

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 30th August, 1968

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; 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.; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance*); Sir G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., D.C.L. (Hon.), (*Leader of the Opposition*); His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A.

Prayers were read.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Caribbean Free Trade Association (Origin of Goods) (Amendment) Regulations 1968.

The Caribbean Free Trade Association (Origin of Goods) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1968.

On my own behalf I am commanded to lay the following:

Report of the Prisons for the year 1963.

Reports on Vital Statistics and Registrations for the Years 1964 and 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minis-

ter of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to place the sum of \$5,910 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 28 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$100,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 29 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$2,272 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 30 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

With respect to Resolutions Nos. 1 and 3, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with these two Resolutions.

With respect to Resolution No. 2 for \$100,000, it is the intention of the Minister of Communications and Works to ask leave later in today's sitting to deal with this in all its stages. I believe copies of this Resolution have already been circulated.

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

This House, in view of the long delay in the publication of the *Official Gazettes* and of the consequent lack by the public of reports of debates of this Assembly, strongly urges the Government to send down to it a money Resolution providing for an increase in the staff of the Government Printery;

This House is further of the opinion that the price of the *Official Gazette* is extremely high and should be reduced in order that it may reach a great number of persons.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I handed in two Resolutions. I do not know if they are yet ready.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 6 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I apologise to the House for a remissness on my part. I had, as you may recall, said that we would be meeting at 10 o'clock and I would move the suspension of Standing Orders so that we could have lunch earlier, and I had also given the assurance that Private Members' Business would be taken in its due time. I had forgotten to move that motion before I moved the motion for Government Business; so I am asking leave of the House to do it now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to move for the suspension of certain Standing Orders at this time, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

Mr. YEARWOOD entered the House and took his seat.

10.25 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I rise to ask leave to take charge of this Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to take charge of this Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(After a pause).* There being no objection, leave is granted. The hon. member may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is well known that Barbados is an agricultural community, and the Government is placing emphasis on agricultural diversification. The mainstay of the economy of this country is sugar, but no one knows what will be the future of sugar ten or fifteen years from now; therefore, the Government has embarked

on a policy of agricultural diversification. If we are to diversify agriculture, the farmers when they are advised by the Ministry of Agriculture to grow certain crops, have got to be assured of some type of reasonable market for them; therefore the existence of the Barbados Marketing Corporation plays a very important role in agriculture in Barbados. I should like hon. members to know that the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act provides for the establishment of this Corporation, and the main role of the Corporation is to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island particularly for the benefit of the producer, and also to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of the produce.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us face facts. The Barbados Marketing Corporation has had its troubles; it has had its teething difficulties. It was established; it was something new to the country and let us even say that it has fallen into wrong hands. Some of the early people connected with the administration of the B.M.C. were not as knowledgeable as one would have expected, and therefore we have had failures at the B.M.C. Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the failures at the B.M.C. have resulted in the loss of a great deal of money, but the intention is still there - the intention to assist the farmers of this country. The pivot around which agriculture must spin is the B.M.C.. We admit its failures and we hope that there will be a better future for the B.M.C.; and in order for there to be a better future for the B.M.C., much depends on the co-operation of the farmer; it calls for the co-operation of all Barbadians. It depends on and it calls for the co-operation of the farmer; it calls for the co-operation of the merchant and it calls, most of all for the co-operation of members of this Legislature, especially the members of the Opposition. I am not going to say that there were not failures. I know that members of the Opposition will say: "Well, look, the B.M.C. has thrown away money". Everybody knows this, but are we going to place the farmers of this country first or the few dollars which the B.M.C. has thrown away first? I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is for us to put the interest of the farmers of this country first, and if the interest of the farmers of this country is put first, then the B.M.C. must be re-financed.

Earlier this year or late last year, the decision was taken by the B.M.C. to bring in from Canada consultants to advise on the operation, administration and financing of the B.M.C. It cost us a great deal of money - \$57,000 Canadian - to bring in these consultants. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am prepared to state that the consultants have done a good job; they have made recommendations and I am satisfied that, if those recommendations of the consultants are carried out, the B.M.C. can make a success. It can perform the functions for which it has been established. I should just like to warn and to remind the members on the other side that they were in favour of the establishment of the B.M.C. because they started the wheels rolling on the establishment of the

B.M.C.; therefore, they saw the need for the B.M.C. The point which I am trying to make is that the B.M.C. is nothing bad. It is in the interest of the farmer of this country. One cannot tell the farmer to grow carrots if there is no outlook for them; one cannot tell the farmer to grow beets if the farmer does not know that he is going to get a fair return, a guaranteed market and a guaranteed price for his produce. As I said earlier, the only way in which we can have agricultural diversification in this country is to get the B.M.C. moving.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the establishment of the B.M.C., we have been able to find markets abroad and we are even looking for further markets. We have been able to export yams and we have been able to export even breadfruit. We have been able to export flying fish to help the fishing industry in this country, and private enterprise has benefited considerably from the existence of the B.M.C. Sir, the B.M.C. has thrown away money. We are \$1.35 million in debt today, but I am prepared to state that the benefits accruing to this country since the establishment of the B.M.C. and since the B.M.C. has found certain markets - the benefits accruing to the country far outweigh the losses of the B.M.C. It is true that before the establishment of the B.M.C. you could not buy a flying fish in the United Kingdom from Barbados. Today, the farmer can afford to grow yams and sell them in large quantities at approximately eight cents per pound for export, and they will get more favourable prices for all their locally-produced agricultural commodities.

10.35 a.m.

This has been accelerated as a result of the establishment of the B.M.C. Whilst we look at the faults of the B.M.C., we have to look at the good things done by the B.M.C. The fishing industry has had a shot in the arm through the establishment of the B.M.C. Unfortunately, this year we did not catch as many fish as we would have liked to catch. We had 140 tons of space made available at the B.M.C. for fishermen in order that they could store their fish and get a reasonable price. This is the first time in the history of the fishing industry that we have had so much storage space for fishermen in this country.

Sir, the fishermen in this country have been suffering severe losses through making catches and having to throw them back into the sea, because it did not pay them to bring them to the land. That is what took place in this country before the establishment of the B.M.C. Fishermen invested a lot of money in fishing boats, and then they could not even pay for them. The loans have had to be written off, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With the provision made at the B.M.C., improved facilities, and the B.M.C. accepting the advice given by the consultants this year and late last year, I can assure hon. members that this situation will not arise again. The fishermen in this country will be happy, and the farmers will be even happier.

Another thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that one has to look at. Before the establishment of the B.M.C.,

what happened when a farmer planted potatoes? All of us know that because of the policy of the Government and the legislation introduced some time during the war years, around 1944, a certain amount of food crops had to be grown compulsorily by the farmers in this country. This was done by a sort of Compulsory Order. All of us know that over the years many a planter has been planting things like sweet potatoes because he was compelled to do it by the Compulsory Order. What have they been doing? After two or three months they have been ploughed back into the land. Why? Because the planter could not get them sold. Because of the establishment of the B.M.C. the price controls have been taken off, and the B.M.C. acts as a stabiliser of prices for food crops in this country. This fact cannot be denied. Whilst we look at the faults of the B.M.C., there has still been some good in it. It has done some good to the country, and it has been doing some good to the community not only in Barbados, but outside the country. Our 66,000 Barbadians in the United Kingdom who have been accustomed to eating yams and flying fish can still eat them, because we export these commodities to them through the B.M.C. In the United States of America and in Canada, Barbadians can also get them.

Let us be realistic and face facts. I am not saying that all has been well at the B.M.C. I would never say that. I am going to say and pledge that we will have most things going well at the B.M.C. in the near future. This can only be achieved if the House sees fit to pass the Resolution before us at the moment. From the inception of the B.M.C., for some unknown reason, it was not properly capitalised. It did not have proper operating capital. It was similar to the C.B.C. Over and above the fact that it did not have operating capital, it was saddled with a big burden. It was made responsible for carrying the weight of the capital structure and servicing the loans for capital construction.

Now, I want to ask hon. members, through you, Sir, one question. If the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, for example, wanted to 'fix-it-right' at Tweedside Road, he could not go there and provide a structure without capital to order and to purchase parts to sell you and me. Proper financial arrangements would have had to be made for this, and this was one of the reasons why the B.M.C. failed. The loans that the B.M.C. had to service were too heavy. It could not service these loans; the interest on the loans went up; and it had to add interest to the loans and that sort of thing. It was not making the turnover to enable it to service the loans.

Those are the things at which one has to look, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The B.M.C. was established to stimulate, facilitate and to improve the production marketing and processing of produce in this country, particularly for the benefit of the producer or farmer. I happen to know that many a farmer has gone to the B.M.C. with produce which the B.M.C. knew it could not get off, and the B.M.C. had to buy it. If the average farmer went to the B.M.C. with beans which were too hard to market, the B.M.C. would still buy them. Do you know why? It was a means of

encouraging the farmer. Now I am not saying that the farmer is at fault for having produced beans that are too hard, okras that are too hard, carrots that are not good, and for growing the wrong type of carrots.

I want to make this point: advice to the farmers depends on the Extension Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture. Hon. members are aware that over the years there has been a great shortage of personnel and trained technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture. In order to be good Extension Officers, you must have training.

10.45 a.m.

If we look back at the situation in the Ministry of Agriculture over the years, we have had posts established which we have had tremendous difficulty in filling. We found it extremely difficult to find trained persons to take up these posts; therefore our Extension service was not what we would have liked it to be. The situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, tends to change today. We have been able to recruit a better type of staff, and we have been able to retain some of the staff which we have recently recruited.

One of the failures in the Ministry of Agriculture was the fact that we did not have an Information Section. Today we have an Information Section. We have recruited a person from the University of the West Indies in the name of Mr. Brathwaite who is in charge of our Information section, brochures are produced, and research information carried out in the Ministry of Agriculture is disseminated through the Information Department of the Ministry of Agriculture to the farmers, and what obtained four or five years ago will no longer obtain in respect of advice to the farmers. We are therefore expecting the farmer today to produce better beans; we expect the farmer to move away from ox-cart carrots which are very large carrots, but are not the best type because they do not last. These are the things you find the Ministry of Agriculture advising farmers on today. The doors of the Ministry of Agriculture are open to any farmer; telephones are available to any farmer, and any time a farmer telephones the Ministry of Agriculture today for advice, an Extension Officer is sent to him. Therefore the farmer is producing a better commodity than he was producing formerly, and we do not expect the B.M.C. to be placed in the situation it was placed in before when the farmer did not have proper advice and was not producing a proper grade of commodity which would last and be suitable for export.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was no Liaison Service. Today the situation is different. Therefore on that alone we can expect an improvement in the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I go a little further, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Barbados Marketing Corporation started off with an Agricultural Economist as Manager, Mr. Alleyne - a man very well qualified in Agricultural Economics, but with no experience in administration. The consultant made certain recommendations and most of these have already

been met. There is now a Marketing Manager with years of experience in marketing. Some of the people who were first appointed by the B.M.C. and knew little or nothing about what was called for have been sent back to the Government Departments from which they had been seconded, and wherever possible they have been replaced, and I am satisfied that the replacements are doing a good job.

When it comes to thefts at the B.M.C., we have checked up on that, and after we have the B.M.C. re-financed, we can with some of the funds provide greater security there. As I said earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the B.M.C. needs the help of members of the Legislature; so let us give it, remembering that when we give our help to the Corporation, we are not giving it to the members of the Board or to the members of the Democratic Labour Party, but we are giving it to the farmers of this country and in particular to the people of Barbados in general.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking the House to approve today of a loan of \$1.35 million to re-finance the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I remember that when mention was made of this amount last Tuesday there was a shout, but I would like to advise hon. members that most of this money has already been approved by the Legislature. I said earlier that loans were made at the B.M.C. since 1964 which were due this year, but the loans were not repaid because the B.M.C. could not service them. I should like to give hon. members a break-down of these loans. In March 1964, there was a loan of \$150,000 guaranteed by this House from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce; In March of the same year there was a loan of \$184,000 from the Bank of Nova Scotia. In May 1965 there was a loan of \$100,000 from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. In April, 1966 there was a loan of \$130,000 from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. In July 1966 there was a further loan of \$445,000 from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. In August 1966 there was a loan of \$175,000 from the Bank of Nova Scotia. In July and August 1966 there was a loan of \$320,000 from the Port Department. In October 1966 there was a loan of \$137,700 from the Bank of Nova Scotia. This money has not been repaid, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and most of it is now due. This was for capital expenditure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you total these amounts of money which have not been repaid but which have been approved by this Legislature, you will see that we are not in truth and in fact asking for a new loan of \$1.35 million. What we are doing here is assisting the B.M.C. to repay these outstanding loans by way of guarantee of a further loan and to give them operating capital, so that when the farmer carries his produce to the B.M.C. they would not be able to say that they do not have the money to pay for his carrots, cabbage or beans. This has been happening over the past two or three months. Provided they have carried out the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Barbados Marketing Corporation and their produce is to the standard, they are not going

to be turned back when this House has approved of this loan.
10.55 a.m.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the only paying concern today operated by the B.M.C. is the establishment of the shrimp processing plant. A lot of this money which we are asking for today is to repay a loan for the building of this shrimp plant or the section for the processing of shrimp. It was estimated at first that the amount of money required for setting up the shrimp section at the B.M.C. would be \$275,000 and it has eventually cost \$410,000. I should like to inform hon. members that although we have spent \$410,000 in constructing this section, every month the B.M.C. receives in the vicinity of \$30,000 from the shrimp industry. They are now extending their facilities there, and three more counters will be in operation next month. These three counters will provide employment for another thirty-three women in this country, bringing the total number of women employed in the shrimp industry to some 200. It has cost approximately \$10,000 to provide one job in industry today, according to the statistics. We have spent \$410,000 in a year employing 200 women, besides men, besides the technicians and other people who are employed, and adding more to this, we are bringing hard currency into the country as a result of the establishment of the shrimp industry in this country. I want to make it abundantly clear that almost half million dollars of this money, namely, \$410,000 which I am asking the House today to approve, is going into a section of the B.M.C. which is not only currently financing the running of the B.M.C. to what extent it is being run, but also providing employment in this country for 200 women. My colleague on my right has just reminded me that it is a big boost to tourism - the advertising which we get from it when we sell on the U.S. market - the Barbados shrimp.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that I have any difficulty in making out a case here for assistance for the B.M.C.; I do not think that I have got to convince members on the other side any more. We are going to set aside what has happened in the past; we know that those things have happened, but let us set them aside and decide now to re-finance the B.M.C. What I am doing now is asking hon. members on the other side to assist me in making a success of the B.M.C. We want re-financing and I am asking hon. members to do it. We do not want anything of the old and that is why we are doing it. I could have come here today and asked hon. members to approve a loan of \$300,000, but I do not want to be associated with anything that has happened in the past. We want to start on a new page and we want to wipe the slate clean, pay off all the debts of the B.M.C. and have capital with which to operate, and we are going to be responsible for a part of the payment. If you note in this Resolution, the Government is holding the responsibility for \$700,000 of this money to be paid over a period of ten years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, do you know why? It is not that we are encouraging the B.M.C. to throw away money, but we are satisfied that if we ask the taxpayers of this

country to spend \$700,000 in the agricultural industry of this country, in the end the B.M.C. will bring in far more than \$700,000. In a few years to come we will get our diversification programme off the ground, and the only means of getting it off the ground is to have the B.M.C. operating satisfactorily and efficiently. If that is done, the \$700,000 which the taxpayers of this country will be repaying, will be wiped out and instead of having a deficit, there will be a surplus.

The B.M.C. over the next ten years will repay the remainder of the money. It is always better to be able to repay a debt in one corner rather than try to put a piece here, a piece yonder and a piece in the next place. What has the situation been at the B.M.C.? The B.M.C. has been owing small debts which it could not meet. You can imagine a situation where a Government-run Corporation finds it difficult to find \$400,000 or \$500,000 to meet an obligation, and all we are doing here is asking hon. members to let us have the B.M.C. running how a Government corporation should be run - that is to say, efficiently. Have it started on a clean page and be able to be of some benefit to the farmers of this country in particular, and to the people of the country in general. As I said before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think I have any difficulty in convincing hon. members on the other side that this is necessary. In the circumstances, I think that if I continue any longer I will be wasting time. Hon. members ought to be satisfied after I have explained the whole thing to them. They have read the Addendum which is self-explanatory. It is a very long Addendum, hon. members have had time to study it and therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it might be unfortunate that the Minister who has just sat down, happened to be the Minister of Agriculture with the Haggatts Factory coming under his control at the same time as the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I have sat here and I have listened to him quite attentively, and the argument which he has used in support of the vegetable farmer, if he had attempted in the remotest manner to use that argument in favour of the cane farmer, Haggatts Factory would have been in an entirely different role today. I cannot accuse the Minister of speaking through one corner of his mouth in support of the vegetable farmer, and through the other corner of his mouth against the cane farmer in respect of the Haggatts Factory. When the Resolution to support the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation came before the House, I listened to the Prime Minister and he advanced about two or three ways and means whereby the operations of Limited Liability Companies or Corporations whatever you may call them, can raise money to finance the operation. All of these avenues which the Prime Minister gave to this House on that occasion are also available to the Barbados Marketing Corporation to find money to finance themselves, although we have learnt from the Minister who has just sat down that the best way to pay old debts is to

start new ones. That is the Government's policy as enunciated by the Minister. The best way to stop a small hole is to open a bigger one. That is what the Minister has just said here.

On the whole, we are just hearing the phrase, "agricultural diversification" being hackneyed about without any real constructive meaning or application being put thereto.
11.05 a.m.

If the Government really and truly wanted to succeed with the Barbados Marketing Corporation, there is one avenue open to them. They could launch a giant Co-operative, and all of the farmers the Minister has just told us about would become part and parcel of the undertaking with a view to guaranteeing the success of the Co-operative movement. On the other hand, they could form a company and offer shares to the farmers. There, again, the farmers would have more than a selling interest in the undertaking. They, too, would be part and parcel of the undertaking, and they would have to look every day and every night, for that matter, to see that their own interest is protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the Minister is pledging that the B.M.C. will succeed if it is now re-financed as he has suggested, why does he not offer shares? Why does he not take the cue from private enterprise and invite private persons to take shares in an industry that will pay off in the long run? People are looking about today for investments. If the Government knows that the B.M.C. is bound to succeed, I am sure we need go no further than on Mt. Hillaby to overlook the Scotland District and the St. Thomas areas where these vegetable crops can be grown successfully. I am sure that before the Minister reaches back to the bottom he will have all the support that is necessary, provided he can guarantee the success that he has tried to express to this House today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is true that the future of sugar is uncertain. It might not be as uncertain as members of the Government would have us to believe. Nevertheless, there are lots of other things that are uncertain, and the Government is still pursuing them. Now, the Government's policy is geared somewhat towards this agricultural diversification. I have learnt recently, for instance, that the Agricultural Development Corporation at Graeme Hall planted fields of potatoes in September of last year; it did not reap them on time - or perhaps, the Barbados Marketing Corporation was not in a position to market them, and the potatoes have since been harvested to feed pigs at Culloden Farm. You will understand why the B.M.C. must have all of these troubles. You might find that private interest, at times, is cutting across the policy enunciated by Government in agricultural development.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the new element in the House of Assembly, we are accustomed to all kinds of slanderous statements being made. The hon. junior

member for St. Peter made a statement to the effect that potatoes from Graeme Hall are fed to pigs at Culloden Farm.

I happen to be the resident of a Government property called Culloden Farm; I happen to keep pigs; I have never fed a pig with potatoes at any time in my life, and certainly none from any Government property or from Graeme Hall. Therefore since the aspersion is that I have been using Government fodder, or something like that, to feed my animals, I am calling on the hon. member to withdraw that statement because it is completely and utterly untrue. He ought to know more about pigs, but he knows very little because you can starve pigs by feeding them on potatoes, although it is a Barbados superstition that potatoes are good for pigs. I have never fed a pig in my life on potatoes. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement, because that is an aspersion that I could not allow to remain on the records of this House.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you were to call for the report, nowhere can it be found that I said that the hon. member who has just sat down has fed pigs at Culloden Farm with potatoes. I never said so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was myself a bit worried when I heard the remark from the hon. member, and I would be very happy if he would withdraw the words used: "That potatoes from Graeme Hall were used to feed pigs at Culloden Farm." I was unhappy about it. Would you please withdraw the remark?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I said that potatoes from Graeme Hall were used to feed pigs at Strathclyde.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked the hon. junior member for St. Peter to withdraw the remark.

Mr. HINDS: I withdraw it. I am glad I did not say that they were used to feed pigs at Strathclyde; if not, I would have been called upon to withdraw that. I have withdrawn it, but this is what I will say: I have never suggested that the potatoes were stolen, or unlawfully come by, nor had I suggested that they were taken there during the night.
11.15 a.m.

Believe me, Sir, it is not easy for hon. members to stand up here and address the Chair. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the B.M.C. has had teething troubles. We are prepared to make out a case on this side of the House that it will forever have teething troubles, because many of the persons who have got to be associated with the operations of the Barbados Marketing Corporation have not yet cut teeth of honesty; they have not yet shed their teeth of dishonesty, and you will find, Sir, that there are many people associated with the Barbados Marketing Corporation's operations who can be shielded and protected by this Chamber, and that is why they will persist in doing all they have been doing.

Now the Hon. Minister of Agriculture said that we must put the interest of the farmers first if the B.M.C. is to succeed in future. He laid emphasis on the purposes for which the Barbados Marketing Corporation was established. One is to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer. Now I wonder if the Minister would rise to deny that the B.M.C. in its day-to-day administrative functions.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, I draw to Your Honour's attention Standing Order No. 29 (5) in relation to the Hon. Leader of the House. The document which the hon. member is reading is of very doubtful moral value.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take his word for it.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have drawn to your attention that it is a breach of the Standing Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to draw to the attention of all hon. members the Standing Order in question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Marketing Corporation was established particularly to be of benefit to the producer. I think I have already paid some attention to the lack of interest Government has shown in the cane farmers. I had hoped that the Minister of Agriculture would have been in a better position to tell us of Government's interest in the vegetable farmers. He has failed in his attempt because, as I said, this is no isolated case to which I will now refer. Plantations in this Island have been marketing yams, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and other vegetable crops through the Marketing Corporation, but the Corporation was content to employ a system that if two tons of potatoes went into the Corporation from an estate, the Corporation - and the Minister can search the books of the B.M.C. and find this on record, not once or twice, but dozens of times - was willing to issue two cheques for the payment of the potatoes. A cheque would be drawn for 1 1/2 tons for the estate concerned and the rest would be drawn in favour of the man who supplied the yams, potatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes. So you will see that the very farmers which the B.M.C. was established to assist have complained up and down the length and breadth of this Island about getting short weights at the B.M.C.; so they all lost confidence in the B.M.C. after a time.

Re-financing the Barbados Marketing Corporation to the tune of \$1.35 million will not regain for it the confidence that these farmers have already lost in it. They have now come up with a grandiose scheme to make people believe that in process of time it will get out of its bad debts, but I am saying, Sir, that this Resolution will only pass today because of Government numbers. At some later date we are going to hear the Minister of Agriculture, if he is then Minister of Agriculture, again relating to this

House the same sad story about the Marketing Corporation and asking us to forget what has happened in the past. He will try to hold a bright light before us, but at the same time he does not have the nerve to turn to these farmers. In the Minister's own constituency where there is a Cane Farmers' Association more active perhaps than in any other parish, the Minister would not attempt to interest any of the vegetable farmers to invest one dime in the Marketing Corporation. I would say that as soon as bodies like the Barbados Marketing Corporation and Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation find that they have got to give an account of themselves apart from the lamentations of the Minister, then some attempt will be made to stop pushing their hands this much deep into the pockets of the unsuspecting taxpayers of this country.

11.25 a.m.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation spent \$57,000 to pay consultants to advise them what to do and how to start off on a new footing, so to speak. My view is that we have here in Barbados people enough who have been in the marketing business, the vegetable production business, and who have been functioning in every possible avenue of good that the B.M.C. is expected to operate in. I am saying that all the expertise that was necessary to get the B.M.C. on a good and sound footing could have been obtained right here in Barbados, free, gratis and for nothing. We, on this side of the House, are saying that the \$57,000 which has been paid out to the consultants - to tell you what? The smallest shopkeeper in Baxters Road knows that if today is Friday, Friday night and Saturday are the biggest days for selling his rum and he cannot sleep well on Thursday night until he knows whether he can get enough to send to the wholesale merchant tomorrow to be able to stock himself on Friday evening, to drive through Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night, and, to a lesser extent, on Sunday. That is all the consultants have told us. They come down and tell us that we have got to get money. Now tell me; if the Minister of Agriculture was venturing into any field tomorrow, would he have taken up \$57,000 which he did not have, which did not belong to him, and say that he is getting advice on what? - that if you are going to start a business you have got to look for money to put in it? As I have said, it is a case where the taxpayers have not yet mustered that amount of courage to rise up in their own defence in circumstances such as this. That is all.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation was also established to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of products. Right in the City of Bridgetown we have business people who have been marketing for all their lives, and who will continue to market much more than the B.M.C. could ever produce or will ever have for marketing. If the Minister knows so well that he is so sure of himself and his Corporation that he will succeed to such an extent if you now re-finance this Corporation, and beyond this he told you that that he is going to re-finance it, by paying off old debts -

in other words, the \$1.35 million is already due and owing, every penny of the \$1.35 million.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not say that every penny is due and owing; I said that the most of it, and some of it is for operating capital. As a matter of fact, I pointed out what was due and owing and I gave the figures.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would be obliged to the Hon. Minister if he would remind me as to what portion of this money will be for operating capital. As soon as he gets the first opportunity, let him tell this House what portion of this money will be for operating capital. I well remember that on Tuesday when the Opposition expressed its unwillingness to go on with this Resolution at such short notice, we were told from that side of the House that the money had already been spent. The money had already been owed away.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, again I said that with respect to the borrowing, almost all of it has already been approved by the House. Here today I gave a breakdown of what money was borrowed from the banks and the Port Department. I gave the year in which the money was borrowed and I said that this money is to be repaid plus the interest.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will remember that just a matter of seconds ago, I told the Minister how grateful I would be to him if he would seize the first opportunity to tell me or this Hon. House what sum of this \$1.35 million will be used for operating capital. The opportunity has presented itself to him in no uncertain terms, and what did he do? He jumped up and reminded us that he told us that in March 1964 - he gave us the month, the date and everything else, but the Minister would not dare tell us, although he has the opportunity to do so, what portion of \$1.35 million will be used as operating capital.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rose to correct the hon. member on a certain point. I have the right of reply and if there are any questions asked, I will reply to them.

Mr. HINDS: I really thought that the Minister was interrupting me to tell me now what sum is going to be used for operating capital; but do you know why he has not told me, Sir? There is no sum for operating capital. All the B.M.C. intend doing is to pay off the old debts and the banks will go along allowing them over-drafts. That is all. On Friday after Friday the B.M.C. has been shuttling between the banks and other individuals in order to know where they are going to get money to pay wages at the end of the week. That is how the B.M.C. has been operating, like some pork-knocking business around the street corner.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The B.M.C. pays its wages and salaries through one bank; so I do not know what the

hon. member means about shuttling between the banks and other individuals.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister knows as well as you and I would know that before the B.M.C. can pay its wages or salaries from a particular bank, it should first have inside that bank, either cash or an agreement or arrangement. You do not pay through a bank like that; you must get something in the till first. The Minister knows that; but he is rising in the hope of throwing me off my stride. Sir, the longer he keeps me on my feet, the worse it will be for the B.M.C. in the end, but he has his numbers. The point I am arguing is this, that with the marketing experience of the business community there are people who would perhaps be glad to take over the B.M.C. and run it without saddling the taxpayers to the extent to which they are now being saddled, who would operate it to the benefit in truth and in fact, not to the total or the particular benefit of the producer, but also be of some benefit to the producer.

11.35 a.m.

Why is it that these shipping experts, the shipping magnate, and the people in the shipping business who now stand to benefit when we are exporting yams, flying fish, or breadfruit - why is it that all of these people have not been approached and brought together to see what concrete suggestions they would make to put the B.M.C. on a sound footing without every now and then carrying out, what we may call, a rape on the taxpayers?

I say that the Minister has a duty to perform. I am not convinced that the Minister has any confidence whatsoever in the success of the B.M.C., even after it has been refinanced. I am not convinced because, as I have said earlier - could one believe for a single moment, bearing in mind that on being elected to the House, through a particular constituency, you are a member of the House and you must function for the good of the Island as a whole - could the Minister of Agriculture, as the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, be expected to have a greater interest in seeing the Barbados Marketing Corporation succeed than one would expect him to have in the Haggatts Factory in Scotland, St. Andrew? Could we expect that of him?

The Minister has never stood up to tell us of any of these good things that could be done to save Haggatts from going to ruin, or to keep the number of people who were employed at Haggatts Factory in employment. The Minister, like some others, can talk when it suits him, about how many people are employed in this industry and that industry - and industry like International Scientific Limited. They will tell you how many are employed there, but they do not tell you how many the white men up there kick and beat, and throw out of the place without a cent! I do not like to mention anything about International Scientific Limited because the Prime Minister has friends up there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this Resolution the Minister of Agriculture tells us - if the Minister wants

to deny this, let him deny it - in introducing the Resolution that the \$1.35 million is debt. I am willing to let him examine the records, if possible. I made notes while the Minister was speaking, and he told us while addressing this Hon. House today that the \$1.35 million is debt. He did not tell us that part of it was operating capital. But he went on to tell us that the B.M.C. has given the fishing industry a shot in the arm.

Sir, we have some men who, during these months, can be seen "graining" fish with some guns, and I know that when those fellows make a dive - the fish has no arm, but when these fellows get a shock they will be knocked out. You will really see that the B.M.C. has given the fishing industry this shot in the arm that the Minister is talking about. Sir, do you know that since September, 1964, this Government have stopped giving loans to fishermen? Since September, 1964, they have not made a single loan to a fisherman. They do not loan one cent to build boats or to buy fish pots. The Minister can deny that, if he wishes. I repeat that since 1964 the Government have not loaned one boat-owner a penny!

We hear that the fishing industry received a shot in the arm. Some of the poor fishermen seem to have got shots in both feet and both arms, because they have to remain on shore. But the good points of the B.M.C. have to be put before this House. "The B.M.C. has a stabilising influence on the price of food crops in Barbados", says the Minister. I do not want to go into such details as to the price of yams, or sweet potatoes, around Cheapside Market or Fairchild Street Market areas.

What we have learnt from the Minister's mouth is that the B.M.C. has been buying bad food, bad supplies, bad carrots, and trying to pass them off on you and me, and that has been a stabilising influence on the price of food crops!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is unfortunate that some of us when we listen do not hear things correctly. I said that the B.M.C. has, in order to give an incentive to farmers, been purchasing carrots which were not of the best quality. I did not say that the carrots were bad. It is a question of grading, and, after having bought them, because they were not of the proper grade, they could not sell them and they spoiled. 11.45 a.m.

This was the case of lots of farmers who did not have the proper advice at the time. I did not say it is happening today. They are getting advice through the Department and are producing a better quality commodity.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to leave the Minister alone and not reply to that point at all. The Minister has just spoken again about the advice that farmers were not receiving. Before this Government came into power and the Barbados Labour Party held the Government of this country, the peasant farmers throughout the Island received free,

gratis and for nothing, advice from the Peasant Agricultural Instructors. I remember T. O. "Tom" Phillips and others going from village to village in the parishes instructing the peasant farmers; I remember them going to the elementary schools.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation, I pointed out to the hon. member that there has been over the past four years a shortage of trained Agricultural Assistants to work in the Extension Service, and with the best will in the world three or four people could not do the job of advising peasant farmers today. The incidence of planting of food crops today is higher than it was in the days when the Barbados Labour Party ran this country. The position then was that most of the land was planted in sugar cane, and because the type of cane was not as good as the type that exists today we were producing the same amount of sugar on more land; so more land is available today for food crops. Hence the few advisers which we have had over the past years were not enough to advise the farmers who have gone into the production of food crops as efficiently as one would have liked. This is the point I made, and not that you do not have the officers. We did not have enough, and we have been having difficulty in recruiting others.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if it is that we do not have enough officers today because of an increased number of peasants growing food crops, one has got to look at what really is driving some of these peasants into food crop production. I hardly would like to mention anything about this 'cane blade' talk, but what has happened in some respect is this: the peasants, like the plantations, have been finding it increasingly difficult year after year to get their canes reaped. If the plantations that can pay all sorts of bonuses and profits cannot get their canes reaped, what do you think of the poor peasant farmer who has a quarter of an acre, half an acre, or maybe one or two acres? He is being forced to do something else, but the Minister seems not to realise this. In years past the small peasant farmer who had what we term a few cane holes, a quarter of an acre, half an acre or two or three acres, went between the canes while they were still growing and reaped crops of cabbage and cucumbers which he had sown. These did not prevent his crop from growing, and these are the vegetables which the Minister is talking about.

What you will find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the poor peasant farmer finds himself in the position where instead of reaping sugar crop after a period of 18 months plus maybe two catch crops during the period when the canes were low, he is losing something somewhere and is being forced to concentrate on planting vegetable crops which the Marketing Corporation will buy, though they are not up to the best standards, even if they cannot sell them afterwards. I am not saying that that is the whole story surrounding the peasant farmers' activities today, but it is in very great measure a case in point.

Just look at how the Democratic Labour Party started out their Government! Everything they have

ventured into from the time they came into office was started before they were ready. Here the Minister is telling us about agricultural diversification. I am not suggesting that the Minister does not know what he is talking about, but he knows very well that if it is going to succeed it will mean an increased number of peasant farmers operating and an increased acreage to be planted. The Minister tells us that he is venturing out on this agricultural diversification scheme, well knowing that there is a shortage of trained personnel to advise these people. The Minister knows that we on this side know....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the correct tense was the perfect tense which I used. There has been.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I still maintain that we on this side of the House know to what extremes Government had to go to retain the services of the Chief Technical Officer and others in the Ministry of Agriculture, but what we are saying is that in the 1940's and 1950's the Ministry of Agriculture used to train their own Peasant Agricultural Officers. What has become of that scheme? If you are hoping to advance in agriculture and you have been training twelve officers a year, should you not, before venturing to throw away \$1.35 million every now and again, set out to train, if not two dozen, eighteen or twenty officers a year so that you do not have farmers growing the wrong type of produce? As the Minister has pointed out to us, the farmers have been producing a type of carrot that grows too large and the perishability is much more rapid.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of elucidation.....

Mr. HINDS: In such a case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the peasant has been growing a carrot that is too big and does not last as long, what you will find is this:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has risen on a point of elucidation.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, I draw Your Honour's attention to Standing Order No. 28 which reads as follows:-

"No Member shall interrupt another Member except by rising to a point of order to elucidate some matter raised by that Member in the course of his speech, provided that the member speaking is willing to give way and resumes his seat and that the member wishing to interrupt is called by the Chair."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order,...

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am speaking on a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I rose on a point of elucidation before the hon. member got up, and I said clearly that it was a point of elucidation; so I do not see how the hon. member's point of order could supercede my own.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The hon. member used the word "elucidate", and that is why I got up on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew can only make his point if the hon. junior member for St. Peter gives way.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: And he did not give way, but remained standing.
11.55 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaking on a point of elucidation, the hon. member as a result of what I have said about the shortage of staff, has criticised the Ministry on the fact that we are not training our officers. I should like to explain to the hon. member that the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute was established and was operating during the time of the Federation where the officers from the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados - and when I refer to the officers, I mean the Agricultural Assistants who work in the Extension field - these officers were sent to Enfield for two years' training. After the breaking up of the Federation, this training was not readily available to Barbadians because the Trinidad Government took charge of the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute, and it has been only recently that we have been able to get our recruits who went back to Trinidad for training at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute. Last year when we had the Prime Ministers' Conference of the West Indies here in Barbados, this matter was one of the strong points raised at the Conference; we wanted to know what was happening to the interest of Barbados in the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute because we were not having people trained. As a result of that, we have been able to get people trained as officers, and they are leaving here on the 3rd or 4th September to go to the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute for training as Agricultural Assistants. That is the answer. The breaking up of the Federation has been the result of our not having our officers trained to do the work as Agricultural Assistants in the Research and Extension field. We have only been able to get the policy sorted out this year, and we are having young recruits sent down to Trinidad next week for training as Agricultural Assistants. There are nine such vacancies now in the Ministry of Agriculture which we cannot get filled, because these jobs are jobs which require training. You must have at least two years' training at Enfield. That is what I have been saying.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us leave the peasant Agricultural Instructors aside for a moment. The B.M.C. got down some Canadian consultants and amongst the recommendations, there are noted here, in part, I suppose, in the Addendum to this Resolution. They are (a) organization and management; (b) policy. The Minister, evidently reading the Addendum, tells us that action has been taken on the recommendations in respect of (a) and (b) and the re-arrangement of the financial structure of the Corporation is now being undertaken, which is the

financial structure as recommendation (c). Now if the Corporation is acting on the advice of these consultants, it has attended to (a) and it has attended to (b); but in respect of (c) the Corporation is saying that a re-arrangement of the financial structure is now being undertaken. If we are told that in the Addendum, would it not then be fair to this House for the Minister and his Corporation to complete (a), (b) and (c) and then come and tell us what is happening? In other words, according to this Addendum, this House should not be brought in at this stage, because they tell us in the Addendum: "We have fulfilled the conditions in (a), we have fulfilled the conditions in (b) and as regards (c) we are now re-arranging our financial structure." You get about with your arrangement - that is what we are asking of the Minister - and after you have completed (a), (b), and (c), then you can come and tell us; and since I have been on my feet, I have opened avenues and shown ways and means whereby the Corporation can expedite the re-arrangement of its financial structure.

As I have said, it has such a good design, promises run so high that the Minister tells us that he is sure that while not wanting to be associated with anything in the past with the Corporation, things will be all right in the not too distant future. I know that quite recently, somebody carried away or attempted to carry away one of the lorries belonging to the Corporation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member has said that we should re-organise the finances of the B.M.C. and then come to Parliament. The hon. member knows, if he reads the B.M.C. Act, that you can only get money for the B.M.C. by a Resolution brought into the Legislature, and that is exactly what we are doing. We have completed phase (a), we have completed phase (b) and now we have come to the Legislature for approval for borrowing the money for re-financing the Corporation. That is exactly what we are doing. I have already pointed out the loans which have been made over the years, and every loan that was taken up by the B.M.C. was approved by the Legislature.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the Minister telling us that when the B.M.C. borrowed money from the Port Authorities or the Port Contractors that it had come by way of Resolution to borrow this money?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can allay the fears of the hon. member. That is exactly what was done. As long as the Government is guaranteeing it, it has to be approved by the Legislature.

12.05 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is now clear to us that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is afraid to approach the farmers, its potential suppliers of produce; it is afraid to approach its exporting agents and shipping interests. All of these, I am saying, are people who ought to have an interest and ought to be encouraged to invest in this organisa-

tion, but the shorter road to refinancing an institution such as this is definitely by coming to the Legislature because the Government have their numbers.

What we have to concern ourselves with is that at paragraph 6 it is stated:

"The amount required to meet payments by the Government in respect of the \$700,000 mentioned in the preceding paragraph will be included in the Estimates."

In short, we are today being asked to approve of this \$700,000, and if we do so today we cannot then go against it when it appears in the Estimates, because we will have already approved of it today. This is one of the reasons why I feel that the B.M.C. ought to have gone about refinancing its operations in a different manner. All I can say is that the B.M.C. is only refinancing a hope of borrowing money tomorrow. All this \$1.35 million will enable the Barbados Marketing Corporation to do is this. Evidently when it borrows these various loans from various banks, particularly the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as it has done on many occasions - \$100,000, \$130,000, and so on - evidently the banks have been told that they cannot lose their money and will get it back.

All we are asked to do today is to approve of this sum, and the Manager of B.M.C., or the Minister or whoever it might be - I should say the Minister of Finance, because this is a matter of finance, and no Minister other than the Minister of Finance has any right to go to any bank talking about big finance without the authority of the Minister of Finance. This is a financial matter, and the Minister of Finance should be going to the banks tomorrow to say: "We told you we would be able to pay you back; the money has been paid; so you can start lending the B.M.C. money again as from tomorrow." I do not want to say anything further on this Resolution.

There are considerations being given to employees of the B.M.C. As regards the former employees at Haggatts Factory in St. Andrew, no consideration was given to them. There was no question of seeing whether a bank would advance money, taking into consideration the fact that the peasant farmers had not completed the reaping of their crops, to keep the factory going. As far as the poor peasant farmers were concerned, canes do not grow like carrots. If B.M.C. had been the marketing agents, even after the canes began to rot, they might still have been able to pass off the roots down there; but the Scotland sugar cane growers were cut off even before the crop season had ended! The remarkable thing about it is that both the Minister of Agriculture and his Permanent Secretary who are the Minister and Deputy Minister, so to speak, of Agriculture.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has risen on a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the cane farmers of St. Andrew are the people who closed Haggatts Factory by not sending their canes to the factory. The factory cannot operate unless you send canes to it.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is surprising to me to hear from the Minister, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, that the peasant farmers in St. Andrew are the people who went and closed the doors to Haggatts Factory while their canes were still unrealed and unharvested! Mr. Deputy Speaker, are we hearing from the senior member for St. Andrew that the parishioners of St. Andrew are the persons who are guilty, and their conduct has been such as to bring about the closing of Haggatts Factory, while they themselves had to try by whatever means that were available to them, even if they had to appeal to the same hon. senior member for St. Andrew as the Minister of Agriculture, to help them to provide trucks to get their canes over the hills? Does the Minister want us to believe that the people of St. Andrew care so little about themselves and the crops they have planted?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. It is not that the people of St. Andrew care so little about themselves; they care too much about themselves, because they get more money for the canes when they send them over the hills.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The hon. Mover of the Motion will have his chance to reply.
12.15 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, in order that the hon. member may not make this mistake again, I should like to point this out to him. The point dealing with elucidation I have already dealt with, but on the question of a point of order, "no member shall interrupt another member except by rising to a point of order when the member speaking shall resume his seat and the member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman for decision." When the hon. member constantly rises just to correct something, he is breaking that Standing Order. I am sorry I should have to say it in your presence as if I were reminding you of it, but I am reminding members on the other side of it; and the hon. member has a chance to reply.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, according to the same Standing Order which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has drawn to attention, no one can determine what is a person's point of order until it is made. The Speaker made a ruling on my point of order; he did not consider it to be a point of order, but the Speaker was in duty bound to listen to what I said because he could only determine whether it was a point of order after I had

completed it. Nobody can stop me getting up on a point of order even if it is not a point of order. So long as a misinterpretation is made, it is my democratic right and privilege to get up and make a point of order, and it is for the Speaker or Deputy Speaker to tell me after I shall have made my point that it is not a point of order; so do not get on with any nonsense.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister conveniently lays emphasis on the number of persons who are employed in any particular industry, and he even cites that as one of the primary reasons why we on this side of the House must support the intention of any undertaking which Government is willing to see continue. As I said earlier, each cane-cutter in St. Andrew and the nearby parishes, each cane-header, each loader, lorry driver and lorry hand has somebody dependent on him; so if the Minister decided between himself and the Parliamentary Secretary - that they should have nothing to do with the people who were working at Haggatts Factory and they were going to lay them off, are we to understand that they did not take into consideration the families of the people who are dependent on the turnover of Haggatts Factory? Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember those motor lorries changing gears and coming up the hills with loads of sugar destined for Bridgetown. I know the number of persons that had to be employed at the Bridgetown Port. Are we to understand that all these people mean absolutely nothing to the Minister, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, and the hon. junior member for St. Andrew when they decided to close Haggatts Factory at the time they did?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am appealing to the Minister in all seriousness. I wonder if he can tell me how many vegetable farmers have been dealing with the Marketing Corporation? How many hawkers and hucksters have been buying wholesale from the Marketing Corporation? That is where we can determine in some small measure what part the B.M.C. has been playing in stabilising the prices of vegetables in this Island. The Minister told us that from its inception, the Barbados Marketing Corporation was in debt, and that this is money to pay off old debts. I will tell you now that if the Minister really and truly wanted this money for the B.M.C. to have an operating capital, he would have had to come for a larger sum; but he knows the feeling of this side of the House, and he knows that the same sort of consideration should have been given to Haggatts Factory before they decided to close it down as was given to C.B.C. and is being given to the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It is all right for us to hear that there are 200 people employed, but just a few nights ago an attempt was made to carry away the safe from the B.M.C. Let the Minister get up and deny it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I just want to hear from the hon. member if he said that they carried away the safe or if they went to carry away the safe.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I do not like these statements going unchallenged, and in fairness to the Minister who was out of the House, I should like to say that the hon. member asked the Minister to deny that a few nights ago an attempt was made to carry away the safe. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: What is he speaking on?) Shut up, you bloody idiot! I am speaking on a point of order. The Minister was out of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the hon. member said that a few nights ago they attempted to carry away the safe. When I reach the stage that the hon. member can teach me any procedure in Parliament, I hope to be six feet down. The convulsed, monumental idiot is telling me to shut up.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has made his point of order, but the Chair would ask him to control himself in using such expressions.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The expression "monumental idiot" is not unparliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not rule that it was unparliamentary.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I am not objecting.....

Mr. HINDS: The point I was making is this.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has risen on a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not objecting to the words used to me or to anybody. I am objecting to the words "bloody idiot" used in this Parliament, and I am asking that they be expunged from the record.

Mr. MOTTLEY: They cannot be expunged from the record. I say again "bloody idiot" and I challenge you to say they are unparliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that I do not consider the words to be unparliamentary, but I do not deem them to be the best type of language. The Chair will not sit by and allow hon. members to ignore the Standing Orders of this Honourable Chamber. If the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is going to address the Chair, please let him stand. (ASIDES). Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter continue.

Mr. HINDS: I would be glad to proceed, but I cannot in this sort of confusion. There is disorder in the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no disorder.

Mr. HINDS: In the absence of disorder, I will proceed. The Minister has been at pains to put the advantages of the B.M.C. and to show where the farmers stand to benefit.

12.25 p.m.

He was even careful enough to tell us that all the telephones at the B.M.C. are available to the peasant farmers.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I rise to deny that. I did not say that all the telephones at the B.M.C. are available to the peasant farmers. I said that the telephones at the Ministry are available to peasant farmers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not have the authority to stop an hon. member from rising on a point of order or on a point of elucidation, but the hon. mover of the Resolution has the right of reply and it would be better if he would make notes as the debate proceeds and then cover all those points in his reply.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has risen on a point of order.

Mr. HINDS: He has to make his point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has risen on a point of order, and I have said that it is not within my power to prevent an hon. member from rising on a point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Is it within my power to refuse to give way?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Not on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Or elucidation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has made a statement saying that I said something which I did not say and it is not for me to wait until I am replying to refute anything.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and no other person can cross me on a point of order.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am on my feet on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. senior member for St. Andrew please sit? That is not a point of order. (ASIDES).

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. senior member for St. Andrew please sit?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will honour your ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said that the hon. junior member for St. Peter has made a statement which the hon. senior member for St. Andrew did not make. That cannot be a point of order. The hon. member has risen on a point of elucidation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I now rise on a point of order to say that the hon. member accused me of making a statement which I did not make.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again I say that that is not a point of order. Will the hon. senior member for St. Andrew please sit?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will get up again on a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of elucidation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But the hon. junior member for St. Peter has not given way.

Mr. HINDS: If the hon. member is rising on a point of elucidation, I am not giving way. Now, Sir, I have here in my notes that the Minister has said that the telephones at the Department are available to the farmers. I had really interpreted that to mean that he was referring to the telephones at the B.M.C. but, Sir, if the Minister is saying that he meant the telephones at the Ministry, it serves the same purpose for my point of argument. Let us picture the peasant farmers scattered throughout the length and breadth of Barbados; let us for a single moment picture those peasant farmers at the Risk Hill in St. Peter, bordering St. Lucy; let us at the same time think of some of those around Hillaby up there by old Mrs. Swain! (ASIDES.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Peter is addressing the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: What purpose would the telephones at the Ministry serve the peasant farmer, bearing in mind that one peasant farmer in some cases, in order to get a telephone message, has to go for his little donkey, harness it, get in his cart, give the donkey two hot lashes, drive it beyond the walk, break the speed limit and drive for three miles, perhaps more, before he can get the use of a telephone to telephone the Ministry to let them know that he has some sort of vegetables or to enquire how the market is going or something of the sort. You will understand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if the Minister had told us that the Cabinet had given consideration to placing telephones throughout these areas where a peasant farmer may have to walk, for half a mile or three quarters of a mile and put a coin in the slot and call up the Ministry or whoever he wants to call up, in connection with the sale of the vegetables, I would then be hearing of the benefits to the farmers

of these telephones being placed at the Ministry. The Minister has pulled everything he has out of the box in order to make out a case for the B.M.C. I will tell you this, that it is his sheer weight of numbers that will bring him through today. Had I any influence on the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Bridgetown or if I had that amount of influence on any business in Bridgetown or any business section of the community, I would have advised them of their running a great risk. Why is that? They will wake up one morning sooner or later to find that the weight of numbers no longer rests on that side, and there and then they might find that the B.M.C. will have to find other avenues to finance its misdeeds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that I have said enough on this Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not intend to say anything on this Resolution which is before us today, but there are a few points which I would like to clear up. (MEMBERS: We cannot hear.) This Resolution is asking for \$1.3 million... (Mr. HINDS: \$1.35 million) to finance the Barbados Marketing Corporation and I thought that we were only dealing with this Resolution for \$1.3 million (Mr. HINDS: \$1.35 million); but I heard the hon. junior member for St. Peter bring in Haggatts Factory and say that the Minister of Agriculture and his Parliamentary Secretary have closed down Haggatts Factory.

12.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. In the first place, I never said that the Minister of Agriculture and the junior member for St. Andrew had closed Haggatts Factory. I never said so, Sir.

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

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can assure you that, if you trace back, you will see or read that the junior member for St. Peter has said that I, the Parliamentary Secretary, have joined with the Minister of Agriculture to close Haggatts Factory.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation. I never said that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has not given way.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want the hon. member to realise that Haggatts Factory could not work because it was not receiving sufficient canes. That is why it was closed. The junior member for St. Peter has machinery, and if he cannot get paper his machinery cannot operate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought the hon. junior member for St. Andrew had risen to speak on the Motion before the House, but it seems as though he is referring to points made by the previous speaker. I would prefer him to speak on the Motion.

Mr. CORBIN: I will stick to the motion, Sir. I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if the Corporation is borrowing money the Government will have to approve it. I can assure anyone that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is worthwhile carrying on, and it will help the farmers who are now planting various crops. It gives every man who has land a hope, because he knows where he will get his produce sold.

If the Corporation is borrowing money to carry on its business, I will agree to that. But you must remember that if I lend you money, you must pay it back. If I lend a man money, I look for him to pay it back. I am sure in the process of time the Barbados Marketing Corporation will be able to take care of itself, and it will not have to continue to come here and ask us to loan it money.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to be very brief. In these days, as I get older, I find that there is not much sense in prolonging the agony, although at times it affects your opponents.

Now, so far as this Resolution is concerned, here is where I join hands with the Hon. Prime Minister: the one newspaper in this country which should be here to report matters of importance taking place in this House - the disloyalty of the reporters to the people who have been paying them, for Party reasons, is something shocking in this country, but we hope that in a few months they will all pay for it. I say 'the disloyalty and dishonesty of the reporters!' When this House was first opened, a letter was given stating what they were going to do, and what they were not going to do. I know you are giving me a chance to digress on this point for a minute, Sir.

Anyway, the Leader of the Opposition will tell you now that I took a stand in politics in the Conservative Party, and for nothing whatsoever could he swing me round or say that I came out and told him something. I took up my stand; I was loyal to the Party to which I belong. If the Press had been giving the public the necessary information in respect of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, it could not have gone so far.

Maybe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, hon. members on the other side would like to know of the origin and the coming about of the Marketing Corporation. I suppose only the Leader of the Opposition, the senior member for St. Joseph, the Minister of Communications and Works, and the Minister of Health will remember this. The late Mr. Henry Arthur started in a small way to bring peasant farmers together, and started in a small way to buy greens from them, and he influenced the then Government-in-power to do something which resulted in the Peasants Loan Bank. This is the origin of the whole matter, and I am sure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will recall all of this. He was the late Mr. Henry Arthur, member for St. Thomas, where my friend the Minister of Communications and Works represents now.

Sir, having that as the background, it is difficult to understand how this Company has been losing money all these years. What is happening; what is wrong? It is a good thing. All of us supported the Barbados Marketing Corporation. This whole House supported the Marketing Corporation. It is one of these things that when it was brought about, one felt that the peasant farmer would be able to have some place to sell his vegetables; but it has gone a bit further. It seems to me, and, if I make any statement that is incorrect, I will give way to the Minister and sit down, although I do not have to give way on any point of elucidation.

12.45 p.m.

It seems to me that instead of being run for the farmers, it is being run now for a few people. If you were to take this business and put it into the hands of two businessmen like Goddard or Kenneth Hunte in Bridgetown, by the end of December it would show a profit, and they would not chase away anybody. They would however not buy okras when they know they are too old. I challenge from the Leader of the Opposition back to the Chairman of Committees to deny that when they send to the shop to buy okras and they are too old, they do not send them back and say they are too old to get enough slime for the coucou. Something has been going wrong there. On the last occasion when we had to speak on this matter, it was public knowledge that money had been lost, strayed or stolen, and we have not in this House been able to tell the public anything more than that the Government had removed the Chairman. We cannot say with any authority how much money was paid back.

Now you are asking for \$1.35 million and the Minister has explained how this is to work, what you owe away, what you have to pay and what is for capital. Attempts have been made by the Government that if they want a bag of sugar - and you can check me if I am wrong - they must buy it from the Marketing Corporation. If the Hilton Hotel or any Government Department wants something, they must buy it from the Marketing Corporation, and when the Marketing Corporation has not got it, they send into the City and buy it from merchants who are in competition. What do you expect, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This was never the intention when the Marketing Corporation started. It was started to help peasant proprietors, and I hope it will last for helping peasant proprietors. I hope the statement which I will make now will cause the Minister to look into this. The feeling is that the Marketing Corporation is being run as a Democratic Labour Party institution, and certain things are usually put aside for certain people. This is wrong. You cannot run a Government institution like that. We are not asked to vote this money for the Transport Board. I am a Conservative, but I realise that there are certain things which must be run even if they are run at a loss. Even when I took my stand on the Transport Board, I realised that it was becoming such an important Department in this country that it had to be run. Why has the Marketing Corporation gone into the selling of imported milk? Was it

established to sell imported condensed milk? The answer to that is "no". You had James A. Tudor, Goddards, Perkins, Bryden and everybody in competition with this. You even had the Marshal at the Low Budget Super Market. No member in this House can honestly tell me that he thought that the Marketing Corporation would be established to be in competition with the Chamber of Commerce from which we derive revenue for running the country.

If you could come here today and tell me that as a result of helping peasant proprietors you have lost money and could show me chapter and verse, I would vote for this; but you cannot do it. It is surprising to know the Heads under which you have been losing money. The pork section you have brought upon yourself. I see pork being sold at 60¢ a pound, and then I see the Marketing Corporation paying all sorts of prices. \$6,000 were paid for pork which was credited out and you do not know who has it. (A VOICE: Those were the farmers' pigs.) They are not the farmers' pigs, but you still have a lot of dishonest people down there. You got rid of a dishonest Chairman and now you have Calvin Sides. How many convictions has Calvin Sides had? How much money has he lost from DaCosta, Musson and Company? You removed Johnson because he carried away money, but how many convictions have Calvin Sides had for larceny? I would not vote for this if it was the last thing I voted for in this House. Maybe you wonder where I got the information from, but I belong to the Conservative Party. The reputation of this man is known from Venezuela back down. You are building sheds and other things. You talk about pork, but do you know that a lot of pork was bought, credited out and you do not know where the money has gone?

I have always admired the Minister in charge of this portfolio for his frankness in coming to the House, but there are times when he has got to cover up for his Department. All things that are lawful, are not expedient. You want this \$1.35 million and you are putting a man in charge whom we know had criminal convictions. You have removed one that showed he was a criminal. The Hon. Minister knows what I am saying is true, and this is a bad thing for Barbados. We support the Marketing Corporation in Barbados to help the peasants; but the helping of the peasants must not drain the Treasury, and this is really a drain on the Treasury. Do you know that certain banks in this country have refused to advance any money in this respect whether the House passes it or not?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking the hon. member to give way in order to move that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

12.55 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, observing that there is no quorum present, I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, let the Bell be rung. I thank the hon. member.

On the Bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Frankly, Sir, some of us would like to know what do we go by as regards time. I say this without offence, I hope, whether we go by Your Honour's watch, the Public Buildings' clock or the time which this clock here shows.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that so far as to-day, up to now, is concerned - I have only now assumed the Chair - we have been going by the Public Buildings clock. *(Laughter)*.

I understand that immediately prior to the suspension of the Sitting, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown was addressing the Chair. That hon. member may, if he wishes, now resume his speech. *(Hon. J. C. TUDOR rose)*.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I see that the Hon. Leader of the House is on his feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not risen on a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I was attempting to say a few words on this very controversial matter in respect of which the "Advocate", the only daily newspaper in this Island, was keeping the facts from the people because of the disloyalty of some of its Reporters and the dishonesty of some. It is time that somebody says this in this House. I bet that they do not publish what I said about disloyalty and dishonesty. *(Hon. J. C. TUDOR rose)*. This is nothing to do with members of the House and I am not sitting down.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will give way. Is it a point of order?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If the hon. member is asking me to give way to go on to Private Members' Business or Question Time, I am not doing it. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Oh, well.) This is a very important matter that we are discussing today. There is only one "Advocate" man in the House, and this is where I agree with the Prime Minister. They do not publish anything which is said in the House; they do not apprise the public of the facts. What is the sense of having this type of newspaper? It is time that you bar the reporters from coming into the House because all you can see published is an Addendum and something which a Minister has said. (Mr. SARGEANT: That is not true.) Don't tell me that it is not true because the policy has been changed since they have got the cat-o'-nine tails behind them. I have not got much chance of buying off anybody or firing anybody from any job or getting the Government to fire anybody out of any job. You can publish anything I say; you have a right to publish what is said on the floor of this House.

I am definitely disturbed at the fact that while it is true that a substantial sum of this money is from 1963-64 - the balance of Capital Works and so on - I will repeat what I said. We had every opportunity of prosecuting the Head of this Department, the Chairman, and you would have got everybody pulling his socks together. I ask on the floor of the House: why you did not prosecute him? You ran a boy all through the Kew and prosecuted him, and what happened? Out you go. Do you think that the people in this country are foolish? You would not prosecute the man who was carrying away the money. The "Advocate" is saying nothing about it, other advertising media are saying nothing about it; but the milch cow, which is the taxpayer, is paying the money.

Let me ask this question. If they had come here today and told this House that the Barbados Marketing Corporation had been losing money as a result of buying fish and helping the fisherman - I knew when fishermen came in here and threw away about 600 or 800 flying fish because they could not sell them - but that is not so; they are making a handsome profit out of the fish business, the cold storage business. No one can deny this. I understand that before I came in here, the hon. junior member for St. Peter took away some of my thunder by suggesting that you should ask the peasants, and so on, to come forward as a Co-operative. That is a very wonderful suggestion. Why are you losing so much money? I stood up here and said that I knew as a fact that nearly the entire crowd which you employ down there think that this is a Democratic Labour Party Institution, or a shop, and that when people come in to buy - I do not accuse any Minister of this, and especially the Minister in charge - they just assess you, and if you have not got your passport by one way or the other, the things are set aside, and other people can come in and get them. All of that is wrong. I knew a friend who was on the Board - he was a kitchen gardener for years and years; other people would offer things, they would refuse to buy them and then they would take some things which were not marketable from other people. That is not the way to do

business. Do you think that that could happen to a man like James Tudor or Victor Goddard who know something about business? The amount of 52% of the profits of private enterprise is going to the Government as a silent partner; that is the case with people in private enterprise and you are carrying condensed milk, you are buying sugar to sell to the Hilton Hotel and making nothing on it! What sort of business is this? You are bound to lose money.

I know the origin of the Barbados Marketing Corporation; I know how it was started. It was started primarily to help the peasants. But what do you find today? You lose pork, and how do you lose all of this pork in the refrigerator? What went wrong? How much pork went out that was bad? You have three or four carcasses at the top bad, and 42 carcasses at the bottom good, and that is how you are losing money. Do you not think that Mr. Goddard or Mr. Tudor would have had somebody at every door and corner to see what was going out? When you come to the end of the day, everybody is drawing his salary. The milch cow is paying; the House of Assembly is going to vote the money. You have a majority and therefore you are bound to pay. You are drawing your \$500, \$600 or \$800 a month, and everybody is drawing his money. All of that is wrong. Even the most diehard of us is willing to concede that there are certain things which you would have to subsidise, but there is no reason at all in the world for subsidising the Barbados Marketing Corporation, and that is all that we are doing. Why should the Minister not let the people down there know that this is for the benefit of the public, and not an institution run for the Democratic Labour Party? The people who belong to the Democratic Labour Party go in and get the best things picked out, and one-half of things are hidden inside. All of that is wrong; and then you come in and ask us to vote money like this! Even with cut-plate money, this is a lot of money - \$1.35 million. Lord have mercy! There is nothing wrong with that; I am asking God to have mercy on the souls of all of us who would vote for this money, but not me. I said here today that I knew that there were banks who would refuse to lend this money whether the House was voting it or not, because they were not satisfied. When you go to borrow money from a bank, you have to show Balance Sheets and show how things are being worked and so on, no matter what was happening. I know that somebody wants to get up and make me a liar there. This was no easy matter to be able to get this money, but as long as the Government can give security - do you know what that means? You pay on the income tax, but on the trade tax you are running everything. You put on all the taxes and make them pay. You had a Chairman, you had misappropriation and now you appoint, what you call him - the sickle? You do not fall for people so. 2.40 p.m.

I know the Minister will defend this by saying that we have an Auditor and Accountant there whose duty it is to sign the cheques. That is not the way you will lose money. The man who signs the cheques - of course, you had a little mishap there, but I was told something quite different. You lose money when

you order things and only receive half of what you order, and you pay for more than what you receive.

I understand that the Corporation accepted okras knowing they were old. What do you do with okras when they are old? Ask the Minister of Communications and Works, because he knows about okras and cou-cou. I would like the Minister of Communications and Works to tell me what one does with old okras, but he would not look at me.

Sir I understand that the Corporation is exporting yams and potatoes, and it is importing milk. Let us deal with exporting yams and potatoes. It is a good thing to find some other market for these things I would like to warn the Government that when one has to pay 14¢ a pound for potatoes, and 14¢ a pound for yams in Barbados and one still finds difficulty in getting them, and when a woman with four or five children, wants to buy five or six pounds of yams to cook for children and is finding difficulty to get them, then I say that there should be some means of controlling this sort of thing. Imagine at a certain time of the year every yam is sent out of the Island, and we are left to suffer!

Sir, I would like to draw this matter to the Minister's attention: the Marketing Corporation imports potatoes and it sells potatoes. It sells potatoes - I may be wrong with the figure - let us say, 6¢ or 8¢ per pound. The Barbados Marketing Corporation does not know anything about business. Listen carefully to this. The Corporation had a big lot of potatoes. The merchants brought down some potatoes, and the potatoes could have been sold to the public at 2 ¢ per pound cheaper than the potatoes sold by the Corporation, but the Government refused to let the merchants sell the potatoes until the Corporation had sold all of its potatoes.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, unofficially I heard the hon. member with this, and I investigated the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I refer to the allegation made by the hon. senior member for the City that the Government refused to let the merchants sell their potatoes until the B.M.C.'s potatoes were sold. That is not true. The position is that potatoes coming to this country are subject to a control price, as the Minister of Trade will point out. Neither my Ministry, as far as I am aware, nor the Ministry of Trade, has issued any instructions not to sell the imported potatoes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister says that neither his Ministry, nor the Ministry of Trade, has issued instructions not to sell the potatoes, but is he saying that what I have said is not true? Is he prepared to say that what I have said is not true?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out that a thing does not become a point of order merely by prefacing it with the phrase "point of order". May I remind the hon. member who spoke first that he has the right of final reply? He may make a note of all the points to which he wants to reply, but he may not reply to them point by point. Let him not fall into the trap - not that anything is wittingly said, but it may be unwittingly said.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am saying that the Government has not, nor am I aware of the fact that this was done.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have been in here too long to get caught in any trap. "I know nothing about it," says the Minister, "and the Minister of Trade knows nothing about it." Will the Minister swear in this House that the B.M.C. was not selling potatoes; the merchants had potatoes that could have been sold at a cheaper price, and that the Ministry refused to fix the price at which potatoes could be sold? Answer that.

Mr. SPEAKER: No hon. member may swear in this House, and no hon. member may conduct a 'question-and-answer'. There can be no question-and-answer in here.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The B.M.C. has nothing to do with that. The B.M.C. got down all of the potatoes in the Island. The B.M.C. had the potatoes fixed at a certain price. Potatoes came in that could be sold at 2¢ or 3¢ per pound cheaper - (ASIDES) - Ask Mr. Reggie McConney about it then! I could open my mouth and talk, but I do not want to put anybody in trouble. Why did they refuse to fix the price for potatoes until the B.M.C. had got rid of its potatoes? That is what I would call delaying tactics. The general public had to wait until the B.M.C. got rid of its potatoes, and the people could have bought potatoes at 2¢ or 3¢ per pound cheaper.

The Minister thinks I do not know what I am talking about. I have not got into any debates here for a long time. These things are wrong. I am a hundred per cent behind the Marketing Corporation, because I know it will benefit the peasants as well as the general public. But when the Corporation begins to compete with other places, then it will soon be doing like Nkrumah and importing everything possible into this country. All of this is wrong. Do you want to get up, George? Get up man.

Mr. SPEAKER: I really do not understand whom the hon. member thinks he is addressing!

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: But there is no George to address in this House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You have not seen it, Sir.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Verily, verily, I am assured that this is a point of order?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has just mentioned my Permanent Secretary's name with reference to withholding the release of potatoes, because the Marketing Corporation had potatoes in hand. The Price Control Board is run under the jurisdiction of my Ministry.
2.50 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: What is the point of order that the hon. member is asking Your Honour to decide?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I am contradicting the statement. No such thing has ever happened in the Ministry to my knowledge.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point has been made.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is quite honest of the Minister. He said it has not been done to his knowledge, but surely he is not going to deny that potatoes were here when the B.M.C. had potatoes selling at a certain price when no price was fixed, and there were quite a lot of potatoes that could have been sold at a cheaper price. The hon. member need not take my word, but I can bring someone whose word I believe he will take, who was in charge of this and who knew that this actually happened and was going on for a matter of three weeks, and people's potatoes almost rotted. You are getting on with a lot of nonsense at the Marketing Corporation. You did not have to fix a price, but you could adopt delaying tactics. I am an old politician.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown because a Control Order.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Must this be allowed? The hon. member is jumping up making a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see two hon. members on their feet.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I did not hear the hon. member who is on the opposite side of the room say that he is on a point of order and I rose on a point of order.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, when I make a point of order, I make it to the Speaker and not to any specific person in here. It is no business of the hon. member what I rise on. I said "on a point of order" when I got up, and you are not Speaker in here!

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is addressing the Chair and he says that I am not Speaker in here!

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that under control prices, if certain commodities came into this country and could be sold

at a price cheaper than any person was selling them, there could be no restrictions. I cannot see if merchants had potatoes that could be sold at a cheaper price.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, is Your Honour going to allow a speech? What is the point of order which you are to decide? You have to rule what is a point of order.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for trade and there is an accusation made like this in here, it is my duty to clear it up, and I intend to clear it up, regardless of whether the hon. junior member for St. Joseph stands on his head instead of his feet.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, you can elucidate or correct something when you have made a speech and was misunderstood by the opposite side, but as Minister of Trade you cannot do it on a point of order. I am asking Your Honour to rule because we have reached the stage when we might just as well tear up the Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful for gratuitous counsel, but I do not regard myself as being bound by it.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, I was saying that control prices control the highest margin at which something can be sold.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: How could that be a point of order?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: If you do not like it, you can do what you like about it - both you and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that control prices control the highest possible margin.....

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Order.

Mr. HINDS: Order. Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order, I understand, is in the process of being made.

Mr. HINDS: And I have risen on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: That point must be duly completed. I will dispose of that point, and then attend to the hon. member's.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I feel it is my duty, when I am speaking and a member stands on a point of order, to sit. I sat and it is your duty to rule if what the member is saying is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again I am grateful for this gratuitous advice.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is not gratuitous advice. I am speaking as a man and a member of this House.

Is it my duty to sit if a member rises on a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is correct.

Mr. MOTTLEY: And it is your duty to rule if it is a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is correct.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Well, instead of going all around and causing confusion, rule if it is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not my fault whether confusion is caused in certain people's minds. As soon as the point is made, I will rule whether it is valid or invalid, but it has to be completed.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: When the hon. member tells you that he is speaking as Minister of Trade as to what happened in his Ministry, Your Honour has not got to wait until he finishes his speech. I will repeat what I said earlier.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended for 15 minutes on account of grave disorder. 3.00 p.m.

On resumption:—

Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I used the word "Ministry" when I should have used the words "Marketing Corporation" and if objection is taken to that, I will withdraw the word "Ministry". I should like to say as a fact that I think, when permission was sought to get produce in, which could have been sold at 2 cents a pound cheaper, there was no question of having a local commodity because you know that we could not grow enough Irish potatoes in Barbados to sell to the hotels in Hastings, never mind anywhere else. Therefore, it was the Barbados Marketing Corporation whose right it is and the Ministry which it comes under, which actually refused this. Sir, I will tell you something else; all these things are wrong with the Barbados Marketing Corporation for the simple reason that we are exporting yams to England. From my knowledge as a school boy, England is a very big place. You may have yams in Liverpool, Manchester, London and some other places. A permit was also refused by the Barbados Marketing Corporation to export yams because the Barbados Marketing Corporation had been exporting yams to London while some other person was exporting to other places. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is almost correct.) The hon. member says that it is almost correct and you know when he says that it is almost correct, it is nearly correct. With all this power which they have, do you mean to say that they are still losing money? We have had to back and guarantee this million dollars. I believe that the new Chairman is trying his best in his way and we will see what he can do. One thing we know is that he will put his best foot forward.

While I agree with the B.M.C. up to the point that it was started to help the kitchen-garden people and so on, it was never intended to import milk and all of these things. If therefore with a lot of West Indians in England now, and yams are taken in England, why should the B.M.C. deny the right of private people to export yams to England? This would be all right if the Ministry had said: "We cannot export any more yams because we have not got any more than would satisfy local consumption." That is not the case at all. They are just saying: "We have the right to sell them; you have no right selling them."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is not correct. It is not a question of the B.M.C. wanting to sell the yams and nobody else would sell them. In my reply, I will set the record straight.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Why does the hon. member get up so often?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I have the right to get up, and nobody can tell me when I am to get up or to sit down.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I thank you, Sir.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member says that I am partly correct. Am I straying too far afield?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for the City is addressing the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You are the only person I was addressing since I was here. I was not addressing anybody else. I may be straying too far afield, but I know as a fact, that they refused to issue a permit or licence for other persons to export yams, and the reason was not that we did not have more than we could use for local consumption. That, I know the Minister cannot deny. Whatever the other reasons are, we can only sum them up by saying that they had the right to export and they did not want any competition in this respect. However, Sir, I have made my contribution to this debate. I will not be voting for this Resolution and I would urge members of the Opposition not to vote for it in protest against this state of affairs. If you just sit down and allow this Resolution to be passed like this, the people at the B.M.C. will come to the conclusion that they can draw salaries, buy what they like, carry out loads of pork with two dead pigs at top, and sell the balance to whomever they like. They can write cheques, bring in pork and say that 7,000 pounds came in when only 2,000 pounds came in. This needs a protest, and no member of the Opposition should vote for this. Let them vote for it by the majority. We have already given an opportunity to the B.M.C., and why should

we give them a further opportunity now? Are we going on and going on like this? Are you coming with this sort of thing all the time? It is clearly understood that you have 40% in big business, then another 12% and the Government sits down as a silent partner. Is it not something to think of that the only business that the Government can control and they put it into private enterprise and it is making money, is the Harbour? If they take it over tomorrow, they will start to sink money from 7 o'clock in the morning. Everybody is happy; the Union is getting the prices it wants, and they are making money for the Government. With everything else they put their hands to, they are throwing away money.

I am not one of those people who believe that certain public utilities should not be subsidised, because there are certain public utilities which have to be subsidised for the benefit of the public. This is not a public utility; what is this? This is a shop which is set-up to buy things from peasants to prevent the peasants from throwing them away. The main thing is the fish. I would like the Minister to tell me now if they have ever lost one cent on the refrigeration of fish. I challenge them to say that they have been losing on this; what are you losing on? Fish is the biggest commodity which they have been handling and they have been making money on it. Then what are they losing money on? It is just, plain unadulterated stealing in high places and now, to cap it all, you bring in somebody who can show you how to steal better. Are you making fun? Should we sit down here and vote for this? I would think the members of the Opposition to be as corrupt if they sat down and voted for this thing that is going on. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is my contribution. I am not voting for this Resolution at all.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution for the sum of \$1.35 million joins the long line of Resolutions for money to plug up sink holes after the Democratic Labour Party Government has thrown the taxpayers' money down these sinks. We had the example of the Hilton Hotel - \$11 million - the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation - \$2 1/2 million - and now we have come down to the Barbados Marketing Corporation: and the Minister tells us, in fact, that we should be glad that he is only asking for \$1.35 million! We have had a speech in which the Minister has spent 90% of his time telling us what we all know, that the idea of a Marketing Corporation is a good thing. He was not quite right when he said that we agreed with it because we were concerned in starting it or something like that. He tells us that we were in favour of the establishment of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. We were not in favour of the B.M.C.; we created it, we started it in 1961. We left it there for the Democratic Labour Party to come along, mismanage it and make it necessary at this stage in 1968 for \$700,000 of losses to be written off. That is the chief point of omission in the Minister's speech - the fact that he has glossed over the question of the writing off effectively of \$100,000 a year of the monies lost in the operation of this Corporation. The B.M.C. is not going to be paying back this whole loan. Do not let

us fool ourselves with that. Right here we see that the Government will itself repay \$700,000 of the loan together with interest thereon over the period of ten years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are being asked at a time when the cost of living has risen as a result of devaluation, when Government Capital Development schemes have to be curtailed because of the lack of money - we are being asked to pay as a subsidy, as a monument to inefficiency, the sum of \$700,000 of the taxpayers' money. The Government cannot find money to build a secondary school, but they can find money to throw away - \$700,000 of it completely lost beyond repair - in their mismanagement of the B.M.C. over the last seven years. And every member of the Cabinet has to bear his share! You cannot look at the hon. junior member for St. Michael and the hon. senior member for St. Andrew alone. The hon. junior member for St. Michael, in fact, carried more of the responsibility, and I say that quite freely, for some of these losses, because it was during his time that the chief amount of the stealing went on; but the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, resolute though some of his steps were, still has not taken sufficient precaution to improve the attitude of persons down at the Barbados Marketing Corporation to a stage where stealing, fiddling and corruption will no longer be possible.

3.25 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, every word that the hon. senior member for the City, who has just sat down, said about the attitude of the people down there can be endorsed.

The Government and the principal Party in the Opposition alike are Labour Parties. As far as our Party is concerned, it has a belief in public ownership and a corresponding disbelief in private projects at the people's expense in spheres where it may not be appropriate. There can be no worse indictment on a Labour Party than it takes something into public ownership, or it operates something on a public basis and it throws away money like this.

Every attack that has been made on a Government that tries to practise democratic Socialism starts with the attack that Government cannot run things as efficiently as private business. The hon. senior member for the City represents private business, and it is obviously open to him to say that. As Labour Parties, we have to remember that this is the very thing we have to fight against. It seems that it is only true that in countries where Labour Parties come to power the Government cannot run things.

Students of history of the United States will remember in 1940 a part of Wendell Wilkie's campaign for getting the Government out of the Tennessee Valley Authority was that the United States Federal Government could run things so much better than private business that they would drive private businessmen out of operation and prevent them from making a profit. Indeed when President Eisenhower came into power, he sold a number of businesses

that had been making money - some of them had been owned by the United States Government for over one hundred years. President Eisenhower sold them to private businesses because he said the Government was operating these businesses so efficiently that private enterprise could not compete with them. That is what we should aim at, if we believe in Government enterprise. We should not aim at having a place like the Marketing Corporation where people feel that they are working for the Government, and it does not matter what happens with the money. Where else in Barbados, besides Mr. Geoffrey Johnson's own business, do you get provision businesses like this losing money on this scale?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a part of the trouble, of course, has been the personnel of the Corporation itself; but that has not been all of the trouble. We get back to the question of the Government itself. Things are condoned which should not be condoned. From the very minute that the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, after walking about telling a lot of lies that he loaned the Corporation money; he gave it his cheque because the Corporation needed money, and this was money to be repaid - *(ASIDES)*. He told this to the members of the Corporation and, I believe, to the Ministers also at different times. From the minute he was proved to be a dishonest vagabond, he should have been prosecuted instead of pursuing the court scandal, which the jury sent through the door. Surely, from the jury's point of view, these poor boys catching a pig carcass or two are as nothing compared to the Senators in the seats of honour drawing cheques for \$10,000 to put in their own pockets. The entire Marketing Corporation's attitude is what is at stake here.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the senior member for the City called on the members of the Opposition to vote against this, and this is certainly what we intend to do. We could not possibly, not conceivably, come in here to be asked to cast a verdict to 7 years' mismanagement and vote for the Resolution which seeks to bail out the Government from the 7 years of mismanagement. It is all foolishness about "The farmers need money, and there is no money there on a Friday to pay them, and they will have to scratch around." The farmers need money, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but our not voting for the Resolution is not going to stop the farmers from getting money. We have to be the conscience of the people in here. We know that the B.M.C. has been cruelly and wickedly mismanaged. It is speciousness in argument to suggest that if the Resolution is not voted for, that down at the B.M.C. the farmers will have to be told: "We have no money to buy your things." The things that are being bought from the farmers are not being bought to put in a glass-case. They are being bought to be resold. If buying things from farmers is so unprofitable that the House of Assembly has to vote money for them, then they should not be bought. The things are bought to be resold, and that is the purpose of buying things from farmers. It is not like motor cars which you are buying for Ministers or Ambassadors, which we will come to later on.

The question of the Shrimp Plant and how the capital had to be increased because it eventually cost \$410,000 to build all the refrigeration equipment - that is a question of making money. It is not only making money, but at \$30,000 a month, which is the figure the Minister gave us, it will only be a question of three years before that entire Shrimp Plant will be capitalised. Interest on capitalisation and depreciation at the rate of \$410,000 will be paid off in less than three years at the rate of \$30,000 a month. The fact that so much had to be spent to bring in this profit is something against the Resolution; you cannot bring that in aid of the Resolution. If \$30,000 a month is being paid by the Cold Storage, if the whole operation was carried on that basis, it would be a question of B.M.C. giving the Treasury \$700,000 in profit. They cannot claim the aid of the fact that the Cold Storage is making money to ask us to vote for this; that because the Cold Storage is making money, therefore the House of Assembly has to vote \$1.35 million to bail out the B.M.C. That, in effect, is what is being suggested. That is not serious argument, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister says that he does not want to be associated with anything that happened in the past, but he is associated with everything that happened. He has been in the Ministry since 1961, when the B.M.C. had been managed by the Democratic Labour Party Government, and the Minister was associated with what was happening then. All of us have to be associated with it. No man is an island, Mr. Deputy Speaker; each man is a piece of the main, as the poet said. No man is an island in the matter of Government and in the matter of collective responsibility. Everybody is together in this, and everybody has to sink or swim in it. As far as the members of the Opposition are concerned, we are not sinking with the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The Government have come to ask for bail for bailing out all their past misdeeds in the B.M.C., and we in the House of Assembly are being asked to vote a surety of \$1.35 million. The fact that we are going to sign the bail does not mean that we have approved the crimes. We in the Opposition think that there were crimes in the management of Barbados Marketing Corporation. I, Mr. Deputy Speaker, could never under any circumstances - if a Minister comes in here and says that "something has been going badly in the past; but let us forget it; put our hands in the taxpayers' money and see whether we can get it going properly in the future" - be a party to voting for such a Resolution. I would negate the entire idea of opposition for any person who is not bound by collective responsibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you were not there and you were on the floor of the House, I would expect you to vote against it, if Mr. Speaker were in the Chair, not being a member of the Government and not being obliged to do it. I hope that as many members as possible will come into the House and mark their protest at the mismanagement of the B.M.C. by voting against this Resolution.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution is asking us to give the green light to the Barbados Marketing Corporation to raise a very handsome amount of money. I term it that we are the backers of this note; we are not putting our hands into our pockets and paying out this money, but if and when the Barbados Marketing Corporation fails, we will have to pay it. Now, Sir, when the Manager of a bank is lending a borrower money with a backer, his eyes are on the account which the guarantor has on the bank, so that when the borrower fails the bank is protected; and it is happening now in this case. The bank is protected because they can put their hands into the guarantor's pocket and take it out and deposit it on the account of the borrower.

Now the Minister has not satisfied me; he has not really put up a case for this amount of money, and I am acting as if I am the Bank Manager. He should be in a position to tell me his turn-over if he gets this money, what are his new plans rather than tell me not to remember the past. How can we forget the past when it is bound up in the present, as far as this Corporation is concerned? It is my belief that this money is to pay off past debts, and this is where the B.M.C. is going to find itself in trouble again. No sooner than they get this amount and wipe off the slate, they are going to be in trouble by not having money to carry on. When one is borrowing money for a business, he cannot just borrow to pay off; he must borrow enough to pay off and to have some for working capital. I want to know what is in the back of the minds of the people who are running the Corporation, and the improvements they envisage to offset the interest on this money yearly. If you cannot satisfy me that your turnover will be such that you will be able to pay the interest, you are running into trouble again. It is all well and good for the Minister to get up here and tell us what is happening with the farmers. I daresay that if he calls upon the farmers who are benefiting from the Marketing Corporation, there would be no more than I can count on my fingers, or they may not be getting anymore than if they came to me every Friday or Saturday. How many farmers are benefiting from it? I am going to tell the Minister that the money that is going to be thrown away would buy every farmer, and you would still have the most of the money to put into the bank; so when you talk about farmers, I would like you to define the word "farmers". I take it that you mean those people with one and two acres, but not the plantations.

The hon. member mentioned diversification, but diversification is not a 'tomorrow' or 'next week' project. Diversification takes years, and the Minister and myself will die and go to Heaven before that comes into operation. Even if diversification takes place and you are planning at the Marketing Corporation to accommodate the commodities from your diversification, you are still a little too early. When you take a few thousand acres of land out of the cultivation of cane, what are you going to substitute? Are you going to bring in onions or English potatoes? When it comes to onions and English potatoes, I was

hearing ever since that there was so much to be done at the Agricultural Stations.

The Government has a few hundred acres of land in St. Andrew. How many fields have they used for diversification and what are they growing there? You have to set an example so that others can follow. You cannot ask for all this money to be spent and depend wholly and solely on the peasants. You could do that if you did not have land of your own; but if you want us to believe that planting canes is a thing of the past, you should tell us how many acres you have planted in vegetables and other crops. If you have not done this, why are you running so fast to borrow this money pending diversification? As I said, very few of us will be alive to see diversification really working, because when you plant a few onions and English potatoes and what not, what are you going to do with the people? It is no mean sport to have 200 or 300 workers on a plantation and you ask the plantation to plant half the canes in order to diversify. What are you going to do with the workers?

3.45 p.m.

I feel that you are making a very big mistake. You cannot throw away the old-time religion which is sugar cane. I think that the Government should take off their hats, form fours and go and beg the places which are buying the sugar to open their hands and do something to help us and let us try and keep that sugar cane growing. When the sugar-buying countries hear that Barbados is going to diversify and do this and that, they would not care about increasing the price of sugar. Let the people know that unless they can pay us a proper price, we cannot live and I do not think that those people would like to hear that the people in Barbados are dying from starvation when they could lend a hand by paying a few more dollars for our sugar. We have got to do that: and after that, we can then think about diversifying - cut off an acre this year or ten acres this year, try with that and see how it works. But how is the Minister going to do it? He has only mentioned the word. He should even have had it laid out and told us how he is going about it and how the farmers will benefit from it.

I am sure that one hon. member has mentioned it here today, that you should have advisers, people from the Agricultural Department going around and advising the farmers as to what to grow, how to grow it, when to grow it and make the necessary recommendations to the farmers, letting them think that they would not plant things which we cannot handle. Whose are those advisers? I think there is a shortage of them. I feel within myself that the Agricultural Department would do a better job or they would do more than what they are doing, but they are not paying these officers; they are not paying the men. Every now and then you can hear of one leaving the Department. The young ones who are hanging around the Department, I would not call them washouts, but they cannot do any better. Every one of them who can do better is not staying because the money is too small. You cannot get proper men to be working with you

if they are dissatisfied or you are paying small money. If you want to do big business, you have to pay big money. I can call the names of a few of the advisers who were in that Department, who would be able to advise the peasants and tell them what to grow; but what on earth can an adviser tell us here in Barbados to grow more than what we know already? I want to know if he will be making his own produce or something to produce dew. We have cabbage, beets and carrots. I can very nearly call everything that we can grow here in Barbados, and do you want an officer to tell you that? It is the other things which we do not know anything at all about, something which we can plant, and we will be able to can it and do most things - cherries, peaches and things of that sort. Well, then you are coming home, now you are cooking with gas when you are doing that; but for him to come and just say that you should just plant cabbage or something like that, every one of us knows that. You know that, Sir, although you are not a planter but if one goes around your house, he will find a lot of these things planted. Therefore, you would not want any adviser to tell you what you should put there. By working that for such a long time, you know what your land can produce; you know that this will grow cabbage better than onions. Your long years of experience will advise you now as to what to plant.

In my opinion, the farmers know that already; so you want to tell them something new. By just mentioning the word "diversification" to the farmers is not enough to merit our vote on this, and the Government must be careful in investing in everything. When the Barbados Marketing Corporation was coming into being, it was not the intention of the Corporation to sell a box of carbolic soap or a tin of fly-spray; that belongs to the business people already. I would expect the Corporation to deal with the cold storage of fish and things of that sort; but now you are going down there and you are getting a tin of milk or a case of milk, and that is competing with the businessmen of this country. I am telling you here and now that you are competing against yourself because when the businessman would make a dollar and you manage to squeeze 40 cents or 50 cents out of it by way of income tax and other taxes, you are preventing him from making that by allowing the Corporation to sell his goods, and the Corporation is throwing away what it is selling. They are not making anything, and the businessman is losing. What is the Government getting off at? A concern like the Barbados Marketing Corporation should be bringing in money. The B.M.C. will only buy flying fish when they are being sold at 2 cents or 3 cents a piece; when they are above that price the public can buy them, but when there is a glut, the B.M.C. buys them. That is good; they will keep them until they are scarce and then sell them to you and to me at 17 cents a piece. That is a first-class profit. They cannot lose by buying these dozens of flying fish at 2 cents or 3 cents each and keeping them for a month or even two months and then selling them at 17 cents each. I say that that is a first-class profit.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but this does

not happen at the B.M.C. We do not buy fish at 3 cents apiece and sell them at 17 cents a piece. The fish are bought from the fishermen at 15 cents a pound; they are sold whole at one price and, when filleted, at another price. The iced fish are sold at 10 cents each and the filleted fish are sold at 12 cents.

Mr. SMITH: I now believe, Sir, that the Minister does not know what is going on down there, and that is why we have so much trouble today. I challenge the Minister that the people down there buy the fish as cheaply as they possibly can, but when they are being sold at 10 cents each, they do not buy them.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation. We are not fighting on this. I would like the hon. member to know and to be assured that the fish is bought - when I started the debate I pointed out that the B.M.C. was there to stabilise the price to the producer, and we consider the fisherman the producers of fish.
3.55 p.m.

At no time does the B.M.C. pay anything less than 15¢ a pound to the fishermen for flying fish. It is a guaranteed price to the fishermen. During the early months after the fishing season, the price of whole fish is cheaper than later in the year because the question of refrigeration has to be taken in consideration. It will cost about 3¢ per pound per month for refrigeration according to the statistics of the B.M.C., and a decision had been taken recently that for fish kept in cold storage until, say, November, one would have to pay something like 1¢ per pound more than one pays for the fish in the first three or four months when the fish was put in cold storage. Since that decision has taken place, we have not reached November or October yet.

What I am trying to explain to hon. members is that the rumours are not all correct. They can check on these things. If any hon. member asks any question about the B.M.C. or anything under my Ministry, I am prepared to give him chapter and verse and all the facts to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would have stopped him long ago, but I see that you do not want to stop him. I wanted to let him climb up. There is an old saying that the higher a monkey climbs, the more he shows his tail, and if he climbs too high you will see what is under his tail. The Hon. Minister is telling me something about per pound. I do not know how many fish weighs a pound. He says that three fish weigh a pound. He also says that the Corporation buys fish at 15¢ per pound, and sells them at 1¢ or 1 d more per pound. I am speaking subject to correction, and if I am wrong he can correct me. Let us say that three fish weigh one pound, and you add a cent to the price and make it 16¢ a pound. Now, - if your humble servant.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. No, no, no.

Mr. SMITH: I am not giving way again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will both hon. members please sit. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chair. The senior member for St. Andrew rose saying, "No, no, no." The Chair does not know whether he has risen on a point of order or of elucidation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I said so. The hon. member quoted me as saying that they sell at 16¢ per pound, but I did not say so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point of order has been made, and you will have the right of reply.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Man, if they misquote me 10 times, I am going to get up.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member said that they buy flying fish at not less than 15¢ per pound. I wonder whether he can remember saying that? You can get flying fish in the market at night at 3¢ or 4¢ each - 6 for a quart. Are you going to tell me, when fish are sold in the market at that price, that the Marketing Corporation is still going to buy them at not less than 15¢? (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Yes.) Then you will not have any in the market to be sold, because the fishermen would take the fish to the Marketing corporation. There must be some time when the Marketing Corporation will say that it cannot take any more. Are you going to tell me that fishermen will wait in the market until ten or eleven o'clock at night to sell fish at 1¢ each when the Marketing Corporation would take the fish from them at four o'clock in the evening at 5¢ each? What is the hon. Minister trying to tell this House? Knowing fishermen as I do, a fisherman, a baker and a stone-cutter do not make fun when it comes to money. He is going to tell me that a fisherman can go straight to the Marketing Corporation as soon as he lands and get 5¢ each for his fish, and he will hang around and pay somebody else to sell them for him at 1¢!

Sir, I buy fish regularly at 1¢ or 3¢ each; but when the price is high I do not worry to buy. When fish are cheap, I buy a lot of fish and store them in the refrigerator. I am not able to buy fish at 10¢ or 11¢ each. The Hon. Minister is going to tell me that fishermen will wait until ten or eleven o'clock to sell the fish at 3¢ each when the Corporation is buying them at 5¢! It does not sound good to me. The Minister is trying now to make out a case. It is not true to say that the Corporation buys fish at 15¢ because when the price reaches as high as 10¢ each you can go in the market and buy them. At that stage the fishermen will have nothing to do with the Marketing Corporation. The fishermen will only deal with the Marketing Corporation when they cannot get their fish sold. So long as they can get their fish sold, they will never go to the Corporation. When the Minister says that the Corporation buys fish at not less than 15¢, who would believe him? I do not think the Minister believed himself when he said that.

Now, Sir, I am saying that they buy them at 1¢ or 3¢. The people have to buy them in a nice plastic bag at 5 for 85¢. I do not know if the increased cost is due to the plastic wrapping. I am sure the Minister does not know how they are sold. If the Corporation is buying fish at 15¢, keep them so long in cold storage, and then sell the fish at 17¢, then the Corporation is only throwing away money.
4.05 p.m.

They only buy them when they are five cents each. This Corporation is throwing away too much money, and the Government should be very careful in spending the taxpayers' money. I have to be very careful and do not let them get away with anything when it comes to spending money, because about two or three weeks ago the Income Tax people dropped in at me and would not leave until I wrote a cheque for arrears of income tax. They are no longer waiting until you come in and pay. All the businessmen are in arrears. I am not telling you that this happens with me every year; but when you are in arrears they come to collect the arrears. I am not going to be satisfied with these people throwing away money year after year and not one person is charged. Nobody has gone up Hindsbury for two or three months' vacation. They carry away the money and that is the end of it, and then the Minister comes in here and tries to mislead us to get more money to throw away again.

I have just read in the papers recently that the Corporation is bringing down something for packing. What are they going to pack? If they are talking about yams and potatoes, I will say that we have never had a glut of yams yet in this country. I never heard that planters had to throw away yams, but I know that everybody cannot get them; so when you tell me that you are shipping yams out, you are only carrying the price up more to the local consumer. You can throw me anywhere, because I was a planter. I was the Manager and owner of Little Spa Plantation. You may get a glut of breadfruit, because when the rains come in, they all ripen at one time and do not keep; so you have to get them off. But this has not happened recently, because you start to eat the breadfruit before they have come out properly; so when the rains come in, nearly all have been eaten. It is just like with the sea-eggs. There will be very few to be caught on Monday. If the manager is shipping breadfruit, that is all right; but the last Government had to compel planters of this country to plant food. If the Minister is going to concentrate on shipping yams, let him plant some at Haggatts and Bawdens where they have land. The factory has been closed, but I would bet that if you go there you would still see cane growing, and yet they are asking people to diversify. I cannot understand how the Minister is talking, because he is making plans to have a packing plant, though he has not said for what purpose.

I said just now that the B.M.C. will never be a paying concern. When you go there and enquire about the salaries, you have to look around to see what is being done for them. I am not against employing people, but you can let those receiving \$300 and up go

about their business and leave the others who are really doing the work. I cannot for the life of me see why you want all these big shots down there. I went there one evening and I saw a box of carbolic soap and such items in a glass case which you can find in any supermarket or at the fancy shop at the corner of Bank Hall. These things are being sold in a building that would bring in not less than \$1,000 a month in rent. If the Government turned over a new leaf and called for tenders to run that place with the cold storage and everything else, you would be surprised to know how much rent the Government would get. They are losing money now, and they would gain through that. If it were keeping the puppy's tail out of the ashes, so to speak, it would be O.K.; but it is losing money, and some people are writing their own cheques.

I do not know if what the hon. senior member for Bridgetown said about one of the boys down there is true. I know you can say anything in here because you are protected; but because you are protected you should not lie on people. I would have to believe it because the Minister did not defend him. I want the Minister to know that when either one of us cast anything of that sort on a Head of Department or an employee in his Department, it is his duty to defend him because he cannot defend himself. It was a serious accusation to make that you have a man so high up in a Government Department who has so many convictions for larceny. If I were the Minister, that person would have to go if it is true. Under the circumstances, could you expect them to get other than losses down there? There are some people that money is so afraid of that, as soon as they come near it, it disappears; so if you do not take it up and it disappears, it has still gone through their presence. Instead of coming here and telling us the truth and nothing but the truth, he has been telling us all kinds of hanky-panky, nancy stories about diversification and about the farmers, and if you ask a farmer tomorrow what he thinks about the Barbados Marketing Corporation, he would tell you to get rid of it. 4.15 p.m.

I will bet you tomorrow that you will get a majority saying: "Get rid of it because it is of no use to us". He has to make out a case; he must make out a good case and not try to mislead this House. As the hon. senior member for the City has said, to show you that it is weak, it is not doing the business to carry out or offset the overhead expenses. This Government does not see what the big brains in this country are doing. You look and see what Dacosta & Mussons and Wilkinson & Challenor are doing. All the big boys are coming together, and what is wrong with that? Do you think they are doing it just because they can do it? They are coming together in order to get away from overhead expenses. You have the Purity Bakery and Johnson & Redman; they are doing that in order to get away from these expenses. But this Government is not doing that; they are yet employing.

I think that there is too much politics in that building down there. It would be a political building because in anything which comes into the administration of the Government, there is a certain amount of politics; but there is too much politics in it. You pick up anything with two eyes and send there and at the end of the month you take up a big cheque and put in his or her hand, forgetting that wages, and so on, must come from profits. They cannot come from anywhere else. If you should put your hand deep into the working capital of the place to pay out money every week, it would not be stealing; but the money is disappearing just as in the case of some small shopkeepers. They are crying out that they cannot do this or that. But what is the trouble? They are eating out themselves. The profit which they are getting may be \$10 a week and the upkeep of their homes may be \$25 or \$30, so that in every week they are \$20 down and they will always have to make other people miserable, borrowing from me this week and from you next week and putting the blame on the business. That is what is happening now.

The Minister feels that when he gets this money the troubles will be all over down there. That is his belief and feeling and he makes us to believe that today. I am telling him that that is not so; it is worse for him. He would do a better job if he does not encourage us to allow this money to pass out because he would make more money. You do not make money by borrowing, and whenever you are borrowing money you should look out to replace it by way of a turnover; otherwise you are in trouble. I go to the Bank Manager tomorrow and take \$8,000 or \$10,000 and I do not watch to see what is happening weekly! I do not see that my profit is 10% or 20% in the dollar and my turnover would have to be double that so as to pay the interest and do something else; do you mean to say that I take \$10,000 from him put it in the Bank, my Bank statement looks good and every week I am writing a cheque? I tell you that you will find yourself in Felix's kitchen early. It is all right to go for it; it is all right to let your advisers tell you - it is all right for your manager to tell you - that if we can get a certain amount we can do this or that, but do not rely on your advisers when it comes to financial matters, especially the principal. I can understand if it were you or anybody else, but do you know that the Principal - I would have to say - of one of the best schools in this country would have to know mathematics backwards and everything by heart?

I wonder if the Principal is a Principal in the same way as the Prime Minister is an economist. You must know your stuff, and this particular Minister would know more about figures than anybody else; but it appears that he is allowing them to take him for a ride. He is only thinking. "If I get this money, she will be on her feet; we will be able to pay the far-

mers and buy more goods and we will be able to get along." Where are you going to get this from? Borrowing this money when the people are not bringing it in, is not going to help you. You have to look after that business first. You go to a Bank Manager and he will sit back in his chair, ring a bell and say to someone; "Bring Mr. Smith's account for me" before he talks about lending money. He will go through the account to see how things are going. He can sit in his chair and manage any business; he can sit there just as I am standing here and tell the Minister what is happening down there. The Manager will do this because of knowledge and commonsense. The Manager will say: "Mr. Smith your Balance Sheet does not merit this amount of money because you will notice that your turnover is so much a month and when I lend you this money, it will make your balance higher and you will have to look for a bigger turnover to offset it". If the present turnover cannot get the ball rolling and you add more to it - because his interest has to come - the job is done. When the Manager calls for Mr. Smith's statement and sees that everything is in order, he wants to see the turnover. He will say that the turnover is at so much, the percentage is at so much per month and at this rate his interest will be so much. That is okay. If you do not know what is being done, I am telling you that he is not going right away like the Minister who is coming in and expecting us to say "Yes" to this Resolution. I cannot or will not encourage such a thing. Let him put his house in order; let us know what he intends carrying into the building for sale, what is the turnover, what are the profits from the farmers both in and out of the Island; give us a breakdown and let us know how the ball is rolling and I will say "Aye". Just telling us about diversification and farmers wanting money is not good enough for me.

Sir, I do not want to see any more money being thrown away down there. I would prefer that they wipe of the slate, pay all the bills, start afresh by bringing in some private individuals and try and get the most they can from that by way of seeing how much money you would get in per year. It is not so much rent; it is that you will get income tax out of the same people; you are going to get about 60% by way of income tax. The Government must be more careful about making "nay nay" investments of this kind, which are throwing away money, and look for investments which are going to bring in money. Of course, you will still have to employ people. A private individual cannot take it over now and throw the people outside. In your negotiations you will have to see that you will have to keep the staff or a certain amount of the staff and keep them to that agreement because we are not in favour of throwing people outside. If you try and try and you are throwing this money away, you should find out other ways of operating. The Deep Water Harbour is making money, and it is my belief that if you did not have a certain number of private business people in it, it might not have won out. That is how I feel about it.

4.25 p.m.

I always feel that the Government is like a centipede. The moment anybody says "centipede", everybody says "kill him" and everybody is out to kill him. From the moment you hear the word "Government", everybody is out to get something. That is my opinion. Government must keep themselves out of businesses that have too many back doors. When these businesses have so many back doors, Government must keep away and stand by to get income tax out of the businesses, because I think company tax today is something like 40¢ in the \$1.00.

I would never say one word tomorrow if the Government would keep out of these business places, and in order to keep things going they could take, say, 50¢ in the \$1.00 for income tax. A private individual will get along, and he will be able to pay his income tax, trade tax, and the Government will get something. I would never advocate that Government should give up the Deep Water Harbour, because it is making money. You are throwing away a lot of money in public transport, but the members of the public are benefiting from it. I will give my views about that later.

Who is benefiting from the B.M.C.? I do not know who is getting anything from it. I know that the taxpayers will have to foot the bill. The Minister will get up and tell us that the Government is lending or giving this money to the B.M.C.; we are only giving the green light; we are only backing the note to allow the B.M.C. to get the money. That is true; but if the B.M.C. should go out of business tomorrow, who will stand the loss? You will see a Resolution coming here, and we will have to pay out the money. That is how I feel about this matter. I feel that an investigation should be made and a Report submitted to us before this money is given out. I also feel that a Committee should be set up to go into this matter before the money is given out. It should not be a Committee of yard fowls; it should be a Committee of hard-headed business men who will go into matters, and let us know if there is a possibility that the Corporation will ever be able to pay its way. If the members of the Committee recommend that it should be carried on, then we would agree to that.

Mr. Deputy speaker, during an investigation it may be found that the B.M.C. is paying out more than it is receiving. The Minister says that some things are not altogether suitable, but the Corporation buys them. I do not agree with that. If the Marketing Corporation found that I turned up with a bag of old okras, it should not buy them. It would be better to give a man a bus fare so that he could go back home than to buy bad things from him. Why buy things at a loss? If the Corporation found that certain things were

perishable, then it should not buy them. It would be better to give the farmer something to buy lunch. Do not buy things that would be no good to anybody. You do not run a business that way. In fact, that was not the intention of those who are responsible for the B.M.C.

The other day I read in the Press that you had to throw away a lot of meat. I wonder what has happened with that particular person who is responsible for that sort of thing. I understand that due to his carelessness - he failed to do something - the people were afraid to buy the pork. That is throwing money into the sea. It was carelessness on somebody's part. If a machine is to be kept running, and you know that if it stops running you stand to lose, even when you are closing down at nights a watchman should be there to make a report when the machine stops. You should not take a chance to go home at nights knowing that if the machine stops you will lose thousands of dollars.

If the Minister had given us a breakdown, it would be different. He has asked us to forget what has happened before. What he is doing now cannot merit all of this money. What are the real intentions. What recommendations have he received from the experts? If the recommendations are misleading, let them mislead us. Tell us that you want the money to do this and you will get that. Must we give you money in the same old way? I would be worse than the Minister to agree with this.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, last Tuesday when the Minister was about to introduce this Resolution, or was trying to get it through the House, he should have known that the Opposition would have said "Aye". There was absolutely no problem in saying "Aye". "Aye" is an exclamation, in a Barbadian term, of agony or pain. Some members over here shouted for "Aye", and that is the "Aye" the Minister heard.

It is impossible, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for us to support this Resolution, and I wish to join my colleagues in making a few comments on it. To ask us to support this Resolution, after six years of mismanagement of the B.M.C. is like asking us to be trained to take a flight to the moon.
4.35 p.m.

We could not and we are not going to. This country finds itself in the unfortunate position to be saddled with four white elephants: C.B.C., the Hilton Hotel, the Pine Hill Dairy and the Barbados Market-

ing Corporation. It would appear that at this rate the taxpayers of this country will be called upon to shoulder the financing of these Corporations over a period of years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Addendum explains itself very well because it says that for various reasons the Corporation has not been able to make the progress in these matters which it was expected to make. Indeed, the Corporation has operated at a deficit from its inception.

The Minister in his opening remarks lauded the Barbados Labour Party, Mr. Speaker - I do not think he did it intentionally - when he said that the B.M.C. is finding employment for 200 people. That shows beyond any shadow of a doubt that it was the foresight of the Barbados Labour Party to create employment for the masses.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation, I never said that the B.M.C. employed 200 people. I said that the Democratic Labour Party added a shrimp-processing plant costing \$410,000 which was not in the original plan of the B.M.C. that the Barbados Labour Party had. This was an innovation on the part of the D.L.P. who saw the wisdom in bringing into this country a shrimp industry which is now providing employment for 200 people and a gross revenue of \$30,000 per month.

Mr. CRAIG: I thank the Minister for his explanation. This does not necessarily mean that it was not the foresight of the Barbados Labour Party to create a corporation like the Barbados Marketing Corporation. What the Minister has said is that we have built a home and they have added a bedroom to it. However, there is one thing that puzzles me in this Resolution and it is where it says: "It was therefore considered advisable to employ a firm of management consultants to advise on the measures which should be taken to place the operations of the Corporation on a sound basis. The recommendations made by the consultants fall into three groups." Nowhere in this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, did the consultants suggest firing the whole Marketing Corporation staff, purging it, and forgetting the idea that to get a job there you must have a passport from the Party in power. They are the people responsible for it. If you go there to get a job, you are asked where is your passport. The people who support them are the ones who have got them in this unfortunate position.

When a commercial bank can refuse to lend money to a Government which reigns supreme, it is a censure on the inability and mishandling of the affairs of the place for which Government is asking to borrow the money. This shows that the banks themselves have no confidence in the management of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The Minister however comes in here and asks us to support a Resolution and puts up a pancake argument that they em-

ploy 200 people, and this is to help the people with their produce. That was the original intention of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but that is not what is happening now. It is now being run like a supermarket. If you go there you can buy polish, pins, toothpaste, gooseberries and dunks which are absolutely nothing to do with the original idea of helping the people who bring in produce, because the Addendum states that the Barbados Marketing Corporation was established mainly for the following purposes:- (a) to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer. There is nobody in Barbados who produces polish or toothpaste; so they are in direct competition with the supermarkets, and I challenge the Minister in his reply to deny that a single supermarket proprietor can go to the Barbados Marketing Corporation and get vegetables from them. The Marketing Corporation has more customers than the supermarkets themselves. Hotels buy directly from them; they carry a credit, and maybe that is where some of the money is going because you may find people who come here for a few weeks or months on holiday with a fancy name like Lord So-and-So who goes to the B.M.C. and gets credit because he may be a friend of certain people from a certain Party, and when he is ready to go, he leaves a bill of \$4,000 or \$5,000, all in the Geoffrey Johnson racket. None of these people is prosecuted, but a poor fellow is hounded down. I know the Minister would be in sympathy with that young man, but it is said that the small man pays the price of the big man's deeds.

Now this Resolution says, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government is giving the Barbados Marketing Corporation \$700,000. This is not good enough and it is not fair. It is unfortunate that the Minister finds himself in this Ministry. Let us face up to reality. The Minister is just another man. He cannot go down to the Marketing Corporation and wait around to see who is bringing out a pig and who is stealing money. I expect him to come here and defend his Ministry. The job of a Minister, I believe, is a hard one, but the Minister cannot within his heart of hearts feel sincere in coming here to ask for this money and probably only does it because he finds himself in the position as Minister of Agriculture and has to carry out the policy of Government. I would have liked to hear hon. members on that side if they were over here attacking the Resolution if we had brought it here. I see the Leader of the House laughing. I would have been a happy man even if I were not a member of the House or of any Party to sit in the Gallery and hear the Opposition in 1959-1960 when they had on their biting jackets attacking Government on a Resolution of this nature. They would have had a public meeting and a protest march out here; but we are still a bit too complacent, and I have always told the Leader of my Party that. How can one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, call on a country with a revenue of \$55 million to under-write this kind of expenditure? You have just given \$2 million to C.B.C. which will go down the drain again, and this \$1.35 million will go down the drain, because after six years of managing a business you cannot see

anything going right, and you have to ask the banks to give you a chance to do well. Something has to be wrong. You got rid of the Chairman - which I thought would have curbed the problems there; but it appears that the same thing is happening again.
4.45 p.m.

I am calling on the Minister not only to have consultants coming to tell you how to manage it, but also to have an enquiry. Get an enquiry, get some detectives and put down there because somebody must get locked up for carrying away the taxpayers' money all the time. Then you come in here and put up a "paw-paw" case! What case can the Minister have? The Minister has my sympathy. I made the remark among my colleagues that he has gone on very well. I know that he is full of steam and he is going to fight back, but you cannot flog a dead horse; it is not going to move. If you had \$1,350,000 in your hands, the same thing is going to happen again, unless you have an enquiry into the whole management, not having these consultants who come down here. One fellow will work from 8. a.m. until 4 p.m., and then he will go and "fire" his cocktails. He is nothing to do with what happens in the night. He may be dealing with the technical side of it, but what you want is to plant some people down there and find out who is stealing. No one who is stealing two pounds of pork is carrying away this money; there are some people who have mauby pockets and champagne mouths. I am telling the Minister this, not only as a member of Parliament, but as a friend. I wish him well in his Ministry; put some detectives down there and you will be doing a good job and leave the high-powered Commissions.

It states in this Resolution that the Government will be repaying \$700,000 out of the loan together with interest thereon over a period of ten years. I think the Minister will agree that there is no fixed rate of bank interest in town. Some banks charge 8%, some charge 9%, and I believe that the Canadian Bank of Commerce is going to charge 7 3/4%. According to this Resolution, from time to time, according to how the interest rates are fixed, the interest will be repaid. You really do not know what it is going to cost over a period of ten years. The Minister of Communications and Works has said that there will be another devaluation of the pound, and how can you really ascertain what the rates will be? This will end up with your paying away almost another \$1.2 million. We are all paying this, you Mr. Minister, and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I wish to make it abundantly clear that it is not the policy of the Government, I feel this within myself, to run an organization for the purpose of losing money. The Government's duty is to remain in power as long as they can, and therefore it is their desire to do things to enhance their reputation, and it is left to the Minister himself or the Ministers themselves in the various departments to make sure that they are carrying out the policy of the Government effectively. This is not doing a good job at all.

As to Haggatts Factory, through the eddoes it has gone. It is all old iron and you cannot use that. (A MEMBER: You are flogging a dead iron now.) I

am flogging the Haggatts Factory just as how the Government is trying to flog the B.M.C. and that is flogging a dead horse. For six years they have been beating the B.M.C. The Resolution says that there is a deficit over a period of six years. There is something else wrong outside of having the consultants down. I wish, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to say this quite clearly, like my colleagues; they have said quite a bit today and I, in my closing remarks would like to stress again on the Minister that he should have an enquiry set up to find out not only of the technical consultants, as you have here, but a local enquiry set up to find out exactly what is the problem with the B.M.C. We cannot continue at this rate. It may be that you will come back and say: "I cannot do any better, I have to pay the people; give me another half million dollars", and you will go through at this rate all the time. Therefore, in the interest of my country and in the interest of your country, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Minister will not give a deaf ear to my suggestions.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Marketing Corporation has come in for some criticism from the members of the Opposition and they have voiced their opinion quite frankly, that they are not supporting this Resolution for \$1,350,000; but I am of a contrary opinion. When the B.M.C. was started six years ago, there was an attempt to encourage the growth and marketing of local crops in the Island; therefore, it would be of national assistance both to the grower and the consumer. Sir, as in most things in the embryonic stage or in the early days, the B.M.C. had its troubles. Most of the troubles of the B.M.C. can be put down to inexpert handling, but in the inexpert handling of the affairs of the B.M.C., money was lost - there is no doubt about it - and there has been a great deal, as has been explained by the Minister and by some of the members of the Opposition; but because of the loss of this money, it has become a ground for political criticism, as would be expected. This is a venture which has been started by the Government, and I cannot see, at this stage, the Government allowing it to drop through. That would be just like a man who puts his hand to the plough and turned back. There have been some changes at the B.M.C. both in the administration and in its operational policy, and I feel that these changes will show some progress and benefit to the island; therefore, I am asking that this Resolution be carried through and well supported because the B.M.C. must be given a chance to render the service which the public wants, and which, I think, the public deserves.

4.55 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would think that no member of the Opposition came in here feeling that this Resolution should be passed without a full debate. On Tuesday last, I persisted in putting the Opposition's point of view that we were not prepared to go with it; it was a matter for serious consideration, and there were only two or three of us in the House at that time, and we did not have a chance of thinking the matter over.

Obviously when one remembers the history of the Marketing Corporation, we needed, at least, some time for checking up what was asked for in the past, and what explanations Government gave, either by way of answering questions or otherwise, for the fact that the Marketing Corporation was not being efficiently run. I put it mildly when I say "not being efficiently run". Of course, I could use more appropriate language and say, very badly, and, indeed criminally run.

I am glad that Mr. Speaker ruled that we should not go on with the matter because of the nature of the Opposition's arguments. I am sure that even Government members - non-Ministers at any rate - are glad that this was not taken on Tuesday, because although I have, in the short interval between Tuesday and today, gathered much inside information - much information about inside matters, I should say - yet, one or two things have been said today, chiefly by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, which have opened my eyes.

However sympathetic we might have been with the attempt by the Government to redeem the past - though the hon. Minister in charge of the Resolution seemed to be serious but, of course, it was quite facetious to use the expression "wipe out the past" - how can you, in the name of heavens, if a man with convictions comes up before you, and you are wondering whether to give him a chance, say "forget the past"? You would have to say that "with your convictions, what have you shown, or what fresh arguments are you bringing up now, to ask me to trust you for the future."

I did not know, until the hon. senior member for Bridgetown said it, that Mr. Sides was actually a man with convictions for criminal offences. How can this Government ever defend themselves before the public for asking us to come and agree with them to pass a Resolution for a huge sum of money, when we have been told that a person with a past criminal record is still a prominent member of their staff? I am told that he is only on probation, but why put him on probation in a post where his former activities could be repeated? You do not do that; you try him somewhere where temptation to commit a crime is not great, or is not existent. Then on top of that, reference has been made by previous speakers to the statement by the Minister about buying things which they know they cannot sell, because the things are bad, only to help the farmers.

If no other word was said, if I had come in here prepared to vote for this Resolution, as soon as I heard that I would promptly change my mind. There may be some philanthropists in business - you will find many people - who do not mind if they make no huge profit; some people do not mind if merely they break even; but for somebody to be running a business with somebody else's money to whom he has to account to tell that person: "I run my business in such a way to help some people who may not be able

themselves to sell their produce, but I will buy it from them with the knowledge that I cannot sell it" - that would make anybody, however favourably disposed to the Marketing Corporation, ask: "What assurance do I have that the past loose practices which have resulted in losses would not be repeated?"

If the Hon. Minister had said that, unfortunately that sort of thing used to happen, but the Government will see that it does not happen in future, one would understand. He starts out by telling you that they buy things and they lose out on them, because they cannot sell them. Does the hon. Minister expect us to swallow his explanation? Should not the position of the Marketing Corporation be this: "You are wrong to come and ask us to buy stuff that you know the people are not going to eat; throw it away, and do not bring it to us."

We have heard a lot of talk about the Bureau of Standards. Incidentally, following the hon. senior member for the City, I will point out that the daily Press does nothing to let the public of Barbados know what is going on in this House. Although it is an open secret that they have had express orders to stop their practice and not bring anything from the Legislature, in some respects it may be their unhappy experience in dealing with lawyers who do not know the law. Again it is an open secret that the stopping of publication of news of what takes place in this House was due to the large measure of damages which they have had to pay out in libel actions.

5.05 p.m.

One has got to sympathise to some extent with the proprietors of the *Advocate*, because if a man who has been called to the Bar and therefore entitled to be called a lawyer advises, when it is drawn to his attention, that a particularly libellous word is not libellous, then you have to sympathise with the *Advocate* for having that particular lawyer giving them any advice. I do not refer to their lawyer-in-chief, so to speak; he is above that. In view of the fact that the public does not know what we know happened on Tuesday last, how insistent they were - and rightly - in establishing a Bureau of Standards, one is somewhat surprised to hear the same Government who are insisting on establishing a first-rate Bureau of Standards whereby we are assured that things produced in this Island and sold to the general public are of a high standard - it is strange to hear the Minister in charge of this Resolution saying that they buy food which they know is not fit for ordinary consumption. A very hungry, poor man might eat anything; but there are not many even hungry, poor men who are likely to eat hard okras. That sentence, if nothing else, would have made me vote against this Resolution.

This debate has lasted very long. I do not intend to repeat the arguments that have been used, but I would like to say that although it is bad, and perhaps my words are going to be twisted, for the public of Barbados, we as an Opposition ought to be glad that the Government makes such howling, stupid mistakes.

They have got to their credit one long line of public enterprises which have lost considerable amounts of money. They have got to their credit scandals, thefts, corruption and the Hilton Hotel over which they dodged letting us know the amount spent. They have to their credit C.B.C. Be as charitable as possible and say that these are teething pains and they will grow out of them; but that is no reply to all the accusations that can be brought as regards some of these enterprises. In short, any business may have the misfortune of having occasional losses; but you do not run a business as if you are running a Salvation Army hostel which you run not for profit. I want to add that the Opposition will spare no occasion in drawing it to the attention of the general public because it is not going to be done through the daily Press, and the newspapers of the weekly Press are too small to bring any substantial record or account of what took place in this House. We of the Opposition are solidly united in voting against this, not just as an empty protest at something that is happening, but because we feel it is utterly wrong to ask the public of Barbados to go on putting up with the Marketing Corporation unless at the same time they tell us they are going to clean its stables, clean the filth and corruption.

For obvious reasons I am not going to mention the name, but I know personally of something which has been mentioned here by other speakers to be absolutely true. Some stuff you cannot buy because it is put aside for the D.L.P. people. I know of one instance in which a customer was actually asked if he belonged to the D.L.P. because the attendant was not sure, and asked if he could pass on some goods to this particular customer; but I am not going any further into this. I only say that I have heard nothing here said on this side of the House by way of accusation of mal-administration and even of corruption that to my knowledge is not true, except I do not know anything about Mr. Sides and heard of it for the first time. The mention of the price of fish by my colleague from St. Joseph, and other things, I have personal knowledge of, and I say that simply because the Hon. Minister has got up and denied statements made from time to time from this side of the House, but he cannot truthfully - and when I say "truthfully" I do not mean he would be speaking an untruth - deny, and the denial be true, relating to some practices which the Government should specifically promise this House they would put an end to. How can they persuade anybody that they are willing to listen to criticism and act on it? How can they go to the general public - I am not speaking about the elections now - in day-to-day work and expect them not to doubt every single thing that the Government brings down here if when criticisms are made to the Government they just rely on their numbers! The Government already has that reputation. They do not mind what they bring; they do not mind how they act; they say: "Let them talk and when they have finished we will vote." After all, a school boy would know that no Government in this world can afford always to be using the big stick, because they would soon get the reputation of being a Police State, and not a Government by agreement.

I am not so childish as to make any suggestion to hon. members, more especially hon. members on the Government benches as it would fall on deaf ears, but a little less subservience by non-Ministers to the dictates of the Ministers or Prime Minister would gain more respect for them. When they see that the Government is wrong, they should so persuade the Minister in charge of the Resolution or the Prime Minister that they do not do the Government any good by coming to the House and bulldozing their way through because they have a majority. Every tyrant sooner or later falls. On some other occasion we have heard the name of Nkrumah mentioned. We need not go so far afield. We need not worry to do what I have occasionally done, that is, make reference to Hitler and Mussolini. Look around the West Indies and see the hero of a few years ago toppling simply because he became a dictator as the Prime Minister of this Island is. He will topple. We of the Opposition can afford to wait because public opinion will look at matters of this sort and the use of the majority vote as other instances of substituting a dictatorship for democratic Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was in this House for seven years and I have never witnessed such an exhibition of time-wasting as today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who is desirous of speaking on this Resolution? I ask that because the Hon. Minister is about to exercise his right of final reply. (A PAUSE) Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that for the seven years I have been in this House I have never witnessed a greater exhibition of time-wasting than I have witnessed today.
5.15 p.m.

We began the debate on a simple Resolution such as this at 10 o'clock this morning, and ever since then there has been a repetition of what took place some four or five months ago, when the same arguments used then were the arguments used today. After almost seven hours of debate on this matter, I have not heard from the Opposition any constructive criticism of the B.M.C. One would have hoped that in a matter of this importance - something on which the economy of the island hinges, the question of agriculture - one would have hoped to find something constructive coming from the Opposition, but what have we witnessed here? - An array of repetition; "this person is a thief", "the next person is a convict", "the next is a criminal" - rather than getting down to the hard facts of life and telling us what they see wrong with the B.M.C. and making suggestions for improvement. I have always heard it said that the Leader of the Opposition is famous for saying that Barbadians have short memories. I have heard this said of him, although I have never heard him say it myself, but he is right. When they in the Opposition can get over there and talk about throwing away money down the drain and about the failures of the B.M.C., they have only got to look back a few years ago. Imagine a Socialist Party coming to the

Legislature, a Party which took up the taxpayers' money and nationalised the transport service in this country, and telling us that we must pass the B.M.C. into the hands of private enterprise!

It is true that we have short memories; otherwise we would remember - my friend, the hon. senior member for St. James would remember - that only a few years ago this D.L.P. Government had to come here to this Legislature with a Resolution for some \$600,000 to pay off the bad debts of the Transport Board which was nationalised by the B.L.P. Recently we have wiped off some \$2 million. (Mr. CRAIG: We took over a lot of old buses.) The D.L.P. did not nationalise the Transport Board. We have started the system and I have admitted the faults of the B.M.C. How many of us would have come in here today and admitted that the B.M.C. had its faults? It is universally known that there were faults and there were failures. I came in here today to ask hon. members to forget the failures, and let us join co-operatively today in giving a hand to the B.M.C. I warned hon. members that in giving a hand to the B.M.C. they were giving a hand to the farmers of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, anybody who votes against this Resolution is considered a traitor to his country (*Laughter and Cheers*) Anybody who votes against it could only be a traitor to the farmers of this country, and when he is a traitor to the farmers of this country, he is a traitor to the entire community, because agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of our country, and we should do what we can to assist agriculture. Some hon. members seem to have been suffering from the misconception that I am asking for money to put into the hands of the B.M.C. and somebody said that we are putting \$1.35 million into the hands of Mr. Calvin Sides. They have made accusations as to the character of the person who is acting as Manager of the Corporation for a few months; they have said that he has criminal convictions; but I cannot say so. What I know..... (*Asides*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to be heard in silence.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Is it not a fact that the permanent appointment of Mr. Sides has been held up by the Minister because of his convictions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair is not in a position to answer that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Sides has never applied for permanent appointment at the B.M.C. There was never an understanding that Mr. Sides would have been given a permanent appointment at the B.M.C. We are trying to find a competent and well-trained person of managerial status for the B.M.C. We have applied to overseas organisations to provide a high-powered man of managerial status to put the B.M.C. on its feet. Meanwhile, we have had to get someone who has had experience in agriculture, who has had experience in growing and who goes out to the farmers and advises them as to what they should grow, when they should grow it and what have

you. Those are the functions of Mr. Sides. As far as I am concerned, the financial aspect of the B.M.C. is taken care of by a competent, qualified Barbadian, a qualified accountant, who is the Controller/Secretary of the Organisation, and all financial matters are dealt with by the Controller/Secretary. If hon. members of the Opposition, as they have said, are of the opinion that the \$1.35 million which we are asking for, will be put into the hands of someone who, they say, has criminal convictions, they are sadly mistaken, because the person whom they are saying has criminal convictions is absolutely nothing to do with the finances of the B.M.C.

I will now reply to the question raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

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

5.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Peter wanted to know how much money would be given to the B.M.C. as operating capital from the \$1.35 million. The Ministry has recommended an equity of \$100,000 for the B.M.C. as operating capital. The B.M.C. will not be having any \$1.35 million placed in the hands of any Calvin Sides, or any particular individual, as the members of the Opposition have said, to throw it away, or to steal it, or anything of the sort.

We have spent \$57,000 in gaining the services of a qualified firm of Management Consultants. Say what you like about this matter, they have made strong recommendations. Some 12 of them have worked for a period of about six months, day by day, on the spot, at the B.M.C. in order to ascertain what was wrong with the B.M.C. They have submitted a Report embodying what was wrong with the B.M.C.; they have made recommendations; the recommendations have been discussed by the Board of the B.M.C., and I may say here that it is almost a new Board, because of several changes on the Board. The Board of the B.M.C. has made, through the Controller/Secretary of the B.M.C., certain recommendations taken from the Report of the Consultants. These recommendations have been put to the Ministry; the Ministry has considered the recommendations, and has made what recommendations it felt were in the interest of the people of this country and in the economy of the country to the Cabinet, which recommendations have been accepted. We have decided that phases (a), (b), and (c) are the phases we want for the re-organisation of the B.M.C. We have dealt with the question of policy, with the question of management and organisation, and we are now completing things by putting into effect the financial recommendations made by the Consultants.

Now, I have heard a lot of nonsense here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, about having an enquiry into the B.M.C. It seems as though we live in a country; we read newspapers; we are supposed to be in public life; we are supposed to be looking after the interest

and the welfare of the people of this country, and yet we do not know what is going on. How could any reasonable and rational thinking person come into this House today to tell me that I must have an enquiry into the B.M.C., when he knows that the Consultants have carried out an enquiry? I warned hon. members of this some six months ago. I have had a criminal enquiry carried out into the B.M.C.; a case was brought, and it was dismissed in the Court. There was an enquiry carried out by the Criminal Investigation Department of this country a few months ago into the running of the B.M.C. What the Director of Public Prosecutions saw that he should have put to the Law Courts for a decision was sent there. I then had an administrative enquiry carried out by the firm of Canadian Consultants here, and we are now dealing with the recommendations. How could any rational thinking person come here and say that we should have another enquiry? What we should do is to carry out the recommendations of the Consultants. (Mr. SMITH: All you want is the money.)

Sir, some people talk about short memories. They talk about white elephants. Could you want a bigger white elephant than the one established by the Barbados Labour Party at the corner of Six Cross Roads? Let us face facts. We have all had our shortcomings.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Will the hon. member say how much money was thrown away by the White elephant at Six Cross Roads?

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, if it were a point of order, I would answer the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a valid point of order; therefore proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: They talk about throwing away money. What about the money thrown away by the Housing Authority under the B.L.P. Government? Even the Chairman had a loan to buy a motor car. No Chairman of the Housing Authority has ever had a loan from this Government to buy a motor car.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. Would the Minister tell us if the B.M.C. loaned out money to buy motor cars?

Mr. SPEAKER: Point made, but invalid.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, were it a valid point of order, I would have answered the hon. junior member for St. Peter. I am prepared to answer the points raised by all hon. members, as long as they are valid points. You can think of the house in which Peter Jones lived, and several scandals concerning the B.L.P. Do not talk about the failures of the B.M.C., and corruption in the B.M.C., when hon. members know that they have had the reins of

this country - perhaps it might not have been their fault that things went wrong. Some of the members on the other side might not have known of these things, but things went wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that the B.M.C. is perfect, but I want you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members on the other side of the House, to help me to bring it as close to perfection as possible.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is not what the Minister saying is that only \$100,000 of this amount is needed to operate the B.M.C., and the other \$1.35 million is to pay off old debts? What is he talking about help?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not a valid point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. senior member for St. Thomas would remain in his seat more often - if he were in his seat today, he would have heard me say that the greater part of this money is to pay off old debts. I have said so. I am now answering a point raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister still maintaining what he said earlier today? Is he saying that the B.M.C. is in \$1.35 million debt today?

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the B.M.C. is in.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not ruled that to be a valid point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I never said that the B.M.C. was in \$1.35 million in debt. I am saying that the \$1.35 million we are asking for is already taken up in loans by the B.M.C. Some of it is to carry out further development at the B.M.C. (ASIDES) For example, consideration is being given to the establishment of a Pork Processing Plant.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation. Is the \$100,000 to be spent in this Pork Processing Plant?

Mr. SPEAKER: *Apropos* of a point of elucidation, that is to explain something raised by the hon. member himself in the course of his speech.
5.35 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that consideration is being given to the establishment of a Pork Processing Plant.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I remind hon. members of Standing Order No. 29 (6)?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If hon. members would like to hear what I have to say, they would listen. I said, Mr. Speaker, that consideration is being given to the establishment of a Pork Processing Plant at the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder if the Minister is aware of the fact that the Prime Minister said in Canada in 1964 that there was a Pork Processing Plant already in operation.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What I know, Mr. Speaker, is that there is machinery and equipment for the Pork Processing Plant at the B.M.C. already; but what has happened is that because of ill advice it was put up in the wrong place and had to be removed. It has not yet been put back up. However, if and when the Prime Minister made that statement, there was a Pork Processing Plant established at the B.M.C.

Now hon. members have made all sorts of accusations about the B.M.C. and said that we should not finance it. I wonder if they are aware that the Jamaica Marketing Corporation had a deficit of £4 million last year in order to give an incentive to the farmers of Jamaica, and nobody got up in the Legislature and raised a howl about it.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I wonder if Haggatts factory lost the amount that the hon. member mentioned about Jamaica.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yet another invalid point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Jamaica Corporation lost £4 million.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, is the Minister aware that the Jamaica Marketing Corporation has to buy produce from peasants who are resettled on certain lands as a deliberate part of a land resettlement scheme, and therefore the loss to the Jamaica Marketing Corporation is in the nature of a subsidy of land re-settlement schemes as well as an operating loss, and therefore the two situations are not comparable?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no valid point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, were that a valid point of order, I would reply to the hon. member; but all I am saying is that the Jamaica Marketing Corporation lost £4 million last year and not one member of the Legislature voted against the provision of that amount.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, am I to understand then, Sir, that because the Opposition in the Jamaican Legislature did not vote against it, that we are to sit here and vote for this?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What I am suggesting is that the Jamaica Legislature is interested in the farmer of Jamaica, and they know that the Jamaica Marketing Corporation has got to be an incentive to the farmer there, and some of the members in the

Opposition in Barbados cannot yet appreciate the importance of agricultural diversification.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, does the Minister appreciate that it is the duty of the Opposition to pass a verdict on past management, and that this is the verdict we are seeking to pass here today?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I have to answer one or two more points raised by hon. members on the other side, and one is that no bank has ever refused to lend the B.M.C. money if it was borrowed according to the legal principles of how the B.M.C. should borrow money.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, are we to understand then that they attempted to borrow on the illegal principle?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not yet a valid point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am not aware of that. When I made that statement, this is what I meant: in order for the B.M.C. or any statutory body to borrow money, it must be guaranteed by the Government by a Resolution passed in the Legislature. One hon. member on the other side said that the B.M.C. was refused a loan from a commercial bank. This is absolutely incorrect.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of elucidation, I never said from a bank. I said from two commercial banks, not one.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is neither a point of order, nor a point of elucidation, nor any other known point of interruption known to Parliament.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Hon. members can try, but they cannot stop me from making the points I want to make, nor can they put me off the track. I am saying that the B.M.C. has not been denied the right to borrow money from a commercial bank or has been refused a loan from any commercial bank at any time that the Government gives authority to make a loan.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that one cannot get a job at the B.M.C. unless you show the D.L.P. passport. I am glad to hear that, because if you are in power and you cannot help your supporters, when will you be able to help them? I am glad to see that the Barbados Marketing Corporation can give jobs, if they have them, to people with D.L.P. passports.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Minister has misled the House when he said that the B.M.C. can only borrow money following a Resolution of the House of Assembly, because Section 15 subsection 3 says it can borrow money over the signature of the Cabinet and not the House of Assembly at all.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is a Government guarantee. It has also been said, Mr. Speaker, that

supermarkets are not allowed to buy vegetables from the B.M.C. This is a deliberate lie. The B.M.C. sells vegetables, if they have them, to supermarkets or anybody who wants them; so when one can come in here and deliberately say that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I will counsel the hon. member, when he speaks of a deliberate lie, I naturally assume that he is not referring to something said by any hon. member.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I said that anybody who can make a statement saying that the B.M.C. refuses to sell vegetables to the supermarkets is a stranger to the truth. Now I will deal with the matter on agriculture raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. His entire address which lasted for almost two hours centred around the closing down of the Scotland Factory, and I want to set the record straight. A sugar factory can only make sugar if it can operate at least sixteen hours a day, and it can only operate sixteen or twenty hours a day if it gets the amount of sugar cane to grind. During the last crop season, Haggatts Factory could only work for eight or ten hours a day. This was all right when the factory was making fancy molasses; but if the hon. member knows anything about the industry, he will know that fancy molasses factories are given a certain quota, and since there is not a big market now in Canada for our fancy molasses, Barbados' quota has got.....
5.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. Is the hon. member suggesting that Haggatts Factory has been re-sited since the Government started to operate it?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that that is not a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It cannot put me off either. They can try to put me off my track, but I will not move. The Scotland Factory had a small quota of fancy molasses to make. In the early part of the last crop season when it was making that quota of syrup, the factory was only operating for eight or ten hours a day. It was all right to let syrup remain until the next day to be boiled, but no factory - I do not care where it is, whether in Barbados or in Timbuctoo - could make sugar, operating at the rate of six or eight hours a day. Because of the fact that the same peasant farmers of St. Andrew whom I have the honour and distinction to represent - and nothing on that other side of the House can stop me from representing St. Andrew - if they want to take up Haggatts issue as an issue, they have no case because it cannot remove me. Mr. Speaker, I will tell you this.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that a factory cannot make sugar unless it operates for more than eight hours a day?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am saying that it cannot do it economically. There will have to be a lot of the spoilage of the stale liquor which remains. (Mr.

HINDS: They let that liquor run through the gully.) You are playing up my alley now. When that liquor runs through the gully, the payments which the farmers in St. Andrew or wherever they are, who sent sugar cane to the sugar factory get, depends on the returns of the factory. It depends on the recovery rate of the factory; and if the factory has to throw away liquor every day, that is included in the recovery rate or in the efficiency of the factory. What would have happened? Instead of being in a position to have 8.6 or 8.9 recovery rate, that is to say, 8.9 tons of canes to a ton of sugar, Haggatts would have found itself, as in the year before, with a recovery rate of 10.3. Everybody else had 8.9, 8.6 or 8.7 whereas Haggatts had a recovery rate of 10.3 and was not in a position to pay the farmers the price for the sugar cane which the other factories paid. What was the result? The farmers of St. Andrew received some \$2 a ton less for their canes than what was paid in any other part of the Island. The farmers of St. Andrew, therefore, decided, come hell or high water...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, would it have taken \$1.35 million to subsidise these farmers at that particular time so that they would be satisfied and they would supply the factory in the coming year?

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What I am saying is that the farmers of St. Andrew have shown that they did not want the factory and they refused to send their canes to the factory because it could not pay the price which they were getting at other factories. (Mr. CRAIG: You go in St. Andrew and tell them so.) Nobody can threaten me to go in St. Andrew and say so; that is what I have already said; and if anybody is depending on this string to win the election, he is wasting his time. Let them come with another issue. The farmers refused to send their canes there, and what did we do? We have assisted the farmers; not one blade of cane was left unrealed in St. Andrew because of the closing down of the factory. Every cane farmer got more money for his canes than he got when the Haggatts Factory was going on. Therefore, what nonsense am I hearing?

Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered most of the important points, and whether they vote for this Resolution or not, it will be passed and the people of this country will have seen who are their friends from who are not their friends. The farmers of this country will see that the only thing which would give them an incentive to diversify their agriculture, the members of the Opposition have opposed and they have refused to support in this Legislature. They will hear of it and they will read of it, and they will make their decision in due time.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. YEARWOOD, Hon^{bles} J. C. TUDOR, C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSSON, A. DaC. EDWARDS N. W. BOXILL, Messrs. LOWE, SARGEANT, CORBIN, WEEKES and HOPPIN - 11.

NOES: Messrs LYNCH, HINDS, CRAIG, J. M. G. M. ADAMS, SMITH and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS - 6.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: If the hon. member would give way, when he moved the suspension of certain Standing Orders, I did not remember exactly what Standing Order 45 was. I have looked it up and perhaps I should, at the time, have drawn it to the hon. member's attention, that if you suspend Standing Order 45 you are suspending all the procedure in Committee. How does the hon. member propose to deal with a matter when he goes into Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that it is proposed to deal with Committee of Supply now.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Do I understand that the Hon. Leader of the House is dealing with matters in Committee of Supply? (A MEMBER: Yes.) If the procedure for dealing with matters in Committee is suspended, how do you propose to deal with them? Read them out Clause by Clause?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, Standing Order 45 lays down the procedure in Committee on Bills. It does not seem to me that it says anything at all about Committee of Supply. I have not moved the suspension of Standing Order 60.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:- To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction of the House while in Committee of Supply to deal with a Resolution for \$100,000 of which notice has been given earlier in today's Sitting and of which copies have been circulated.

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

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

Mr SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

5.55 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No. 22

A Resolution for \$22,739 was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, as the Ad-dendum sets out:

The amount of \$22,739 is required to supplement Annexed Estimates - Post Office consequent upon the need to re-organise the Postmen's Division of the Post Office Department. It is proposed to create thirteen posts of Senior Postmen, three additional posts of Inspector and to place the post of Inspector on the Travelling Schedule. Revision of Postmen's routes, the implementation of a forty-four hour week, revision of rates for extra duties performed and payment of overtime to Senior Postmen and Postmen when required to work on Bank Holidays are also proposed.

The items to be supplemented are as follows:-

Item 14 - Auxiliary Postmen - \$16,940

Required to meet emoluments for 20 temporary Postmen to end of financial year to be paid in the salary scale L-3 (\$1,452 - \$2,280) as a consequence of the proposed revision of the Postmen's routes.

Item 18 - Overtime - \$606

Required to meet increased Extra Duty Allowance paid to clerical officers to be increased from \$30 to \$40 a month. Provision is also made for payment of overtime to Senior Postmen and other Postmen when required to work on Bank Holidays.

Item 24 - Casual Labour - \$465

Required to meet increased rates to Postmen (Van Drivers) as an extra Duty Allowance in connection with the receipt and despatch of mail outside of normal working hours. The rate has been increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per trip.

Item 30 - Travelling - \$2,700

Required to meet cost of Travelling Allowance for five Inspectors for the remainder of the financial year.

Item 41 - Furniture and Equipment - \$2,028

Required for the supply of furniture and equipment as follows:

Postmen's cubicles	\$600
Chairs	\$388
Sorting racks	\$180
Desks	\$700
Re-lettering of Post boxes	\$160

Hon. members, Mr. Chairman, will remember that not so long ago it was becoming fashionable, as it had taken place in Britain at some time, then during the early part of this month it took place in Canada, where the postmen went on strike. The postmen here were deciding to go on strike. I can sympathise with the postmen here, because this matter was hanging fire a bit too long.

I know that hon. members on the other side would want to accuse members on this side of holding up the

postmen from getting what should normally be theirs. Nothing could be further from the truth. What took place, Mr. Chairman, was that negotiations started in 1965 - three years ago - but you know, Sir, how these negotiations go. Sometimes they take a long time; sometimes a point comes up and, especially, where you are dealing with a situation such as the one with the postmen, you will always get anomalies. As a result of this this legislation before the House today is no hurried legislation because of the threat of a strike.

As I said before, I am in sympathy with the postmen for bearing with us so long, and when we look back and see that the requests which they have been making of us are not, in my opinion, unreasonable for the simple reason that on Saturdays nearly everybody with the exception of me, of course, gets a Saturday off to go and play cricket, or to watch cricket do extra chores, but postmen are called upon to work. Up to Saturday last I saw a postman - I was not surprised, because I know that they have to work late - long after five o'clock still delivering mails. Well, this is not really fair. These are some of the things that we have inherited, and that is why I am now asking for the support of hon. members in this Chamber. I know that hon. members will talk, and it is their duty to talk. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am as grieved as I ever have been in observing any aspect of public life in Barbados as I am by something which has been going on for nearly a year now in respect of the relationship between the Minister of Communications and Works and a postman in St. Thomas.

Now, the Minister is talking about the conditions of service of postmen. He is saying how hard it is for them to work until late in the afternoon, that they do not get Saturdays off, and he has been watching them to observe all this. But, Mr. Chairman, the Minister's behaviour towards a servant of the Government under the control of his Ministry is such that, like the Prime Minister, I must say that this Minister deserves the most outright condemnation possible by not only members of this House, but by decent people.

Now, Mr. Chairman, a Minister is in a particular situation *vis-a-vis* a Civil Servant. When he threatens, the Civil Servant has to watch how he walks. There is no doubt that no matter what you can say about the Public Service Commission being there to protect a man, there is no doubt that a Civil Servant, with the stoutest heart and the greatest resolution, must be worried when a Minister takes a personal hand in interfering with him.

6.05 p.m.

Now the Minister spoke about the conditions of service of postmen and how they have to work on Saturday afternoons. One Saturday afternoon last August the Minister, accompanied by his Permanent Secretary, by a policeman called Clarke and by the Acting Postmaster General went to St. Thomas' Post

Office to see a postman called Mr. Wilton Wiles who lives at Kew Land, Redmans Village, St. Thomas, and who has been a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party for many years, to my knowledge. There is no secret about it. He went up there, asking if certain *Beacon* newspapers belonged to him, and the postman handed them to him: upon which the Minister used some phrase about using the Government or something like that. The matter boiled up and boiled over. It went to the Solicitor General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General and the Prime Minister who considered it, and all these personages discovered that no offence of any sort, not even a Civil Service offence or a disciplinary offence was involved in what went on. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, did the Minister know that a postman who used to support the Democratic Labour Party in St. Thomas also used to help with the *Beacons*?

Mr. Chairman, I am informed that the Prime Minister made his views known to the Minister at the time, and many other people made their views known to the Minister. You cannot say that the postman was exonerated, because to be exonerated there has to be a charge. The only charge was the one he threatened to make against the police about detaining his *Beacon* newspapers, and as soon as he warned the police that he would sue them for detaining his newspapers, the newspapers were returned. There was a very nasty evil episode, one that all decent Barbadians ought to be ashamed of, because it was a clear example of the mighty trying to interfere with the weak. You would think, Mr. Chairman, that that would be the end of the matter. Not so. This postman, Mr. Milton Wiles, after 42 years of service in the Government is now achieving the age of 60 years and as of tomorrow, I believe, will be retiring from the Public Service having reached the compulsory retirement age, because he could have retired before. In his last two months of office, is it possible for us in here to imagine that he gets an instruction to attend at the General Post Office in Bridgetown because the Minister of Communications and Works had said that he did not deliver letters to two people at Bennetts Tenantry? Letters were also put in his hand to deliver to people in Bennetts Tenantry to attend to make charges against him the next day at the G.P.O. The people from Bennetts Tenantry refused to make any complaint. That was not enough for the Minister. He then instructed the Postmaster General to send inspectors to the people in Bennetts Tenantry, and another letter was sent out and the postman was asked to explain how is it that certain letters which were posted at the G.P.O. in Bridgetown bearing a certain date - I think the date was Friday 29th - were not delivered until the 1st of the next month or something like that, and an investigation was made and it was discovered that they were not posted at the G.P.O. at all. In fact, it was remarkable that the postman managed to deliver them because he delivered them in Bennetts Tenantry, the very end of a run, on the same day they bore the postmark. He put himself out to deliver the summonses to people in Bennetts to come and charge him at the G.P.O. next day. It is my information that they told him they had no intention of doing anything of the sort and they made no complaint. (Mr. CRAIG:

Is this connected with the *Beacons*?) The hon. senior member for St. James asks if this is connected with the *Beacon*. This is not connected with any *Beacons*; this is manufacturing a case to deprive a man of the fruits of 42 years of service in the Government of this Island; this is inventing a case to deprive a man of his pension.

Now, Mr. Chairman, nobody has made a complaint to the General Post Office to the effect that Mr. Wiles did not deliver letters to him, and there is something of which I now can speak with personal knowledge because apparently these persons were visited again by the Minister - I cannot speak of that with personal knowledge; I only heard them say so; - and told that they must go to the St. Thomas' Post Office and that the Postmaster General would come up there to them. And so one day at St. Thomas' Post Office Mr. Hewitt, Acting Postmaster General, Mr. Weekes who is an official of the Post Office and Mr. King, the Postmaster of St. Thomas sat down to carry on an enquiry while the Post Office was closed to the public. One lady came from Bennetts Tenantry and I heard the Postmaster General ask her if she had made a complaint and she said "no", that Mr. Boxill asked her a lot of questions and if she had known it would have come to this, she would not have answered them. I heard that with my own ears because I heard Wiles cross-examine her and ask her if she had a complaint and she said "no". What confidence can anybody have.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have a little order, please? When one member is speaking, all others shall be silent.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, as it was, two names were originally mentioned. One lady resolutely refused to come at all; she never said she had any complaint. The other lady, old and bewildered, came to say she had no complaint. Now, Mr. Chairman, what confidence can any decent person have in a Minister who is prepared to ignore not only the rules of decency, but the ordinary every-day rules about the attitude Ministers must take towards Civil Servants? What confidence can any one of us have in any scheme which he presents to this House?

Mr. Chairman, there is a question on the Order Paper of this House. If the Prime Minister can attack the Minister at the D.L.P. Conference, then he must be man enough to come in here and say he did wrong. If he can tell him he did wrong to his face in Cabinet and at Conference, he can come in here and say so. The Minister should resign. Mr. Wiles is, I believe, on pre-retirement leave, and I think I am correct in saying that tomorrow is his last day and, maybe, his leave will take him to the middle of next month; but Mr. Chairman, nobody involved in it has come well out of it. The Postmaster General should not have entertained a hearsay complaint, especially from the junior member for St. Thomas. No Civil Servant should accept any complaint by a Minister saying that so-and-so happened in such-and-such a place without first verifying it. The Postmaster General had no business to summon Mr. Wiles to answer one

question, and I am going to say this now: I believe the Postmaster General was afraid and very rightly too, because if this could be done to a postman, it could be done equally to the Postmaster General; but a stand has to be taken somewhere. There are Civil Servants regulations about what should be done before an officer can be disciplined. They were not in fact observed in this case. I very much hope that the Leader of the House whom I observe is paying close attention to what is going on, although he is not in his seat, will make it clear to Civil Servants that complaints from anybody indirectly that a postman did not give letters to X should not be pursued unless X has made the complaint and substantiated it in writing, if possible. I cannot conceive how in this day and age a Civil Servant can investigate a complaint against another Civil Servant when he does not know if the complaint has any foundation, because he has not spoken to the alleged complainant.

Mr. Chairman, I said I heard when the lady said she had no complaint and that if she had known it would have gone so far, she would not have spoken to the Minister. It was clear from the trend of her evidence that the entire incident arose not from her going to the Minister, but from the Minister coming to her house and asking how she used to get her letters and whether they were always delivered. The Minister went to this person's house to seek to make trouble for the postman, not sitting in his office getting a complaint from a member of the public in which case he could call in the Postmaster General or put her on to a Civil Servant.

Now, Mr. Chairman, when this matter was hot, it was on my mind and I cannot speak without emotion on it. The same postman, Mr. Chairman, was the subject of remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas on political platforms - remarks which were in fact - I also know this - taken down by the police and which I subsequently looked at to see if they amounted to a breach of the Malicious and Corrupt Practices Act, 1835, because do not let us forget, Mr. Chairman, that even out of election time if you threaten somebody to influence a vote, the Malicious and Corrupt Practices Act says that you can still be disqualified out of election time.

6.15 p.m.

Do not let us forget, even out of election time, that if you threaten somebody to influence a vote, the Malicious and Corrupt Practices Act still says that you can be disqualified. It is not only at election time that you can lose your seat. (Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Do not warn them.) Mr. Chairman, I have been told not to warn them. We have these three incidents, the cursing on political platforms, the threatening on political platforms.... and what will happen to these postmen? We have the incident with the *Beacon* and we have the incident with Bennetts Tenantry and the delivery of letters. Is this political Party proud to have somebody like that in their ranks? Can the Hon. Leader of the House stand up there and be proud of this? The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said that you have to help your friends, and that can be a reprehensible doctrine. It is not contrary to de-

cency; it may be contrary to what is best in public life; but it is not helping on your friends. I will tell you something else, Mr. Chairman, about this same postman which I had forgotten. He was transferred after the election from the most difficult route in St. Thomas, a route taking in Arch Hall, Bennetts, Redmans Village and Rock Hall, to one of the easiest routes in Welchman Hall. He was transferred, I believe, as was thought, as a confession to the Hon. Minister. I think they thought that the Minister was angry with Mr. Wiles, and so they transferred Mr. Wiles that the Minister would not be so angry; but when the Minister discovered that whereas it used to take Mr. Wiles up to half-past five to deliver his letters to Arch Hall, Bennetts and Rock Hall, he was now getting through with his work by half-past three and he could get home a little earlier in the afternoon - when that was discovered, the postman who was put on the old route went to the Minister and told him that. Mr. Wiles was put back on his old route, the most difficult one in St. Thomas, and the Minister came in the House and said that a part of the reason why I wanted Mr. Wiles on the other route was because I was not strong in Welchman Hall and I wanted Mr. Wiles to canvass for me. Well, Mr. Chairman, in a month or two, Mr. Wiles will be free to canvass for all of us all over St. Thomas. As far as I know, he has never canvassed for anybody in a way that contravenes the terms of his employment in the Public Service of this Island. I can tell the Minister that I am sure that he is not going to promise to refrain from canvassing when he is on the retired list and is as free as the air to do what he likes.

Mr. Chairman, in view of all this, how can we vote, how can I personally vote for this? We have no quarrel with the Scheme on this side. The hon. member on my right who deals with these matters on behalf of the Opposition, I am sure, will deal with the Scheme on its merits, if there is anything to deal with. I see that there is another Resolution down here for the whole re-organization of the structure of the Post Office, and this Resolution no doubt, and all the financial provisions in it, will be partly required in connection with the structure. Mr. Chairman, it is not only the financial provisions which cause the postmen to be dissatisfied; that is not the only aspect of the terms of service that makes the Civil Servants fed up with the Ministry with which they are working. The Minister's attitude towards the said St. Thomas postman, Mr. Wiles, if he does not know it, let me tell him now that it is resented by every postman to whom I have ever spoken in the ranks of the entire postal service of her Majesty in this Island. I would not like to tell the Minister how many protestations of support the same Mr. Wiles has got from households which have not been in the past supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. Had a petition been needed at any stage, the Minister would perhaps have been astonished at the names which he would have seen signed to it on behalf of this same postman, Mr. Wiles. Therefore, I can say with some safety that, in the long run, the only person who has been done hurt by it is the Minister himself; he has been done great political harm. Mr. Wiles has faced the Minister on a number of occasions, and it is Mr. Wiles who has come out triumphantly and who has

won, and it is the Minister who has been put in his place, and who knows, God willing, Mr. Wiles, the Minister and I, will all live to see the Minister put in his place even more firmly in 1971 or before then. I look forward to that. It is said that you should not get too mighty in these matters; it may be that the Minister will have the last laugh, but if it should so happen that the Minister should lose his seat, I just pray to be alive to see Mr. Wiles look the Minister in his eye on that day. I just pray to be there at whatever stage it be.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister produces this scheme and he talks about the conditions of service. The Government should be ashamed to allow these things to go on and then, in the very month in which it is happening, they can come with this scheme to meet the lot of postmen. Charity begins at home; let them improve their lot by removing the Minister responsible. That is how they will improve their lot. Let them put somebody who realises that everybody has a right to his vote and to his voice. We are all here in Barbados entitled to go and cast our X's however we wish and, indeed, to speak however we wish; and it is shameful, disgraceful, disgusting, abominable and foul for anybody to try to use his power to take away a man's livelihood, his pension, and whatever he has earned after 42 years of service. Mr. Chairman, that is the only complaint that that postman, Mr. Wiles has ever had for 42 years, and the complaints, of any more, were not even complaints which merited any question of investigation. The Public Service Commission has never had to have Mr. Wiles' name across its books.

6.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot say any more on the question of the Post Office. I daresay the Minister will have something to say. The Minister is going to get up and, in the best tradition of the Dickensian lawyers who had no case, approach this matter from the point of view of abusing the Attorney for the other side. I will be lucky, Mr. Chairman, if I get away tonight without my father, my mother, my wife, and my grandmother being abused by the Minister. It would not be the first time he has done it. But we can all judge whether that abuse will be a substitute for decency. We are all here to judge that.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am sorry the Hon. Leader of the House is not in his place, because all I wish to say at this stage, at any rate, on what the hon. member who has just spoken has said is that I would like to know whether Ministers have been told that they have no right to interfere with the actual working of the Civil Service. A Minister is responsible for the policy of the Government, and not for running the Civil Service, or conduct in the Civil Service. That is a matter for the Public Service Commission. I am amazed to hear - I am not amazed to hear the act of the junior member for St. Thomas; I would expect that of him; he is maliciously vindictive against a man who did not vote for him.

I am not accusing any individual Minister or back benchers now - if I knew it I would say it - but it is on a par with what is commonly said by the number

of people who come to me daily and say: "Chief, I cannot get a job at the Housing Board. When people apply for a job they are asked, 'Are you a member of the Democratic Labour Party?'" Now, that came from a man whom I myself employ. He could not get a job there; he had not voted with them, and he was honest enough to say so. But when you get a Minister interfering with the actual working - I am not talking now I repeat, of the vindictiveness of the Minister's action, even if he were responsible for the discipline of that particular postman, it would still be vindictive and nasty and characteristic. The hon. member is not listening because he does not want to listen, but he knows that everything we are saying on this side of the House is true.

How can anybody have any respect for any man on his side of the fence, politically or not, or for any man who takes a man with a record of 42 years' service and tries to take bread out of his mouth by trying to make out a case against him to prevent him from getting a pension? That does not concern me as regards his particular benefactor. That does not worry me at all; that is what I expect of him; he is going to do worse until God removes him from the earth. What does concern me is whether, as an actual fact, the Prime Minister has made it clear to Ministers that they cannot interfere with the actual working of the Civil Service.

We have hoped and said that we are following English practice. His Honour the Speaker has laid it down that where our Standing Orders are silent, we follow the English Parliamentary Procedure. This is why I frequently refer to May's Parliamentary Practice, because we follow that. We do not follow, unfortunately, all the conventions of Cabinet Government and Ministerial responsibility, because in England it is so strong that a Minister has to resign if a scandal arises in his Department, although he knows nothing whatsoever about it.

You know the case of Mr. Greenwood who was not unknown to many of us in the West Indies. He came out here, including Barbados, more than once when the Federation was in existence. He was a remarkably reasonable man in himself, but somebody complained, whose land had been requisitioned during the war, that although he tried to buy it back from the Government; he was passed over, and it was sold to somebody else. A scandal arose; questions were asked in the House of Commons; the Press took up what a scandalous thing it was that this man's land, having been requisitioned, one would have expected that he would have the first choice of buying it, and the Minister had to resign. He knew nothing whatsoever of what had been going on in the Department, but that was the convention.

All the more should we, in this case, start to follow, at any rate, the convention which means nothing more than decency. He ought to resign if that had happened without his knowing it, or without his taking part in it, if it could be proved that somebody in that Department was trying to persecute a postman. It is all the greater, if the Hon. Minister has

any sense of decency whatever - and I mean that as strongly as I can possibly put it - the slightest sense of decency of one man towards his fellowmen, it would make him resign. He is not fit to be a Minister who could do a thing like that.

As the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has said, it is a reflection on the Ministry as a whole. The Cabinet ought to see that he resigns, because it brings disgrace on the whole Government Party. That is all I wish to say at this stage, but I am sorry the Hon. Leader of the House is not here. I would like him to give some sort of assurance that the matter of the relationship of Ministers to the Civil Service be made clear; otherwise we will have repetitions of scandals like this.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am not surprised for one moment at what I heard from the senior member for St. Thomas. I start off by saying it is a known fact that people like Milton Wiles and the senior member for St. Thomas have something in common, and these people who have this sort of thing in common would kill their very mother, if she crosses their path. A lot of accusations, vituperations, and what have you, have been made against me today. I do not have to clarify anything, but I would remind the junior member for St. Joseph, when he talks about interference with Civil Servants, that he got up in the Lower Green in my presence and said that Dr. Humby, a man who was doing something for this country, would have to leave this country, or he would leave and he had no place to go. Do not let us forget Napoleon Layne, known as "Commissar". Do not let us forget Dorian Farrell.

I have never, Mr. Chairman, in my seven years in this Chamber, heard the false accusations that were made against me today. That does not worry me one bit. I am like a thick-skinned animal. What the senior member for St. Thomas has said will not move me one bit.
6.35 p.m.

If he does not know about Ministerial Government, let me tell him this: the Minister is responsible for everything under his portfolio, including if a man goes down the road and falls, so long as he is working under him. It is the duty of the Minister to see that the Ministry is run in the best form to suit the general public.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that Ministers are responsible for the discipline of Civil Servants?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: A Minister has nothing to do with the disciplinary actions of a Civil Servant because he cannot hire and he cannot fire, as the junior member for St. Joseph did when he was running the Government.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, will the Minister deny that he instructed the Postmaster General to hold an enquiry into Mr. Wiles' case when

no complaint had been made by a member of the public to the proper sources?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would not waste time to answer the hon. member. It is my duty as Minister if I get reports about Mr. Wiles to have them investigated. Let me ask the hon. member this: if I had got a report on Mr. Odle, would he have come in here to raise the Cain he is trying to raise? I had a report against Mr. Wiles and I am not going to hide this. There is no love lost between myself and Mr. Wiles, and there would be no love lost between myself and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. I like him the same way he likes me - how a butcher likes a pig. When he is going to bring in all sorts of fancy talk that before he is finished I am going to abuse his mother - God bless the lady - and abuse his grandmother, that shows how low some people's minds can get. I have had several complaints against Milton Wiles whom you hear the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and his father trying to make out a case for to the effect that he was not delivering the letters. Not only was he not delivering the letters, but we all know that Milton Wiles canvassed for the Barbados Labour Party because they promised him to be some Postmaster at some time or the other. (ASIDES:)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members who want to address the Chair should stand and do so.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: It is known that this man canvassed both during and outside his time of work.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask the hon. senior member for St. James to address the Chair if he so desires, but he should stand and do so.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Canvassing had absolutely nothing to do with it, because he canvassed on two occasions and lost; but when I get complaints from residents in the area that this man refuses to deliver letters and sends them by children, it is my duty as Minister to have the matter investigated. You can talk what you like about resigning; but if you want to get a Government by default, it would not be so easy. When the senior member for St. Thomas said that the woman told him this nonsense, I categorically deny that the woman told him this, because he was not allowed to go in to the investigation.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister was not there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a point of order. I never said the woman told me. I said I heard the woman say so with my own ears, and I had it taken down by a shorthand reporter standing next to me and had it signed in my office.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point has been made.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I warned the senior member for St. Thomas that when he is dealing with me, he is not dealing with any junior female Magistrate, and that shouting cannot scare me. I am from Dayrells Road. I am like the cat, not the canary; I can take care of myself. Nothing the hon. member can say would make me change my attitude. He said something today about the Prime Minister saying something to me, but I have discovered that what he has said is endemic in all lawyers. This is where I believe they start off their basic training, and I am wondering if some of them are not made in the same mould. If the Prime Minister said something to me, he is the Prime Minister. (Mr. CRAIG: He cursed you.) That is his prerogative and it is my prerogative to curse him too if I want to, but I did not feel to do that. (Mr. CRAIG: You ran and hid.) I ran and hid, but I am still Minister of Communications.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will not tolerate this talking across the floor of the House.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, is it anything wrong to talk across the House? Have you ever visited the House of Commons?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: This is the kind of behaviour you get all the time. I remember the Commissioner of Wrecks and the Receiver of Wrecks. If you were to read the book by John Mordecai, - I do not remember the page but I will get it and come here and read it - you will see him quoting the Commissioner of Wrecks as saying that he must have been a criminal in his young days to come back here to be sent to Trinidad. Nobody in the world could know about you better than you know yourself; so it must have been something that caused him to say so. I am not prepared to argue with him about himself because I believe he knows himself better than I know him.

However, getting back to the accusations. We have heard these statements made on the floor of the House before, but this does not alter any fact; and as long as I am Minister, Milton Wiles is going to deliver letters at a proper time so long as he is a postman or resign, and if the matter is put before the Public Service Commission and he is dismissed, that is a matter for him. I have no qualms about that. (Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That would be unfortunate.) It could not be any more unfortunate than it was for Dr. Humby to have to leave here because of a tyrannical leader we had here in this country. Dr. Humby exposed the malnutrition at the Hospital and I heard with my own ears in the Lower Green.....

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, will the Minister say on what platform did Mr. Wiles sit and prompt: Opposition speakers?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not consider that to be a point of order.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Dr. Humby sat on a political platform and prompted speakers.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I have seen village idiots, Mr. Chairman, but I have never seen them so red

before. Dr. Humby was contributing something to this country. (Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Wiles too.) Yes, he is contributing something to you in your homosexual activities. If that is unparliamentary, Mr. Chairman, I beg to withdraw that statement.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The captain of a ship never told me to leave the galley boy alone yet. That happened on the "Statesman". Ask the Minister.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the kind of thing you get with people of his calibre; but as I have said before, and will say again, nothing that has been said on the floor of this House this afternoon can make me change my attitude towards Mr. Wiles, and even if I wanted to change my attitude I have a precedent for it in Dr. Humby who was hounded down in this country, Napoleon Layne and Dorian Farrell and many others. They were hounded down by none other than the junior member for St. Joseph, the Commissioner of Wrecks. We all know, as I have said before, that some people could not tell the truth by accident. There is such an expression, Mr. Chairman, that quite a number of people use like "congenital liar"; but when I am dealing with certain people I use the words "embryonic liar", which means a liar from the day conception takes place. They could not tell the truth even if they had to get a passage into Heaven.

6.45 p.m.

There is nothing so dangerous as a lie intermingled with the truth; but, as he has said, some people win elections when there is no election. I win mine when the voting time comes around. As he said that he and Mr. Wiles and so-and-so, if I do not find him in any uncompromising position, I will be there too unless he plans, which some of them are capable of, to do away with me by default. But that does not work so easily. As I have said, I am like the cat which went to listen to the canary singing.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have so often in my life had accusations made against me and ignored them, but found out afterwards that I did wrong because failure to contradict might make people feel that the accusations were right, that I have changed that appalling bad habit of mine. Because of what the hon. member has just said about Dr. Humby and myself, I must deny his suggestion that I hounded Dr. Humby out of this Island. It was reported to me that Dr. Humby attended a political meeting held by the present senior member for Bridgetown and he got on the platform and attacked the Government for failure to do something which he said they should have done - something about children being in the Almshouse or something like that. I later said or wrote that he had made this accusation against the Government without drawing it to the Government's attention. Dr. Humby sued me for libel or it might have been slander, and I then discovered though I had not been told before, that he had actually written a letter to the responsible Minister or who would have been the Minister if we had a Ministerial system in existence in those days - that he had drawn it to the attention of the Government although it never reached

my desk or my ears either. I apologised to his solicitors and he withdrew that case. A few years ago Dr. Humby came to this Island on a visit; he came to see me at home on a friendly visit and I again repeated to him that I did not know at the time or I would never have said that he did not draw it to the Government's attention. If I allow what the hon. member has just said to go without a contradiction, it would be quite easy for those of us who have heard it to feel that I did something wrong. "He is accused of trying to hunt down a man who acted vindictively because of his politics and that is his defence. You did it too with Dr. Humby". That is utterly untrue. I did not know when I said that Dr. Humby had done what he really had not done, and I apologised. The case was withdrawn and he did not leave Barbados because of that. He was not fired, and when he came back we met as friends.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in the actual Resolution itself there is something here about the revision of postmen's routes. This is nothing to do with Mr. Wiles although, in passing, I would say that I doubt that Mr. Wiles will ever pay a visit to Clapham to meet the Minister as a friend as Dr. Humby did to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. The Minister would welcome him. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I wonder if the Minister, in respect of Mr. Wiles' route, could look into the question of that route, because I think that Mr. Wiles' experience over the years has enabled the route to be serviced with reasonable expedition, but it is a very big route. Since it was established, probably in 1929 or 1930, the Housing Development at Clermont - there was only one house up there, but there are now a large number, some apparently in St. Thomas - and the old house at Clermont used to get its mail from St. James. It seems that Clermont which is at the furthest possible end of St. Thomas, has been added to the travelling, and more recently the building up of Bagatelle and Redmans Village area have increased the population a great deal and Rock Hall is a very heavily populated area. Could the Minister, since there will have to be a replacement on that particular route, seek to relieve the load of whatever postman goes there to some extent by making it a little more manageable and servicable? It is not only Clermont, but there is a house in Warrens Hill, and it may not be realised that, in fact, when you build one house a mile away from the nearest house which a postman previously had to serve, you might, in fact, be adding twenty minutes to the delivery time of letters at a later stage down the route. That is exactly what has happened by the building of a house in Warrens Hill and the building of houses in Clermont. I think the Minister may be aware of this. The route may be unmanageable by a new postman. They talk about complaints about people not getting letters; I am sure that people in the more remote parts of that walk are not going to get their letters at all by a new postman as easily and as early as they have been delivered by an experienced one. I would be glad if the Minister would give his attention to that.

I observe from a later Resolution which will come before the House, that no new postmen seems to

have been sent to St. Thomas. Again, the population of Barbados when the number of postmen was fixed is probably less than it is now, and the number of houses was certainly much less because more people have houses than used to have houses. The occupancy in the houses was less, and more people are getting more letters because the number of Barbadians in the United Kingdom is still increasing and, as the Minister will know, in respect of this same matter, Canada. As it increases, so does the work of each postman and the postal services in the districts. If you compare it with the service as set out in the Post Office Guide in the 1930's you will realise how far it has declined. These Guides were very precise as to the time when the postmen had to pass each particular landmark of their walk. A spot-check has revealed that in the places where I have looked, postmen pass between an hour and a half or two hours later than they used to pass 30 years ago. This is where the situation is comparable for afternoon deliveries. I am sure that the Minister would try to improve that aspect of it.

Mr. Chairman, there is also one last thing; the Minister should really try and publish another Post Office Guide. These old Guides are very useful, and with the increased staff, there should be a little relief on the work load of people who would normally be in a position to produce the Guide.

6.55 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I notice that the senior member for St. Thomas has boiled down somewhat - like bush tea - and he has made what I consider to be a reasonable request. I agree that the area serviced by his "pet subject" (Mr. Wiles) is a fairly long area. There is a point I want to make here. When the Government first came into office, it offered postmen an opportunity to get a loan to buy autocycles to ride. For some reason or other, Mr. Wiles did not avail himself of this loan. Every man is free to do as he likes.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is not Mr. Wiles himself who has complained about the route. I have observed that the route is bigger. What the Minister says about Mr. Wiles and the autocycle is quite true. I advised him to get one, and he said he only had a few more years in the Service and he would not worry.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, what the hon. member has said is true, because Clermont is now a built-up area and more houses are going up there. As he says, there is a wall house owned by the Challenors and so on. I should also add that I think there are two additional postmen working in St. Thomas apart from the regular postmen, but I would look into the request for distributing the route differently, or putting another postman there to relieve the pressure of work. I will also look into the question of Post Office Guides. I know that Clermont and Redman Village are big areas, and I will look into the matter.

The question that the Resolution for \$22,739 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No.23

A Resolution for \$2,099 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think that this Resolution is really self-explanatory. There is nothing to it, except that I ought to say that we propose to give a National Flag to all the educational institutions in this Island, not only our own schools and colleges, but the independent and other schools as well. I think that 200 flags would just cover the demand. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$2,099 to meet the cost of 200 flags. I agree with the Addendum which states:

"It was a tradition for government-maintained schools in Barbados to be supplied with a full-sized Union Jack as a pledge of loyalty....."

Now that we are an independent country, it is also the time that we must pledge some bit of loyalty to our flag. I hope the quality of the flags, which Government proposes to purchase with this money, will be of a quality worthy of the loyalty which we, as Barbadians, will pay to our flag. It is embarrassing at times when one goes along the street and sees some half-gold or half-yellow flags - sometimes you cannot tell the colour of the flags - not only flying on Government buildings, but also on commercial buildings. It is not the best type of thing one would like to see, and it certainly gives one the impression that the same way the flag looks our nation is likely to be: tattered, weather beaten and out of colour.

Sir, I wish to make a suggestion that the time has come - I like to give Jack his jacket. The senior member for St. John is the Prime Minister of this country. We have to accept this, for how long we do not know, but as it is at the moment he is the Prime Minister. I am hoping that I will see the day when the Prime Minister's car bears the standard. I am sure we cannot be asking Government for too much in order to see the Prime Minister's car bearing the standard with the pride of which he and all of us on this side of the House boast of our nation.

I can recall that one evening I was attending a State funeral, or Memorial Service, for Senator Kennedy. I was chatting with the Minister of Trade and the police, not knowing, diverted the Minister's car to go and park in some back street area. I figure, and this is my own firm opinion, that the time has come when, as in other countries like Trinidad and in other territories I have visited, you see the Ministers of Government - and, I believe in some of them Parliamentarians - carrying something of recognition on their cars. I am not saying this because I am looking for anything to put on my car, but I am saying it in the interest of all concerned.

I remember some time ago there were some very unpleasant circumstances when I came into the

compound to attend my duty in Parliament. A young policeman shouted across to me and said: "Buddy you cannot park there." I asked him why, and he said "That stand is reserved for members of Parliament". I told him that I was a member of Parliament, and he quite nicely apologised. I say this, because at the Training School, even if you teach policemen to pay courtesies, which they seldom do, to members of Parliament, it is unfortunate that they cannot know every car number of a member of Parliament. Even if they knew the car number of a member of Parliament, it is likely that he may change his car. The time has come when there should be some form of recognition that members of Parliament should carry on their cars for the purpose of getting to and fro to do their public duties without any interference. If the public elected us here to do their job and carry out their wishes, it is fair that we should have the respect which is given to them.

I have suffered again, and I think my colleague here suffered this unfortunate incident, to have my baggage tumbled over when I was travelling. I firmly believe, Mr. Chairman, that it would be a good idea not only for us to make sure that Government provides the best quality flags to fly on buildings, but also to provide some form of recognition for members of Parliament.

7.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I should like to give the hon. member the assurance that the points he has raised I will take up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The question that the Resolution for \$2,099 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No.24

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, hon. members are aware that at a later stage we are dealing with another Resolution on School Meals. The distinction between the two simply is that nutrition is a separate item in the Estimates under the Ministry of Education, and has to do with the milk and biscuits scheme for which separate transportation has always been arranged. Hitherto this has been done by way of contract, but the Ministry has discovered - they knew this quite some time, it is true - that it is not now only a question of transportation of milk and biscuits to those schools which are not yet served by the School Meals service; it is also the problem of the transportation of books, educational apparatus, furniture in some cases, and all that for which at the moment the work has to be done by contract.

The proposal here therefore is to purchase a truck for this reason. Hon. members could conceivably ask why we do not for instance put this on to the School Meals Service. The reason is that the School Meals vans have to conform to certain specifications; they have to have shelves and racks in them which have to be put in specially for holding the containers firmly. They are not, therefore, suitable for general freighting and therefore for general freighting we need this extra truck.

I do not know if there is anything else I may be asked; if so, I would answer it, but I cannot think of it myself.

I beg to move that Head 38 - Ministry of Education (5) Schools, stand part of the Resolution.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this item on transportation of educational supplies gives a little cause for concern, because it so happens that up to the fifth week of the school term just ended, quite a number of the Primary Schools and some of the Comprehensive Schools had not received their educational supplies. Some of the Headteachers had to raise money by way of tarpaulin musters to make purchases in some areas, and I can say that such things as chalk in one case, textbooks, stationery, teachers' registers and log books were bought. During the past term, teachers had to use exercise books as log books at some of the schools, and it would appear as if since 1964 there has really been some difficulty in having this phase of the work of the Ministry carried out efficiently. Since that time there has been what I would call a school feeding system between the Educational Supplies Association overseas and the Ministry, and consequently from the Ministry to the schools.

I do not want to hold up the passing of this particular Resolution for any time except to say that Headteachers have found it difficult, particularly during the past term, to get through with their work even in the case of nutrition. Some schools had to go without supplies of sugar up to the third week, and as regards stationery and the like, it has gone the rounds that teachers meet in the City on Saturdays and other days that are available to them and make a joke now by showing each other three fingers. I had to try and learn the meaning of these three fingers, and they say they have what is called a three "S" system obtaining in these schools, and it means the "Schools Starvation System." This is not with reference to school meals; it is with reference to supplies of stationery and the nutrition scheme and in respect of sugar for sweetening milk and that kind of thing.

The question of transporting supplies to schools is one which I would like the Minister to go into most carefully. I have here in my hand Circular No. 74/1968, which went out from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education to Heads of Primary and Comprehensive Schools and dated 18th June, 1968. This Circular reads as follows:-

"Books received by this Ministry under the Raufurly and Canadian Gift Schemes are now available for selection by Headteachers or their representatives. The book cover a wide range and have been kindly classified into units by members of the Peace Corps Volunteers to facilitate selection. I should be grateful if you will call at this Ministry and select requirements for your school on the morning of Wednesday, 19th, or Thursday, 20th June, 1968."

It was signed by one Byer for the Ministry of Education. Mr. Chairman, this summons that went out to Headteachers has not been received very well by all of them. I know that one Headteacher who has acted as Inspector of Schools on occasion went to Headquarters to get his supply of books, got his pants torn by having to jump over these packing cases, and it is the feeling generally of Headteachers that the supplies of books ought to be sent out to them. On the morning in question when the bulk of these teachers was in, I remember one Headteacher fighting her way to the bus carrying stacks of books, and it was not at all a pleasant sight to behold. It is not every Headteacher who has a motor car, and I would say further that while a teacher would have an interest in his school and go to make his selection, he then has to carry them in his car and he ought to be paid; but you cannot insult the Headteachers by offering them payment for taking books in their cars. Their cars are not supposed to be vans; they are for their own private use. If a truck is going to be provided for the transportation of supplies to schools, I am for it 100 per cent, because I would not like to see Headteachers or their assistants suffer the indignities that they did during the past term in the selection and collecting of books and other supplies.

The question that Head 38 - Ministry of Education (5) Schools, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.15 p.m.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMONWEALTH CRAFTS CENTRE

Head 40 - Ministry of Health and Community Development - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head 40 and Item 175 (New) - Commonwealth Crafts Centre - the note sets out the position. The position is that the sum of \$2,400 is required for making an outright grant to the Commonwealth Partnership Association Ltd., of London, England to enable Barbados to join the Commonwealth Crafts Centre Scheme. The position is that the sum of \$1,440 will buy handicraft and that will help handicraft development in Barbados. (MEMBERS: All right.) I beg to move that Head 40 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it would appear that we are dealing with some business here that I am completely ignorant about. I have not received any Order Paper or any of these things which are being dealt with here. I understand that they were sent out last night or yesterday afternoon by a policeman, but I have not received anything at all. I do not know if I should say "yes" or "no" to what we are dealing with. It is rather surprising to me; I have not received anything, and I do not think that that is fair to me. Other hon. members have received theirs, but I have not received anything. I do not know if the po-

licemen think that I live in a hole or something like that, but all I can do now is to quarrel and do not let anything pass.

The question that Head 40 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$9,900 do now pass.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

The Chairman reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 8.30 p.m. of the clock.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this time is getting to bed time, I think that half an hour's suspension of the Sitting should be good enough and let us come back in and work because it appears to me as if we have to go on until morning. That being so, are we to hang around here until 8.30 o'clock? I wonder, Sir, if I would be in order to move. (ASIDES)

The question that this sitting be now suspended until 8.30 p.m. of the clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.25 p.m.

On resumption:

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum present, and I ask that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member, and I thank him for drawing it to my attention. Please let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House goes back into Committee of Supply, I am asking leave to move an humble Address to Her Majesty.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless there is any objection, leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to proceed to move that Address immediately.

DEATH OF H.R.H. PRINCESS MARINA, DOWAGER DUCHESS OF KENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Address be passed to Her Majesty The Queen:

“THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Most Gracious Sovereign

The House of Assembly desire to place on record their propound expression of sympathy at the death of Her Royal Highness The Princess Marina, Dowager Duchess of Kent.

The House of Assembly have noted her signal contributions to charitable organizations and her devoted service to all aspects of Commonwealth unity during her lifetime.

The House of Assembly most respectfully request Your Majesty to express to the sorrowing relatives of the late Dowager Duchess of Kent their condolences at her death.”

Mr. Speaker, it is customary on occasions like this and bereavements in the Royal Family, Commonwealth Parliaments pass appropriate Resolutions of sympathy. I do not know whether in this country - except a few of us.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that copies have not yet been given either to the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition, or to the hon. junior member for Bridgetown. I wonder if copies will be circulated.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am sorry about that; I understood the Clerk to be getting that ready.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, past experience.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: But I have consulted with the hon. member already on the text of it. I do not suppose, Mr. Speaker, that very many people in this Island knew the late Duchess of Kent, but by all accounts she was a devoted person, and set a shining example through her charm and grace in public life, and was, indeed, very widely loved and respected in the United Kingdom.

One of the things, Mr. Speaker, that, regretably, makes all humanity of equal merit is the fact that at some time or other we have to sympathise with each other on occasions of bereavement, and this is true whether it happens in the reigning family, or among any of us members of this House, or outside of it; and I think that this expression of sym-

pathy ought to go out if only for the fact, Mr. Speaker, that in a very special respect we have been connected with the late Duchess of Kent in the fact that her son was the honoured guest of this country at the time of our Independence representing Her Majesty The Queen.

I am sure that the House specially agrees with the last paragraph of this Resolution in which we are asking the Queen to pass on to the late Duchess' relatives, and this will certainly include her son, our profound regret at her passing. I beg to move the Address.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, apart from the formal nature of expressing our sympathy in this way, I think it is a very good thought of, I suppose, the Leader of the House, who originally drafted this, to point out that the Duchess was expressly known for her charitable activities. As hon. members will know from photographs, if they did not actually see her in the flesh, that she was tall, stately, dignified, and you could see in her expression a kindly disposition. Persons who knew her used to point out that the word "gracious" was peculiarly applicable to her both as regards what you may call her demeanour, and also as regards her activities and her approach to other persons.

It is, I should think, for those of us who had only a nodding acquaintance, or a formal acquaintance, with her - it is more than mere words to say that when persons of that disposition pass from this world, you can really and truly express your sorrow and your condolences to their relatives. I beg to second this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to associate myself with the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and, to indicate our supporting the passing of this Resolution, I ask hon. members if they would join me in standing in their places for a period of two minutes.

Hon. Members stood in their places for two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare this Resolution unanimously passed, and I direct the Clerk of the Table to see that it be complied with as expeditiously as possible.

Before we revert to Committee of Supply, there are certain notices which, I understand, were not on the Notice Paper this morning when His Honour the Deputy Speaker was so good as to take the Chair in my absence. Those notices were later placed on the Paper, and it is no fault of hon. members that their notices were not given at the proper time. Again, I have to admit that it would seem to be the fault of the office here. They may have my permission now to give these notices.

NOTICES OF RESOLUTIONS

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:-

WHEREAS it is public knowledge that the Barbados Academy, a Government approved Private Secondary School, has ceased to operate, and will not be re-opening this term;

AND WHEREAS the closing of this school is bound to cause great inconvenience and hardship to the parents and guardians of the pupils of this school to find over 240 places in other schools at this very late hour, when such other schools are already bursting at the seams for more space;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to undertake the running of the above-mentioned school with the same staff for the next term or more until school places can be found for these boys, especially as they are now pupils of a school that has gained Government approval.
8.40 p.m.

WHEREAS since the closing down of the "Daily News" newspaper, the public are deprived of all political information and speeches made in the House of Assembly by their representatives;

AND WHEREAS the "Advocate-News" is failing miserably to give such publication;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to have the broadcasting of debates in this House of Assembly given top priority in the programmes broadcast by Radio Barbados, and also to have prompt publication and circulation of the printed debates at a reasonable price throughout the Island.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government so to amend the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Risk) Insurance Act, 1962 as to make compulsory for all motor vehicle owners a Full Third Party Insurance as a minimum requirement.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to make provision for the increasing number of alcoholics in this Island who after treatment at the Mental Hospital are now housed in the various infirmaries of the island and have no home of their own.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: There are questions which I am afraid, through no fault of hon. members, could not have been given notice of at the appropriate time this morning. Hon. members may give such notices now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Questions:

How many policemen have been posted for night duty at Sam Lord's Hotel between January 1st and July, 31st this year?

2. On each night that policemen were posted at Sam Lord's, how many were on duty in the rest of the area controlled by the District "C" Police Station?

3. Is it a fact that the men posted at Sam Lord's have been subjected to the indignity of having to take orders regarding police duties from one Major Ronald Stoute, who is not now a police officer attached to the Royal Barbados Police Force?

4. Will Government take immediate steps to ensure that discipline and the moral life of the Royal Barbados Police Force is in no way hampered by having members of the Force take orders about police duties from persons not authorised to give such orders?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

With a view to meeting the needs of the children of post-Primary and Comprehensive school age in the Northern parishes of this Island, would Government treat as a priority establishing a Comprehensive co-educational School at Barrow's near the St. Lucy-St. Peter boundary, or at a suitable place on the St. James-St. Peter border without delay?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is it a fact that the Headteacher of West St. Joseph School receives a monthly salary which is less than that of one of his Assistants?

2. Will Government state the salary of the Headteacher and that of his assistant?

3. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, will Government take immediate steps to correct this anomalous situation?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Has the new Lodge Hill Reservoir been completed?

2. If so, when?

3. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, when does Government intend honouring its promise stated in writing on 3rd, February, 1966 - to give priority to the laying of a water main at Storey Gap Codrington Hill on completion of the Reservoir?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

What hotels in this Island, if any, have private bathing beaches?

2. Does Sandy Lane Hotel at St. James have a private beach?

3. Will Government take note of the fact that the said Sandy Lane Hotel is advertising swimming on a private beach to tourists?

4. What steps Government consider taking with a view to correcting the impression which has gone abroad as a result of the actions of this Hotel as at No. 3 above?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

In view of the beach erosion taking place on the South and West Coasts of this Island, would Government appoint a Commission without infringing on the rights of *bona fide* property owners, to

- (a) preserve existing public entrances to the beaches;
- (b) restore such entrances as might have lawfully existed but have been encroached upon by adjoining land-owners;
- (c) post adequate signboards or other marks of identification to indicate to the public the existence of any public entrance to the beaches; and
- (d) to make recommendations for the acquiring of accesses to beaches for the public, without prejudice to the right of any landowner and without attempting to create any encumbrance on any existing property-owner?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Now that the Minister of Education no longer controls broadcasting and television, does Government propose proceeding with the plan of "educational television" for which there was a provision for approximately \$29,000.00 in 1967-68 Estimates?

2. Who will be responsible for the "educational" portion of the programme and who will be responsible for the "television" portion?

3. Does Government consider that the interest of the school-population and the public generally can best be served by divorcing broadcasting and television functions from the education portfolio? 8.50 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the considerable apprehension, the lack of security and the broad feelings of disgust amongst merchants, warehouse-keepers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and distributors, supermarket operators, shopkeepers - large and small - in both City and country districts - and the business community generally, over the outrageous building breakings and larcenies, and some, with marked frequency at some business places, and as a result of the loss of commodities of very high value, havoc is being wrought to the commercial element of this country?

2. Would Government consider the better deployment of the present numbers of the Royal Barbados Police Force so that there be increased foot-patrol by uniformed policemen in the City by night, as well as increased tours of duty by plain-clothes policemen?

3. Is Government aware that because of the frequency of the breakings and the larcenies being committed, City businessmen have experienced some difficulty in recruiting additional watchmen for night duty because of fear of being murdered by the marauders?

4. What steps does the Government intend taking to crush this threat to life and property?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is it a fact that between September, 1965 and March, 1966 a staff-member of the Government's School-meals Scheme received from the Treasury an amount of \$291.33 in excess of any sum due to the said worker?

2. What is the name of the worker who received this excess money?

3. It is a fact that Government waived repayment of \$253.33 of the said sum, leaving the worker to repay a mere \$38.00 of the said \$291.33?

4. What influenced Government's decision to waive so substantial an amount of the over-drawn money?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that residents of Lonesome Hill, St. Peter, have to walk long distances to fetch a supply of water for their homes?

2. Will Government take steps to provide a standpipe at a central point of the said Lonesome Hill Road so that residents may be better served?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member his question re grounds and buildings at Farley Hill, St. Peter.

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

What are Government's plans for developing the grounds and buildings at Farley Hill?

2. If there are plans, when does Government intend putting same into effect?

3. Will Government consider establishing a lottery, exclusively for this development, and to be known as the Farley Hill Lottery Development Scheme or to be known by any other name acceptable to Government?

4. Does Government have plans for acquiring additional lands adjoining Farley Hill?

5. Is it a fact that the future entrance to Farley Hill may be by way of lands now forming part of Welchtown Plantation?

6. Would Government take immediate steps to provide temporary seating accommodation at the Band-stand at Farley Hill for the benefit of visitors and others who go there?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the same hon. member continue his question re Farley Hill bandstand, St. Peter?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I have just covered the band stand.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must apologise to the hon. member. That has been put down here as a separate question.

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

Would Government consider extending the water mains at the Four Hill - Lonesome Hill junction to accommodate those residents at the Four Hill district who are willing to have water services installed at their homes?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that the water supply at Mount, St. Peter, and St. Andrew is intermittent and very unsatisfactory to meet the needs of the residents there?

Will Government take steps to improve the water supply there and also consider the laying of the necessary mains to enable householders to have the opportunity of having water services installed at their homes?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is it a fact that Government intends building a kitchen costing \$17,500.00 for the Housecraft Centre?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, what are the dimensions of this kitchen and what materials will be used in the construction thereof?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the considerable volume of business transacted between the firm known as International Scientific Limited and Her Majesty's Customs at Barbados?

2. Do Invoices employed by International Scientific Limited meet the requirements of the Customs in every case?

3. Are consignments of goods or samples or whatever else to International Scientific Limited bear

proper valuations and do packages contain what is stated on the parcel contents notice in every case?

4. How many times has International Scientific Limited made use of a "Bill of Sight" since operating in this Island?

5. Is Government aware that documents for Customs examinations which ought to have been prepared by overseas shippers have been prepared by International Scientific Limited at Barbados instead?

6. Is Government aware that methods employed in the importation of both dutiable and duty-free goods by this firm constitute a breach of the Customs regulations in many respects?

7. Will Government appoint a body of experts to examine all documents presented to Customs by International Scientific Limited for the importation of commodities?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that I have no notice of any other questions by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.
9.00 p.m.

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

1. Is this Government aware of the hardships, inconvenience, and loss of money that the residents of Fruitful Hill, Cane Garden, and Church Village, in the parish of St. Joseph, and the travelling public are experiencing daily, due to the abandonment of the two roads in the district?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government see to it that these two roads are put into a good state of repair immediately and/or before Christmas time and before the next reaping season begins?

3. Is the Minister aware of the great necessity for water in those districts of the parish of St. Joseph where the residents have already made petitions for this vital necessity?

4. If the answer is "Yes", will the Minister state how many such petitions have been made and have been brought to his attention, and also if and when the water supply will be installed in these districts?

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

1. Will the Minister cause repairs to be effected to the Nightingale Home, Black Rock St. Michael, paying special attention to the enclosing of the said Home?

2. Will the Minister also consider, in view of the limited space now occupied by the said Home and the number of occupants therein, its extension?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Will the Minister take immediate steps to provide an office for the Leader of the Opposition at the Parliament Buildings, Bridgetown?

Mr. SPEAKER: It would seem that there are no other Notices re Private members' Business.

NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS

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 a Resolution to place the sum of \$2,148 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 31 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with this Money Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

A Resolution to approve the expenditure required to Supplement the Annexed Estimates for the Port Department for the year 1968-69 as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed that, after the sitting of the House commenced today, minutes of five previous meetings arrived and were, accordingly not placed on my file until after His Honour the Deputy Speaker had been so good as to carry on for me in my enforced absence.

I would also point out that these five sets of minutes were not circulated until last night, so far as my information goes, and so far as has happened with me personally. I do not know if hon. members have had adequate opportunity to study those five sets of minutes in the time available, and unless I am assured that they have had such time - I, personally, have not - I will defer consideration of their confirmation.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: If Your Honour had not mentioned it, I intended to raise the matter. I received the minutes at six o'clock, and I certainly want to read them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not asking hon. members to consider confirmation of these minutes today. It continues to be a source of regret to me that these minutes are not circulated by the Government Printery within a few days - within not more than three or four days after each meeting.

Before the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. YEARWOOD took the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No.25

A Resolution for \$112,170 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this provision, as hon. members will see from the Addendum, is required to meet the cost of the establishment of an Embassy in Washington, and attention is also drawn to the fact that the estimate for this is set out in the Appendix to the Addendum.
9.10 p.m.

I wish, however, to draw two things - and one other thing - to the attention of hon. members before I go further. I think they know that provision is made in the current Estimates under Head 22 Item 59(a) for an additional Mission, and what is proposed here will not exceed the provision already laid down; but for certain strictly financial and accounting purposes, the supplementary is asked for and has to be done in this way.

Now there is some background to this proposal, and I think it proper that the Committee should know. When the country became independent, the first decision which we made for representational services in Washington was as follows: we created two diplomatic posts, one for First Secretary and one Secretary or in Civil Service parlance, one Senior Assistant Secretary and one Secretary. Since this decision was taken, and this decision was taken very early last year, either in February or March, Barbados became a member of the Organisation of American States, and in conformity with the practice and tradition of that body, it becomes necessary to appoint a representative to the Organisation with the rank of Ambassador. At the same time it is also necessary for us to maintain our representational strength by accreditation of an Ambassador to the United States Government. Consequently in recognition of this and in view of the fact that the Ambassador of Barbados accredited to the United States is also the Permanent Representative to the United Nations and resides in New York, we feel that a Barbados Embassy should be established in Washington, and that the staff of the Embassy should service both the Ambassador to the Organisation of American States and the Ambassador to the United States of America. The Ambassador accredited to the United States will continue to reside in New York, but will of course appear in Washington as circumstances warrant. The Ambassador accredited to the Organisation of American States will of course be resident fully and wholly in New York. So the proposed structure, Mr. Chairman, of the Washington Embassy will be as follows: the office will be headed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary accredited to the United States Government. The administrative head of the Office would be a Perma-

nent Secretary who would be accredited like all members of the staff both to the United States principally and to the Organisation of American States. His accreditation in respect of the O.A.S. would be at the level of Ambassador, but in respect of the United States of America he would be known as the Minister of Counsellor of the Embassy.

The distinction here is a simple one and one which is customary. Representation of countries of the Organisation of American States is at the level of Ambassador, because member countries of O.A.S. are of course required to be members of the O.A.S. Council and by common consent in O.A.S. circles Council members are given the rank of Ambassador, but this is only in respect of O.A.S. Ambassadors accredited, however, to countries as distinct from Ambassadors accredited to organisations, are of course plenipotentiaries and rank higher than Ambassadors accredited merely to organisations.

Now to summarize this aspect of it, I should like to explain that the Mission of Barbados in Washington will be dually accredited, that is, accredited to the United States as well as to the Council of O.A.S. with this exception: the Ambassador to the United States will not be concerned with matters of representation at O.A.S. These matters of representation to O.A.S. will be under the direct and answerable control of the Ambassador accredited to O.A.S. Perhaps at this stage it would be as well to make the Committee aware of the particular job descriptions of these offices. The Ambassador to O.A.S. who will also be Minister Counsellor in the Embassy accredited to the United States would have a job description as follows: to be a member representative of Barbados on the Council of the Organisation of American States, reporting directly on Organisation of American States matters to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and to the Minister of Caribbean and Latin American Affairs, and to be the Administrative Head and Accounting Officer of the Barbados Embassy to the United States of America, and to be in charge, under the direction of the Ambassador accredited to the United States, of the day-to-day administration of that office. In the absence of the Ambassador accredited to the United States, this officer will be a member representative of Barbados at Washington.

Now in addition to this, there are one or two other points arising out of the Resolution which I think ought to be covered. The Ambassador to the Organisation of American States who will rank in Civil Service terms as a Permanent Secretary will of course receive the emoluments and pay of a Permanent Secretary, and he will of course also receive the special representational allowances which attach to public officers of this rank in the foreign service. At the moment this representational allowance is 75% of the officer's basic salary, and it is payable in the currency of the country in which the officer is serving. A chauffeur-driven car will be placed at his disposal for official use, and the expenditure for this is also reflected in the estimate submitted in

this Resolution. There are other things, of course, in the Resolution both of recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure. The recurrent expenditure covers personal emoluments both for the established and the non-established staff as well as the overseas allowances for the various officers, as well as other charges, and the non-recurrent includes the motor car I have just referred to as well as furniture and equipment for the Washington Embassy. I cannot anticipate every possible question that may be asked, but if hon. members have any questions, they may ask them and I will try my best to answer them.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the financial implications of this Resolution, although the Minister introducing it neglected to say so, are not considerable for Barbados as I gather, and this is just a re-arrangement and re-allocation of expenditure which the House has already approved. Now, Mr. Chairman, I find myself hesitating to say things and being warned by my colleagues against saying these things in respect of matters like this.
9.20 p.m.

I should say at once that were this not so, I would be opposing the entire idea even more than I am opposing it, because in the middle of the "flim flam" which we had from the Leader of the House, in all the wrapping up of unpalatable ideas and unpalatable words, it really comes down to this; that Barbados is finding itself in such deep financial waters where foreign affairs are represented, that it takes "flim flam" to conceal them from the eyes of the public and of the House of Assembly. Who could conceive, Mr. Chairman, that we would find ourselves with a High Commissioner in Canada, an Ambassador in Washington and an Ambassador to the O.A.S. - three diplomatic posts? Who heard the Prime Minister read a White Paper referring to somebody's estimate of \$500,000 a year as being the cost of the Foreign Service? The Foreign Service is costing more than C.B.C., and all of this now that we are going around and around is to appoint an Ambassador, a representative at the oldest and the most moribund of international organizations. I do not want to take away anything from the dignity of the Ministerial office of the Leader of the House. He is the Minister for Caribbean and Latin American Affairs or whatever it is. In the Caribbean part he is not allowed to do anything of any significance in the course of his duties and in the Latin American part of it, there is not anything he can do. We, in the Barbados Labour Party, have opposed all of this nonsense of O.A.S. Guyana is not a member of O.A.S.; she cannot be a member of O.A.S. as long as she has a boundary dispute with Venezuela, and it looks now as if she will never be a member of O.A.S. Unless she is willing to give up to Venezuela a very considerable portion of her territory; and yet Guyana is benefiting from American help - one might say American bribery - to an enormous degree.

We, in Barbados, have not seen a penny of it. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We do not have a Jagan.) The Hon. Leader of the House says that we do not have a Jagan; but if we could believe the Prime Minister, we have some Jagans developing very strongly in Pinfold Street, and, according to the Prime Minister, in St. Philip where they are even drilling. I think I remember hearing him say that in here once. Obviously, since the Hon. Leader of the House is deploring the fact that we do not have a Jagan, the Prime Minister's remarks about the Pinfold Street activists must be directed at the Ambassador of the United States rather than at members of this House. The O.A.S. is a minus organisation. It is an Organisation which exists for the purpose of having chauffeur-driven cars in Washington with self-important officials driving about in them. Barbados has been to some extent immune from the disease of self-importance in its overseas representation. Insofar as we have self-importance and chest-puffing overseas representatives, we only have about 40% of one, because Guyana pays the other 60% and the 40% of self-importance that we have to share in, the case of Sir Lionel Luckhoo, ought to be enough. The O.A.S. can do nothing. Its effectiveness has been destroyed by the movements in Latin American politics far beyond the comprehension of its founders and the imagination of its founders. When O.A.S. was founded, it was founded to usher in the era of the American big stick and the American domination - economic, political and even physical - of Latin America. Now that the United States of America itself is retreating from the days of the big stick and the good neighbour policy alike, policies which were indeed the same but expressed in different language, now that the United States is retreating from that, O.A.S. is still holding on. No doubt, O.A.S. will become more magnificent than ever in its last days. Like the Venetian Republic, it will flourish on decadence and revel in corruption. The less power it has, the more style it will put on; the less it can do effectively, I daresay the more important will be the persons who become its Secretaries - General and Ambassadors to it.

As regards Barbados, O.A.S. can do nothing for us and we can do nothing for O.A.S. We do not want to join the O.A.S. peace keeping, and I am sure that the Minister will be the first to agree that if there is any trouble in Bolivia, Barbados' views will be of less importance to what happens in Bolivia than they are at present to what happens in Czechoslovakia. I am sure that the Minister will agree that for all the files which cross his desk, all he gets out of them is a certain knowledge of Latin politics which he did not have before and which the Minister himself feels he can well do without, unless I am mistaken. We attacked the O.A.S. at first on the basis of its being an instrument for imperialism, among other things; I am using extreme language in saying that. We do not even have to attack it for that now. Time Magazine is our authority, and Goodness knows, if there is one thing that the Time Miami Bureau can be an authority on, it is how the big stick is wielded over the Latin American countries and along what particular tracks at any given moment the lines of power

are running in Latin American politics. Time Magazine dismisses the O.A.S. as nothing, and no United States Secretary of State, for many years now, has been such a hypocrite as to suggest not since the affair of the Dominican Republic, that the O.A.S. has any value or any use; but we are still here passing Resolutions to buy a car and put a flag on it and buy furniture - of course, the furniture would have to be bought anyhow - and to appoint an Ambassador to O.A.S. Let us look at something else. These are supposed to be two separate things. I am sure that the Minister will disabuse me of any ignorant ideas which I may have on the subject, but I have never heard of two Ambassadors under one roof and one Ambassador directing another Ambassador.

I think that this point will be dealt with by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but on the face of it it seems to be madness. There are not only two Ambassadors, but two Ministers. You can imagine that the Foreign Service in Barbados has in its mind that nothing can be done unequivocally. One person is responsible, and he has one set of interests to look after. In Washington, the Americans will not have any question of Guyana and Barbados being jointly represented. It is an irony that in these days the diplomacy of the British Foreign Office, which we were all educated to believe in, was at the same time the most devious and the most correct in its protocol procedures and most devious in its operations for Great Britain. We have to see today that the deviousness gets it nowhere, and the attention to protocol is so far waived and abandoned that Sir Lionel Luckhoo can represent two countries in London - something which would never have been thought of in the days of Lord Palmerston, for example.
9.30 p.m.

We cannot have Barbados and another country represented together at O.A.S. You have to have two people riding in double harness, not with one driver but with two drivers: with the Prime Minister driving one, and with the Deputy Prime Minister driving the other. What happens now, Mr. Chairman, when the Ambassadors fall out in the Embassy? To whom do they appeal? The Ambassador for O.A.S. appeals to the Deputy Prime Minister, and the ordinary Ambassador appeals to the Prime Minister. This is a case where dualism has been carried right up to the level of Ministerial responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, we may imagine that there may not be such severe clashes between Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, or, if there are, they can be resolved in the Cabinet. But in the Washington Embassy itself, the Ambassador wants X, and the O.A.S. Ambassador wants Y. There are going to be clashes, Mr. Chairman, even over when the Ambassador should be in New York and when he should be in Washington. I do not know who exactly is going to be appointed Ambassador of the O.A.S. It is unfortunate that protocol, presumably, will prevent the ex-Senator Vaughan from being appointed Ambassador to O.A.S. I can think of no more appropriate appointment. He was born in Haiti, I believe, and Papa Doc is one of the Chief pillars of the O.A.S. to

this day, and who, Mr. Chairman, better to lead the lame than the halt? Who better to guide the infirm than the old? Who better to guide.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not know why it is the hon. member feels that way about Ambassador Vaughan. To my mind, and on any showing, he is a distinguished Barbadian. Whether you agree with his appointment or not is a different matter, but there is no need to sneer at him.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I hear a *sotto voce* remark that somebody on this side is sneering at Ambassador Vaughan. Nobody on this side is sneering at Ambassador Vaughan, Mr. Chairman; he is past sneering at. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I hope that they will find it possible to put Ambassador Vaughan where he can do even less harm by sending him to be Ambassador of the O.A.S. Give him ample opportunity to research whatever book he is at present failing to write.

Mr. Chairman, so far as Furniture and Equipment for Embassy is concerned, I was not in the House when \$54,000 if that figure is right, was voted to redecorate a house in New York for Ambassador Vaughan. I do not know if that includes the provision of invalid chairs, or what the \$54,000 is to be spent on. It appears that Barbados is determined to create palaces in the United States. Furniture and Equipment for an Embassy, Mr. Chairman must cost \$38,000? If the Minister would put \$38,000 in my hand and tell me to go to London at Christie's, I would furnish an Embassy with Seretse Khama furniture for that. Where is this kind of money intended to be spent for furnishing Embassies?

Mr. Chairman, you can go in the Park Bennett galleries in New York and furnish a salon with furniture that Louis XV slept on for the kind of money that I see the Barbados Government is prepared to spend. A house that costs \$75,000, and furniture nearly as expensive as the house? What is this? Mr. Chairman, one knows that furniture can cost money; one knows that decorations can cost money, but we are not having a gold-plated bed. Even gold-plated beds do not cost that amount of money. I remember when they showed the gold-plated beds that Mr. Krobo Edusei's wife bought to put in her London flat, but even that only cost L1,500. Well, if you gave the Ambassador four gold-plated beds you still would not reach \$38,000. Those gold-plated beds had television sets; they woke you up on mornings, and made your morning tea for you as well. Is this the scale of operations we are contemplating for poor, little Barbados's Diplomatic Services abroad?

Mr. Chairman, all this means when the Resolution says that no more money is actually going to be spent than is voted - I take it that paragraph 2 of the Addendum will be regarded by the responsible Accounting Officers as a guide to how they may spend the money, and we are expecting to see money returned to the Treasury under Item 59A.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I ought to have said that this was already a directive of the Ministry of Finance in this respect.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: When we see next Year's Estimates, there will be no question of spending this and the \$270,000 or whatever Washington fancies and Washington follies may exist for the beguiling of Barbados' Diplomatic Representatives there. I take it that that will be so; but, nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, these are formidable sums with which we are dealing. We talk about the purchase of a motor car for the O.A.S. Ambassador on his official duties. What official duties does the O.A.S. Ambassador have? Is this intended to open the door for buying a motor car for the Prime Minister? Are we now to hear that Sir Lionel Luckhoo has a motor car, the O.A.S. Ambassador has a motor car and, therefore, the Prime Minister must have a motor car? How many official duties does the Ambassador of the O.A.S. have to discharge during the course of a week? The O.A.S. has not been summoned to deal with anything since the Dominican crisis. It could very well be last year, but I remember some literature that was circulated from the American Embassy which I got a copy of.

The O.A.S. has no official duties. It is only a devotion to tradition that keeps the O.A.S. going. Organisations carry on under their own inertia. After the war started in 1939 the League of Nations continued to meet; I believe it went right up to December, 1940. They were still Ambassadors to the League of Nations, and nobody ever told them that there was a war going on. The 1939-45 war was never discussed at the League of Nations at all, although it was still in existence. I believe it continued in a theoretical existence up to 1945. The O.A.S. is like that, Mr. Chairman. It is a 'nothing' organisation, continuing so that the permanent officials can work out the time for their pensions without the intervention of anybody who, perhaps, wants to get rid of them. They are fortunate in that they do not have the Ministers of the Government of Barbados to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be spending time, energy and thought and giving consideration to O.A.S. It was a foolish waste of time, and I think that the Opposition even wasted too much time talking about it, because it is proving itself to be negligible and meaningless. It is something that Barbados could have done without, not only because it was theoretically undesirable, but because it was actually meaningless.

9.40 p.m.

I think this is a very unfortunate Resolution, Mr. Chairman, and if it is to be supported, it should be supported only on the grounds that it is not calling for more money to be spent. It is in fact tying the hands of those who are doing the spending by making sure that they only spend it in particular directions; and now that we see how foolish the directions are, we will be able to argue with the Estimates Committee all the more successfully against the continuance of this foolishness next year when the Estimates come up for presentation.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not mean offence by what I am going to say, but it seems to me almost useless to speak on this Resolution, because while I am not pretending that I am an expert on this subject, I have certainly since there was talk about the possibility of our joining O.A.S. collected every single thing that I have come across written - information bulletins, newspapers and so on about O.A.S.; and what amazes me - and this is going to lead me to what I said just now about saying things without offence - is that if hon. members on both sides of this House knew how little value the O.A.S. is, before Barbados came in, to the South American Nations and how little they think of it, the Government would be persuaded by their our followers even to see that the more we forget the O.A.S., the less we do anything to show that we are glad we joined the O.A.S., the better it is for us. Read what the South American States themselves at the last Conference of O.A.S. members told the United States of America. I repeat, I am no expert, but I have certainly cut out everything I have seen in writing.

I get, as I presume many hon. members get, the United States Information Service Bulletins. I have been getting them for years. Some of them I have never opened in the past, but everyone nowadays I do with the hope of seeing more and more about the O.A.S. No human being who makes any attempt to study the lack of usefulness of the O.A.S. could feel proud to think that he is in Barbados concerning himself about O.A.S. matters. Apart from the question of prestige which is stupid in a poor Island like Barbados there is not the slightest justification for our remembering even the existence of O.A.S., let alone that we are member. Some of us are members of all sorts of organisations, honorary members sometimes, and sometimes we pay subscriptions largely because we find ourselves in a position where we are expected to join, but we in our heart of hearts know it is a waste of time even remembering the existence of these places. There is no justification, however much you may say that it is in accordance with O.A.S. tradition and practice.

I would like to ask the Leader of the House whether at any time the O.A.S. have reminded Barbados that there are certain things it should do according to their practice and tradition. I repeat, if hon. members could spare the time - I do not blame them if they do not make it a special duty - to learn something about the O.A.S., they would see that it is not worth wasting time on, and I would suggest to the Government to forget that they belong to the O.A.S. Let me ask the Government whether there is the slightest real benefit that they expect from the O.A.S. I have spoken to members of the O.A.S. abroad, and one at least expressed surprise to think that Barbados whose tradition and practice, if you like, are completely non-Latin American, and is just the reverse of Latin America, let alone the commercial aspect of it, should join, in that even if our culture is different from theirs, at any rate we have no trade with them. We have not got trade even with Venezuela as near as it is. We have no trade, no cultural contact, no anything with Latin America. We are in it, and there-

fore we have to admit that we are in it; but I suggest in the strongest possible language that Bolivia itself - I can speak only of two, Bolivia and Chile - I do not remember if Argentine but I think Paraguay asked the Americans to their face what earthly good they were to them, what were they getting out of O.A.S. Why should Barbados even remember that they belong to the O.A.S.? I am not going to say much more. While I am prepared, and I am not going to say much more for this selfish reason, to sit here until 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning rather than come back next week - on the other hand, I do not know what other members of the Opposition feel - but if we can finish the work we have before us, we can speak, not making long speeches and finish the work; otherwise we might have a lot more to say about O.A.S.; but I ask hon. members to try and make a time, seeing that we are in it, to read what the Latin Americans themselves think of the O.A.S. They are satellites of America when it comes to military matters, but they themselves are asking the United States what they are getting out of this. We might just as well join some middle east cultural organisation for what good it would do to us here in Barbados. There is no reason whatever for having gone into it and having gone into it, I cannot criticise our entry as if we were not in; but let us forget as much as we can that we are in anything to do with the O.A.S. Any excuse can serve us for saving money and not sending off people to any particular conference or anything the O.A.S. may have.

On this point about not criticising a Bill which is passed, I would just like to reply specifically and in the politest and strongest language I can make to, I believe, an article or broadcast made by the Leader of the House. I neither read the article nor heard the broadcast, but had been told about it. I made some reference to the fact that we have entered the O.A.S. without debating the matter in the House, and in that style of his which does not really bear examination, the Leader of the House, I am told, replied that I was wrong, that it was raised in the debate of the Reply to the Queen's Speech and therefore it was a matter which the House debated. Absolutely untrue. I was fidgety as to whether the Speaker would say that the O.A.S. was not a matter for debate then.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have here before me a copy of the Speech from the Throne delivered on Independence Day in 1966 and the penultimate paragraph on page 3 reads as follows:-

"My Government will in particular strive to maintain the most harmonious relations with its neighbours in the democratic countries of the Western Hemisphere and is actively pursuing its long declared goal of membership of the Organisation of American States."

In the course of the debate the hon. member used some of the criticisms which he is again raising and I replied. If he is going to say it was never debated in this House in the face of this evidence, I would not be able to answer it.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am glad the hon. member read that - that this Government would be maintaining ties and so on with democratic countries. What democratic country exists in South America from Venezuela down to the bottom of South America? Do not use that as an excuse. They do not pretend to be; they sneer at democracy just as Russia thinks she had a perfect right from her point of view and from the point of view of what you may call absolute Communism to walk into Czechoslovakia, though any ordinary human being would say it is a disgrace and a crime. Does the hon. member forget that after His Honour the Speaker had allowed the reading of my Resolution attacking the Prime Minister for his remarks, he said that before he would bring the O.A.S. to the House of Assembly, he would carry it to a whorehouse? Does he forget that?

9.50 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That is not true; but even if it were so, it would not affect the issue because the very first thing that came before the House when Parliament was opened was the Speech from the Throne; and it is in the Speech from the Throne that the Government declared its intention to join the O.A.S. Therefore, Parliament was the first to know.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: It is one thing to say that we intend to do this and we intend to do that; but when it comes to a debate on the floor of this House as to whether it should be done or not, that never took place.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If at the same time the House does not divide on the Speech from the Throne, is this not indicative of the intention?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Only the hon. member could put up such a specious argument, if it can be called an argument. You state in the Speech from the Throne that you intend to do so-and-so. The Opposition thanks the Governor-General for the Speech, but does that mean that you agree with it? By definition you do not agree with it. You thank them for saying what they have said and what they have promised to do, but have you told them to go and do it? I am saying that it is just like a Manifesto; you put in your Manifesto what Party you belong to and what you intend to do. You get elected and then you make a speech at the opening of Parliament as to what you intend to do. You do not necessarily do all the things you set out in your Manifesto or in the Speech from the Throne. If that were so, we would know whether we are going to have single-member constituencies or not. You have passed an Act and you have not done it. The House which was elected in 1961 was to die in 1964 and so on. It is absolutely specious for the hon. member to say that because we said "thanks" for the Speech from the Throne, we approved of going into the O.A.S. when we were constantly saying outside the walls of this building that we do not agree about going into the O.A.S.

After the notice of the Resolution was given, His Honour the Speaker - I am sorry that he is not now in the Chair that I could say it to his face - weakly

and characteristically listened to the absurd talk by the hon. member and then withdrew his permission, so to speak, when the hon. member got up and asked: "Is this in order?" The hon. member said: "I am not questioning the right of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to give notice of this Resolution or to put this Resolution before the House, but I should like Your Honour to rule whether it is in order for him to bring up a matter which apparently was not raised on the floor of this House but said elsewhere." And His Honour weakly, and, I repeat, characteristically, in one of those exhibitions which he gives from time to time, after I had read the Resolution and he had passed it, changed his mind and said that it was not in order. I have that in store for him in a later debate after what has happened in here today. We are going to drift to nothing. We are going to fall from being the most respected Parliament in the West Indies to being the least respected Parliament because we are drifting and drifting, forgetting Standing Orders, forgetting Rules and seeing some of the worst misbehaviour that could be seen in any Parliament in the West Indies. It is a tragedy to people like my colleague from St. Joseph, His Honour the Speaker, the Minister of Health or myself to see how we have fallen from the days when we first came into the House.

I repeat that this House has never voted whether to go into or not to go into the O.A.S., and if the hon. member defends it, that is another example of the dictatorship which has settled down in this Island, and it is getting worse. "We have the numbers and it does not matter what they think or what they say. They can talk all night, but we will out-vote them." You do such a serious thing as to join an Organisation which is alien completely to your life, your thoughts, your country and everything without a debate! It sets an example for those hot heads who call themselves the Black Star people to do the same thing if, God forbid, a calamity of this sort should ever fall on this island; but it may not be as bad a calamity as having an out-and-out Communist Organization running this Island. But suppose, God again forbid, the results of the election meant the necessity for a Co-alition and you had to take people like that in! There is not much difference, if any, between Extreme Right and Extreme Left. The dictatorship which exists in this Island now is as bad in its effects as if it were a Communist Government. We come in here and debate; we are not told how we are wrong; no arguments have been put up to show that we are wrong; but hon. members sit down there - look at them now, Mr. Chairman - half asleep. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You sent them to sleep.) They started to sleep when the Hon. Leader of the House was on his legs. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to the Hon. Leader of the House not to try repartee with hon. members on this side because they may remind him of one or two things of which he will be ashamed. If he keeps still and lets hon. members on this side of the House have their say and then replies appropriately, I think he would do better.

The point I am making is this; do not let us make the mistake of thinking - I am not putting it merely

on the question of dollars and cents - that we ever had anything to gain by being in the O.A.S. and therefore if we see how the people who are in it and who have most to gain and who fondly still expect from the United States more than what they are getting, if we, who only remotely - even the Prime Minister himself has said that we will be watching to see whether Barbados would gain anything from being a member.
10.00 p.m.

It is pure prestige. We are independent, and one must have an Embassy in Washington. Of course, that can be excused. Naturally, the United States being as great as it is, obviously, you will want to have an Embassy in Washington. But because there are other independent organisations in the world that independent nations belong to, we being independent - must we forget that we are a tiny rock in the ocean? Prestige, prestige, with what money? Meanwhile the money that could be spent on Primary Schools - when we have another discussion in which education comes up, I will remind the ex- not the ex-Minister, because he did nothing, but the present Minister of Education of what he said about the necessity of Primary Education being a priority. That is by the way.

I will also echo the words of the senior member for St. Thomas: it is utter uselessness. We are entitled to draw to the attention of the Government - we have no say in making appointments, but we have to draw to the attention of the Government the impression that some of the appointments may give to the outside world. Hon. members on the other side are not going to admit it, but the most useless person that could have been appointed as Ambassador in Washington was the ex-Senator Vaughan. As I have described him, and as hon. members have heard me, he is a poet. He was called to the Bar, but nobody who ever practised with him could call him a lawyer. (Interruption) I have broken some Standing Order, presumably.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member may not have broken a Standing Order, but why pursue an old, political enmity? I would have thought that if there were any battles that had been fought between the hon. member and ex-Senator Vaughan, they were fought before the rest of us came into this House. You cannot fight your political battles over again. If the man is Ambassador now representing his country abroad, why denigrate him here?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am saying not to make the mistake of spending money that would not enhance the name of Barbados. Mr. Vaughan is a distinguished English scholar, a poet from his school days. All of that is true, but that does not make him an Ambassador. I have the greatest respect for Mr. Vaughan's knowledge of the English language and English Literature and his skill. He is one of the greatest punsters I have ever met; his language is at his fingertips and not merely the tip of his tongue; but that does not make him a fit ambassador. All I am suggesting to the Leader of the House is not to make mistakes by spending money

on these people who do not enhance the formerly good name of Barbados. When you are selecting somebody to be this, that and the other, do not select him because he is a "Dem". You do not take a good canvasser and make him the Head of the Development Corporation when he is unfitted for the job.

Now that there is so much in the air, apart from what appears in this Resolution, as regards possible appointments, do not let us make the mistake, for prestige purposes, of finding some other independent country to which you can send an Ambassador. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister take criticisms in this House as coming from us because we honestly feel, in the interest of the country, we should make these criticisms.

When the hon. member talks about attacking a political opponent, as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has said, Ambassador Vaughan is beyond sneering at. None of us who really know him would waste time sneering at him. He is just there, and the Government itself - as I have often had to say, there is not much that takes place in Cabinet meetings that does not leak out - feels that way about Ambassador Vaughan.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it would probably be a waste of time to have this kind of argument, but, in order that there will be no mistake about the high esteem in which we hold a former colleague, I want to deny just the last remark the hon. member made. I deny it categorically.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: The hon. member denies it, and the hon. member knows what I think of his denials, or his assertions. Does the hon. member forget why we had to discuss the Marketing Corporation today and not last Tuesday? It is because he made one of those stupid blunders over something which two of us on the floor could refute. I will say no more. I repeat though that I have the highest respect for Mr. Vaughan's ability as a student and a Master of English, but that is a different matter from what we are discussing here. I end as I began. I am sorry that I have spoken so long, because I want us to finish everything we have to do and have the recess as from tonight. Examine as thoroughly as is possible what the O.A.S. means, what it is today, what is thought of it by its members, and forget, as a result of your examinations, that it exists.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I need detain the House too long in replying to the hon. member, mostly because the burden of what he said was earlier and better said by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. Let us look at it this way. Obviously it would be a good thing, Mr. Chairman, if all the political parties in a country could agree on the country's foreign policy, and on its international alignments. This would be an ideal thing, because a common outlook in the prosecution of a country's foreign policy is a very heartening and strengthening thing in a country. But you cannot always have the ideal situation. Political parties will have different outlooks and attitudes towards the conduct of

international affairs and, therefore, when they do differ the most they should do is to hope to differ in good faith.

I am going to be charitable enough to my side of the argument and, obviously, therefore to the other side, to say that I believe that this difference of opinion and this aspect of this country's foreign policy is a genuine difference. We are in the O.A.S., and you think the country should not be. All I would ask of the Opposition is - we would not ask them to stop saying that we should not be in the O.A.S., but to say unequivocally and categorically that if and when they have the Government they will withdraw this country out of O.A.S. and seek a different international alignment. Let the difference of opinion be clear cut. It is not enough to say that they think so little of O.A.S. that they would not bother to continue to tell us that we should not be in it. They should be able to say to the people of this country that for certain reasons which we can put before you, we believe that this alignment is wrong.

10.10 p.m.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, surely it is absolutely the height of illogic to say that you have to seek a different international alignment if you do not want to join the O.A.S. The views of the Opposition would be seriously misrepresented, and as one of the speakers, Mr. Chairman, this is why I am objecting, if any such remarks were allowed to go uncontradicted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member is quite right. You can seek a different one or none; you are not bound to have any, although it is difficult to see in the world of the Twentieth Century how an independent country could have no international alignments. I do not know how this could be, but it is certainly possible in theory. (Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: What about Canada?) The whole point is this: you are perfectly at liberty to tell the country that if you had the running of the foreign policy in your hands, you would not join O.A.S., or having found the country in it, you would take the country out; and you would be perfectly in order further to say to the country that you are either not having any such alignments or you are having alignments of a different kind. Now this I can understand. What I cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, is this: in order to criticise us for being in O.A.S., it seems to me very unnecessary to talk about how moribund an organisation it is, because this could equally be true - viewed from a certain point of view - of the United Nations, of NATO, of every conceivable international alignment or organisation that there is. This could be true of any according to your point of view, and there are members.....

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, how can the Minister talk about NATO, an organisation with sixteen divisions and a ground-equipped force with a substantial nuclear armoury for the purpose of defending Europe as being in the same class as O.A.S.? NATO is an active organisation where soldiers march every day, all day with atomic bombs

for the purpose of defence; so how could he conceivably compare that to O.A.S.?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I deem that not to be a point of order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Obviously the hon. member has not been reading the recent comments of the West German Government. You can make that kind of remark against any conceivable international organisation according to whether you think it is serving a particular set of interests or not.

The third point I want to make is this: it goes with ill grace for anybody in this House particularly in this kind of debate to seize this opportunity to denigrate the country's representative. I feel that if I am in public life and I am an elected member of this House, anything hon. members opposite say of me, however untrue or unpalatable it may be, I am entitled to take and bear it even without resentment, because I feel that if you will to be elected, you must will the consequences of being elected, because we are all politicians; we are all in the rough and tumble of Party strife. But if a man is outside of the political game and he is not offending anybody in this House, he is not offending hon. members opposite or on this side, why go to the trouble to make remarks about him? I feel the two hon. members opposite who have spoken have more intellectual equipment at their disposal than a lot of other people have, and therefore they can deal with these matters without putting that kind of slant on it. Criticise our foreign policy; criticise, if you call it that, our lavish expenditure and say that we ought not to be so extravagant, but there is no need to talk about the Ambassador never being a lawyer and that sort of thing, because it is untrue about him and unworthy of the person who speaks it.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$112,170 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No. 26

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I want to make one comment before I go any further. The Addendum to this Resolution, which I believe hon. members will agree, is the fullest accompanying a Resolution they have seen for quite some time, contains exactly the same quantum of information as went before the Cabinet, and although I do not like to take credit for certain things, I must tell the House that I particularly insisted that the Addendum should be set out in this way, because I wanted the Committee to have at its disposal exactly the same wealth of information which the Cabinet had.

There are one or two points, however, which I think ought to be added to what is here, because I am sure hon. members would be interested in hearing it. First they would like to know that the revenue this year from the School Meals Service is in the vicinity of \$90,000. This is the contribution which the children pay for the meals. Secondly, the cost per head to produce the meal has gone down from 50 cents, as it was when the scheme started, to about 24 cents or

25 cents now. This has been due to two factors: one, the natural economies which are possible as the scheme becomes bigger; and two, the growing expertise in preventing waste as well as in purchasing; and the third point, of course, responsible for the decreasing cost is that within the last year, from July last year, we began to receive shipments of food from the World Food Programme which have proved very helpful in the administration of this scheme. Hon. members will remember that in 1966 we signed an agreement with the World Food Programme covering a three-year period for the receipt of foodstuffs valued, I believe, at nearly \$600,000. So that roughly speaking, we receive nearly \$200,000 worth of foodstuffs every year.

All this food, of course, is not in all of the categories that we would require for the service, but flour, dried fruit, butter, cheese, a certain amount of cooking fats, and one or two other things do come, and these can be used, and consequently it is expected that there will be considerable savings in the vote on purchases at the end of this financial year. I feel the House would like to know this.

To summarise, up to now thirty-six Primary Schools are being served in nine parishes. This new extension will put on another thirty-six, to give a total of seventy-two schools out of 126. I expect hon. members will wish to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that in some parishes all schools are in the scheme and in other parishes not all, and in some only one or two. I wish to assure the Committee that there is no need for alarm in this.

10.20 p.m.

This is to be on the basis of how the extension is planned. For instance, you will notice, to quote a case in point, that in this new proposed extension, four schools in St. Lucy are proposed and two already have it. Somebody might ask why is it that if there are only seven schools, you deal with six and leave out Half Moon Fort? The reason for that is this; it is planned in the next extension to establish a central kitchen somewhere in the Speightstown area to deal with the other St. Peter schools, the Half Moon Fort School and the other St. James schools which are not yet within the Scheme. This, I think, will be the reason in all of the cases. It is not an arbitrary system; it is not a capricious system; the extension is to be planned according to the routes, according to the availability of the transport and perhaps more than not, according to whether or not you can easily get a site for a central kitchen. I think that, all in all, that will be the case by the beginning of next term when this new extension takes place. To be able to service 72 schools out of 126 is not bad going at all, and I myself would think it perfectly conceivable that in another 18 months or two years, we shall be able to cover all of the Primary Schools, and perhaps start to turn attention to the Secondary Schools. As I say, I cannot anticipate what other questions will be asked in addition to the points raised in the Addendum to the Resolution, and I will therefore hold myself in readiness to answer any

other matters raised in the course of discussion. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, even if I were not one of the representatives of St. Joseph, it would strike me, as doubtless it must have struck other hon. members if they have read this, that there must be extraordinary reasons for having one school only with meals at present and no provision is made for any other school in St. Joseph, and St. Joseph is the only parish to which that applies. At present, there is one school in St. Joseph and one in St. Andrew - no more; but under the new provision, St. Andrew is getting six more, and St. Joseph not anything more. What defence is there for that? I know a reason which could have operated in the minds of those who did this, but what possible defence could there be for having only one school in any parish, St. Joseph or otherwise, and no provision is now made for it in the addition? You only have to read that and even the least fair-minded man in this world would ask why that is so. What justification is there for it? Can the Hon. Leader of the House say that they went into the question of other schools? St. Andrew and St. Joseph are on a par each with only one. Presumably, they went into St. Andrew and made a proper examination and said: "We should have Bawdens, Chalky Mount and so on." Did they do the same thing in St. Joseph and say that it was not necessary, "these children look so well-fed; their parents are so much better off than others in other parishes and we can leave out St. Joseph altogether"? Mr. Chairman, I have a lot more to say, but I would like the Hon. Leader of the House to answer that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like firstly to say how pleased I am at the detail that there is in the Addendum to this Resolution. I understand the Hon. Leader of the House to say that he gave instructions that we should be given the fullest information possible, and I look forward to his giving similar instructions in the future. I feel that the Civil Servant who prepared this Addendum went all out to give us as full information as he possibly could; however, there are a few things here which must arrest our attention. I learned from the Hon. Leader of the House that the Schools are being served on the basis of how the extension is planned. I would really like to hear from the Minister how it is really planned. For instance, you find that in a parish like St. Andrew, there are 1,769 children attending Primary Schools; it happens that, in St. Andrew, the Government holds two seats and all the children in St. Andrew are being fed. The Civil Servant who prepared this Addendum here had to act on instructions received. This Cabinet, no doubt, took the decision as to which schools must be attended to now, which must never be attended to and which others must wait. As I said, Sir, in St. Andrew there are 1,769 children at about seven schools, and all of these schools are now to be served.

In St. George, the Democratic Labour Party holds two seats; there are ten schools with 3,265 children

and all the schools in St. George are to be served. In St. Philip, there are 3,170 attending the Schools; there are 13 schools and all of these schools are to be served, and the Democratic Labour Party holds two seats in St. Philip.
10.30 p.m.

In the parish of St. John there are 7 schools with 2,054 children. The Democratic Labour Party holds two seats in St. John, and all of those schools are being served. The Leader of the Opposition has already drawn attention to the case of St. Joseph. There are 1,363 children attending school in St. Joseph. One School, St. Ann's Primary, is being served, and only 334 children out of a school population of 1,363 children in St. Joseph are going to be fed.

Now, we heard the Minister make reference to the parish of St. Lucy. In St. Lucy there is one school that will not be served presently, and the school happens to be one that is near the St. Peter border, the Half Moon Fort Primary with 274 children. But St. Clement's Senior and St. Clement's Junior, the two schools have 552 children. St. Lucy's Senior has 413; St. Lucy's Junior has 359; St. Swithins' Primary has 116, and Senior Primary has 281. The children at all of those schools are going to be fed.

In St. George where there are 3,265 children all of the schools in St. George are going to be fed. In St. James they are going to feed the St. John the Baptist Boys' with 476 children, and St. John the Baptist Girls' with 208 children, out of a total school population for that parish of 2,608 children in 10 schools.

In St. Michael there is feeding at Buxton Primary with 361 children; Carrington's Primary with 282 children; Deacon's Primary with 752 children; Eagle Hall Infants' with 455 children; Grace Hill Primary with 618 children; Roebuck Primary with 573 children; Westbury Junior with 770 children; and Westbury Infants' with 376 children. There are about twenty-eight schools in St. Michael, and one would understand and appreciate the reason why you cannot feed all 28 schools in St. Michael because, as some people say, it would look too bad.

However, in St. Peter a mere 476 children attending Boscobelle Boys' and Boscobelle Girls' will be served out of a total school population of 2,562 children. The 7 schools in St. Thomas will now be fed. We are not going to complain about anything there, but there is something which shows its head in the selection of these schools. We cannot accept it from the Minister that it is done on the basis of how extension is planned. The planning is really done by the Minister of Education, but the Leader of the House — we know that the question of School Meals is his pet subject.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few matters to which I would like to make some reference. With the extension of this programme, undoubtedly, the administrative end of it must be considerably increased. I

sincerely hope to see the day when the School Meals Programme is under the control of some special officer who has an interest in the Scheme and an interest in children; above all, an officer who is devoted and sincere about what he is doing. For the Scheme to succeed, we must know that it will call for considerable co-operation from all the workers concerned.

Mr. Chairman, in the feeding of these children one has to take into consideration if the Government is giving any consideration whatsoever to having, let us say, these children receive any sort of medical examination from time to time. In dieting in any institution, and dieting on a Scheme as large as this one, and particularly in dieting little children, I am sure that doctors would recommend that there should be a skeleton Nursing Staff who would weigh the children, from time to time, to see whether the children are benefiting from the feeding to any considerable extent; if some children are eating more than others or, perhaps, are eating much more than they should eat at times.

10.40 p.m.

There should be to my mind attached to these schools medical Doctors and/or Nurses to watch over the growth of the children. You might find, on the other hand, that there are some children who are eating much more than others, and still are not developing as readily as they ought to, and in a scheme such as this with the type of expanding service, one would feel that it is not asking too much to have that type of service attached to it.

Now I understand, Mr. Chairman, that in the initial stages of the launching of this scheme, either the Minister or whoever was responsible at the time recruited quite a number of helpers who were branded as cooks. I have since learned that many of the workers are not happy with being called or styled "cooks", and it is not good for the scheme as a whole because if a person is employed as a cook, you cannot ask a cook to wash dishes or help to peel vegetables or anything of the kind, because the person can say that she is a cook. I understand that there is a likelihood of their being classified as School Meals Assistants, because when you employ a person as an assistant, she would assist in getting the Scheme running in perhaps more ways than one. I am particularly glad to see that such things are likely to come about.

I am sure that the Minister would know that at the newly built Good Shepherd School in St. James, the school is built on what we would call a plateau, and there is an area of land which looks to me to be more than an acre that could be available. If you are going to have an expanding School Meals Scheme, I feel that some use could be made of it in providing a sort of central kitchen. You have quite enough playing field, and I feel that if you set up a central kitchen there, it could be used as a training ground for maids and others who would be employed. There could also be a supply scheme going from there to the hotels

in the area, rather than having to draft them from other far-flung parishes. I do not know what might be Government's plans in this respect, but evidently establishing a Domestic Science Centre there, would be very good indeed; but in the absence of that, Government might find it necessary to set up another school on the site, because we very well know that overcrowding is a problem at every school, whether you build it today or tomorrow. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Not at Chalky Mount.) I understand the Minister to say that there is no overcrowding at Chalky Mount. The architecture, if architecture is something you can associate with Chalky Mount and Coleridge-Parry, is very forbidding; so it is no wonder that children keep far from these places.

However, I do not want to hold up the Resolution. I see you intend to buy new vans for transporting your meals, and I hope that your schedule will be kept up-to-date and the meals arrive on time, because there have been instances where the late arrival of meals caused many a dislocation in the hours of study, and I would not like to see that happening in the future. I understand that to keep the School Meals Programme going, inroads had to be made on sums of money that had been voted for other purposes. I do not suppose the Minister would deny that there was a time when money was available for the purchasing of a van, but this was shelved because there were other more — they thought at the time — pressing commitments in respect of the Programme, and the money was used to keep the Programme going. I understand that you are quite satisfied with your supplies, but I see that you are coming down to purchase pieces of cold storage equipment and you are to have some boiling pans, deep fat fryers and gas ranges.

Mr. Chairman, I remember that, before this scheme was launched, the then Minister of Education who is now Leader of the House and a lady officer attached to his Ministry went to Puerto Rico, and I thought they had an offer of a supply of utensils from Puerto Rico. I think I remember correctly seeing some samples that were brought back. I do not know what shipments followed, if any, and I would really be inclined to ask what has become of those utensils which came to us from Puerto Rico; but I see that there is now in this expansion the necessity for added pieces of equipment, and I sincerely hope that care will be taken, because we cannot continue with its being said that priority is given to the extension of the School Meals Programme at the expense of providing class-rooms. When I look back to see that for last year alone the revenue was something over \$92,000 in ten cent pieces, I know they are going great, and I understand that already this year over \$50,000 have been collected in the same way.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member says this year, but it is really this term, from April to July.

Mr. HINDS: Yes from April, 1968. I heard the Minister mention the World Food Programme.
10.50 p.m.

I understand that for the first time since you have been receiving supplies from the World Food Programme, I think that split peas came to Barbados for this feeding. I understand that there is no shortage of flour and that there is a likelihood of something very near 100 tons of flour expected for this year. There is such an organization as UNICEF, and I am to wonder if we are not in a position to expect some sort of help from UNICEF in respect of this equipment. That is, we are buying these boiling pans, food containers, deep fat fryers, platform scales and other equipment such as trays, cups, plates, dishes, table-tops, washing facilities, tongs, scoops and pails, and I am wondering if we cannot look forward to receiving some of our equipment from UNICEF. If it is a case where we have not asked for it or if it would be necessary for some officer to come down here to carry out a survey, whatever is necessary, I think I am right in saying that UNICEF would make available some equipment if we ask for it.

In respect of UNESCO, we are now an independent nation, and my information is that if we were to apply for membership of UNESCO, we would have to pay some subscription annually or on one occasion; and I would be glad if the Minister could tell us what that subscription would be and if he could give us some idea as to what type of assistance we can look for from UNESCO as time goes on. As you know, Sir, this School Meals Programme has been costing us money all along, despite the amount of help which we have been getting from the World Food Programme. We are now asked to vote \$182,801 to get this Scheme going, and we have got a lot of all that is being spent in the Programme. If there are possibilities of asking hard and therefore becoming members of Organizations and benefiting from them, not like joining the O.A.S., and getting help for the children or something like that, by all means we are all for it; but we sincerely hope that we will not continue to see the Scheme being managed or mismanaged in the way we have found, that the children in various parishes — in other words, an attempt seems to be made to punish the children, to visit the sins of the parents on the children in this case, because it would have been the parents who have voted for the Opposition, and it is in those parishes where the Opposition seems to have held sway at the last election that the children in these parishes suffer most. That is not fair to the children, and we sincerely hope that the future conduct of the Programme will not be visited by any such incidents as we see in the allocation of feeding.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to hold up the Resolution at all, and I can give you an assurance that we, on this side, will do nothing to delay the progress of the Scheme, if we can call it progress. We hope that in the case of this equipment here you will buy equipment on which there are guarantees, and that you will see to it that the suppliers live up to the guarantees. I understand that you have established quite a number of bonds for the safety of the supplies which you are getting. I think that, although you may have some of your bonds in places like the Drill Hall and

the Government Industrial School at Summerville and wherever else you might have them from time to time, in addition to employing a night watchman, you will still try to have your own day watchman on the scene. That is very important. As things are going now, we feel that the police would visit these bonds at night, but still I am not feeling so happy to have only one watchman on the scene with the way in which as I say, things are going now. It would not be too much, depending on the value of the things which you have in any particular bond, if you find it necessary to double your watchman strength by night. Mr. Chairman, I think that that is all I need say on this Resolution.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, at present the School Meals Programme has been operating from four schools, but it is proposed as set out here, to open another one very soon which will bring the number up to five. If the figures which were given by the last Speaker are correct, as they seem to be, those four Centres were catering to 36 schools of course with a great number, but the other centres will, along with the four Centres, be catering to another 36 schools, which will entail, as I see it, much more work, especially when we will be taking up the whole of St. Philip which will be new ground being covered, some more of Christ Church, some more of St. Michael, St. Andrew, St. Peter and St. Lucy. As the hon. introducer of the Resolution has said, it appears that they can only get suitable places at present for these Centres, and that is one of the reasons why they have not been able to cover much more of the Island as would be expected. The Scheme is a very good one, as can be seen by the children who take it in the rural areas.

11.00 p.m.

The little children are willing; they enjoy their meals, and you can see healthy children when they walk along the roads. The fee of 10¢ is very small, and it is rather heartening to hear that revenue in the sum of \$90,000 has been accumulated. I understand that already the sum of \$50,000 has been collected in this financial year. I feel that when it has been extended to the St. Philip area, which did not have it before, we can look forward to a greater majority of healthy children in this Island. This is one of the planks of the Democratic Labour Party, and it must be congratulated for it. It is regrettable that the Programme cannot cover the whole Island at present, but you can see the results in some of the children at present.

I remember the last speaker was asking a question about having the children examined to see whether the food they are eating is paying off: in other words, whether the children are enjoying it. I live in a country district, and I know that the children enjoy their meals. I have heard of parents who are willing and wishing that they could pay this 10¢ daily for their children. I know that some parents are finding it a bit difficult now that the schools are on vacation to feed their children, and they are only hoping that the schools will soon be re-opened so that they can give their children this 10¢ to get this meal.

When this Programme was first started, there was a talk about what could be done with 10¢. I can assure you that I have seen the meal; I have asked some of the children who eat it what they think about it, and they said that their mothers would not be able to give them that quality of food for 10¢ that they are now getting from the School Meals Programme. I say that this is a venture of the Democratic Labour Party for which it must be congratulated, and it will be continued. The Leader of the Opposition said that St. Joseph has been left out, but St. Joseph has not been left out. There is one school there, but as far as I see it is the routing on which this School Meals Programme has taken place. This Government has decided that everybody will get, as even "Sparrow" says. It is only a matter of time, and I do not think that we would be so ungrateful as to leave St. Joseph out.

Another matter arises about which I know. In one particular Centre there is a great strain on the personnel who have to take care of the schools being served. So far, 36 schools have been served, and this Centre alone caters for 18 schools. From the figures given, at times this Centre prepares meals for 4,000 children daily. That is a very heavy strain on the staff; some of them have to work overtime without being paid for it, but in the interest of the children they are doing this work. I hope that some kind of re-routing will take place, especially now that St. Philip is expected to be open, and some of those schools which come on the borderline between the parishes can be shifted so that the strain at that Centre will be relieved, or that more staff will be employed to alleviate the burden on some of these workers.

There is nothing more I would have to say on this matter. I am very well pleased to see the manner in which things are going, and I hope that in the near future we will see a further expansion of this School Meals Programme for the benefit of the Children in the Island of Barbados.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the points raised by the junior member for St. Peter on UNICEF and UNESCO, I will have them investigated, although my impression is that UNICEF deals more with the pre-school children. I think we have received milk and vitamins for the under 4's and under 5's from UNICEF. I am certainly interested to hear that something in this respect can be obtained from UNESCO. I always understood that UNESCO dealt more with the promotion of scholarships, scientific training and that sort of thing. Anyhow, this can be looked into. The hon. member did not ask, but he made reference to a large amount of split peas. That is true. Seventy thousand four hundred pounds is stored at the Garrison. We have also received 801 cases of butter weighing in the aggregate about ten tons or a little more — 24,030 lbs. (ASIDES). We have received cheese, but I do not have the quantity here.

The big difficulty is this. Hon. members may have heard that of the initial shipments which came last

year, we did lose some through spoilage, particularly flour, and I believe, cheese. This happened because they arrived before we were physically able to accommodate them, and also because the experience we now have we did not have before these commodities arrived. For instance, what we try to do now is so to space the requisitions that nothing would come at the end of a term when you have it eight or nine weeks, lying down there, doing nothing and increasing the risk of spoilage. We are trying to have the shipments so arranged that they come just when needed, but at the same time to prevent things from running out.

With regard to the point about taking care that the fullest possible security is exercised so that overseas help is not stolen, this point is well taken and we are taking extra care about this. Now, the only point made that I have to challenge is the accusation that there has been political finagling in the matter. This is not true; it looks that way, but it is not. For instance, in order to start something in St. Joseph and St. Ann's Primary School, we have to use the Gun Hill Centre.

11.10 p.m.

The two Boscobelle schools are going to be fed from St. Clements; the St. John the Baptist Schools from Westbury, and naturally other St. Michael Schools from Westbury. If for instance, we take St. Philip and St. John, when St. Philip gets going and we can service all the Christ Church and St. Philip schools from one Centre, we might be able to take St. John off into St. Philip, and allow St. George then to do St. George, St. Thomas and St. Joseph. This is how we want to do it. When a Centre is established in Speightstown or in any appropriate part of St. Peter, all the St. Peter schools and St. James Schools will be done that way. It is a question of being really able to establish a central kitchen, and not all schools provide the kind of facilities; but this Government would not be a party to that kind of political discrimination. All the children of this Island belong to the whole country, and if we could not win an election on our merits but would have to discriminate against its children, we should be out of public life.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Does the hon. member think anybody would swallow that? That is worse than defending the omission of D'Oliveira. They say that it had nothing to do with colour or with South Africa, but that he was not a good batsman. You say you have not got a Centre from which to feed these other children in St. Joseph, which is the same thing. When the hon. member puts it down as a question of topography, how do you get to Chalky Mount? I only wish to thank the Government for yet another instance of going to show to people what small-minded men members of the Government are. It is only an accident apparently that St. Joseph is omitted! St. Joseph that started like St. Andrew with only one is the only parish left out, and it is only an accident that St. Joseph is represented by two members of the Barbados Labour Party, two members of the Opposition. I am glad for these things. I am storing them all up one

by one, and just as no coloured man in this world is going to believe the MCC's defence, so no fair-minded man is going to believe this defence about St. Joseph. How do you get to Chalky Mount, I ask, unless you pass St. Bernard's, and why is not St. Bernard's brought in?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This much I know, Mr. Chairman, that no school children were fed in the Barbados Labour Party's time. He said it would only do for children in cold climate.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: That is characteristic

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. junior member for St. Joseph speaking?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: On a point of order, it is too late for me to worry to take notice of inane remarks like that — as usual, distorted. Everything I said about hot meals, I prefaced by saying the simple truth that we had been advised by our medical officers not to do this, not to do that, but to do that. Since then at election time or whenever the hon. member cannot think of anything else, he says that I said that hot meals were only for school children in the North. Why I take notice of any remarks of the hon. member beats me!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Don't bother with him? Because I could remind him that Mr. Freddie Miller said they would kick up all the pots and pans.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$182,801 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1968-69 No. 27

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I observe, as I believe hon. members opposite will observe, that the good example followed in the Resolution we have just passed has not precisely been followed in this case, in that the Addendum is not particularly voluminous. However, I think I can summarize the position of this Resolution as follows. This is a proposal to award not more than 900 new bursaries tenable at the approved independent schools. This arises this way: after the Grammar School intake, 2,884 pupils were left over. Of these 1,860 are of the 11+ age group and would not have had another chance to sit the common Entrance Examination again. Now of these 1,860, approximately 100 will receive Exhibitions to the Independent Schools under the current Scheme, that is to say, under the 1,500 scheme to the Approved Independent Schools, and 800 will move over to the Comprehensive Schools for which their own Schools are the catchment areas. So this leaves approximately 900 who would be left without provision, and it is for this amount for whom we are providing these Scholarships. These Scholarships, according to the preference of individual parents, will be tenable at any of the sixteen Approved Independent Schools, and there is sufficient provision not only to pay the fees of \$25 a term for the two terms of this finan-

cial year, but also to meet the cost of the subventions which we give for Special studies, and of the subventions which we give for assistance with teachers' salaries.

There is one point I want to make. Hon. members who were members of the last Parliament will recall that when we introduced this policy in 1965, it was laid down in the White Paper that it would be reviewed in five years. The Minister of Education, however, thinks that the time has come after three years for this review to be undertaken, and he is prepared to do this as from now. Here again I cannot anticipate all the questions I may be asked, but I have information if it is sought..

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution dealing with the Independent Schools. I want to charge the Government with being ignorant of what an Independent School in the terms of the Ministry of Education really means. That is, I am charging the Government with being ignorant in terms of what the Ministry of Education says is an Independent School. I want to say here and now that, according to the Ministry of Education, every school in this Island which is not Government-owned, every school that prepares children for the G.C.E. "O" Level, and in some cases Advanced Level, every such school is an Independent School and also an Approved School. I hope that by the time I am finished, the Hon. Leader of the House will pass instructions to the Ministry of Education to have each and every one of the Schools which are now Independent Schools preparing pupils for the G.C.E. "O" Level and Advanced Level declared Approved Schools. I do not have to go far to search for it. I have it right here in the Report published by the Ministry of Education for the 1st September, 1960, to the 31st August, 1963. I do not believe that the Ministry has got this copy yet, but I have mine here.

Mr. Chairman, while I am on this point, I also want to make out that free secondary education in Barbados did not start in 1962 as the Hon. Leader of the House and perhaps members of the Government suppose. I am saying here and now that free secondary education was started in Barbados in the year 1949. I am not saying that it was started in 1949 on the same scale that it was approached in 1962, but the Report of the Ministry of Education to which I have referred earlier, tells me that free secondary education was started in Barbados in some schools in the year 1949. Now, I was telling hon. members just now that in this Report at paragraph 206 it states that certain private schools are recognised solely for the purpose of taking the General Certificate of Education; and the Report goes on to list St. Winifreds, Codrington High School, the Ursuline Convent, St. Gabriel's, Modern High School, Lynch's Secondary School, Community High School, Washington High School, Seventh Day Adventist School, the

Barbados Academy which is now out of it, the Federal High School, Mapp's College and Presentation College. One thing that the Report reveals is that in the Government-aided schools, since 1961, there have been more boys attending than girls, but in the Independent Schools, the private Schools and what we call the Senior Department Schools, the situation has almost been the reverse; that is to say, there are more girls attending those schools than there are boys.

Mr. Chairman, this Report, in addition to telling us what is necessary for the Government to approve a school that is taking the General Certificate of Education examination — we know that these schools approved by the Government take the Oxford and Cambridge G.C.E., but those private schools which have been denied approval take the G.C.E. of the London University, and this very Report goes on to point out that some of these private schools, they tell us at paragraph 225, enter their pupils for Advanced Level subjects. You do not only have to enter for "O" Level subjects; some of them are also entering for Advanced Level subjects; and if all the Government requires, according to this Report, is that these private schools are recognised solely for the purpose of taking the G.C.E. examination, then every school in Barbados which is privately owned and which enters pupils for the G.C.E. "O" Level or "A" Level subjects is entitled, according to this Report, to run up at the doors of the Ministry of Education as from tomorrow morning and demand their approval. That is what this Report is saying. You will find that this list which is given here of the Approved Schools could be considerably enlarged upon. Quite a number of them, we know, enter pupils for the "A" Level as well as the "O" Level examinations, but this is what we know; we know that when a school makes application for approval, such things as the necessary lavatory and the physical arrangements or buildings are taken into consideration. On the other hand, when we look at places like the West St. Joseph School, which is a Government School, where the sanitary arrangements are not or even near what they should be, we are still to see that there are many schools preparing pupils for these G.C.E. examinations that are being denied their right to be approved, taking all things into consideration.

11.30 p.m.

I would urge upon the Minister to see to it that they are not denied that recognition any longer.

With regard to this same Report, paragraph 135 states:

"Education at the secondary stage is provided in senior departments of Primary Schools, in the Government Grammar Schools, Comprehensive Schools, and in some Independent Schools."

It goes on:

"Education in the Government Schools is free."

Now since 1949, the Ministry of Education supplied Headteachers with what is called the "Common course". In that "Common Course", the curriculum contained Latin, Spanish, French, Science Subjects, and the reason why it was called the "Common Course" is that it was for the Primary Schools with senior departments, the Comprehensive Schools, and the Government Secondary Schools. All of these Schools used this "Common Course", and I am saying that the "Common Course" has not been revoked, repealed, nor has it been put out of use, as far as I know, in any respect whatsoever.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think the hon. member should add to that: "nor has it ever been put into execution".

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Report here is telling the world that the former Minister of Education did not know, while he was the Minister of Education, nor has he learnt since not being Minister of Education, what has been going on in his Primary Schools in this Island. Mr. Chairman, I am asking if the Minister wants this House to believe that, in neither one of the 46 Primary Schools with senior departments, no boy or girl has taken the G.C.E.?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You will have to tell me which one.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House was the Minister of Education, but while he was Minister of Education he went about making all speeches. The Report will show you, I hope. What is wrong is this. This is a Report covering from the 1st September, 1960, to the 31st August, 1963. This is now 1968, and there has been no other Report published. This is now being circulated, and no other Report could be published since this. The Minister knows, and I have drawn it to his attention already, that at Ellerslie, Black Rock, there has been a teacher, a French Specialist, rusting out, while at the same time some of the other Senior Department Schools, like the Boscobelle Boys' and the Boscobelle Girls' in St. Peter, Black Bess in St. Peter, Speights-town Boys' in St. Peter — (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Are these Schools using the "Common Course"?) The Speightstown Boys' School is there, and the Minister ought to have had a sufficient interest in what is going on in those Schools. It is not for me to tell the Minister what he should know. All he has to do is to read the Minister's Report.

Mr. Chairman, there are 46 schools with these Senior Departments, and in these 46 Schools children have been prepared — (ASIDES.) What is wrong with the present Government is that in its propaganda campaign it would like parents of children to believe that only education acquired in what are called the Grammar Schools is an education that would lead them to the Land of Hope and Glory. The Government is not paying sufficient attention, and, if the Minister were to direct his attention to what I am now saying, it would relieve the Island for that matter, of much of the trouble that we are having to get children into these Grammar Schools.

Mr. Chairman, what we need is — there might be a better title than calling them Primary Schools with Senior Departments — what is called a general upgrading of these schools. You could then staff them properly, and you will find that instead of a boy having to leave Black Bess, or Boscobelle in St. Peter, and journeying, perhaps, to Boys' Foundation in Christ Church to get a secondary education, he would understand that the same education is available to him in the Senior Department School to which he was attached.

11.40 p.m.

In this same paragraph you will find that mention is made that education in the Government Schools is free; but the same Government that has these free schools is the same Government that now finds itself paying \$25 to private schools, and what is happening in many cases as in the case of Mapps College, Presentation College and St. Winifred's School, is that Government is paying \$24 or \$25, but then the parents of these children have to look for more than another \$25 to put with the \$25 from Government to get their children educated. We feel that it does not make sense because in the days when education at the Grammar Schools was paid for, I think I am right in saying that in the First Grade Schools there was a fee of \$20 and \$24 in the Upper Forms, and in the Second Grade Schools \$8 and \$12. What you will find is that formerly where you paid \$12, the Government has to put \$13 with that to pay for children, and in other cases the Government has to pay \$17 for children.

What we are saying is that there is a definite need for the upgrading of these 46 schools with Senior Departments, and proper staffing of these schools, and it would relieve the situation in a very considerable manner. Now this Report also tells us, Mr. Chairman, that in respect of our Comprehensive Schools — they call them Secondary Comprehensive Schools in this Report — they are non-selective and are doing justice to the needs of every pupil. In some cases the Heads of those schools had tried various ways and means of raising funds to effect the transfer of bright and gifted pupils to the fee-paying Grammar Schools prior to the abolition of the fee-paying system; so that you will find Mr. Chairman, that I have made it quite clear merely by looking at the Report of the Ministry of Education.

The Leader of the House said that this Common Course had never been implemented. I do not want to refer the Minister to this Report further to have him cause any upset in the records. The Report tells us here the number of pupils who had completed their Common Course; so if pupils were able to complete it, then there should be an abundance of evidence that they had started it; but we are concerning ourselves with this amount of \$75,000 to expand the programme of assistance to Approved Independent Secondary Schools. I want these schools that are presently relieving the Government of this responsibility to be adequately supported; I want at the same time Government to start as from tomorrow seeking

out whether approval can be given to every school if it is merely that you approve a school, as the Report says, if it is writing the G.C.E.. You should examine the results of some of the other private schools. I do not even support the term "Independent Schools", because the moment they are receiving a subvention from Government, they cease to be Independent Schools. In England and in the United States Independent Schools as such are even required to reserve, I think, one-third of their school places for children who might be supplied to them from Government. None of that obtains in this Island in truth and in fact. I am bearing in mind that the hour is causing hon. members to cry out, but for that matter, if one were to examine what this Report says of technical and vocational education and vocational training, Mr. Chairman, I do not know when we would ever end tonight.

However I want to give my support to this Resolution, but I still feel that enough is not being done. Government's hands are not wide enough open when it comes to dealing with some of the private schools, and I even left out what the Government tells the parents of the children who were attending the Barbados Academy. The Government tells them to go and look for other schools to which to send their children. I did not think the parents needed Government to tell them that. If they were sufficiently minded to have sent their children to the Barbados Academy, or to any other school for that matter without Government urging it upon them, we feel confident that when situations such as these present themselves to the parents that they would of necessity set about trying to find somewhere to send their children. I still feel, as I said already, that Government is not doing justice to the children by only having a mere sixteen schools listed where the parents are told to get their children into.

11.50 p.m.

There are many other schools which have got results in the G.C.E. results that the Government aided-schools (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Results are not all). We appreciate the fact that results are not all, but results are of prime importance because the Report tells us that the Government will approve you for writing solely (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is not correct). The Report is available to the Minister. (ASIDES.) Well, the Report is not correct; this is one which is printed at the "Truth". That is the next thing I will hear, that the Report is not correct. I will tell you that at paragraph 206 you are recognised solely for the purpose of taking the General Certificate of Education Examination, and if that is the case, many of the other private schools have the right to be registered as from tomorrow morning. I am going to spare hon. members on that side the burden of my being inflicted upon them or of inflicting myself upon them any further in this respect, but I am warning them that they are going to see and hear much more on this question of giving approval to schools. I urge on the Minister to widen the scope whereby the children who cannot now return to the Barbados Academy can find places somewhere else;

and with the Government's help, the Government's assistance and the Government's blessing for children — there are many more schools in this Island which have got very good results and I urge on the Government to call upon all of these schools tomorrow to make application for recognition or approval.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, perhaps it might be best for the benefit of hon. members to clear up this question of approval. The policy of assistance to Approved Independent Schools read as follows:—

“Before the Ministry gives clearance of approval to an Independent School, it must be fully satisfied after an inspection that the school is approvable upon all of the following grounds:

- (a) that the school premises and all parts thereof are suitable for a school;
- (b) that the accommodation provided on the school premises is adequate and suitable having regard to the number, ages and sex of the pupils attending the school;
- (c) that efficient and competent instruction is being provided at the school to a standard calculated to ensure a reasonable percentage of success in public examinations recognised by the Ministry.”

That I think, should clear up in the minds of some hon. members who might be confused, the whole question of approval and how this approval is gained. The point at issue now is an increase in the numbers of pupils who are to be taken in shortly at the beginning of the next term. At this point, I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister one or two things which may have, perchance, escaped his attention. “The Government declines,” I read here, “responsibility for any decision taken on the part of the schools to increase their fees.” It has been lamentably necessary for most of the properly run Independent Schools to increase their fees for a number of reasons, the Chief being the necessity of increasing the salaries paid to the staff. When the schools were given a number of pupils for whom the Government paid \$25 each at that time, some of these schools had a \$25 fee. That is now no longer the case. At that time also, teachers were paid a salary consonant with the beginners in the Civil Service, which is \$80 monthly. Just before the last election, I cannot say *ante hoc, ergo propter hoc*, but I am tempted to say that the minimum salary went to \$125.

It must be clear to all people who follow public life in Barbados, that if alternative employment is based on a minimum of \$125 monthly, people who are going to be recruited as teachers in private schools are going to demand the same minimum of \$125 monthly. That must be clear to the meanest intelligence. Obviously, therefore, it will be necessary, if one is to retain one's staff, to start them on the same salary packet as they would get in alternative employment of the Civil Service or teaching in Government-aided schools. I know in my own case

that it must make a great deal of difference because I have a staff of 58 teachers in my school, and the same would affect other schools according to their numbers and qualifications of their staffs. It is felt, therefore, that in the promised review, the Government will take into account the fact that this \$25 which they formerly gave and for which we, in the main, were most grateful, is no longer a practical figure in that the fees paid in all the school have moved beyond this figure, and that \$35 is nearer what is now paid in the average private school.

It is felt, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has a great saving to make by sending these pupils, who may have passed their screening test for whom there was no room in the Government-aided schools, into the Independent Private Schools in that it is generally known that in our First Grade Schools, say, Harrison College and Lodge School, it costs about \$500 annually to educate a boy. The same boy, were he sent to one of the Independent Schools at the present moment — the fees which the Government would pay for him would be \$75 annually. If we add to that a percentage of the subventions which we are given — I will speak about those in a few minutes — we can even arrive at a figure of \$100 a year although it would not be that high. Let us call it \$100 a year that that pupil would cost in an Independent School. There is a clear saving there of at least \$400 annually per pupil. I would like to stress at this point, and I hope that the Minister will take the message to the people who are most responsible for any review, that a school in this age if it has to educate children and does not teach Science, is not a school at all.

This is a scientific age, and I do think that if the Government is interested in the future of the nation, it will see to it that a greater subvention is given to those schools where Science is taught. The whole future of the country depends upon the instruction which is given in these schools because some of these children are not going to have any other instruction but what they get in these Private Independent Schools, as they cannot get into any other type of school. It must be safeguarded then that they are given a liberal education and one in which Science plays a part.
12.00 p.m.

Getting a boy through the G.C.E., or a girl in History and Scripture, does not make very much of a citizen for the future of the nation, but a knowledge of scientific subjects is necessary.

Mr. Chairman, we will find that there is a great deal of duplication of existing facilities and a wastage of some. We are hoping that that will pass away. For instance, I know of no Private School pupil who is admitted to the Technical School at the moment. Whenever an application is made, you are told that there is no room, as though these children were not also the sons of taxpayers. Technical education is denied them on the ground that there is no room even for those who attend the Government-aided Schools. We would like to see a new policy adopted on that.

We would not like to appear, Mr. Chairman, to be ungrateful for the efforts being made by Government to assist the Independent Private Schools; but we do feel that, with this kind of patch-work approach which is adopted at the moment, the problem is not being handled at all boldly and fully. We would hope that there would be some consultation with the Heads of Private Schools when the policy of assistance is being reviewed, just as there was considerable discussion when the present policy of assistance was being drawn up.

There are many points that would have to be raised by different Heads — points which the Government might not be aware of. There are a few irksome things which some of us have experienced, like the method of returning fees to those who are responsible for examinations. There is the danger of the spreading of bad blood because of the insulting technique which has been adopted by people in education as to the manner in which these fees should be returned. The pupil is called up for the return of fees. The School is never told when fees are to be returned, and in many cases these fees, Mr. Chairman, have been advanced by the school, but the pupil gets them back and, having left school, the schools do not get them.

However, some people think that the parents of the children have votes, while the poor Headmaster has only one. I would not be so unkind as to say that that is the reason for it; but it is definitely thoughtless; it is insulting; and it is not liked by the proprietors of these Schools. Many discrepancies which occur can be cleared away, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would be good enough to adopt the suggestion which I now make: that the Heads of Schools be called in when this policy of assistance is being reviewed. I do not want to keep the House any longer, as we have had a very full and a very long day; so I will leave further remarks for another occasion.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1968-69 No. 29

A Resolution for \$100,000 was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, we do not want to keep back the House, and I want to get some rest. So far as the Addendum is concerned, the breakdown is as follows:-

	\$
Culvert at Lodge Road, Christ church	— 9,900
Culvert by Hill's Supermarket, Oistins, Christ Church	— 9,400
Canalization of Palm Beach, Hastings, Christ Church	— 8,600
Canalization at Maxwell Salt Pond Christ Church	— 43,000
Canalization at Buccaneer Bay, St. James	— 15,419

Drainage works at St. Matthias, Christ Church	— 2,000
Drainage of Alexandra School, St. Peter	— 6,930
Drainage of St. Lawrence Gap, Christ Church	— 4,909

This makes a total of \$98,159. Is there anything else members want to know? (Mr. HINDS: That total is not correct.) Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Minister one question on this matter. Is the Government carrying out such a scheme in Hometown near some beach facility for which Miss Kay Marshall is responsible? Can the Minister tell me whether or not the Chief Technical Officer at Public Works has instructed the Engineers to stop carrying out this exercise in Hometown, because Miss Kay Marshall has made a complaint that the Government has no power, or right, to carry out such a scheme near her place? Is it true that the Chief Technical Officer has stopped the Engineers from working there within the last two days?

Of course, Mr. Chairman, Miss Kay Marshall seems to be a lady who is not prepared to get on with the people of Barbados. I do not know if she is a Barbadian, but her attitude towards coloured people in particular seems to be something that should be looked into. Just recently some Guides were near her place which she is renting, and she ordered them off her land because they were not supporting her canteen.

I wish the Minister will be able to explain to me whether he knows — he said earlier this evening that he knows what goes on in his Ministry — anything about this matter, or has had a Report from his Chief Technical Officer? If so, I am calling upon the Minister to investigate this matter later in the day.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: First, I must say that Miss Kay Marshall is renting the place that Teddy Jones has, but that belongs to the Government. It is at the back of Hometown Post Office. We have just done the compound for her, but as far as I know she wanted two trees removed.
12.10 p.m.

According to the Agricultural Department, you cannot move trees as you like in Barbados, and as they did not see any reason to move the trees, they objected. The nearest thing on which I know the Technical Division from my Ministry would be working is the Hometown project, but I do not see how this could affect Miss Marshall. On the opposite side is Sunset Crest, but I do not really know about this. Anyhow, since the hon. member has asked, I will enquire later in the morning from Mr. Wason whether he knows anything about it, though if he did, I am sure he would have told me. Anyhow, I will investigate it.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$100,000 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, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of seven 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 Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I should just like to assure the House that I would like to do two Civil Establishment Orders because of course we voted the money in connection with them in Committee just now, and the Commissioners of Probates Act which, I am told, is urgently required. I would not detain the House by speaking on them unless to answer any questions.

I beg to move that Order No. 3 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) ORDER, 1968

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the Day is Order No. 3 and it is a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1968. This stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this item, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 7 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 5) ORDER, 1968

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the Day is Order No. 7 and it is a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1968. This stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Resolution, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House.

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

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 5 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take Order 5 as the next Order of the Day, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF PROBATES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1968.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to increase the number of Commissioners of Probates from five to seven.

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

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this Bill chips at the surface of a problem which worries lawyers, more particularly solicitors rather than barristers, a good deal. I do not know who all the five Commissioners of Probates are, and I am surprised to hear there are five. There are Mr. Boyce, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Banfield, Mr. Gill and Mr. Daniel; but in any case, Mr. Speaker, all of them are persons who have become Commissioners of Probates by reason of a long and successful career. Nearly all of them except the one who is in the Registry, are persons who have become Commissioners of Probates by reason of long service in a solicitor's firm,

and they are all in fact fairly busy men. It can be quite difficult to get a Commissioner of Probate when you want to take the probate of a deed, and for that reason this Bill will be welcomed. But as I say, this is only the surface of the problem. The Evidence Act of 1905 which permits proof of a deed to be taken before Commissioners of Probates seriously needs bringing up to date, and more important than that is a matter which we have gone into in here before when there was a question of notarial fees being discussed — the necessity for more Notaries Public. There is in Barbados only one Notary Public, the Registrar. I believe that it is possible that the Assistant Registrar may either be authorised to act as a Notary Public when the Registrar is away or may indeed be a Notary Public in himself, but this is a state of affairs, Mr. Speaker, that is very awkward for persons who need deeds sworn in Barbados or need deeds notarised or otherwise proved in Barbados, that they must always go to the Registrar.

It seems unreasonable, Mr. Speaker, that Commissioners of Probates should not also be Notaries Public. Those of us who are members for example, of the Bar of St. Lucia are all Notaries Royal. I do not know if Your Honour is a member of the St. Lucia Bar, but I know that the hon. junior member for St. Philip and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph like myself are all Notaries Royal of St. Lucia and can therefore, if the occasion arose, notarise deeds which would be validly presentable by the Law of Nations in Courts anywhere, whereas in Barbados the only way you can get such a notarisation is from the Registrar. So I very much hope the Government will look at this problem, both the problem of the Evidence Act because the sections setting out proof of deeds is very vague, and the problem of the shortage of Notaries — the unique position of the Registrar as a Notary. Other than that, Mr. Speaker, of course nobody would object to this Bill.

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

On the motion of Hon. J.C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

The two Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

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

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

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

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J.C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C.E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. In fixing the Order Paper under Government Business, I should like to make Committee of Supply as Order No. 1 and everything else to follow *Seriatim*. I am throwing out a suggestion to the other side. I wonder whether they would consider having another 10 o'clock meeting on Tuesday. I have reasons to believe that in the early afternoon we are bidden elsewhere and, obviously, we would not wish to come back here. We would want to finish here and go on the recess when we leave here in the early afternoon; therefore, I think that perhaps we could come at 10 o'clock a.m., and if we can finish everything at 1 o'clock, that will be so much better.

Mr. SPEAKER: There may be some difficulty in respect of our meeting at 10 o'clock a.m., at the start of the business on the day. I think that meeting at 12 o'clock (noon) would be entirely agreeable to the Chair, if it meets with the approval of the House.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Very well, Mr. Speaker, we could not work without a Speaker or a Deputy Speaker, I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 3rd September, 1968, at 12 o'clock (Noon).

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

12.28 a.m.