

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th August, 1968

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (*Speaker*)
Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health and Community Development*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A. (*Leader of the House*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries*); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P. and Mr. L. S. CRAIG.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that, again, there are no Minutes available for confirmation.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received, with the compliments of Messrs. Fitzpatrick Graham & Co., Chartered Accountants, the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Report and Accounts at the 30th June, 1968.

DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I have to ask leave to defer the laying of Papers and the giving of Notices until later.

Mr. SPEAKER: Permission is granted.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. James is to give notice of a Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to carry on with this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member does not propose to give notice of the Resolution.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. James; his question *re* the devaluation of sterling.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Finance:

Will the Minister state whether he authorised a recently reported statement by the Minister of Communications and Works to the effect that another devaluation of Sterling is likely to occur in the near future?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member; his question *re* subsistence allowance to the Chairman of the Transport Board.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it should be the Chairman of the Tourist Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

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

Will the Minister state the total sum paid by Government as subsistence allowance to the present Chairman of the Tourist Board in respect of trips made by him outside the Island during his term of office?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member; his question *re* District Hospital at Holetown, St. James.

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

Is the Minister aware that there is urgent need for a District Hospital at Holetown, St. James?

2. Will the Minister treat the provision of such a Hospital at Holetown as an urgent priority?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member; his question *re* Housing Scheme at St. Matthias Gap, Christ Church.

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

Is the Minister aware that the disposal of sewage at the Housing Scheme at St. Matthias Gap, Christ Church leaves much to be desired?

2. Will the Minister look into the matter with a view to correcting same as quickly as possible?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member; his question *re* Upper Carlton, St. James.

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

Will the Minister direct his attention as soon as possible to the repairs of the road at Upper Carlton St. James, - the subject matter of Question No. 19 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James on the 21st February, 1967?

2. Will the Minister state when it is likely that the replies to the said Question No. 19 will be laid on the Table of the House?

DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Notices which were, by my permission, deferred until the arrival of the Despatch boxes, may now be given, if the Hon. Leader of the House is so disposed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs I am commanded to lay the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1968.

The Drawback of Duties (Florida State of University) Regulations, 1968.

The Consumption Tax (No. 2) Order, 1968.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1968.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for four months ended 31st July, 1968.

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 Resolutions:

A Resolution to place the sum of \$22,739 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I, - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 22 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$2,099 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 23 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 6 Order, 1968.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$9,900 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 24 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$112,170 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 25 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.
12.25 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the Money Resolutions of which I have just given notice.

Also 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:-

Bill to provide that the half-cent coin issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board shall not be legal tender as from a day to be appointed by the Minister responsible for Finance.

Also on my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Commissioners of Probates Act, 1903.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to provide that the half-cent coin issued by the British Currency Board shall not be legal tender as from a day to be appointed by the Minister responsible for Finance was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Commissioners of Probates Act, 1903, was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 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 grants 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.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1968-69 No. 21

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this sum is required to meet expenses incurred by the Minister of Communications and Works during the financial period 1964-65 to 1966-67. These are sums of money which were not then expended in those financial years because the claims for payment were not submitted within the respective financial years, and the funds lapsed. It is now necessary to complete these sundry payments and the sum of \$6,704 is now required.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, one would have thought that in a Resolution of this sort the Leader of the House would have been in a position or would have thought it absolutely necessary to tell us on this side of the House what are these expenses in detail. I do believe that the Hon. Minister will show some willingness to give us the replies now that he has been asked, but in order to prevent discussion the Minister owes it to us to treat us in a much better fashion in dealing with matters of this sort. Now, this Resolution is in respect of sums of money due to City firms or otherwise for the periods 1964-65 to 1966-67. We are now in the period 1968-69, but evidently the Minister is trying to test our ability to glean information or to prove how well we do our homework. I am willing at every stage to show the Minister that I am prepared to do my homework in respect of any legislative matter that is brought before this House.

Some of the work for which the Minister now seeks to settle outstanding claims we know was done at Combermere School, St. Michael's Girls' School, St. John the Baptist School and Pine Primary School; and what we want to hear from the Minister is why he did not come to the House in the following year to settle claims in respect of 1964-65, and why did he not come in 1967-68 in respect of the claims for 1966-67. I want to warn the Minister not to tell this House that the bills were received late and that is why he did not come last year, because that would not be true. Nobody, I feel, would want to go against this Resolution, but we just want the Minister to give us some more detail and let us know what he has on his file in respect of these sums, and particularly when were these bills or claims received by the Ministry of Communications and Works. Why is it that he has had to wait so long, particularly in respect of claims for work done in 1964-65? I would like to hear what the Minister has to say.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a slight point on this matter in reference to what the last speaker said. I know that in settling accounts you must have a Requisition order as well as the proposed bills, and I do feel that the reason why this has lapsed is because there must have been some misplacement of the Requisition order or the proposed bills. I know that these things have to accompany the money to make the payment complete, and I feel that the reason for the delay in settlement of bills of this

sort is either that the Requisition order or the bill might have been misplaced somewhere, and that is why the Government has probably now come across both of them and is settling them. However, I was only throwing some light on the matter because I have had some experience in the Public Works Department, having worked there as a clerk, and one could not settle an account without the Requisition order accompanying the bill.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it seems as though both hon. members by their speeches know exactly as much about this matter as I do. The point is that the Ministry of Communications and Works undertakes the building programme of other Ministries. In this instance, the Ministry of Communications and Works has asked for this money which is a revote, because they have claimed, and there is evidence to prove it here on the file, that in some instances the bills were not submitted within the financial years.
12.35 p.m.

In addition to this, so far as the Ministry of Finance is concerned, perhaps, due to faulty inter-departmental team work, the Ministry of Finance had no inkling that revotes would be necessary before the end of the last financial year, and consequently, the Estimates were made up and approved and passed in this House before this matter could be attended to. That is why the revotes are necessary now. The hon. junior member for St. Peter anticipated me - I do not know how he managed it - but he anticipated me in some respects, because I had intended in my reply to give a breakdown of the amounts, and also to give hon. members some idea of the variety and size of the individual bills.

There is an amount of \$392, an unpaid bill in connection with the Springer Memorial; \$32.12 in connection with the St. John The Baptist School; an amount of \$3,586.01 in connection with the St. Elizabeth School; \$259.25 in connection with the Combermere School; \$865.58 in connection with St. Michael's Girls'; \$1,433.84 in connection with the Pine Primary and \$135 in connection with the Holy Innocents. The firms range from Barbados Asphalt, Electric Sales and Service, Western Plastic, Stokes and Bynoe, Harriman, Herbert, Barbados Hardware, Socony Paints, Plantation Coral Stone Products, Waterworks Department, Plantations Limited, Manning & Company, Building Supplies, Da Costa & Mussons, Auto Tyre Company, West Indies Suppliers, Western Plastic Engineering, Burnup and Sims, A. S. Bryden, L. G. Williams Marketing, and so on.

Obviously, Mr. Chairman, this is not the tidiest way of Government accounting, but I wish to assure hon. members that this is a revote and nothing else. The bills have come in since the beginning of this financial year.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to withdraw that statement and, if possible, not let us have it appearing in the

record at all. It is definitely not the case that the bills came in since the beginning of this financial year.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member has information which is not now in my possession, it is entirely up to him to give that information to the Committee. I am saying that, on the basis of information supplied to me on the official documents, the bills have come in after this financial year. Had they come in before, the necessary supplementary provision would have been sought. (ASIDES) (Mr. HINDS: That is not true.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to appeal to hon. members that there is no suspension of the sitting at the moment. Let the hon. Leader of the House proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member is at liberty to say that it is not true, but he is not at liberty to say that I know that it is not true. Those are two different things. I am saying that the information which I have at my disposal, I have given to the Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, these things can easily happen. I have had some experience in administering affairs of this sort and sometimes, the requisitions and orders and so on, cannot be found. I do not contradict the fact that it can happen, that there are people or firms who might not send in their vouchers and so on, in time. I would not put it to that; but it so happened that on occasions when it happened, when I was once administering affairs, members of the Government have accused me of everything except committing murder for doing it; but in this matter I should like to take the opportunity now, Mr. Chairman, to see how good you are with your recent experience in England. This is a claim under Head 104 of the Capital Estimates in relation to Education, and you will agree with me, Sir, that it is a money vote and you will also agree with me that on this occasion I can talk on anything dealing with Education in this Island. I said that I would test you on this. The Addendum to this Resolution states that the funds requisitioned by the Ministry of Communications and Works during the period 1964-65 to 1966-67 to meet the expenses incurred in carrying out capital works in constructing and extending schools were not expended. I do not doubt this for a minute because, as I have said, I have had to deal with matters of this sort. I believe now that you will find that there are two or three stores in Bridgetown with things as far back as 1962; the things were ordered, the money is there, but somebody cannot find this requisition and so on, and the Auditor would not pass it and we could not pay out the salary. But that is not what I am talking about. I did not have the opportunity to come in here at the time when they were talking about the Community College and all of this lot of nonsense that was going on in here, pulling wool across people's eyes? I said, Sir, that I wanted to see how good you were now in preventing anybody from talking on a Money Resolution under the Head

"Education" and dealing with anything under Education. I cannot see, for the life of me, and I do not believe that the ex-Minister of Education has seen it, that the Community College is a priority in this country.

How on earth could a man walk about, and when I say "a man" I am not referring to the hon. member who is the Leader of the House, because I would not be so stupid; I am referring to the Minister of Education. How could he walk about inspecting all of these schools and on every other day you can see that there is no room, that there are bad conditions and children cannot get into the schools, and you tell me that a Community College is a priority? Why do people allow this kind of thing to go on? Mr. Chairman, you look up your Rules! I am talking under the Head "Education", and this is a Money Resolution, and you can only stop me if you usurp undue authority. The Hon. Leader of the House knows that this is true. Every morning you pick up the newspaper and you will see that everything is done to show that nobody else did anything about Education. Everything is done to show that as far as Elementary Schools, Primary Schools or whatever you like to call them, are concerned, they are shocking. Everything is done to show that as far as the teachers are concerned, they are not trained. Everything is done to show that you have not got any room in the schools, and do you tell me that a Community College is a priority? I am not in a position to say anything on the question of a Community College and a Sixth Form, but what I know is this that it is the feeling of the general public in this country of Barbados that it is preferable to have arrangements made - Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Clerk would advise you wrongly on this matter; on a Money Resolution you can talk on the Head "Education" and say anything connected with Education. You cannot reflect on a vote of the House and you will notice that I am not reflecting on a vote of the House.
12.45 p.m.

I feel, like thousands of people in this country, that priority should be given to Elementary education, Primary education, buildings, and so on, because it is from there that you have to try and improve the children. It seems to me that most of those people who have had an opportunity in getting Primary education seem to detest the idea of doing anything in respect of improving education.

I have no doubt that this money could have lapsed because I have had this experience myself. (ASIDES) Sir, the Clerk must not give the Chairman wrong advice.... From my experience here and when I was sitting in the Gallery of this House, I found that what has helped to keep up the democratic principles in this country is that the Government has always been willing to give a breakdown of these amounts. I understand that the Leader of the House has given the names of the firms to whom this money is due and owing. We could very well ask to give us the amount due to each firm. All the Minister has to do is to say that he does not have the information here. I know

that the money has been spent, and the claims have not yet come in.

Mr. Chairman, do not take advice from the Clerk. I believe that you are one of those people who, when the Minister of Education said he went through St. John and found deplorable conditions in schools, would be the first to say that you would prefer to see much more done and priority given to Primary Schools and their teachers, in places like Cherry Grove and such places in St. John, than to talk about a Community College. I know that you are not interested in this Community College; I know that you are not a Community College man. You would prefer to see the Government - like myself and the Minister of Communications and Works - doing more for Primary education.

Now, I am going to vote for the Resolution, but I believe that the Minister should give us more information. He says that the Information he has given as far as he knows, is correct. He says it is correct, and we are not saying that it is wrong. Civil Servants must remember that Members of the Opposition are entitled to a breakdown in matters of this sort, especially when there is a lapse of money from 1963. That is why I say that, if we wanted to be exact, we could ask for the amounts due and owing to certain people. You cannot arrive at the sum total unless you get the individual amounts. In the individual amounts Barbados Hardware would certainly have to be there in order to arrive at a sum total.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Leader of the House whether he is prepared, in view of the very serious, blunt and direct charge by the junior member for St. Peter that his statement is not correct, to investigate - I understand that the Leader of the House is relying on information supplied to him - and find out whether or not the information is correct, and come back to this House and let us know the position. In fact, it would be his duty to this House to say that the junior member for St. Peter deliberately made a statement which had no foundation in fact, which was untrue, and which was a serious charge on the Minister responsible.

While I am on my feet, I would like to ask him another question. During the period when he was Minister of Education, did he know that the accounts were coming in late or not at all? If an account for the year 1964-65 came in only in the year 1968 - apparently not early in the year 1968 - surely this House should be told about it. I would just like to strengthen what the hon. member, who has just sat down, has said. The Members of the Opposition are not here to make nuisances of themselves. When they ask questions, they ask them expecting to get answers - and they are entitled to get answers, especially when there is a question of expenditure and there is reason to feel that money has been badly spent.

I do not want to anticipate something else that we may have to speak about later - the Marketing

Corporation. But how can an Opposition, faced with the knowledge of blatant - the Hilton Hotel or the Ministerial Building - blatant mal-expenditure of Government funds, fail to ask questions and to endeavour to find out whether everything has been above-board or not?

12.55 p.m.

I would go so far against, perhaps, my better judgment to say that I believe the Hon. Leader of the House when he says that he has the wrong information. If that is so, it is his duty to say to the House that he was misinformed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, at no time did I say I have the wrong information. What I did say was that what the hon. member has said may well be true, but he cannot say that I know it to be true. That is the difference.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: What have I said that is different from that? If the hon. member was misinformed and said that these bills only came in now, including the 1964-65 ones, surely he was misinformed. That is all I said he said. I have not misquoted him; but if that is so, he should sit on his Department or the particular individual whose duty it was to give him accurate information, because it puts him in an unfortunate position to say he cannot tell the House everything, and therefore he leaves us on the limb of a tree. I say it is a duty to himself even, let alone the rest of the House, to find out if it is true and then come back to the House and apologise for misleading hon. members unintentionally.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Transmitter) (Amendment) Regulations, 1968.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that an error has been made and I do not want to ask the House to vote twice on two sets of amendments to the same Resolution, I am asking that this matter be deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member does not seek to proceed with this Resolution.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT) (No.4) ORDER, 1968

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take this Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking its leave to take charge of Order No. 3 standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to proceed with Order No. 3 which is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1968.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this Civil Establishment Order attempts to provide numerous adjustments to the establishment structure of certain Ministries and Departments, notably the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and one section of the Prime Minister's Office.

In the Ministry of Finance it is proposed to create five posts, that of Senior Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Clerical Officer and Stenographer; and also to re-design the post of Assistant Financial Secretary to that of Deputy Financial Secretary.

In the Ministry of Trade there are the following additional posts; Administrative Assistant, two Clerical Officers and a Stenographer; and then to replace the post of Controller of Supplies by the post of Senior Executive Officer, to replace the post of Senior Officer by a post of Senior Clerk, to replace the non-established post of Chief Price Control Inspector to an established post of Senior Inspector, and then to replace the four non-established posts Grades I and II Clerk by four posts of Clerical Officers.

In respect of the Economic Planning Unit, it is proposed to create the post of Senior Technical Officer, and this is done in consequence of a recommendation of the United Nations Adviser on Industrial Standards. This post will carry with it numerous but quite important duties, all of which are set out in the Addendum to the Resolution.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks more or less to streamline certain departments of the Service, and it seeks in one particular to set up an Industrial Standards Bureau.
1.05 p.m.

Now, Sir, when one looks at the functions as set out here in respect of the Senior Technical Officer, it

brings to mind the part which the Government is performing in a request from the United Nations for an officer to set up here a Department for preparing maps, and the like, in respect of our Lands and Surveys Department. I am sure that the request to which I refer from the United Nations is for this officer to set up this Organization and to train local personnel in an estimated six-months' period; but when one looks at the over-all functions of such an officer, it can very well be seen that when he has completed two years, not six months, he would scarcely have got past the acquiring of the necessary materials for map-drawing and the like, much more the training of personnel. If one were to compare the functions of that officer with what we see here in this Resolution before us - and no doubt the Government has been at pains to give us some information as to what is to be expected of this Senior Technical Officer at the Industrial Standards Bureau. The Government has moved on the advice of a United Nations Adviser, but the United Nations Adviser could hardly have advised that any one officer could be expected to function properly, because you must bear in mind that there would be set out here in the Addendum to this Resolution such as could be put on paper; but there is much more to which this officer would have to direct his attention. We are wondering if the Government is really acting as wisely as it ought to act, and be expected to act under these circumstances.

This Industrial Standards Bureau also causes us to cast our minds back to ask the Minister if this Bureau is expected to function in any respect like the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Sèvres in France. We know that, in this Bureau, there will be much to which to draw attention momentarily - to the manufacturing industry; and to have a Bureau set up, as the Government contemplates here, must call for a considerable staff if it is to function properly. We feel that the Minister will unhesitatingly tell us when it is expected that the Bureau will get on its feet. We feel sure that he will tell us what staff the Senior Technical Officer will have working under him, and what international organizations will this Senior Technical Officer be drawing from in experience, in administering a Bureau such as this. We have got to keep before our minds the fact that this Bureau is no mean undertaking. It is an establishment with a considerable far-reaching undertaking, and it is nothing which can be approached lightly. We can caution the Government to consider everything that ought to be considered in connection with establishing it, and we sincerely hope that it will be seen to function in the manner in which the Government envisages.

Now, Sir, further on this Resolution, we see here that the post of Controller of Supplies is to be down-graded and that they will be abolishing the post of Accountant. What must give us cause for concern is the time at which it is planned to abolish the post of Accountant. From what we know, the Accountant has been acting as Controller of Supplies for some time. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: From next year.) I see that it is from the first of June, but I am wondering as to the date from which the Accountant, who is now

acting as Controller of Supplies, is going to retire from the service. That is the point on which we would like to have some light thrown. Let us, for a single moment now, cast our eyes on this Price Control Inspector.

1.15 p.m.

Now, Sir, there are at present four Price Control Inspectors. I can say that, perhaps, because their numbers are small they are hardly ever seen anywhere, and it is not to be expected today that the Price Control Office can function properly with a staff of six Inspectors. That is nonsense. At the present moment the Price Control Office has, for its convenience, divided the Island into four areas, and it takes one officer an estimated period of three months to cover the area detailed to him. One can imagine that in the event of a shopkeeper, or vendor, requiring the services of a Price Control Inspector at any time and he has to pay revisits, it must be known that he cannot and will not be able to cover the rest of his area in his three-month period.

Let us, on the other hand, take the City of Bridgetown into consideration. What purpose does it really serve by having one Price Control Inspector responsible for checking the misdeeds of the business community in the City of Bridgetown and parish of St. Michael proper for one period in three months? That is the situation with which we are now faced. What is particularly remarkable is that it seems to me that it is even unknown in the Price Control Office that there is any intention on the part of the Government to increase the inspectorate by two, but there is one point which I would like to make. If the Chief Price Control Inspector is to have as a new title "Senior Inspector", then this officer and the other staff members - clerks and others - because I have discovered that there are persons serving in the Price Control Office who have been there for over twenty years; they have given far more than twenty years' service in this Department. If an officer has given twenty years' service in the Department, and there is any question of regrading of salaries or posts, one would hope that the Government would take into consideration the age of the officers involved, the length of service that they have rendered, and give some consideration to those officers. If there is no opportunity now for those officers to remain in service and to reach the maximum of their salaries, then, immediately after this re-titling of offices comes about, the officers should be given their maximum. I say that, and I cannot over-emphasise the necessity of it, because, as I have said, the volume of work that these officers are expected to perform is great.

Let us, for a single moment, look at the functions of the business sections in the City. Every now and again you go to a Supermarket, or a store, to find that there has been an addition to the price that obtained there a day or two days before. We are saying that having no Inspectors to check on these situations is one of the means whereby the cost of living is rising continually.

I am not in a position to say that all of the functions of the supermarkets and other operators are above-board, but I should tell this honourable House that, in the case of the Pine Hill Dairy and its milk sales or operations in milk, Price Control Inspectors have been somewhat reluctant in the past to enter on the premises of certain types of business people to carry out investigations. But when we have the case of the Pine Hill Dairy overcharging supermarket dealers, wholesalers and retailers, it was the extras that were passed on to the consumers without their knowing about them in very many respects.

1.25 p.m.

A city businessman drew to my attention that milk was being bought at a price, and they were then receiving a bill for freight on the same bill; but what the wholesaler and the supermarket dealer were doing was placing the milk on the shelf at the scheduled price, and when the tins of milk were taken from the shelves and brought to the cash register - I do not know if it was being loaded for this type of thing - in the process of making the additions, an extra amount was added and the customer was made to pay much more than the price at which they were removed from the shelves. If the housewife is to be protected, I think that we should have a team of not less than six Price Control Inspectors functioning in the City of Bridgetown alone, because one of the difficulties is that when something really goes wrong, the aggrieved party has got to go through so much rigmarole and red-tape to get in touch with the Police or the Price Control Inspectors as the case may be, and very often the Police is reluctant to operate and says it is the function of the Price Control Inspector at that particular stage. With the continuous threat of rising costs, I feel that merely increasing the staff of the Price Control Inspectorate by two is not good enough in this day.

We know, Sir, that six of these officers to cover the whole island as compared with four in the past might be said to be an approach. At least it would give the appearance that something is being done; but make no mistake about it, Sir, the work of the Price Control Inspector is being doubled and trebled momentarily. We have too many people who have grievances. We have too many people who go into the stores and see and know that goods are being offered at prices above what the schedule requires, but they can do nothing about it.

What I want to say is this: it is not merely for the Price Control Inspector to be hounding down the small supermarket operator or the small shopkeeper along Baxters Road or some of the side lanes and alleys. These Price Control Inspectors have got to become familiar and acquainted with business transactions beginning from the very top, because in many cases, as found in the Pine Hill Dairy scandal, it is the importers and the commission merchants who give rise to the increase in the price of milk. I am sure that the Price Control Officers who have possibly twenty or twenty-two or possibly twenty-four years' experience ought to be capable of

dealing with all the situations that arise in this respect, and we are to hope that in the streamlining something will be done to see that those officers are carried to their maximum, particularly those who have been in the service for this length of time.

Let us for a single moment look at it in this respect. These officers have all been functioning for so many years on a temporary basis. Now you know, Sir, that working for twenty or twenty-four years on a temporary arrangement cannot in any respect give an officer full confidence of himself or his post, and we feel that the longer it remains like this, the more uneasy the officer would be compelled to feel because he is growing older each day, and the question of insecurity must come home more forcefully to an older man than it would to a youngster who can perhaps skip from one job to another. We are now particularly glad to see that these posts are now being established and put on a sound basis. If Government wanted to do something about controlling the price of commodities, why could Government not appoint these four officers permanently and then set about to retain even four others or maybe another six on a temporary basis? In other words, the Price Control Inspectorate should have a staff of Inspectors who could go from place to place in the city stores and in the business houses and retail stores at least once in every two months, as the case may be. The arrangement should be that those who have served for twenty-odd years on a temporary basis should now be made permanent officers, and then Government should recruit another four or possibly six officers on a temporary basis. If we really want to try and keep the business community in check and see that the householders are not fleeced, we definitely need a full staff of at least one dozen Price Control Inspectors.

1.35 p.m.

It has been said that where there are no controls by law, competition should regulate prices and from one thing to another; but, Sir, we are satisfied, with all that these business people might have to say, that there is still the need for this Price Control Inspector to appear on the scene at some very crucial moments. You might also have an officer stationed at the office who can attend to emergency calls, and if it is known - in other words, the Government should be moving out today with a full force of officers - Price Control Inspectors - to clamp down on these high-rising prices. When I say that, I mean the illegal rise in these prices. I remember, Sir, it is more than a year now, it is almost two years that the Democratic League of Women was supposed to have set up a Committee to go around from store to store to see what they could do about reducing these high prices and something like that, but, Sir, they never got themselves sufficiently well organised to do that, and I am glad that they did not get themselves organised. I say that because I know that many of them would have been caught up at times for shop-lifting. They were "Dems", and their idea of it was that some of them had it in their minds that they would go to the stores, they would see the bolts of cloth, and the best way in which they would be able to advise their Government as to what price should be

charged in respect of a yard of cloth or something like that, would be to get a three-yard or four-yard length of it as a sample. I am very glad that this Democratic League of Women was never able to function. Sir, the Government can very well approach this problem of Price Control on a proper basis. Give us a staff of inspectors armed with the necessary authority where they have reasons to suspect that breaches are being committed, and see what they can do at least to keep the cost of living from spiralling illegally.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the hon. Leader of the House is not in his place because there are certain things I want to point out more specifically in his address to the House; but I hope that some other Minister will listen carefully to what I am saying and tell him when he comes back in the House. I hesitate sometimes to give advice to the Government, because however good it may be, the fact that it comes from me will make the Government say "No". I hope that they will make an exception on this occasion, and I feel pretty sure that there are some hon. members of the Government facing me now who will accept the advice which I give, for reasons which I am going to give, and forget politics now, forget Government and Opposition. When one reads the duties of this proposed Technical Officer, one sees how farcial it is to expect to get a man, a suitable officer - I am using the words of the Addendum to the Resolution; "The post of Senior Technical Officer is required at this stage in order that a suitable officer may be appointed and trained." The duties are set out here and let me tell hon. members if they think that I am talking in the air, that the West Indies Federation went most thoroughly into this matter of a Bureau of Standards, and we had a superman advising us and appointed in the service of the Federation. Some hon. members facing me may not even have read the Addendum to the Resolution, but let them, with an absolutely open mind, forget who I am now, forget that it is the Opposition speaking and read now what the duties of this officer are. Let them read the type of man that they are looking forward to get.

I say again; I am sorry that the Hon. Leader of the House is not here, because, before I began my speech, I intended to ask him how long does the Government contemplate it will take to train this man. Mr. Speaker, I am as much a Barbadian as anybody else, and I believe in 'buying local' and appointing local people, giving a Barbadian a job; but you cannot find any Barbadian in the Civil Service now or who is likely to come in the Civil Service, who can fit this job without three years training at the very least. Let us consider what these duties are; these are tip-top duties. These are what the United Nations tell you; these are the standards which you will find in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America. I repeat, I speak with the knowledge that this sort of thing has been done absolutely thoroughly in the West Indies already. You have to establish a Bureau of Standards, and one of this officer's duties is to control and supervise the organization of the Bureau including finance, staffing, accommodation

and external liaison. Half year's training is excellent, but I invite even in the course of my speech from members on the other side. I invite them again to have an absolutely open mind and listen to what is being put up to them. That is one thing. Suppose you say that you can get the topmost Civil Servant at the Permanent Secretary stage, if you like, who would be able to control and supervise the organization of a Bureau, including finance, staffing, accommodation and external liaison; that is well and good. You might pick out a Permanent Secretary who can do that. He has to act as Secretary to the Council or Governing Body, the Council being the Governing Body of the Bureau, and this will include senior members of Government departments. These are the people whom he will be dealing with as well as senior representatives of industry, commerce, professional bodies, research units and technical education. Now, in addition, he has to act as a conciliator when required, that is duty No. 13, to reconcile divergent viewpoints and be able to preside over conferences convened to discuss all aspects of standardization.

Mr. Speaker, he has to be a superman, not a man who can be trained in twelve months or anything of the sort. He has to keep abreast of general technical practices in industry, and maintain liaison with industrial and commercial association. Do you think that you can train a man to do that in a year or two? He has also to co-ordinate common practice between industry standards or technical committees of the Bureau and other related outside bodies. He has got to be a man with vast experience. Anybody who reads this, sees at once that it is nonsense, arrant nonsense, worse than arrant nonsense, monumental nonsense to think that you can choose a man now and train him for this job. He has got to be a man with a lot of experience; and if the Government would stoop for once and listen to the Opposition, they would appoint a man on contract for at least three years, possibly renewable for a further two years, because you have to have a man with experience. Here is a man whom you are going to train in a short time apparently on this nonsensical salary.

1.45 p.m.

You put him in a grade with the ordinary Secretary, so to speak, not a man who has to have technical knowledge to be able to discuss and choose between divergent views. Any fountain-pen-push-clerk is worse than useless. The Addendum states:

"To control the final format, editing, classification and preparation for publication of national Standards drawn up by the Bureau and approved by its Council."

He has to have liaison - that is one of his duties - with the Bureau and its Council. He will be in a position to tell the Bureau: "That is the advice I give you". How can you take up a Civil Servant and train him for this post in twelve months? You must have a man with a world of experience, even if you appoint him on a three-year contract. You must have somebody like that who is a superman, or expert, while the other man is being trained.

You cannot seriously say: "the post is required at this stage in order that a suitable officer may be appointed and trained." You cannot appoint a man and then train him. The man whom you appoint must first know his job. You can train another man to take his place. I repeat that we have had all of this already with a man who is really a superman in the Bureau of Standards in the West Indies Federation. You have to appoint a man whom you could call a superman, a man who knows his business, who could advise you, who could talk to a Board of Trade in any part of the world and be respected. You can train a Barbadian to do that, but to suggest that you appoint and train a man at this stage would be to throw away more money than you are accustomed to throwing away.

I am not opposed to having a Bureau of Standards. The Labour Party in its last Manifesto said that we would set up a Bureau of Standards, if returned to power. I suppose the Government got the idea from that. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Both of you got that idea from me.) I forget the occasion when I told the senior member for the City all my experience with the officer we had in the West Indies Federation. (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is addressing the House, and I can listen to no other member.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I repeat No. 4 of his duties:

"Liaison with the Council on all matters pertaining to the Bureau's functions."

In short, he is not just only a Secretary taking minutes. The Council has to look to him for advice. Forgive me for using the word so often, because so often you hear of superman and they are not really super. The man in charge of a Bureau of Standards must be a man whom you can call, without feeling you are overstating it, a superman; he is not an ordinary man; he is full of knowledge and wisdom, and able to advise on the technical side as well as to run an office. Not only "liaison with his own council", but one of his functions is:

"Liaison with other national Standards bodies and also international Standards Organizations."

You cannot begin without appointing a real first-class man on contract, because you, obviously, would have to train a Barbadian to take his place later. I repeat that three years will be the minimum period to keep him, because the man under him would not always be in Barbados; he would be abroad seeing how things are done in other places. That is why I would suggest three years with a possibility of renewing the contract for another two years; but to ask us to agree, without some intimation from the Government that they will consider the proposals which I am now making on behalf of the Opposition, to say that you are going on to appoint a man and then train him would be sheer, undiluted throwing away of the taxpayers' money.

Let me read that again:

"Liaison with other national Standards bodies and also International Standards Organizations."

He has to be a man whom you can respect in any part of this world, if he is to be any good at all.

"Organization and control of circulation of minutes, agenda....." - that is for the ordinary clerical staff.

"Establishment and control of the technical committee structure following the procedures laid down in Rules and Regulations to be drawn up for their conduct, and as directed by the Council, excluding decisions on technical matters."

That is the sort of thing that you would expect an officer of this kind to deal with.

"8. Control and management of libraries, test laboratories and inspection departments."

He has work to do, and I do not hesitate to say that this salary is not anything like good enough for the man whom you want to have. It is too low; otherwise you will only be going in for a third-rate person, comparatively speaking, for this job at a third-rate salary.

"9. Maintenance of plant, equipment, furniture, effects and premises of the Bureau."

He cannot do everything himself but, certainly, inasmuch as he is responsible for advising and staffing -

"To control and supervise the organization of the Bureau, including finances, staffing, accommodation and external liaison."

Is it necessary to go on any longer to try to convince hon. members that the duties of this man must of necessity, when you come to a Bureau of Standards, be such as only a really first-rate man at a first-rate salary can deal with? I repeat that this salary is not good enough for the type of man who should be there. He cannot possibly be just appointed now and trained.

I will sit down now, repeating what I started with. You have to appoint a man who is already able to carry out everyone of these duties, and appoint him for at least three years. I do not know how much advice the Government had apart from this United Nations Adviser, because if they had got hold of the person I am speaking of, whom we had in the West Indies Federation, he would have been able to tell the Government that "Mr. So-and-So is working in the United States; he is a good man; appoint him and he will train a first-class man to take his place after a time." I ask the Government to forget that I have been speaking; forget that this is advice from the Opposition; be Barbadians and do something for the good of the country. Buying Barbadian, or put-

ting Barbadians in jobs - there comes a time when you run up against the fact that you have to forget Barbadians, because there is not anybody suitable for a particular job; but you can train somebody to be suitable.

1.55 p.m.

I appeal, as I began. Forget this comes from the Opposition; do not make the mistake of appointing somebody and then training him.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it is a healthy sign to see Government setting out by this Resolution to streamline certain Departments, but there are several acting appointments in Government Departments, and I think it is on this occasion that I should draw some of them to Government's attention. First and foremost in my mind is in the Ministry of Labour. One would observe that for a number of years, Mr. Speaker, the post of Chief Labour Officer has been vacant, and I am wondering whether Government would take into consideration that the Labour Department is of paramount importance to this country also.

In the Ministry of Finance, it is necessary to establish a temporary post of Senior Clerk on a permanent basis; but when one goes through this Resolution, he would also observe that in the Ministry of Trade, as my colleague the hon. junior member for St. Peter said, rather than Government only asking for an additional four clerical posts in this Department, they could safely have added more people in the office of Controller of Supplies.

It is amazing, Sir, that if you go into Tudor Street at Olton's, you would be able to buy certain things much cheaper there than you can buy them at some of the supermarkets, and it is regrettable that the Government can only find it possible just to increase the Department of the Controller of Supplies by four more inspectors. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that there are several unemployed people in the Island, and Government would not find it difficult to increase these posts.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the hour, this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

On resumption:

NOTICE OF REPLIES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I was not able to give notice of Replies earlier because the document did not arrive, and I am asking leave to do so now.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to give notice of Replies to Questions, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister to give notice now of Replies to certain Parliamentary Questions.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Question No. 193 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, No. 228 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, No. 204 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, and Nos. 42 and 232 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, are ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Question No. 147 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, No. 191 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, and Nos. 163 and 206 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James are ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 198 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is ready.

Also Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 206 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James is ready.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Question No. 42 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. Thomas.

QUESTION re STREET LIGHTING IN ST. THOMAS

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Is the Minister aware that a petition has been submitted to his Ministry bearing the signatures of more than 100 residents of Porey's Spring, Dr. Moore's Woods, Spring Farm, Barkers Corner, Content Tenantry, Dunscombe Tenantry and Fortress Hill in the parish of St. Thomas calling for improved street lighting in these districts?

2. If the answer is Yes, will the Minister take immediate action to provide the street lighting called for?

Notice of this Question was given on the 18th April, 1967.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I do not know why mention was made of the time notice of this Question was given, but that is entirely a matter for the hon. member. Notice of this Reply was given since 28th May, 1968. The Reply is as follows:

1. A petition was received on 3rd April, 1967.

2. The Government has under consideration plans for the improvement and extension of street lighting facilities throughout the Island.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister say whether the Government's plans for improving street lighting includes street lighting at Porey's Spring, Dr. Moore's Woods, Spring Farm, Barker's Corner, Content Tenantry, Dunscombe Tenantry and Fortress Hill in the parish of St. Thomas?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, apparently the hon. member does not know that when I say that the Government has under consideration plans for the improvement and extension of street lighting facilities throughout the island that those places are within the Island.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Does the Hon. Minister mean that every single back alley in the island is going to have street lighting? That is a simple question arising out of his recent answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the questioner may also give the answer.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I do not think it deserves an answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. That is not happy.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I have found that whenever I have to speak, the Speaker always tries to tell me what I should say, but he allows the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to ramble all over the House without calling him to attention.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, not me, Sir. You do not do it to me at any time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If I said the senior member, I meant the junior member for St. Joseph.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The junior member can take care of himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: And so can the Chair.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am addressing the Chair, but sometimes I end up what I am saying by saying "Mr. Speaker".

The Hon. Minister said that his plans cover the whole island. I am asking him if he means by that that every village in the Island, every back alley. It is a simple thing. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas can take care of himself.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I have heard those words used already by the canary when he went to sing to the cats at the Small Animals' Hospital; but he did not come back.

The answer to the question is "yes".

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister agree that Barker's Corner, St. Thomas, is a major road junction serving the second and third

largest populated areas of St. Thomas, that it is a major bus-stop area, that it has no street lighting, and in the light of that, will he say whether he is going to put a street light at Barker's Corner?
2.40 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Apparently, the hon. member does not know where Barker's Corner is, because he says that it is at a major road junction, and that could not be true.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Barker's Corner is where the road from Rock Hall meets Highway 2A or whatever it is. It may be that the Hon. Minister does not understand what is meant by a road junction.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The question is: Will the Minister agree that Barker's Corner is a place where two important roads meet, one leading to Rock Hall, which is the second most highly-populated district in St. Thomas, and the other leading to Spring Farm, Porey's Spring and Dunscombe, which is the third most highly-populated district in St. Thomas? Will he agree that Barker's Corner is a place where two important roads meet and that it deserves street lights, that people get off there at night from buses and they have to find their way home in the dark?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I agree that that needs street lighting in the same way that I agree that anywhere in Barbados needs street lighting. Street lighting is something that all the people in Barbados need. The entire Island needs street lighting, and I say that we will look into the matter of street lighting for the entire Island.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: How many other petitions has the Minister received calling for street lighting and signed by one or more people, or, as in this case, a hundred people?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Does the hon. member feel that he should not do something to help the parishioners of St. Thomas because he would not be representing them at the next election?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a supplementary question which I would allow. (ASIDES) As I do not allow the supplementary question, I do not allow any answer.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not answering the supplementary question, but a question has been asked which I think I can throw some light on. I will no more represent the people in St. Thomas than he will represent the people in St. Joseph.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the subject of a question.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: No, but it is an argument.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, out of the Minister's reply to the question, will he then, in view of the

fact that they are looking into the over-all street lighting facilities in Barbados - will the Minister then consider Highway No. 1, along the St. James Coast, as a priority?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that Highway No. 1 on the St. James coast does not come within the scope of this Question. I do not deem it to be a proper supplementary question.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Will the Minister agree that some places need street lighting more than others? Will the Minister agree that Barker's Corner needs a street light more than Broad Street, and if so, will he indicate how high up the list of priorities is this place for which 100 people have petitioned for street lights? There are gullies on all sides of Spring Farm, and it is not going to be long before somebody loses his way in going home in the dark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that another question without a query mark being properly placed after it?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Will the Minister say how high up the list of priorities are these petitions for street lighting in the areas mentioned?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: All I can say is that this may be very high up. I do not have the file with the priority list. For all I know, the hon. member may get the street light before Broad Street as he claims, but I could not think or anybody who is in his right senses could not think that the areas mentioned could have priority over a place like Broad Street where we have all the stores. It may be that the hon. member is expecting that because he is looking for a fee out of somebody breaking a store.....

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no! The hon. member should not make that remark. I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that. Let the hon. member not suggest that any hon. member.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, if I withdraw the word "fee", I will use the word "berry". I have heard it used on the floor of this House many times. I beg to withdraw the word "fee" and I say that he may be looking for a berry.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, is it not imputing an improper motive for the hon. member to be suggesting that I said that Broad Street does not want street lighting because I want somebody to break a store in that street so as to make money out of it? That is imputing a straightforward, improper motive. The idea of breaking stores in Broad Street would only occur to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. What I am saying is that Broad Street does not need more street lighting. I object to the remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has said that that would only occur.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If the hon. member objects to the remark which I have made, I also object to the one which he has made.

Mr. SPEAKER: There will be no more questions, supplementary or otherwise, in respect of this.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is making a bargain with Your Honour? Your honour has called upon him to withdraw that remark and he says: "I will withdraw it if the hon. senior member for St. Thomas withdraws his remark."

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member withdrew the word "fee" and he has used the word which I have often heard and permitted on the left of the Speaker's Chair in a context which was as unexceptionable as in this context. Insofar as the Chair is concerned, this Question is completed.

QUEUEING AT BUS STANDS AND STOPPING PLACES

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 147, standing in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

How soon does the Government plan to enforce the system, for which the legislative framework already exists, for queueing at bus stands and stopping places?

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

"Legislation relating to the control of passengers entering buses by a system of queueing has been approved and is being enforced."

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Just a supplementary question which the Minister may be able to answer and cast a little light on. Has there been in fact any report to the Ministry as to how well the system is working? Have there been any prosecutions on similar matters or any complaints?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to the hon. member, the answer is "no". I have not had any report as to whether the system is working satisfactorily or not. I have promised myself to go and have a look on a Friday evening which I would consider to be the best time; but due to the fact that a lot of the schools - or all of them - are out of session now, I have decided that the best time to have a look is when the schools are back in session. Then I will be able to report on whether the system is working satisfactorily or not.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AT CAMPION CASTLE

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 163, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James. That is on page 7 right-hand column.

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

Will the Minister have a road constructed at Campion Castle, St. George so as to connect the two existing roads in the said district?

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

"It is impossible to construct a road at Campion Castle, St. George, so as to connect the two existing roads in the said district since these roads are separated by a gully."

Mr. SMITH: Is it possible to erect a bridge then since there is a gully?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am answering this Question somewhat under correction because I really did not see the area myself. The Technical Officers went into the area. However, I do not think it is possible to erect a bridge. It might be possible, but it may be highly improbable. That is what I should say. It may be highly improbable and uneconomical, money-wise and everything else. I must say that I am speaking under correction, but from what I have been told, the answer is "No."

Mr. SMITH and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Joseph caught my eye first.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has admitted that he did not see the site himself, will he make us a promise that he will see it for himself and report back to the House? This information is very uncertain, as far as he is concerned.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I have no reason whatsoever to doubt my Technical Officers. I have my Parliamentary Secretary here who represents the area, and he knows the area. I do not visit these sites. It is not a Minister's duty to visit these sites; the Technical Officers are sent there, but I like to see the sites myself, so that when I come to the House I can hold my own. As the junior member for St. Joseph said, I am usually like the Canary and can take care of myself. I am like the Cat this time, and not the Canary. I will go and see the site myself, if that is the wish of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. If the Technical Officers say it cannot be done, then I do not think it can be done.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, how deep is that gully, and what does "impossible" mean in this context? After all, a bridge was put across the Victoria Falls. I do not know what could conceivably

be meant by "impossible" in respect of a 20-ft. little gully in St. George - St. George's gully with a foot-path.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I took back the word "impossible". I said that it was highly improbable. You cannot compare the Victoria Bridge with a little bridge in St. George. The cost of the Victoria Bridge is more than the Capital Expenditure in Barbados. You cannot expect me to take \$10 million and build a bridge in Campion Castle. I will bet, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas does not know where Campion Castle is.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that hon. members must not attempt to bet across this Table. This is not a certain club.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to withdraw that remark, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me how wide this bridge is supposed to be? I am referring to the length of the gully.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information. The hon. member knows me better than a lot of other people. When I give my word, I usually stick to it even if it gets me into trouble. He knows that if I say I will go and see the site, I will do so. I will take along a tapemeasure, measure it, and come back and tell him how deep it is. How wide is it is the important point.

SITE FOR RESETTLING PEOPLE FROM ST. JOSEPH

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 198 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph at page 13, left hand column.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the large number of people in St. Joseph who are still living on the brink of a disaster through the unsound foundation of the land on which they are now living?
2. Is the Minister aware that these people cannot get suitable spots to which to remove?
3. Can the Minister offer these people any kind of assistance before the rainy season arrives in full?
4. Can the Minister state the reason for not buying Lammings Pasture, or any other suitable site in St. Joseph, for resettling such people with homes on unsound foundations?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before the reply is given, I would like to correct the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. That Question really does not pertain to me. It pertains to the Minister

of Community Development who will answer the Question.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it is not for me to be blamed. I am reading from the Order Paper; so I could not say the Hon. Minister of something else. As long as it belongs to the Hon. Minister of Health, I am sure he will give me a correct and suitable answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not in a position to say now whether the Question was addressed to the Minister of Communications and Works, or whether it was an error either of the questioner or the Government Printery, but the Minister of Community Development will answer it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I think I am answering in my capacity of Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the Hon. Minister pleases.

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

The Government decided in December last to acquire approximately 17 acres of land at Lammings for the re-siting of houses in the Scotland District which are threatened by soil erosion. Negotiations with the owners are in progress.

I just want to give the hon. member this assurance. There has been a little delay in the negotiations, but this has been brought through the fact that other areas of land - not the pasture - Lammings Pasture is all sound - have been selected, but more lands than Lammings Pasture are being bought; in other words, some cane lands, arable lands, or marginal lands, abutting and in front of this Pasture on the road, so that additional land is being bought.

The Directors of the company have offered alternative sites to what we have selected, and they claim that, for building purposes, it would be more suitable. There has been a little delay because of the fact that other fields of that same Lammings Plantation have been offered by the owners, suggesting that those fields would be more suitable for building purposes. I agree that the negotiations were held up a little, but only yesterday - whether you believe it or not - they have been resolved, and the areas, apart from the Pasture itself, have been decided on and the matter will be expedited and relief given to the people in the area.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his reply. I hope, Sir, that the other Ministers will follow his example.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not follow that supplementary question.

Mr. SMITH: That was not a supplementary question; I was only complimenting the Minister. It was a complimentary.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I understand then that the hon. member is querying whether other Hon. Ministers will emulate that Hon. Minister?
3.00 p.m.

QUESTION re RENT OF BOOTH AT
SEAWELL AIRPORT

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 232 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. Thomas.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister state what rent is paid by West Indies Hospital Sweepstake Limited for the use of a booth at Seawell Airport, and when last was this rent paid?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:

"The rental is at the rate of \$360 a year and at the time at which the hon. member asked the question it had last been paid on 7th May, 1968. The rent is up to date."

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, does the Minister consider that it enhances the good name of Barbados for that booth to contain a sign saying "First Prize \$175,000"?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will examine it myself and answer the hon. member.

Mr. CRAIG: Would the Minister be able to say if the amount of space used by West Indies Hospital Sweepstake is in keeping with other space used by other services at Seawell Airport?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: My information is that they occupy twenty-four square feet. Whether this is in keeping with other space used, I do not know. I would not know what to compare it with.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Does the Hon. Minister not feel that a concern that can afford to have a first prize of \$175,000 should pay much, much more to the Government? You complain about not having enough revenue. Does not the Government see a first-class opportunity of making money?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that this has been calculated on some rational basis. An area of 24 square feet is only 6' x 4', 8' x 3' or 12' x 2', as the case may be, or 24' x 1'. I am not trying to be facetious, but it seems to me to be a small enough space to make \$30 a month not too low.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Going by space, what is the area of the Bank of England? If you are going by space, the Bank of England should be 1,000 acres.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot allow a supplementary on what should the area of the Bank of England.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, considering the money that is being made by this company, would the Minister consider increasing the rent?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would not consider increasing it. I would consider taking the hon. member's suggestion to the appropriate quarter.

Mr. SMITH: With his wide experience, would the Minister consider, in view of the fact that the small rum-shop keepers have to pay \$100 a year and only sell twelve bottles of rum per month, putting the two together and demanding a higher rent?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The difference of course is that this is not a licence. This is a rental space; but as I said before, it must seem to the authorities that the space is small and that it cannot easily be used for perhaps anything else and that the rent charged is reasonable for it.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there is a point which I would be glad if the Minister would clear up. In this answer he said that they had last paid on 7th May, 1968. Can the Minister tell us up to what date did the payment on 7th May cover in rent?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I must tell the hon. member quite frankly that I cannot tell him this. What I can tell him is that the rent is paid half yearly; that is, twice a year, and that the amount of \$180 was last paid on 12/8/68 in respect of the period of 1st March to the end of August. As I said before, the rent is payable half yearly, and this amount was paid on 7th May in respect of the period I have just mentioned.

Mr. CRAIG: Would the Minister be able to say if this is a concession granted only to West Indies Hospital Sweepstake Limited or if it is a practice by persons renting booths to pay half yearly at Seawell Airport?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It would be difficult for me to say whether this is a concession granted to them. I cannot see what concession it is. They owe the rent and have to pay it. You could pay the rent twice a year in advance and this would be quite all right, or you could pay it monthly, or you could pay it yearly according to agreement between the person who rents and the person who hires, if that is the term. The main thing, of course, is to collect the rent when it is due.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister look at his file and make a check as to whether the amount was not originally quoted as \$30 a month, and will he just confirm that three days after the Question was asked, \$180 was paid in?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I did say that the rent was \$360 per annum.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am particularly pressing on this because the hon. member said that the rent is payable half yearly. It may be that they only pay twice a year, but is it not a fact that the rent was quoted originally not on a yearly or half yearly basis, but on a monthly basis?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, I do not have that information. My information is that the rate is \$360 a year.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, did I understand the Minister to say.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the Hon. Minister cannot say what the hon. member understands. His mind may not be so deep.

Mr. HINDS: Am I correct in taking it that the Minister said that on 12/8/68 an amount of \$180 was paid in?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, in respect of the period March to August.

Mr. HINDS: Am I also to understand him to say that on 7th May an amount was also received?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The reply is that the rental etc. is at a rate of so much a year, and at the time at which the hon. member asked the Question it had been last paid on 7th May, 1968. This of course would be in respect of an earlier period.

Mr. HINDS: How much money was paid on 7th May, 1968?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: \$210 in respect of the period August 1967, to February, 1968.

Mr. HINDS: Would the Minister tell us that this \$210 is a half year's amount?
3.10 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: By arithmetic this would appear to be seven months. The real point, of course, is that it was paid and that the rent is up to date.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, should I not ask the Minister.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot say whether the hon. member should ask the Minister. *(Laughter)*

Mr. HINDS: Then it is not true to say that they pay half-yearly.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If a certain amount is paid in respect of a period which begins on the 1st August and goes until February, and another amount is paid in respect of the period which starts from March and goes to another August, and if only two

amounts are so paid in the course of a twelve-month period, I do not know what other conclusion the hon. member would draw.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Will the Hon. Minister say why he stopped saying "and if", "and if"? because what he was saying amounted to nothing; but did it occur to whoever received that money that it was more than a half-year's payment - an amount of \$210?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that I cannot accept that supplementary as to whether it occurred to whom-ever received that money.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Well, let me phrase it differently for the benefit of those who do not appreciate ordinary English. When that money was paid in, was it accepted as a half-year plus a month? What sort of receipt was given? A receipt for seven months' pay, \$210, or a receipt for half-year's payment?

Mr. HINDS: Did a period of more than half year become due and owing at any one time?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would think so, in view of the fact that what amounts to seven months' rent was paid at one time.

At this stage, it now being 3.15 p.m. of the clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that this is the end of Question Time for today. This Question will naturally remain on the Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the time for Private Members' Business, and the first Order of the Day under this Head is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution condemning the Government's financial proposals for the Fiscal Year 1968-69 as contained in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals made on 2nd July, 1968, by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

When on the 13th August, 1968, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chair, the time for Private Members' Business happened to expire. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph may, if he thinks fit, resume his address.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Joseph may resume his address.

RESOLUTION re INCREASE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that Item No. 10.....

Mr. SPEAKER: May I have an intimation from the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, on whom I have called, as to what is his wish in respect of this?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the hon. senior member for St. James might have made a slip in that he did not draw to your attention what he wanted to do, but he had asked me about this Resolution which is, in my opinion, non-controversial and it would not take too long to be dealt with. The hon. member had asked that it be got rid of before the time for Private Members' Business passes because it is expected that we will be going on holiday and when we return here that Item may be off the Order Paper. I therefore wanted to accommodate the hon. member. I think he must have drawn the matter to the attention of the Hon. Leader of the House, but he should have drawn it to your attention. As I say, Sir, I would like to accommodate him. I think that the Hon. Leader of the House will bear me out on this.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are guilty of oversight at times, including myself. What is the number of the Item? (A MEMBER: No. 10.) The hon. senior member for St. James is asking leave that Order No. 10 be taken as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause.) There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. senior member for St. James to proceed with Order No. 10 standing in his name, and that Order is to move the passing of a Resolution relating to the increase of public assistance to a minimum amount of \$3.00 weekly and the change of the name "Public Assistance" to that of "National Assistance".

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I wish to apologise for the oversight, and I may say that it was no idea of mine to disrespect your high office. I drew the matter to the attention of the Hon. Leader of the House when, in truth and in fact, I should have drawn it to your attention. I wish to apologise to Your Honour for that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I accept the apology.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, this is a Resolution which I think that hon. members on both sides of the House will support because it seeks to raise the very low figure of 50 cents per week in some parishes by way of Public Assistance to a minimum of \$3.00 per week. The Resolution in itself is quite clear. I think that members on both sides of the House will appreciate the fact that not since 1954 has this situation been reviewed by way of bringing a better way of life to the more unfortunate citizens of our community. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is quite fair to say that \$3.00 per week is even a bit low. That is why I said that I would use in the Resolution the words "a minimum of \$3.00 per week."

3,20 p.m.

When one considers the high cost of living not only in this country, but in other countries in the world, to give a person, due to no fault of his own -

and a person who during his time might have served this country - the small amount, like in the parish of St. Andrew, a minimum of 50¢ a week is not good enough. I know that in St. Lucy it is 60¢, and in places like St. Peter and St. James it is 75¢. But when one considers that a tin of corned beef is for 89¢, then I do not see how the Government could have overlooked such a deplorable state of affairs in the Ministry in which public assistance is looked after.

Quite recently, Mr. Speaker, between the Press and some hon. members, there has been a little misunderstanding as to the unfortunate circumstances under which people find themselves in a position to be placed in Infirmaries. When one considers that in this year 1968 and now that we have attained nationhood, to use the term "Public Assistance" would give one the impression that this is something handed out by people in private enterprise. It is with that in mind, Mr. Speaker, that I thought of calling upon this House to support me in this Resolution to change the name "Public Assistance" and use the term "National Assistance", which is more in keeping with modern times.

I have taken a trot, Mr. Speaker, on several occasions into some of the Infirmaries. I have taken a peep even this morning into the Nightingale Home for Children, and I am sure that when Government can take it upon themselves in their wisdom to purchase two houses abroad for \$450,000 and overlook the great need to spend more money to improve the conditions under which our unfortunate brothers and sisters must live, no person on either side of the House would disagree with this Resolution.

I believe it is an oversight on Government's side. If I recall correctly, there is about \$70,000 or \$80,000 allocated to the Public Assistance Office for the purpose of assisting Children's Homes and Infirmaries. But merely to hear of this \$70,000 or \$80,000 - I do not recall the exact figure - and then to think that the sum of 50¢ a week is being paid to some people makes me feel ashamed, as a Barbadian, as a taxpayer, or in whatever sphere I pay taxes, to know that maybe some great grandmother, or some relative of mine, whom I may not have even known, might find herself in this very unfortunate state whereby she would receive a weekly pittance of 50¢.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that in a country as poor as ours we cannot really do as much as we would like to help everyone, but I must confess that when some time ago in this august Assembly - I was not a member at that time, but I think the former Government was downgraded and they were reminded that Police Dogs were fed on \$2.00 a week, and at that time Old Age Pensioners could only have been drawing approximately the same figure on which they were feeding Police Dogs. I wonder what they would think of paying a person 50¢ a week?

In this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, I am asking this House to support me, and I am calling on the Government to have this whole idea of paying out Public

Assistance centralized, or rather to put it under the supervision of the Central Government. In introducing this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Hon. Minister would express his views on this Resolution. I rest assured that this is not only a Resolution which each and every member of this Honourable Assembly can be justly proud of, but members will be doing their own brothers and sisters who are in straitened circumstances, a good turn in assisting them in having a better way of life in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass, and I reserve the right to reply as Mover of this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Mover does not have to reserve the right; that is his inherent and constitutional privilege. Only a Seconder has to reserve the right.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the Motion made by the hon. senior member for St. James. This question was a very burning one long, long ago. From the change-over from the Vestry system to the Local Government system, it was anticipated, it was preached and it was promised that the amount paid to the poor people of this country, especially those in the country areas, was too low, taking into consideration the fact that those in the City were getting a great deal more than those in the country districts. You will be surprised, Sir, to know that some of the parishes pay 60¢ per fortnight, and some \$1.00 per fortnight.

Well, Sir, when I was a member of the Council - before the present Government "fired" me - we were working hard to get a uniform rate; that is to say, the same amount that is being paid in the City would be paid all over the area, bearing in mind that most of the taxes collected down here are from the earnings of people in the country districts.

3.30 p.m.

When I say that, I mean that you have the stores in Bridgetown where you buy food, clothes, cane cutting implements and so on, and the trade returns are made in the City, but the money comes from the rural districts. There is a certain amount of food which is consumed in the country areas for which the parishes should be drawing that trade tax; but instead of that the returns are made by the business people in the City, when in truth and in fact all the money is not made in the City, and that is where the folk down here manage to get a little more than those in the country. I cannot remember how much the poor people down here receive, but I do not think it is less than \$3.00 per week. If they receive \$3.00 a week, it is but fair that others all over the Island should be paid \$3.00 a week.

Now, Sir, I am not talking about young people, because they do not want Public Assistance. I am talking about those 80 and 90 year olds who have worked and contributed to the wealth of this country for which they received 8 cents and 10 cents a day for their labour at that time. There are some old

people today who are only existing on the Old Age Pension. It is better than nothing, but that cannot keep an old person. As a matter of fact, \$1.00 a day cannot keep an old person because he should have at least one tin of Ovaltine weekly, a few pints of milk and at least one egg per day, taking into consideration what they have done for this country. They are responsible for the people who today can eat ten eggs and nine hams; but they are now thrown aside and are only waiting for the call. It is our duty, therefore, as representatives of the people to think in terms of helping them, regardless of the cost. If we are going to think of the cost, we could have postponed the expenditure of \$450,000 for two houses and given them part of it. I feel that we should think in terms of not less than \$1.00 per day whether it comes from Central or Local Government, because they are not qualified for any assistance otherwise. The houses in which they live are nothing. I pray, and I feel my prayers are heard, that we do not have a storm, because I have not heard about one anywhere near. Knowing the condition of the majority of these people's houses, the Government would have to look for some warm dollars, and those people should be protected from the sun and the rain.

Mr. Speaker, you may not have the opportunity of going at these places, not being an undertaker or a doctor, because these are the people that the undertaker has to cater to. When one wants a lawyer, he has to go to his office; but when he wants the undertaker, the latter has to go to his home; so a doctor and an undertaker are two important people. I am in a position to point out to Government the conditions of these people, and I am sure the Minister of Health agrees with what I am saying, because some of the houses he visited in the last election are still in the same condition. I have to take back my words that one has to go to a lawyer's office. A lawyer has to go to a person's home when he is soliciting his support; so he, too, will see these houses unless he closes his eyes to them. I can remember seeing a lawyer canvassing one day, and he was sitting on a rock helping the old lady to push the fire under the pot. He is now the Attorney General of Barbados. I can call names. By pushing that fire I believe he has risen to such a height. I am sure that he would bear me out if this Resolution had to go to the Other Place. This Government should set aside a certain amount yearly to help these people since they cannot qualify for a loan at the Housing Authority. These people are left alone only waiting on the good mercies of the Almighty, and yet we are boasting that we represent poor people.

I believe, Sir, that I am holding up this Resolution by talking for so long. No sooner had the Hon. Introducer moved it and I had seconded it, we should both have taken our seats and let it go to the vote, because I am sure that each and every one of us in here knows the conditions of these people. As I said, they are not even provided for by the National Insurance. One man came to me this morning. He said he worked at Mount Wilton Plantation, and a single day put him out from his claims. His time was up and the Manager called on him to resign, and he had to pay

fifty contributions, and in this case one day put him out and he lost completely.
3.40 p.m.

It is one of the hardest schemes that I have ever thought about. Do you know, Sir, that I do not even know if the Government realises how hard-and-fast the Rules of that National Insurance can be? Imagine fifty contributions being paid, all up to one day and he is in the same boat as the one who has not qualified at all! This National Insurance Scheme wants going over completely or the regulations need to be torn up and drafted in terms of helping the poor, old people. Do not let the authorities try to build up a Fund with money to be put in there and the people who helped to put that money in the Fund find that it is of no use to them! You will soon hear how many thousand pounds or how many millions of dollars have been put in this Scheme, but you will still get old people being starved, without anywhere to live; they cannot sleep and things of that sort, whereas the money is there being piled up only for young people thirty and forty years old, but not for the ones who have worked hard and very hard. This makes me remember the Hon. Leader of the House. He noticed that there was an old lady with whom it was more than hard and he had to bring a knap-sack in here to convince my Government that there are old people who needed help. He did that and I believe he did it in good faith. (Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: What was in the knap-sack?) A lard oil bottle, a butter tot and some other things. He asked the last Government if an old lady could exist on that little pittance which she was getting in St. Lucy and the cost of living.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this a point of order?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No. The hon. member is quite right, but he should also have said that his Government did not accede to my request.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is certainly not a point of order. The Hon. Leader of the House has said that what the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said is quite right, but he has pointed out that the hon. member did not add that the hon. member's Government did not accede to his request.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, my reply to him is that he should not follow pattern because what my Government has suffered, his Government may suffer now. (Laughter) | That is a pointer and a reminder, and do not let the hon. member try to get out of it by trying to bring in my Government, because the same stick that hit Dick might hit Bob. This Government must listen and take the time from the Opposition when it comes to the poor people; otherwise they will bear the penalty. They should accede to the request of the Opposition when it comes to the poor, hard working-class people. I know them; you know them, Sir, and he knows them. I think that the hon. member had to buy that knap-sack to bring it in here because the old lady could not buy it; she did not have the

money with which to buy it. He had to buy it and decorate this Hon. Chamber with those tins, pans and bottles.

The hon. senior member for St. James did not think it fit to bring in these things, but I am sure that he could have brought in a knap-sack or a piece of fine bag so as to convince this Government. We would not have to go so far as to bring in these things because we all know the position by now. The cost of living is soaring sky high and the only time, I believe, that we will be able to catch up with it is if we take one of those jets. We cannot reach the cost of living by walking down here. Soon, and very soon, I may meet it up there, but these poor people will have to remain down here and keep their mouths wide open and pray to the Almighty God. The Lord is going to help us. As I have read in the Good Book, He provides every bird with a berry - I am in order in saying that - but he does not put it in the nest. We will have to put these poor people's berries in their nests because these people cannot do it. Worst of all, if this Government does not turn over a new leaf, we will be back in the saddle on this same question of Local Government because they have thrown the old people aside. They have dragged them from St. Andrew to St. Lucy to an Almshouse, from St. Joseph to St. Thomas, and they are dragging them all about as you would drag about a dead mule; and are you telling me that that is what you are doing for the poor people who are responsible for all of us being in here?

Mr. Speaker, if the franchise had not been lowered, I may have got the job of sweeping out in here, but not to occupy one of these seats, and that applies to a lot of us. You would either have to have a lot of money in your pocket, or your colour would have to be a different one. From the time that the franchise was lowered, these same old people had the opportunity; they had the chance then to say: "Well, let us try our people now," and they tried us and now are we throwing it back in their faces to forget them? Let us face facts. Mr. Government Minister and members, let us face facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is still addressing the Chair.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not 'Mr. Government Minister and members.'

Mr. SMITH: All right, Sir, I am thinking in terms of these people; they are responsible for us being in here. If they are not responsible for us, they are responsible for me; but I feel that they are responsible for every one of us being in here. I know the time when the people did not even know who were their representatives; they did not know where they lived; but now the people want us to go where they live and bring water for them on Sundays and even to fill up the barrels, because they are accustomed to us now. You look out there on the wall and you will see that there are very few slim fellows; they are all big

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if I am in order having moved the amendment.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the mover of an amendment is not entitled to reply.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am speaking in reply to a point made by the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: That could only be to a point of explanation.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: It is really a point of explanation because I want to explain that the very words the hon. member just used are what I have used. When it goes to Cabinet you may consider \$4.00. We are not asking you to tie yourself to it. I hope I have made clear what I tried to make clear when I first spoke.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point has been made. 4.10 p.m.

The question that the word proposed to be inserted stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The question that this Resolution as amended do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, Mr. SPEAKER declaring "I think the 'Ayes' have it."

RESOLUTION re SMALL TRANSPORT SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY DISTRICTS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business, stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, Order No. 11, and it is to move the passing (A PAUSE)

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think that you are calling the right Order. I would like to deal with that Order. It is non-controversial, we have very little time left and I would like to get it passed in that time. I am therefore asking leave that Order No. 11, standing in my name, be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave that Order No. 11 standing in his name, be taken as the next Order of the Day, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted. (A PAUSE) There being no objection, leave is granted to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to move the passing of a Resolution requesting the Government to investigate the possibilities of instituting a small transport service in the country districts to alleviate hardships.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution only needs the introduction. I feel that all hon. members are fully aware of the hardships that are being meted out to some of those people in the country districts who are not in a position to hire motor cars. In the country districts, especially in St. Joseph and St. Andrew and even in St. John, in the first place you will find that there are hawkers who go between the three parishes, they buy their stuff, and on account of the fact that the regular bus route is direct to Bridgetown and not cross-country, they find it very hard to convey their goods, for instance, from

New Castle, St. John. You have the hawkers going there and buying bananas and all kinds of fruit and they have to "head" them from St. John to St. Joseph because there is no transport across the country. You will find that they have to "head" their fruit all the way down St. Thomas, and you will meet these women with these large baskets and trays with no less than 500 pounds or 600 pounds on their heads wending their way through the sun and rain. Sir, I feel that these small mini-buses or mini-wagons should be allowed to be used for hire so that these people will be able to hire them for transporting these goods. I am not asking the Government to allow these mini-wagons or mini-buses to interfere with the bus routes - that is to say, you have a bus running on Martins Bay, St. John to Bridgetown, and that is all right. I am not asking the Government to put the small buses there to compete with the concessionaires across the country; I am asking the Government to investigate the matter and see that there is a great need for transport of this sort across the country.

Sometimes these women reach their homes soaking wet when the rain is falling, and sometimes they have to sleep out from their homes, because they cannot get back to their homes. I feel that this country is too small for people not being able to find easy transport to and from their homes. You even have people working in the Department of Highways and Transport who have to go from St. Andrew to St. Peter to St. John - all across the country; there are workers who cannot use bicycles because, in some cases, they are too old, and in other cases that transport does not suit bicycles inasmuch as the places are too hilly for the use of bicycles. At night you meet these local preachers who are going from parish to parish, and it is very difficult for them to get transport. They cannot charter a bus because sometimes they cannot gather as many people as would fill the bus, and they will either have to pay the full cost of the bus for one-half the number of people or they cannot go out at all. 4.20 p.m.

Now, you are depriving these people of their rights and privileges to visit the various churches to which they belong. It is a difficult question, and it is a most burning one. Since the Government have dismantled, or shut down, some of the Almshouses in St. Joseph, St. Andrew and, I believe, St. John, too, I feel that families would like to visit these people, but they are not in a position to hire a motorcar to go and visit them.

Sir, I can see from the Minister's face that I would not have to go any further with this Resolution, and I respectfully beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member first mentioned this matter and the Hon. Prime Minister was in the House at the time, the Prime Minister suggested that the matter ought to

be gone into very thoroughly. He suggested also that, perhaps, a Select Committee, an all-Party Committee of this House, might be appointed to investigate the matter and to make the appropriate recommendations which the Government would accept.

I am, therefore, suggesting that the hon. member accept an amendment to the third paragraph which would read:

"BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee of this Hon. House be appointed to investigate this matter and to make recommendations for improving transport services in the rural areas."

If the hon. member would accept that, I beg to move the following amendment:

"BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee of this Hon. House be appointed to investigate this matter and to make recommendations for improving transport services in the rural areas."

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I accept that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the following hon. members if they would be willing to serve on the Committee:

The hon. senior member for St. George
The hon. junior member for St. John
The Hon. Leader of the House
The hon. senior member for St. Joseph
The hon. senior member for St. James
The hon. junior member for St. Peter,
and I have been asked to be associated with the Committee, and I will gladly do so. I take it that hon. members have agreed to serve.

Hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the hour, we will now revert to Government Business. When we were last so engaged, the hon. senior member for St. James was addressing the Chamber.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member gets up to resume, I am asking leave of the House to lay an additional document and to give supplementary notices of four Resolutions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave of the House to lay a statement and to give notice of certain Resolutions.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. member to say whether he is later going to ask leave to proceed with any of them today, because we would not agree to that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I had intended, Mr. Speaker, in respect of one of them so to ask, but not of the other three.

4.30 p.m.

I would indicate to Your Honour and to the House that one of the Resolutions of which I propose to give notice and in respect of which I wish to proceed in all its stages is the Resolution to approve the guarantee by Government of a loan of \$1.35 million to be raised by the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I have been informed by my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, that he had consulted with the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition and had gained his approval for proceeding with this matter.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Absolutely untrue. I cannot imagine a more brazen man on earth.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid there are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It was on the basis of that assurance that I said what I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Leader of the House seeking leave to proceed to give notice of certain matters?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to give notice of certain matters. He is not asking anything other than that. Unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1968."

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 \$182,801 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 26 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$75,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 27 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by Government of a loan of \$1,350,000 to be raised by the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order 1968.

With respect, Mr. Speaker, to Resolutions 1 and 2, it is my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with these in all their stages. With respect to Resolution No. 3, on the basis of what I have just said, the Minister of Agriculture proposes to deal with this Resolution in all its stages at today's sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now shall we proceed with Government Business at the stage at which it left off, when we were considering.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I just want on a point of order to set certain records straight.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member make his point of order?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Earlier today I spoke with three members of the Opposition who were in their places: the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I pointed out to them that it was an urgent matter which I wanted to deal with, and it was a question of guaranteeing a loan for the Barbados Marketing Corporation if it is to be kept going. In respect of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the hon. junior member for St. Peter, they intimated that they would be willing to deal with it. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph said that if he got the papers early he would give consideration to doing it later in the afternoon. Earlier today the hon. junior member for St. Joseph also said whilst standing in his place that there would be discussion later in the afternoon on something to deal with the B.M.C. The hon. member said so today whilst addressing the Chair on another matter. Unfortunately I was not able to get the papers out of the Ministry of Finance early enough to let hon. members get them before now. I was on the telephone to and fro so that hon. members would have them earlier. I just want to say that it is not a new loan. It is what the House has already approved in part, and although it is \$1.35 million and the Opposition may be howling, when they shall have read the Resolution, they will see that it is not.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I deprecate the word "howling" though it is not unparliamentary. The hon. member is proceeding now to discuss the matter. I permitted the hon. member to explain.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Far from it, Mr. Speaker. I just want to give an explanation that in giving notice the Leader of the House made mention of \$1.35 million. It is what they owe away already; it is nothing new.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: With your permission, it is only fair for me to say what I understood the hon. member to have said about any agreement. When the Hon. Leader of the House said \$1.35 million, I

nearly - to use the hon. member's unparliamentary expression - howled. What was said over here in my hearing was that it was going to be a loan. I was told by the hon. member on my left that the Hon. Minister who has just spoken promised that we would have this matter by 1.30 p.m. He has now made an explanation why he has not got it, but surely if no promise was made, - and no specific promise was ever made by me save: "Let us have it and I will give you an answer later" - surely we on this side absolutely strongly object to dealing with the matter now.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, we are about to deal, and I ask the hon. senior member for St. James if he will proceed with the matter which was before us immediately before the suspension for lunch, when he was addressing the Chair on the item that the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order be approved. Let the hon. senior member for St. James proceed.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day I drew to the attention of the House that it was not a bad idea when Government set about to have their departments streamlined. It is regrettable, however, that there are some Government Departments which need a complete revamping. Foremost in my mind is the Labour Department where it has always been unfortunate to find that appointments there seem to be something hard to confirm. One only has to remember how difficult it was for a Mr. Pedro Welch to be appointed in that Department, and one can say that this is a Department which, I think, needs looking into. Another thing, Mr. Speaker, is that in the replacement of four established posts of Grades I and II Clerk by four posts of Clerical Officers, the time has come when I think Government must expand the Department of the Controller of Supplies. They need more staff and three or four more Inspectors cannot serve the community in the manner in which it should be served.
4.40 p.m.

I have always felt that the Ministry of Trade - and there is no reflection on the Government; this is only my personal view - and Labour should be under one Portfolio, and I believe that it would give the Minister a better look-in at the actual conditions of things which go on in some of these stores, and especially in a place like Swan Street where you have many of the clerks exploited by some of the merchants in these stores. It may be that one would say that this is a matter for the Trade Union, and one on the other hand might say that it is a matter for the people themselves to come together. I believe however, that if an Inspector of Supplies were to carry out the job also of inspecting the actual conditions under which the people in many of these stores and in some of the supermarkets work, one would exactly understand that in some weeks many of them receive an amount which is as low as \$5 when, in truth and in fact, when they go to work they are told that they will be given the minimum amount of money which the Union or the Government stipulates.

Mr. Speaker, another thing which comes to my mind in this Resolution is the actual work done by these Inspectors from the office of the Controller of Supplies. As my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Peter said earlier today, I wonder if these duties are really carried out by these people, not because they are not doing their duties as they should do them, but because there are so few persons to carry out the duties over such a number of stores and supermarkets. It is not surprising that on some Saturdays you go to one supermarket and find that the price of an item is 2¢ more than it is at the other supermarket which is just a matter of yards away. It is with this in mind, Mr. Speaker, that I would like the Minister in charge of this Resolution to look into the strengthening of the office of the Controller of Supplies and to provide it not only with four Clerical Officers, but to increase the staff in that particular Department whereby they will be able to carry out their job as efficiently as they should.

As far as the adjustment in relation to the creation of the post of Senior Technical Officer on the recommendation of the United Nations for an Industrial Bureau of Standards, I think that much more cannot be added to what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said earlier today. A post of this nature as recommended by the United Nations, is not a post in respect of which we can take a Senior Civil Servant and send him up to do a three months' or six months' training for the purpose of his coming back here to carry out such a highly-qualified and skilled job. A post such as this is one which one must understand must be dealt with by an officer who is equipped to do this job. Rather than just spending a couple of dollars and sending out a man to be trained for three or six months, I would strongly advise the Government that in their own interest, in the interest of the country and in the interest of the goods which we now manufacture to keep them up to the standard of competing against other countries throughout the Caribbean, they cannot just think of sending out a Civil Servant to undertake this training. It is necessary for us to send out a man and to spend a few more thousand dollars in having this man qualified, and in the mean time, hope that the United Nations will be able to assist us during the training of this man abroad.

Sir, I am not casting any reflections on any one who might probably take up this post, but it is not as simple a post as it might appear to some hon. members. It is with this in mind that I wish to endorse the remarks which have been made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in calling upon the Government to review this whole case, and to make sure that the man who is sent out will not be sent out just for a matter of months to be trained, but to have him qualified in a post whereby at some future date he will be able to assist the nation in the working of the actual Bureau of Standards. I do not think that, after hearing my colleague from St. Peter and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, there is much more which I would like to add. I would also ask the Government that they find it possible to try and speed up the appointments in the Civil Service whereby it would not

allow young men and women to get a bit disgruntled and leave the Service because of the long wait which they have to take in the Civil Service. If one were only to take an example, if one can only recall carefully, Barbados is in the unfortunate position to have lost the services of a top Specialist in Surgery in the person of Errol Walrond who, because of another Government's - I would not like to say that this is a reflection on the Minister, but I have a little inside information which does not really come in this Resolution, but it shows how you can lose people.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member, and to the attention of the House that Ministers have no say whatever in making appointments, so that there will not be any reflection cast on me or on any other Minister for that matter. We have no say in that at all.

Mr. CRAIG: I know that the Public Service Commission makes the appointments, but I made myself quite clear by saying that this is not any reflection on the Ministers themselves. I am only calling on the Government to make sure that these appointments - or the Government should persuade the Public Service Commission to fill more of these appointments. A few days ago I was looking through the Civil List and I saw that there were 235 posts vacant in the Civil Service, from the post of Messenger to that of Permanent Secretary. One can become a bit disenchanted when he finds himself in the position of acting in a post for a number of years, and then there is no certainty that he is going to fill this post. I say that it is a very healthy sign to see that the Government in this Resolution has set out to streamline the Civil Service and to provide the country with the necessary people, and give the Civil Servants a better hope for a future career.

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

4.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no other business under this Head on the Order Paper, except No. 2, which I understood the Hon. Minister did not propose to deal with today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, now that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has had a look at the Resolution..... (ASIDES) Let me put it this way, Sir. Now that he has had time to have a look at the Resolution, and seeing that it is only a loan to pay off a loan and to give the Corporation capital to operate with, I am wondering whether he would be willing to discuss the matter this afternoon.

I can assure the hon. member that when he shall have heard the case for the Corporation, even if he did not do it this afternoon, he would be sorry he did not do it this afternoon, because some of his constituents are suffering as a result of the plight of the Corporation. I am asking for the indulgence of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of his own constituents, to let us deal with this Resolution.

Let us deal with this Resolution, because the farmers in the country are affected in that the Corporation cannot purchase their produce. The longer we delay with the matter, the longer the farmers in this country will suffer. I am asking the Hon. Leader of the Opposition not only on his behalf, but on behalf of the people that he and I, and all of us in here have the honour and distinction to represent to let us do it this afternoon.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had a mentally defective child..... (An Hon. MEMBER: I cannot hear you.)

Mr. SPEAKER: During the recess I intend having this entire equipment overhauled.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that if the hon. member had a mentally defective child holding up a sugar cake to a grown-up to appeal to the person to do something for it and using that as a temptation, he could not have done worse than by telling us that my parishioners will suffer, if we do not agree to discuss the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition forgive my interposing here? If it is still not the intention of the Opposition to agree to proceed with this matter this afternoon, having heard the discussion which has taken place on both sides, having regard to the fact that these papers were not laid at a time which I regard as early from the standpoint of this meeting, and that they have only just been circulated - if the opposition to proceeding with the Resolution is still maintained, I feel it is my duty not to agree for this matter to be proceeded with now. Therefore, as this is a matter in which the giving of leave could be refused if there is one dissentient, I would not agree to the matter being proceeded with now in view of the magnitude of it and the circumstances of the late laying over which I am sure that the hon. member has no control whatsoever.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: If I may say so with the greatest possible respect, perhaps I should not use the expression, but I want to say that I compliment Your Honour in seeing that the Rules and the Practice and the ordinary behaviour, so to speak, are being observed. Before sitting down, I want to say that I do not have the slightest blame attaching to the Minister for Agriculture; he has not said anything that is untrue; he has not exaggerated; but in view of the fact that there was no opportunity for other members to consider the matter - the senior member for St. Thomas came here, and he has gone back out. You merely told him what was in the air.

I do not blame the Minister of Agriculture in the least bit, but it is unnecessary to say that I do not believe one word of the Leader of the House when he said that he had been told that I agreed. I want the Minister of Agriculture to feel that none of us over here can have the slightest thing to say in that he has not exaggerated anything; he has not told any untruth or anything of the sort; he has played the game.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this completes Government Business. Now, I had canvassed the opinion earlier of the Leader of the Opposition with respect to the adjournment, and I had suggested to him, in view of the fact that there were additional notices to be given, and therefore a heavier Order Paper for the following meeting that, perhaps, we may meet on Tuesday next week at ten o'clock.

In the light, however, of the urgency of my colleague's matter and the fact that between now and Friday the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would deem that he has had sufficient time to study this matter, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Friday of this week at ten o'clock in the morning.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, before I say what the Opposition had agreed about this matter, I would like to know whether the Hon. Leader of the House has in mind any particular number of hours for going on when we are changing the Standing Orders and changing the time for Private Members' Business and so on. What does he propose? Does he propose to have the recess? We came here thinking that we were having the recess today; but if there is this accumulation of work and he has sound reasons for it, obviously we would have to come back. Does he propose to start on Friday at ten o'clock in the morning and go on, if necessary, to midnight? Does he propose to go on for a few hours or what?

Before we can give him an answer, I would like to add this before I sit down. The Marshal of the House came to me with a message from the Leader of the House. I told him I would not give him any answer about meeting next Tuesday at ten o'clock until I have had time to discuss it with other members of the Opposition, but that I would give him an answer, not tomorrow, but by Thursday. That was the message I sent to him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that events have overtaken us. Obviously, the question of the summer recess is in the mind of everybody. It seems to me - I cannot speak for hon. members opposite - that we have a volume of work on the next Order Paper which would be more than one day's work. In the light of that, I would think that we could meet on Friday.

5.00 p.m.

I would move the suspension of the Standing Orders, but the usual Question Time and Private Members' Time when the time came for them would still be taken. If we met at 10 o'clock, we could dispose of

a lot of business up to about 5 o'clock or 5.30 o'clock in the afternoon which I think would be a reasonable day's work, and then what is left over would be done on the following Tuesday, from which point onwards the recess would come. This is how I see it and it seems reasonable.

The question that this House now stands adjourned until Friday, 30th August, 1968, at 10 o'clock a.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.03 p.m.