THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 30th July, 1968.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., *(Speaker)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P..; Hon. 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. FERGUSSON*, (Minister of Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Fisheries) *Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.*; *Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J.P.*, (Chairman of Committees); *Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS*, (Minister of Agriculture, Labour and National Insurance); *Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour* G. E. SARGEANT, *(Deputy Speaker)*; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; and MR. L. S. CRAIG.

MINUTES

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings of the 19th March and the 26th March, both of this year, have, I am informed, been duly circulated amongst hon. members, and if there is no objection, I will declare the Minutes of the Meeting of the 19th March of this year duly confirmed. *(A PAUSE.)* There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of the Meeting of the 19th March duly confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 26th March, have, according to my information, also been duly circulated amongst hon. members, and they will be taken as read and confirmed unless I hear any objections to the confirmation of those Minutes. *(A PAUSE)*. There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of the Meeting of the 26th March duly confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement showing net Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1968.

Training Report for the year 1st April, 1967 to 31st March, 1968.

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Accountant General for quarter ended 31st March, 1968.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement showing the sums of money advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amount repaid to the Accountant General and the amounts due by various Post Offices to November, 1967.

Statement showing the sums of money advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by various Post Offices to December, 1967.

Statement showing the sums of money advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by various Post Offices to January, 1968.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to place the sum of $370,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part 1 - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 17 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of $990 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1968-69, Part 1 - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1968-69 No. 18 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Police Act, 1961.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are ready:-

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 171, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas;

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 219, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are ready:-

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 179, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George;

Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 185 and 207, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are ready:-

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 108, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. James;

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 183, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 158, 159 and 195 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter are ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 184, 188 and 190, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James are ready.

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 199, asked by the Hon. junior member for St. John is also ready.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to deal with the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

12.25 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The senior member for St. Joseph, his Resolution is in connection with motor transport.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS there is a dire need for motor transport for the conveyance of people living in the country districts who desire to make cross-country visits in groups to attend Church meetings, funerals, or such functions, or to visit infimaries or such institutions:

AND WHEREAS the public bus companies do not or cannot supply such service economically;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to investigate the possibilities of instituting a small transport service to alleviate such hardships.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Select Committee appointed to consider, together with a Select Committee of the Senate, the amendments of the Senate to "The Dairy Industry (Regulation and Control) Act, 1968" has prepared a Report, and I beg now to present the following Report that has been laid on the Table of this Chamber for printing and circulation:

REPORT

1. The Committee met on three occasions.

2. The Committee recommend that the amendments of the Senate to the above mentioned Bill be adopted.

3. The Committee are indebted to Mr. John Husbands of the Crown Law Department for the invaluable assistance rendered them in their deliberations.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Police Act, 1961, be now read a first time.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, and it is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1968-69 No. 16

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, during the Financial Year 1967-68 an amount of $43,000 was provided for the construction of three classrooms and toilet facilities at Lodge School. At the end of the Financial Year, only $27,398 had been released from the total vote, and hon. members will recall that the remainder, some $15,602, has been revoted in this year's Capital Estimate.

The Ministry of Communications and Works has advised that a further sum of $6,114 is required to meet the cost of extra works and unforeseen extra costs to be incurred. The breakdown is as follows:

The temporary toilets at a cost of	$400.00
The Rifle Range	$ 100.00
The plumbing alterations to the laboratory	$430.00
The S.B. Roof and water-proofing which is neces-sitated by a change from the galvanized roof orginally estimated which will cost	$3,000.00
Increased wages in conse-quence of the salaries wages revision	$2,004.00
A watchman for four weeks	$ 180.00
Total	$6,114.00

I think I ought to point out that the Ministry of Communications and Works has said that the work on the project had been hampered considerably by unfavourable soil conditions and rock formations which were encountered when the foundations were being laid. This, apparently, brought about the stoppage of work and has led, eventually, to the requirements of additional work. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is little one could have to say against a Resolution of this sort, but I would like to hear from the Hon. Minister if this amount that is now asked for includes the sum of $4,000 for furniture. *(ASIDES)*. I understand the Minister is saying it is not so.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member will give way, I think he will find - I speak subject to correction, but I think I am right - that not only is this for the three classrooms and toilet facilities, but I think he will find that for the last two years appropriations for furniture have always been brought here under a separate Head or a separate Item. They are never mixed up now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how long these things have been separated. What I have before me, and it must have been put before the Minister when he was bringing in this Resolution, was Item 16 - Lodge School - to construct three classrooms and toilet facilities - $43,000, and this includes provision of $4,000 for furniture.

I feel that the Minister ought to have had these figures before him just as I have them before me, but I do not want to labour that point.

12.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that this question of toilet facilities has been brought up in respect of Lodge School, and I think I should take this opportunity to let the Minister know that there are other schools which have a dire need of equal facilities, and here I should mention West St. Joseph School. At West St. Joseph School you have 15 male and 15 female teachers, and there is one toilet for the fifteen males and one for the fifteen females. During the term just ended a few days ago, some of the masters and mistresses found themselves on occasions having to make use of the toilet provided for the watchman, and one must come to the conclusion that a state of affairs like this is not at all conducive to good working conditions, nor in keeping with the expectations of the profession. Although there is a Building Inspector attached to the Ministry of Education, there is often much more red tape than is necessary to get these things put into operation; so I am hoping that the Minister will take note of what I have said in respect of West St. Joseph School, and have something done in the very near future. I do not think I could have made mention of it at a better hour than I have, due to the fact that this is the long vacation, and the Minister will have a good opportunity to investigate this matter and try to improve the toilet facilities at West St. Joseph in time for the re-opening of the school next term.

I can say that the toilet arrangements there even in respect of the children are something like one toilet to 100 children. As a matter of fact, I think there are five toilets to an average of 750 children, and just as Government intends to do something in respect of Lodge School, attention should also be paid to West St. Joseph and other schools. I must tell the Minister that even at the new Good Shepherd Schools in St. James, conditions are far from what one would expect to find in a new school. They have constructed the school without a road to get to it. These things are not good, and something ought to be done. We do not want you as in the past just to attend to Lodge School this year; as the Minister has told us, provision was made in last year's Estimates for this work to be carried out at the school. We admit that the conditions of the soil would have retarded the carrying out of such work, but these are things which should not and ought not to have been left unattended for any length of time, when we know that they cause considerable inconvenience to staff and pupils. I do not want to find that mention is made of a school like Lodge School when one knows very well what will be said about the pupils who attend there, as against the type of children going to the West St. Joseph School. I am therefore asking the Minister to investigate these things during the long vacation period, and do what can be done at these places to make the children reasonably happy and comfortable.

In my own constituency, when I was a boy at Boscobelle School, we had small grounds, but they

were always kept in a condition where we could amuse ourselves playing at games. If one were to go there now and see what the children have got to be tumbling over each day when they are assembled on mornings, it is just not good enough. I do not see how a boy can reasonably be expected to stand at attention in the line on the grounds of the Boscobelle School yard. I am asking the Minister to see what he can do to have these things put right during the long vacation.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I can give the hon. member the assurance that I will draw all the points he has made to the attention of the Minister and the Department.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day unfortunately may not be proceeded with now, due to the fact that the Report of the Committee has been laid only this morning and has not yet been circulated.

THE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1968.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to proceed with this item in the absence of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking the leave of the House to proceed with Order No. 3 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being apparently no objection, leave is granted the Leader of the House to proceed with the passing of a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order , 1968. 12.45 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to give effect to the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1968", which has been made by the Governor-General. It is an omnibus Order and what it really does is that it tries to bring the Schedule of the Pensions Order 1963 in line with the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order of 1966 as amended. The Schedule to the Order sets out in great detail all the categories of Public Officer or Semi-Public Officer, as the case may be, who would be affected by this Amendment. I think hon. members would have seen the Schedule for themselves. Almost every Ministry and every Department is involved. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the consideration of that Resolution concludes Government Business for today's sitting. If hon. members have no objection, perhaps they would like to deal with Question Time. We have some Questions which could be disposed of. I therefore beg to move that Question Time be now taken. *(ASIDES)*. Mr. Speaker, I really ought to move the suspension of the appropriate Standing Order. I therefore beg to move that the Standing Orders, with the exception of the disciplinary ones, be suspended until 2 o'clock p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If they were suspended, the Speaker would rule supreme. *(Laughter)*.

Mr. SMITH: Really, Sir, I did not hear the hon. member. I was speaking with my colleague, and I did not hear what the hon. member said about the suspension of the Standing Orders. I would be glad if he would make the motion now so that I can understand it, because he may be moving the suspension of the Standing Orders which might deprive me of my rights. I would like to know what he is moving before Your Honour puts it to the vote.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member an assurance. We have come to the end of Government Business and in order to use the time, I am suggesting that we have Question Time now. In order to do that, however, we have to suspend the Standing Orders because we cannot deal with Question Time under Government Business. I have therefore moved the suspension, until 2 o'clock p.m., of all Standing Orders except those Standing Orders which deal with the maintenance of discipline.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member is going to have the Standing Orders suspended so that we can get ahead with Question Time. Suppose Question Time finishes before 2 o'clock, what will happen then?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We will do as much Private Members' Business as can be done between then and 2 o'clock.

The question that the Standing Orders with the exception of the disciplinary ones be suspended until 2

o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

ORDERS OR REGULATIONS RE CIVIL SERVANTS APPOINTED AS DIRECTORS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I have been informed that the Oral Reply has been laid to Question No. 219, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

1. Will the Minister state whether there are any General Orders and/or Regulations or Administrative directions relating to Civil Servants being appointed as directors of:

   (a) Public Companies in which the Government is not a shareholder;

   (b) Private Companies in which the Government is not a shareholder?

If the answer to the above is "No", will the Minister state whether Government intends to pass any such regulations?

2. What is Government's policy in relation to such appointments of Civil Servants by such companies?

3. Will the Minister state whether any Civil Servant have applied to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for permission to be directors of:

   (a) Public Companies in which the Government is not a shareholder;

   (b) Private Companies in which the Government is not a shareholder?

4. Will the Minister state whether permission has been granted to any Civil Servant or servants above the rank of senior Clerk, and if so, what post or posts are held by such Civil Servants and in which department of Government?

5. Will the Minister state what criteria are taken into account in granting such permission?

6. Will the Minister state if any of the above have applied to the Public Service Commission for such permission?

12.55 p.m.

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

1. No. It is proposed to include this subject in General Orders presently being prepared.

2. At present the policy is to consider each application on its merits bearing in mind the type of business of the Company, the frequency of meetings, etc. Permission may be given on the understanding that it would be withdrawn if at any time it is considered that the officer's official duties conflict with his duties as a Director.

3. (a) None.
   (b) Two.

4. Yes. A Senior Registrar, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Home Affairs.

5. Answered at 2.

6. No.

Mr. St. JOHN: In respect of the Senior Registrar of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will the Minister state what type of activity the Company carries on in which he has been given permission to be a Director?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am afraid I have no information on that matter to put at the disposal of the hon. and learned member. If, however, he wishes me to get it, I see no difficulty in getting the information; but I cannot give it to him now.

Mr. St. JOHN: In respect of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in what Company was permission granted for him to be a Director?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I understand that it is Sandy Lane.

Mr. St. JOHN: Does the Minister know whether any application has ever been made by Sandy Lane for Work Permits?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would not be able to tell the hon. member this.

Mr. St. JOHN: Does the Minister not concede that there is a possibility of conflict of interest arising if an application were made from Sandy Lane to the Permanent Secretary who is the Chief Administrative Officer in charge of the Department which deals with Work Permits?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not see it quite that way. One must assume that when he is acting in his capacity as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, he knows what the Government's policy is, and he will execute it.

Mr. St. JOHN: I thank you, Sir. If that is the standard of morality of the Government, thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: It was not intended for you to follow, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then it should not have been asked.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Surely, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not saying that for a Civil Servant to carry out the policy of this Government is a reflection on his integrity! I hope he is not saying that.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that Government should recognise that there is such a thing as appearance, and that no person in this country would ever recognise that if Sandy Lane puts in for a Work Permit it would be treated in the same manner as any other hotel.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there a question mark at the end of that?

Mr. St. JOHN: No, Sir. The Minister replied.

STANDPOST AT BAYLEY'S ALLEY

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 179 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George at page 12, top left hand corner.

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

Is the Government aware that there is no standpost at Bayley's Alley, St. George?

2. Is the Government aware that the nearest standpost to the said district is three quarter miles distant?

3. Is the Government aware that Sweet Vale No. 1 Pumping Station is situated in the said district?

4. Will Government take steps to have a standpost erected at Bayley's Alley as soon as possible?

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

1. There was a standpost at th e top of Bayley's Alley which has been resited further into the Alley because of unsatisfactory drainage at the former site.

2. Does not arise.

3. Yes, Sir!

4. Does not arise.

PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 158 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter on page 7, right hand column.

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

1. In view of the growing numbers of children of school age now becoming patients of the Mental Hospital, would Government treat as a priority securing the services of one or more psychiatrists to be attached to the Ministries of Health and Education, and/or a number of psychiatric social workers whose prime duty it will be to assist the entire school population through working in collobaration with Head-teachers of the several schools in this island?

2. What steps have been taken, if any, to provide a ward at the Mental Hospital for housing mental patients, some being of as tender an age as eight years of age, so that they be removed from the chronic cases housed at the said Institution?

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

Out of a population of approximately 70,000 children between the ages of 8 and 15 years in Barbados, there are at present 12 in the Mental Hospital. Four of these have been admitted over three years ago, six for over one and two for over two months for observation. Seven attend school at the Mental Hospital while five do not because of serious mental retardation. One teacher is specially trained in mental subnormality while another is completing a similar course in the United Kingdom. A recommendation for posts of Child Psychiatrist and Clinic Psychologist is under study.

Under the proposed Development Plan for the Ministry of Health it is anticipated that construction of a Children's Ward at the Mental Hospital will commence during the financial year 1969-70.

ACCOMMODATION AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 159, likewise standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter at page 7, right hand column.

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

Since the opening of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have all the Wards of this Institution been put to use for providing accommodation for the sick?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, when was the last Ward made available?

3. If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister state why all of the Wards of this Institution are not in use?

4. Would Government consider the necessity for providing a sick-bay at the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital to be used exclusively for the Nursing Staff attached to the said Hospital?
1.05 p.m.

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

"1. No, Sir.

2. Does not apply.

3. The only ward which remains unopened is the ophthalmic ward for children. This is due to the unavailability of trained staff. Patients are however taken care of in the female section.

4. A sick bay is already provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the Nursing Staff attached to the hospital."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to enquire from the Minister when this sick bay was made available, and whether it was since this question has been asked.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware, two rooms have been allocated for providing a sick bay for nurses at the Institution, not since the question has been asked, but for some time. I think the matter has been looked into again and greater facilities have been added, if that is what the hon. member is driving at.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister say that greater facilities have been added since this question has been asked?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said that the whole question of the allocation of beds, especially private beds, has been under consideration, and I am of the opinion that even more facilities have been added recently for the sick nurses at the Hospital.

QUESTION RE DISCHARGE OF FEMALE FROM HOSPITAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 195 also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Government aware that a female was admitted to Ward B2 of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital around 2 a.m., on 15th May, 1968, was hospitalised for approximately 14 hours and then discharged?

2. Is the Government aware that the said female gave birth to a baby less than 3 hours after she was discharged from Hospital?

3. Will the Government state if this female was discharged because of over-crowding or because she was a patient who had received pre-natal care at Enmore Health Centre, or what other reason, if any?

4. If she was discharged because of overcrowding in the Ward what steps Government propose taking to relieve such overcrowding in the future?

5. Have instructions been given that "Enmore Patients" be not admitted to Ward B2 without prior reference to the Gynaecologist?

6. If the answer to No. 5 is in the affirmative, does not strict observance of such instructions endanger the lives of patients and un-born babies as well?

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

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. No., Sir.

3. The conditions in the ward that day were of some concern. There were five patients in excess of the normal accommodation. Some of the patients in the ward were dangerously ill and demanded extra care. The condition of this patient who was unable to indicate when the baby was due was checked and found to be quite satisfactory.

4. Provision has been made in the Capital Estimates for the construction of a Maternity Hospital to relieve pressures of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

5. No, Sir.

6. Does not arise."

Mr. St. JOHN: Is the Minister saying that they are going to create another Maternity Hospital like the one they had at "Verona" at Bank Hall, where the Local Government Commissioner's Office now is?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in elaboration, just as we have a District Hospital which is mainly a Maternity Hospital at Oistins, in like manner we propose having one to be placed in St. George; but owing to the density of population in the metropolitan area of St. Michael, the matter is under consideration as to whether it should be placed at Lodge Hill which is bordering on St. George, so as to serve St. George and St. Michael. It would therefore be a District Hospital merely devoted to maternity cases.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, do we understand the Minister to say that this Hospital will be exclusively for maternity cases and not like "Verona"? Was "Verona" not a hospital exclusively for maternity cases?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made myself clear. It is a District Hospital like the one at Oistins dealing mainly with maternity cases. Isn't that clear?

Mr. HINDS: Does the Minister want to delete the words "not like Verona"?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, will the Minister let this House know if and when it is Government's intention to open the St. Andrew District Hospital?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I do not regard that as a proper supplementary, but if the Minister cares to vouchsafe the information, I do not stop him.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, that is a nice way to tell the Minister not to answer, but does the Minister consider that if they open the St. Andrew District Hospital it will relieve the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I agree with the hon. member and we will take urgent steps to see that the hospital is in a habitable state to be re-opened as soon as possible.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that patients in Ward B2 on 15th May heard with their own ears the Gynaecologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital querying nurses and a junior Doctor as to why patients who had been treated at the Enmore Health Centre had been admitted to this particular Ward without his instructions?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would like me to give him some more information on what the Gynaecologist had to say, I am quite willing to do that, but I was not there on the night in question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. member can say what these patient heard with their own ears. Let the hon. member proceed.

Hon. C.E. TALMA: The senior Obstetrician said this: "On 15th May, 1968, I made my routine check of all patients in this Ward starting at 2 p.m. Sometime between then and 3 o' clock we saw this patient concerning whom I discovered (1) that she was an unbooked patient and had been seen in the unit for the first time at 2.45 a.m. on 15.5.68; (2) that she was aged 23 and bearing her fourth child; (3) that she was not sure when the baby was due; (4) that her condition had been checked and found quite satisfactory, but she was not in established labour.
1.15 p.m.

"I verified these facts as far as possible. The conditions in the Ward that day were of some concern. There were five patients more than the quota for which we are established. Some of the patients in the Ward were dangerously ill and demanded extra care."

Those are the Minutes which I am reading from and I hope that the hon. member is satisfied.

Mr. HINDS: I am not satisfied at all. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister explain to me if an unbooked patient, or if this patient happened to be an unbooked patient, because she had had previous treatment at the Enmore Health Centre and the Doctors who admitted her to the Ward B-2 were doubtful as to whether or not the Obstetrician would have had her there - that is the main trouble and that is why she was sent out.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Doctor goes on further and states: "I therefore decided that Agatha Sherry would be one of the patients who would be sent home, as the Unit has no ante-natal Wards and our facilities are severely limited by this. There are provisions for patients who do not demand Specialist care which include their admission and treatment in the Unit if bed and professional facilities are available at the time."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand from the Hon. Minister that the situation at Ward B2 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has developed to such a stage - I do not know if "developed" is the applicable term - "degraded" or rather "degenerated" to such a stage that when a patient is away from giving birth to a child three hours, up to the time of three hours before the patient gives birth to the child, the patient is expected to tell the Doctor when the baby will be delivered? That is what the Minister told us, that up to three hours before, this patient was expected to tell the Doctor when she would give birth to the child. Is that the case at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I can only read what the Doctor has reported. He said that her condition had been checked and found quite satisfactory, but she was not in established labour. The hon. member would have to ask another supplementary question or another substantive question if he wants to go into that matter. I cannot give the hon. member any more information.

Mr. St. JOHN: Will the Minister not agree that if there were a proper District Nursing Service, the pressure on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would be relieved - District Nursing Services which deal with maternity cases where Nurses can go to the homes and give advice and deliver babies?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I agree with that and I will make a special note to see that the service is instituted.

Mr. St. JOHN: The Local Government used to run this Service, and all the parishes had District Midwives. Perhaps, the Minister can investigate that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Minister investigate that? Is that the question?

Mr. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder if the Minister could tell us if the Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Hospital, whatever they might be, if this is a case that

they only know labour when it is established? The Minister told us that there was not established labour, and that is what they are saying three hours before the baby was delivered. At what time did the Obstetrician expect to find establish labour?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that this question is beyond me. I have not been medically trained, and I am not an Obstetrician. Because I am a Minister, I do not claim to have supreme knowledge of these matters. I am afraid I can seek advice from the hon. member who has asked the question, or somebody from the other side. *(Laughter.)*.

Mr. HINDS: Are we to understand the Minister to come to this House and read replies and not even understand what the replies mean?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is an unfair question. You asked me when labour should be established and all that. If the Doctor cannot say when, until it is established - when it is established and when it is not, it is a matter for you, you and the Doctor and the lady in question.

Mr. HINDS: That is all right, Sir, but what we are askig is this: Here is a case where the Minister is telling us that his Doctor at his Institution is not expected to know this; but are we to understand that the patient is expected to know when labour has been established?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I never said that the Doctor would not know; I said that I was speaking for myself. I suggested that the hon. member should ask substantive questions and let the Doctor have an opportunity to reply to those questions. I am not competent to reply to them. That is all I said. The Doctor would be quite competent to do that; probably you are, but I am not.

EXTENSION OF FAIRCHILD STREET AND CHEAPSIDE MARKETS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 183, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James. That is on page 12, right-hand column.

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

Is the Minister aware that the Fairchild Street and Cheapside Markets are already too congested to cope with the trafficking in meat, vegetables and fruit that daily takes place there?

Will the Minister take steps to have the said Markets extended?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

No, Sir,

Records show that it is only on Saturdays and on the day immediately preceding certain public holidays that the facilities provided at the Fairchild Street and Cheapside markets are taxed to full capacity. Congestion is caused by vehicular traffic in parking areas and steps are being taken to regulate the movement and parking of vehicles to relieve some of the congestion.

The Government does not propose to enlarge the Fairchild Street and Cheapside markets at present.

Mr. GRAIG: Mr. Speaker, judging from the Minister's reply, I wonder if the Minister would think it necessary then to have markets in places like Oistins' Town and in St. James just along the Fitts Village area so as to cope with this traffic which you will probably have, particularly on Saturdays.
1.25 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: There is no provision for the establishment of a market in the Prospect Area. The hon. member will remember that, when we were discussing the Estimates, there was a token vote inserted to provide market facilities in Speightstown and Oistins. Instructions have just been given to acquire land where the new market at Oistins will be sited.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say this: I allowed that supplementary with some considerable reluctance. I am not allowing any supplementary questions to deal with the other 10 parishes in Barbados.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state whether the erection of a market at Tweedside Road will relieve the congestion at the Fairchild Street market?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: A feasibility study will have to be carried out on that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HINDS: I understand the Minister to say that it is the parking of vehicles that is causing the congestion in Fairchild Street and Cheapside. I wonder whether the Minister propose to provide parking facilities for the vehicles he intends to remove from these areas?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is not under my portfolio, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HINDS: Am I to understand that it is in the Minister's portfolio to remove the cars, but it is not in his portfolio to make provision for parking them?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is "No."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister understand what he means between "Yes" and "No" at times? He just gets up and says "No."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, it is not within my portfolio to provide parking facilities any place for anybody.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us what method he intends employing to move these vehicles from the market area?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Police.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the Minister is just standing by to put the Police on these poor people who park in the market areas to make a living? *(ASIDES.)*

Mr. Speaker, I am making a supplementary and not making a statement. Here is a case where people go there on Fridays and Saturdays to earn a living on those two days to serve them for the rest of the week. Are we to understand that the Minister intends to do all he can and to bring the Police Force to move out these people, without caring whether or not they eat or drink the day after?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows better than I do that the vehicles which park in the Fairchild Street Market and cause the congestion are not the vehicles owned by people who are selling there. They are the vehicles of people who conveniently go there instead of going to a Parking Lot where they have to pay - in Independence Square, or down by the Wharf, or over the River. Instead of going in those places where parking facilities are provided, they go into the market area and park for convenience, and this is what causes the congestion. It is nothing to do with the vehicles of hucksters. We have given instructions to prevent such vehicles from coming in and congesting the market. Is not that reasonable?

Mr. HINDS: Have instructions been given to the Police to report these people for committing offences?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: There is a Market Superintendent, and it is his duty to see that the Regulations are carried out; it is also his duty to do so with the assistance of the Police. I am not calling in the Police; it will be the Market Superintendent who will call on the Police to assist him in relieving the congestion when there is congestion out there.

Mr. HINDS: Before the congestion started, was it not the duty of the same officer to see that there was no congestion at all?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am sure that if the officer is on the spot he would try to see that there is no congestion, but some people do not look at a man in civilian clothes. If a Policeman in uniform tells a man to move, he will move, but if the Market Superintendent tells a man to move, he is not going to do so. The hon. member knows that, too. Perhaps the hon. member might have been one of the chief offenders.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his reply to the question said that it was not necessary to have the markets extended. I wonder whether the Minister is aware of the fact that, along Baxters Road, at the corner of Hindsbury Road and Oistins, all along the street people sell their vegetables just because there is a lack of accommodation in the markets? I am not dealing with any congestion in traffic. I am talking about the facilities in the markets for people who have things to sell.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The people in Baxters Road have regular people who purchase from them. The people who are going to purchase things from a huckster in Baxters Road are not going to go to Fairchild Street Market. If the hon. member was suggesting the erection of a market in Baxters Road, then that would be a horse of a different colour. The people who are going to shop doors to purchase things from the hucksters in Baxters Road will not go to the Fairchild Street Market.

Mr. CRAIG: From the Minister's reply, I can only come to the conclusion that it was not necessary to even build the Fairchild Street Market.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr. CRAIG: I am leading up to the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was awaiting it.

Mr. CRAIG: I was developing the question. From the Minister's reply, one can only contend that it was not necessary to even have the Fairchild Street Market.

Mr. SPEAKER: It may be my fault, but I cannot detect the question.

Mr. CRAIG: I am developing the question; I am developing the point.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point, but not a question yet.

Mr. CRAIG: I am asking a question in keeping with the Minister's reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed to ask the question.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister said just now that they plan to carry out a feasibility study. That was in reply to the senior member for St. Joseph.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that we plan to carry out a feasibility study.

Mr. CRAIG: Was it not necessary for you to do that before you gave the reply to the question?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member came to town late, but if he were in the area before the Market was built he would have known that in the Fairchild Street area there was a natural market. People used to put up old sheets of galvanized iron, canvas and cardboxes in order to make their own market in Fairchild Street.
1.35 p.m.

The Fairchild Street area was a natural market site, and what has been done is that the Government

of the day came in and made provision for shelter, and provided a proper market there for the people. What has happened at Fairchild Street is happening at Oistins and at Speightstown today. These are priorities, and this is where we are putting up new markets. What will happen next is that you will study the areas and see where the people assemble to sell and purchase and provide a market. Eagle Hall was another natural market site before the market was put there, but certainly not Six Roads; and the hon. member knows that too.

Mr. HINDS: Am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister will give consideration to the erecting of a market at the head of Baxters Road, that is to say, at the bottom of Barbarees Hill and the head of Westbury Road to relieve the congestion by these hawkers on Baxters Road?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the Government is satisfied that there is need for it.

Mr. St. JOHN: There is just one question arising out of the answer the Minister gave in connection with the removal of the vehicles which now park in Fairchild Street. Does the Minister not consider that if he orders the removal or prohibits the parking of vehicles in that square opposite the Fairchild Street market, it is likely to have a considerable effect upon the pattern of trade which attracted to that area by reason of the provision of such facilities?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: No, Mr. Speaker. There is a car park immediately opposite the area, and when the market square is congested, the car park at Independence Square is not congested. People only park there for convenience. If they go into Independence Square they have to pay; they do not pay anybody there, and it is 'stealing a park.'

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, people park there because they want to go into the market to shop.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that people go and park their cars there for a whole day, not because they want to go to the market to shop.

Mr. St. JOHN: But the way to do that is not to prohibit parking. Would the Minister consider putting a specific period of time for which they can park there - carry out shopping business in the Fairchild Street market?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is the most sensible question I have heard asked. I will give consideration to that.

QUESTION RE WATER SERVICE AT BRIDGE GAP, BLACK ROCK

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 185 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

Is the Minister aware that there is a water main and a standpost at the road known as Bridge Gap, Black Rock, St. Michael, but that no water service is yet available to the residents of the said district?

2. Will the Minister see to it that a water service is provided without delay?

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

"1. There is no water main along the major portion of Bridge Gap. There are however two standposts - one at either end of Bridge Gap. There is also a standpost enclosure near the centre of Bridge Gap but a standpost has not yet been provided for this enclosure due to the absence of the water main.

2. The laying of this main together with the provision of a third standpost will be considered when the current year's Additional Mains and Standposts programme is being finalised."

QUESTION RE TRUNK HIGHWAY FROM RIVER ROAD TO CONSTITUTION ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 207 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

Will the Minister see to it that the road aback of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital leading from River Road to Constitution Road be repaired so as to form a trunk highway to divert the traffic from Belmont Road into the City?

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

"The proposal to construct a road aback of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital leading from River Road to Constitution Road is receiving the attention of the Ministry."

QUESTION RE USE OF ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 184 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister state whether Bim Beverages Limited has been granted the right by Government or any Government sponsored agency to make use of

artificial sweeteners in the manufacture of soft drinks?

2. What is Government's policy as to the use of artificial sweeteners in the production of soft drinks?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:

"1. No, Sir.

2. Government policy as to the use of artificial sweeteners in the production of soft drinks is as follows:-

(1) the importation of artificial sweetners, in pure form, to be used in the manufacture of soft drinks will not be allowed;

(ii) a limited quantity of artificially sweetened concentrated flavouring will be allowed importation by a manufacturer provided that -

(a) the drink to be manufactured carries a registered brand name and is being manufactured under a franchise granted by the Company under whose name the drink is registered;

(b) the marketing of the drinks will be carried out in special containers accepted by Government (bottles or tins) bearing the particular brand name and on which it is stated that the contents are artificially sweetened."

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member is aware that in London now there is a ban on artificial sweeteners which might probably find their way into Barbados due to their being detrimental to the health of many of the English residents.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Mr. St. JOHN: Will the Minister state whether Government's policy was formulated in the light of that knowledge or not?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Of what knowledge, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. St. JOHN: That it has now been proven that artificial sweeteners have a harmful effect on the health.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: No. There are no definite facts up to now. We have received no definite facts from scientists or health people here that it is. There have been experiments carried out to see whether it is harmful or not, but we have seen nothing definite on it. One of the main reasons for artificial sweeteners being controlled was because Barbados is a sugar-producing country, and the sugar producers and people from the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement had asked the United Kingdom to control artificial sweeteners so as to have better markets for sugar, as the amount used is about 300 to one. A pound of artificial sweeteners is worth approximately 300 pounds of sugar.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to enquire from the Minister over what length of time have his scientist s been carrying out these experiments to determine the effect that the artificial sweetners can have on the health of the population here. 1.45 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Not 'our' Scientists, Mr. Speaker; I have read where scientist have been carrying out experiments in th e United States and in the United Kingdom. Some think they have been, and some think not, but there has been no definite decision arrived at. I have got to get my information from the Health Department here with respect to whether it is considered harmful or not.

Mr. HINDS: Have tests been carried out on the artificial sweetners which will be used in this island or which are presently being used in the Island? If so, when was the last test carried out?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: One of the comments of the Health Department with respect to artificial sweetners is this: I am quoting. Some Scientist and Health experts have issued warnings against the widespread use of artificial sweetners in all forms, except saccharine, and have pointed out that there is evidence to prove that these sweeteners are dangerous to life and health."

The Chief Medical Officer has commended as follows: "I think this use of cyclamates as sweeteners" in food or drink should be prohibited. Recent literature confirms that there is still not enough known of the possible harmful effects of cyclamates. You will note that in both Reports of the U. K. Food Additives and Contaminates Committee on cyclamates it is recommended that any Regulations made as a result of these Reports should be reviewed five years after the date of making. The Report of the Pharmacology Sub-Committee is also significant especially where they consider that Cyclohexylamine, Metabolic end - product of cyclamates, should be fully examined from the toxological point of view within the next three years as a matter of urgency."

Mr. CRAIG: I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is the trade mark of the artificial sweetners used by Bim Beverages Limited.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, for a little more information I can continue a little further. This is from the Director of Medical Services: "If beverages with artificial sweetners will be manufactured here, legislation should be introduced with special reference to the type of sweetners allowed and the labelling of the bottle. Similar provisions should be made to control the importation of food or drink containing artificial sweeteners."