. I have no funds to transfer or lend out, but I will keep a very careful calculation day by day on the effect of this economy and the failure of the Opposition to deal with this Measure. Whenever they feel like dealing with it, I will bring in the arithmetic for them and I will go on the platform.

Having explained that, Sir, having said that, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day fortnight at 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is not the way to handle business. I am speaking on a point of order.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I wanted to know is if this Bill is similar to the 1952 Bill.

5.45 p.m.

If there is an urgency, and the urgency is explained away, then it seems to me as if the Bill can be dealt with. If there is an urgency, I see no reason why the Bill cannot be dealt with, if there is an urgency; but do not just say: "Adjourn the House for two weeks and I am going on a public platform." That does not threaten anybody at all. There is no threat in that.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, the Bill as it stands, we all know that its urgency came about as a result of what happened in England. The devaluation of the pound has affected nearly every Commonwealth country; therefore, it would mean that something must be done in the matter.

It is true that we only got our copies of this Bill just today, but I consider this matter as one of great magnitude because the Usury Act is one of the oldest statutes in this Island. It has been amended twice. It is also correct to say that the reason why the amendment was made at the time was because the Colonial Development and Welfare Corporation was lending money to the Electric Company.

I do not like the idea of the Prime Minister just saying: "Adjourn the House for two weeks and go on a platform" in a threatening way. It does not worry me at all. If the Bill is urgent, we would have to deal with it. If the Prime Minister says it is urgent and sets out the urgency, we would have to deal with it.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I may continue, the Prime Minister has said a number of things. First of all, he said that it is self-evident that this Bill is urgent. It is not self-evident. We cannot just say the words "crisis devaluation", therefore the Bill is urgent. Believe me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the mere fact that there is a financial crisis does not make it so for Barbados to put up its rate of interest. The Prime Minister is, perhaps, acting as a lawyer here and not as the Minister of Finance of Barbados.

Now, I am going to take the Prime Minister's own figures and point out why it is dangerous for us to go ahead today to deal with this Bill. First of all, the Prime Minister in talking of what Bank rates are, mentioned something about Discount Houses, or House of Discount, Bills of Exchange. The Bank rate is a re-discount rate. It is what the banks charge discount houses for discounting their bills when they run out of money.

The Bank rate may go on for six, eight or nine months of a year without its being invoked. You can

pick up the financial papers and read them steadily and you will see that in the course of a whole year you would not see that any discount house has to go into a bank. The Bank Rate is a guide - not more than a guide. It is a guide to depositors' rates; it is a guide to overdraft rates; it is a guide to what has happened recently, to what has been described in a Resolution here as the Prime Commercial Rate. But this is a guide and nothing else.

The Prime Minister said in the last few weeks that money has been leaving Barbados to go to London to gain earnings for bank depositors. It would have been getting earnings at 3 3/4 per cent.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not mind that the hon. member is so inconsistent and misguiding people, but he is building up a case on false premises. This is the lowest form of debate that I know. I made a simple statement of fact that money was leaving this Island. I do not want to state the rate, but it is a considerable amount of money leaving this Island. I did not say where it was going.

(ASIDE)

I never said so, Sir; I said that with the existing Bank Rate since Friday that the money can earn more in London than the money can earn in Barbados. I did not give the reasons. The closest I came to giving the reasons is when I said that the people who like to get an amount of things in Barbados are doing it. That is the closest I came to giving the reasons. So let him stick strictly to the record.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I took the precaution of writing down what the Prime Minister said. I have here in front of me "to seek earnings from bank deposits." He can have the Reporter to check it now, or if he likes we can wait to see whether he remembered correctly or if what I read out was correct. If he wants to put it to the test of the Reporter, put it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we talked about flow of capital from one place to another, we are talking about a lot of things. People send money away for all kinds of reasons. I sent money to London on Saturday. I sent it for the purpose of buying a Christmas present for my little boy - it can only be obtained in London - and my bank account, unfortunately, can not sustain even a cheque to buy a Christmas present. This is at the bottom of the ladder when the paupers sometimes think of Christmas and they send away five pounds. The Prime Minister has friends too, and he may know as well as I that some of his own friends who feel like it can send to London and get whatever money they want. It is theirs. It goes through the whole gamut.

The Prime Minister has been told by the banks that they will not lend out money. That is what I believe has happened. I believe that has happened and he appears, instead of listening to his own advice not to panick, to have panicked.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdrew my motion and he has now to speak on the motion for the adjournment. I want to show him that I am not panicking. I have moved the motion that the House do now stand adjourn until Tuesday, the 5th December, 1967, at 2.30 p.m. That is the motion which I moved and it was seconded.

(ASIDES)

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the Prime Minister has withdrawn his motion for making this the next Order of the Day, I would say "who is panicking?" I am not panicking. I said before that we have nothing to lose.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I asked if the motion was seconded and I was told "No" by the Clerk.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: You might want it passed, but they do not. It was seconded.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want the position to be clear beyond doubt. If the Prime Minister has withdrawn his motion for making this the next Order of the Day, we have nothing to lose. I am just going to agree with the Prime Minister on something.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing before the House, and the hon. member can only speak about this motion now, that is, the adjournment.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In that case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Prime Minister is serious and his motion has been moved, I give way to let the Prime Minister's motion be discussed.

(ASIDES)

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask leave to withdraw the motion that this Bill be the next Order of the Day. This is the second occasion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has asked leave to withdraw his motion to debate the Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754. If there is no objection, leave is granted. (A PAUSE)

Hearing no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 5th December, 1967, at 2.30 p.m.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaking on the motion, for the adjournment, I regret very much that this motion for the adjournment of the House - I would like the Hon. Prime Minister to hear me - has been moved under the circumstances that we are now cognisant of. This motion may have been

made in a sort of *ad hoc* way; it was not moved in the ordinary usual way when we say that the Government has come to the end of its business and normally in the course of events, we make a motion for the adjournment of the House.

As we remember it, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has just asked leave, and got it, to withdraw a motion dealing with the question of an amendment to the Rate of Interest Act, 1754. Now, Sir, the Prime Minister.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to draw to the attention of the hon. member that speaking on the adjournment, he must stick to the point.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the House is usually adjourned when the Government has come to the end of its business for the day, when it has exhausted what it has on the Order Paper. On this occasion, this has not been the result, and, my powers of observation being what they are, I can make a comment on.....
5.55 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion for the adjournment of the House and asking the House to conduct its business on another day is a normal process. We come here to do Government Business and the people's business whether it is being introduced by Government members or by backbenchers. The business has to be done. I do not want it to go on record that we in the Opposition have in any way contributed to the circumstances that caused this motion, and obviously it is going to be carried because the Government has an obvious majority. I want to make my position crystal clear that when the members of the public get rather queer notions of the reasons of the House adjourning on November 21st at about 7 p.m. o'clock that they will not copy wild goose stories being bandied about regarding members of the Opposition in this Chamber. We have been asked to agree to this motion. As a matter of fact, we are going to show the people of this country - there will be no cheap mass meetings in this country to bandy it about. When it comes to talking to the masses of this country, I stand down No. 1.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are dealing with the adjournment, and not talking about the masses.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I am speaking to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and my words are addressed to you. I direct them constantly and coolly towards you. The motion for the adjournment of this House is to bring the business of the House to an end. There are some times when the adjournment has to be put instantly under special Orders of this House of Assembly. On this occasion, look at the time - just about seven o'clock - (Mr. MOTTLEY: "Six o'clock.") - six o'clock, and we are asked to stop business by the Prime Minister of this country. I am talking on the adjournment; I did not move any motion; I did not interrupt Government Business; I am not embarrassing the Government. I intend to speak on the motion as well as anything that comes before us. The

Prime Minister is terminating the business of this House at this sitting. I have not seconded the motion and I would not have seconded that motion.

I am going to vote against that motion too. It is rather queer to see that the Government wants to bring the business of this House to a close, but I am going to vote "no" as a matter of principle. I do not like to see serious matters being dealt with in a huff. A huff is a serious thing; we should be sober-minded people - balanced people with balanced judgment, and not people whose tempers can be frayed on the slightest provocation. I am going to show my protest against the Government's willingness to bring this day's sitting to an end. I am going to vote against it, and I have the right to express why I am doing so. What has led up to the cessation of this day's sitting is not normal. It is extraordinary and it is not desirable. *(Interruption.)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of these days I am going to get this Gallery cleared. The day is fast approaching. I know hon. members are very timid in doing it. They are afraid of losing their seats, but I am not afraid of losing my seat because getting strangers out of the Gallery cannot imperil my seat in St. Peter. I can tell you that with bold assurance. I will get them out of this House, and I do not care whose supporters they are. They have got to remember that this is Parliament, and when I spy them they will have to be chased out. They have to respect this House. When they go into a Magistrate's Court, they have to respect themselves.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take it that all of this is about the adjournment.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment. I do not want to say what I can say and let my speech be.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like you to say all you can say in the light of Order No. 15, Rule 1; "A Minister may move that this House do now adjourn."

Mr. HUSBANDS: A Minister may move that this House do now adjourn. The Minister has moved that this House do now adjourn, but under circumstances that I cannot appreciate. My business is the people's business. Government's business is the people's business too, and I am one of the people. I am a citizen of Barbados; I was born in Barbados before November 1967. By the Constitution of this country I am a citizen - I am not a naturalised one. I have no other country but Barbados; therefore when I am speaking and you quote a law to me telling me what a Minister has the power to do, he also has the power to introduce the motion to the Chairman of this House, and I have the power to speak on that motion. I am speaking on the motion, and I am dissatisfied with the manner in which that motion has been made.

Although I am not responsible for Government Business, I am very interested in Government Business. It would be left to me to say why I do not want

any matter to be proceeded with. I have not had that opportunity, and that opportunity has been taken away from me because the Hon. Prime Minister has asked and got leave to proceed with certain questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some note is being circulated to me, and I have to read it..... This is amusing Mr. Deputy Speaker. It says:

"There is no other business on the Order Paper."
6.05 p.m.

I disapprove of the manner in which this House has now got to accede to this motion because there is no other business. This is not the substantive matter of the motion, and therefore I must stand in my place and say that I disapprove of the way in which we have reached the adjournment today. Hon. Ministers are responsible to this community. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I have said enough to inform this House why I am opposed to this motion being carried in the circumstances in which it has been moved.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I really cannot understand the attitude of the Prime Minister this afternoon. Now, Sir.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. The Acting or Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that they are unalterably opposed to doing this matter today. They can go in public and say that we do not respect the rights of the Opposition and this, that and the other. I want to demonstrate to them that there is no dictatorship and I am giving them until the next time that the House meets to consider this matter. If they do not have the confidence of the Shadow Minister of Finance, then they should get rid of him. There are many ways of hanging a dog other than by putting a rope around its neck. Let them take away his portfolio.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I gave way to the Prime Minister. I listened to the Prime Minister and he must listen to me now. I cannot understand the attitude of the Prime Minister relative to this Bill. This is a Bill which was circulated to us this afternoon. I do not know anything about it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair is willing to hear the hon. member speak on the motion for the adjournment. No Bill is before the House; there is a motion for the adjournment.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment. Speaking on the motion for the adjournment, you will realise that you cannot pin down any hon. member by telling him to stick to the motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member may speak only on the motion for the adjournment, not on the Bill.

Mr. SMITH: I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment. If I just say "this Bill", are you so much for my blood that I cannot say "Bill"? I say

again: "Bill, Bill, Bill". I want to be nice and sober and quiet, but at the same time I will fight. This is my democratic right. I cannot understand the attitude of the Prime Minister. He made a motion that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day, and I think it was seconded. My colleague said that until the Prime Minister explained the urgency of the - I cannot call it because you said not to call it. I came into the House in time to hear the explanation. The Prime Minister enlightened me on it and just as he very nearly convinced me, what did he say? He said: "If you do not want to do it, I can adjourn the House and I can go on the platform." That is not the attitude at all. I am going to warn him now not to go on any platform at this particular time. I think you should hide from that as much as you can. Do not think about going on any platform at this particular period. If so, he must wear a steel helmet. That is my advice to him. If this - I cannot call the name - is so urgent, there is a possibility that it would harm the country. The Prime Minister has enlightened us on the Bill and I think he should wait and hear the reaction. In the same way that he convinced me, he might have been able to convince the hon. member, but he flew off the hammer and finished off the thing. It does not appear to me that the Prime Minister is taking his duties seriously as the Leader of the Government. He must learn to swallow a lot. He is so much out to mash up a good spree that he says that he will adjourn the House for two weeks. Do you think that if this matter is so urgent and he cared so much about this country and not about one particular individual - what is that to catch at? Would he allow the whole country to go down the hill just for one member? That is a joke. His action does not tell me that this matter is urgent, or, if it is urgent, he would see the whole country fall and then say that it is the senior member for St. Thomas who has caused it.

6.15 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, ask the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to stop. He does not know what I am talking about. This water is too deep and too blue for him. Why does he not let me speak?

Now, Sir, I am trying to save Barbados. The Prime Minister left it out; therefore it is in my hands and it is my duty now to save him because if he wanted to save it, he would not have done what he did this afternoon. If he told me what is correct, do you think that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas would not have agreed with me? If he says this is nothing to harm - this is how I see it - I was taking this matter seriously myself - if you leave this as it stands and leave it free, I was thinking that any solicitor lending anybody can put on one million dollars, ten pounds or eight cents, five cents - or anything he likes. That is what I was taking it to mean. Do not blame me for it, but the Hon. Prime Minister who sat in with the big shots and talked over these things, pointed out to him the dangers. Well, the Hon. Prime Minister knew, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas did not know, I do not know. (*Laughter*). What is that to laugh at?

What does the hon. senior member for St. Thomas know about the transactions, or the talk or anything

that went on with the Prime Minister? But he is trying his best. The Prime Minister is trying his best. That is how the Prime Minister wanted it to be done. The Prime Minister should not get vexed. He wants to bring it to the House; we keep our mouths closed; let it be passed. That is not the way. We are in here to talk; we are inside here to speak our minds. It may be wrong; it may be right.

Now, the Hon. Prime Minister does not disclose everything that he knows to hon. members over there. There are certain things he has in his possession which he has not disclosed to them yet. Well then, some of them may be thinking the same way as I have been thinking. Here it is, I want to know, if it were so urgent.....

(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear myself.)

The Prime Minister has the numbers. That is why under the Constitution any Government must have the majority, so that if the Government was right and we on this side were wrong, we over on this side would not be able to outvote them.

Well, the Prime Minister has the majority now at his disposal. If he wanted to throw us overboard, if he wanted to get us out of in here in a more peaceable process than you did last week when you reduced us by two and you wanted to get us out one at a time, that is what the Prime Minister should have done. Let it go to the vote. We would have to be outvoted. We would have to vote against it, and your humble servant would not be so foolish to hang himself politically and the Prime Minister would have won out and we would have lost. But look what he has done! He put it in my hands now to save the situation. That is how it appears to me and would appear to any intelligent thinking person. That would appear as a dictatorial attitude, when you do not get things your way, you mash them up.

I would say that you should stand up and fight. You can win. But you have adjourned for two weeks when we were already spurring for eight weeks. You are causing us to spree for two more weeks.

This is to save this country. Why not adjourn until tomorrow, or next Thursday or next Tuesday? But you have put the adjournment for two weeks from now. Our Standing Orders prevent me from saying what attitude this is, this afternoon. The Hon. Prime Minister must be more tolerant. I know he cannot take things easily. This is his nature. But to be a leader, you must have the ingredients of a leader. You must not be small or just think evil of everybody else.

He knows that I am a mock stick. Whenever I get up, he says that I am making sport. When the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was talking, the Hon. Prime Minister should have said "sit down" and waited until he had sat down and put his motion. It would have been carried. Not one of the members on his side of the House would have voted against him. Then he could go outside on the platform and say: "here it is, I have saved this country."

If the banks can charge eight per cent now, what is wrong with that? I would come back and say to the Prime Minister now: "If it is so, the bankers and the money lenders said that to you, why then within a day or two having come down with the Bill, you come and say that you know why it will be so?" I know why it is that we must grant this rate of interest to the money lenders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member deal with the adjournment?

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I am dealing with the adjournment. I am very obedient. You told me already not to mention the word "Bill" and I have not mentioned it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not tolerate that behaviour in the Gallery.

Mr. SMITH: Soon and very soon, I will be looking to see some people coming from that door yonder with sticks and pelting them up here. You know on a Bank-holiday what happens. A man gives four cents for a stick and pelt at something which they call a puppet.
6.25 p.m.

Soon and very soon you will get people from down there up to your Chair, if something is not done. Now, Sir, this is what I was saying: if nobody goes to either of the lending houses, it will be unable to pay its staff. It cannot do any business. If I, as a businessman, do not go there, I cannot pay my staff and I cannot do any business. Everything hinges together, it is like water and soap. Both have to work together. If one should say that he is going to throw in the sponge, that would be only for now. Those people might have had the same attitude as you, a quick one. If you know to yourself the dangers that lie ahead, please do not get angry and adjourn this House for two weeks. Even if you are adjourning it for two weeks.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I beg to correct the hon. member. I have never been calmer or more collective in my life. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas gave notice to the Leader of the House today that he was not even agreeing to dealing with the Bill in all its stages. He got up and made a long speech on the merits of the Bill, and said that I was being panicked and he made a lot of other mis-statements in the course of his remarks. He served notice from this morning that they intended to speak right through to the adjournment.

We do not have time to waste. Whether this House is adjourned for a day or two weeks, they have no intention of doing anything else but talking this thing to death from the time the House meets until the moment of interruption comes at 8.30 p.m. This is what they sit down and plan. They have no intention of letting the Government proceed with this business. If they are going to tinker with the economy of this island, I think it is time that the general public should know. They are tinkering with the future of this

island because they do not have any intention - the hon. member talks of going to the vote. They have no intention of voting on anything and we know that.

Mr. SMITH: That is not a point of order. I was on my feet; I was speaking on the adjournment. It is not fair for the Prime Minister to say that we on this side did not intend that the Government should do any business at all. It is not fair. Do you know why it is not fair? This thing has come. When I arrived here today, the Hon. Leader of the House approached me. He said.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS rose - -

Mr. SMITH: What is he getting up on, Sir?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member said that it is unfair for the Prime Minister to say that it was not their intention to talk on this the whole night. The "Shadow Minister" of Finance told me today that if we attempted to do this Bill today, he would be talking right through the whole night and there would be a whole-night session on this Bill, and it would not be passed. He is the authority on this Bill.

Mr. SMITH: That is not a point of order. Suppose the "Shadow Minister" got up now and said: "I did not tell you so."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I challenge the "Shadow Minister" to get up and deny that he told me so. If he did so, he would be using an unparliamentary approach to the business of this House. I do not want to say that he would be a liar.

Mr. SMITH: I think you had better not urge the "Shadow Minister" to get up, because if he gets up and says certain things about you, you will have to run through that door. Do not urge him. If you get up again, he may get up and let the cat out of the bag. I warn you.

Now, Sir, I was saying that suppose the "Shadow Minister" even said that, he is only one of us. The Hon. Leader of the House approached me this morning. He said "Lloyd, I want to do some Government Business today on Private Members' Time. I said: 'All you have to do is to assure us that after you get through with your Government Business and time remains, we can revert to Private Members' Business.' Can anyone get up now and say that I am not in favour of helping the Government? He might have spoken to two of us. We are only two, and there are six more of us. (An hon. member: "Six?") I had forgotten that they have thrown away two.

Anyhow, as I have said, the Prime Minister started to convince me on this particular matter. He raised some points that I had never thought of, and he might have convinced the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. This is what he did. He saw that he had the hon. senior member for St. Thomas convinced, and before he allowed the hon. senior member for St.

Thomas to come in, he was so much out for throwing away father and son that he wants to mash up things.

The Prime Minister convinced me that it was not anything to harm the country. He told us that he was going on a platform, and asked for the adjournment. That shows that he did not want the hon. member to come down. He convinced me that it was nothing to harm the country. I would have said: "Let it go through." I am not afraid for the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. I am afraid of nobody in here, and so long as he was able to convince me, I would get up and say that I am in favour of it. I am not in here to cut off people's heads, to fight with the D.L.P. and the D.L.P. fight with me. I am in here to help the country and to represent my people. Anything that is for the people, I will agree with. No Party; no man; Lloyd Smith is for the people. That is what I stand for.

He has the power to move the adjournment and to do anything, but he cannot get away with it. If the country suffers from this, he cannot get away by

saying that the Opposition caused it - not as long as my mouth is not tied up or muzzled, or a state of emergency is not declared and they send me up top. I will go all over the country and tell the people what is the position, and any intelligent person would believe me and say that it was not sufficient to make him adjourn the House. Only one man in the Party had spoken before him. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that he would like to hear the urgency, and the Prime Minister did not state the urgency. He got up then and stated it, but before he waited to see how the hon. member would react, he threw a spanner in the works. If anything happens, the Hon. Prime Minister is responsible for it, and nobody else.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 5th December, 1967, at 2.30 p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.35 p.m.

