

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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(OFFICIAL REPORT) THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 16th December, 1970.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.45 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour Sir, J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J. P., (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); HOIK C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Social Welfare); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J. P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J. P., (Chairman of Committee); Hon. A. DaC. Edwards, (Minister, of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and youth Affairs); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am informed that Minutes for six meetings, 17th March to 30th June, 1970, have been circulated, but in view of the fact that these "Minutes have been circulated only this week, I gather that members would not have had ample opportunity to study them; therefore I will allow their confirmation to be deferred until the next meeting of this House.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowance (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 128 asked on. junior member for St. George is ready.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 122 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter is ready.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time. QUESTION re LEON HARRIS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 122 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:

To what extent, if any, have reports made to the Acting Chief Technical Director (Mr. H. L. V. Griffith) and action taken thereon, served to bring an end to the misdeeds of one Leon Harris, a Section Leader employed at the Asphalt Plant Workshop at Seawell Airport?

2. Is the said Leon Harris given the freedom of reporting for duty on Sundays and disappearing in less than one hour afterwards and receiving a rate of pay, far in excess of a normal day's pay, for maybe one hour's work?

3. At whose instigation did Jackman, a mechanic attached to the said workshop, spend five hours working on a motor vehicle X-3386 on Tuesday 14th July, 1970?

4. Did the said Leon Harris transport the driver of X-3386 from the workshop compound in a motor-vehicle MC-473 leaving the said mechanic Jackman to execute repairs to car X-3386?

5. Was either Jackman or Leon Harris paid from Government funds for work done by them on 14/7/70? If not, why not?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, the replies are as follows

"The attention of the hon. member is drawn to Order No. 12 (2) (b) and (c) of the Standing Orders of this House.

Attention is also drawn to the provisions of Section 94 of the Constitution."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the technical nature of the replies that have just been tendered, I am asking your permission to let the question remain on the Order Paper so that I may ask supplementary questions at a later date.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no objection but.... Hon. N. W. BOXILL Mr. Speaker, I object.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I was about to say there was no objection, but for my part I would also like to satisfy myself as to these references to certain Standing Orders and to the Constitution, and for that reason - I did not anticipate the answer - I would be prepared to agree to the hon. member's request.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am not clear and would like you to clarify what you have said, because I know that lawyers have a way of talking paradoxically sometimes, and I do not understand any paradoxes. Can you make it more explicit?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The answers to this question do not deal with the facts or any factual matter. They refer to certain Standing Orders of this Chamber and also to a part of the Constitution, and I want to have an opportunity to refresh my own mind as to these Standing Orders and to this section of the Constitution, and for that reason I would agree to have the supplementaries deferred for my own assistance and benefit.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I hope I do not have to take this to mean that as a result of your decision the Minister of Communications and Works or myself would have to come back and answer this question again, because we have answered the question. I just want that recorded in Hansard.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I note the Hon. Minister's point.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, one would have thought that the hon. member would ask for leave. I do not think it is within your province to grant leave. It should be the House to grant leave. You cannot grant leave to an hon. member in that way. So I think that somebody is overstepping his mark. I objected. When we were doing Government business on an occasion, a member on the other side objected and you upheld the objection; so you cannot approve at one time and reprobate at the same time. 2.55 p.m.

Let me understand what the position is on this; I have no objection to answering any question, but I pointed out what the hon. member said, I did not write the Constitution, as far as I am concerned the Constitution can go through the eddoes because it was never a proper Constitution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am on a point of order, the question as was put draws attention to certain Standing Orders, and any Speaker of any Legislature should know what the Standing Orders are, and be able to conduct the affairs of the House in accordance with the Standing Orders, so your saying that you have to refer to the Standing Orders or that you have to let this lie over until another time, I think that in itself is out of order because the Speaker must be au fait with the Standing Orders, I can see the Speaker stating that he would like some -thing deferred in order to consult a particular section of the Constitution, but I cannot see a Speaker saying that he is going to facilitate an hon. member because he wants to refer to the Standing Orders. A Speaker, in accordance with Standing Orders, Parliamentary practice, Parliamentary conventions or what have you cannot say that he agrees that a matter be postponed when an hon. member is seeking leave of the House; it will have to be put to the House.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In reference to my giving the matter further consideration, I said that I would refer to the Standing Orders and to the relevant part of the Constitution; that is what I said, I did not say it would take me hours or days. I cannot deal with it at this particular moment when we are going from one thing to another.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; If you cannot deal with it, Mr. Speaker, we are saying that we are objecting and you must have the permission of the House to put it over. If we say we object and we are not agreeing to leave being granted that will have to be the decision Get the Standing Orders and refer to them now; that is your function, the Speaker's duty is to rule in here.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, Your Honour's ruling is being challenged.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am saying I will have to defer this matter. ,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, you are in here, Mr. Speaker, and you should be au fait with the Constitution, otherwise walkout. You know the Constitution of this country and you were here long before any of us, do not let us get hot now; you should know the Constitution and you should know the rules and the Orders of the House, so do not talk this nonsense.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member within his rights to tell the Speaker he is talking; nonsense?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I do not live at him, if he is talking nonsense, he is talking nonsense.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is hardly the best way to start these proceeding this afternoon, and I hope to get some work done. We seem to be starting the wrong way, but be that as it may, I am quite in agreement to grant a temporary suspension or adjournment in order for you to be au fait with what is going on; nobody walks around with the Constitution in his head, I think the Speaker is perfectly within his rights to ask for some short adjournment in order to become au fait with what he is doing, and if it is half an hour or one hour I will agree to it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Constitution is ever present in the Legislature and you should have a copy before you. How can you conduct a Legislature without having the Constitution at your immediate disposal? Does he go into court as a Lawyer without having the appropriate references? If the hon. member wants to refer to a particular section of the Constitution, all he has to do is to open the book and read the particular section; it does not take a year, half an hour or half day, and this is the point I am making.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of all concerned I beg to move that this matter be deferred for one hour to permit the Speaker to become au fait with the Constitution and the relevant points.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I would like if the matter is going to be deferred that during that period a copy of the reply as given by the Hon. Minister be laid on the Table of the House; I have very good reasons for saying so.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that a small error like this could take so much time; it is only a small error which can be rectified within minutes, and it does not need so much heat being generated. It is such a small matter you could sit down just where you are and call on hon. members to reason and it could be done without everybody jumping upon a point of order. Mr. Speaker, you are supposed to be the Captain of the Ship, the compass is in your hand and you ought to know whether the ship is going right or wrong, and only a slight turn on the wheel can keep the ship on its correct course. It does not need all of that, Sir. 3.05 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. junior member for Christ Church has moved a Motion, but I have not heard it seconded.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to withdraw my Motion. I now beg to move that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that. SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking with the Motion. Mr. Speaker has the Stands before him. I want to be brutally frank Mr. Speaker looks at the Standing Orders in relation to when questions are brought to this Legislature - in fact, Mr. Speaker, would see that he was out of order to allow the questions to be asked.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In respect of questions asked, the practice has always been that questions be referred to the Speaker only if the Clerk-at-the-Table is not certain whether there is anything appearing in those questions which should not be. That was the practice in the past and from the time I have been in the Chair as the Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speaker, and the Speaker, When the Clerk is in doubt he refers the matter to the Speaker. If the Clerk is not in doubt, the questions are put on Mr. Speaker's Notice Paper and are deemed to have passed the scrutiny of the Clerk at the Table. These questions were put down in July of this year.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am contending that, despite the explanations given, if the Clerk erred, the Speaker must hold himself responsible for the affairs of the House. I am saying that, even if the Clerk erred, Mr. Speaker heard the questions when they were asked in this Legislature and he should have been able to follow the substance of the questions. If Mr. Speaker we re on the ball with the Standing Orders as he ought to have been - he was a Speaker for 9 years; he was a member of this House for 26 or 27 years, and he should not have allowed me, one of the juniors in here, to correct him on the Standing Orders and to tell him where he erred in interpreting the Standing Orders. This is not the first time that he has allowed questions to be tabled that were not in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Minister is merely voicing his opinion, but what he is saying is based on nothing that can be supported by Standing Orders. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS Question, Mr. Speaker.)

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I was elected like the hon. member and I will be elected again. I am merely expressing myself. I am sorry the hon. junior member for Christ Church moved the Motion for suspension for this purpose. It is not a question of policy; it is a question for the House, and I am speaking as an elected member to this House. I do not agree with any suspension for this purpose. In the light of what I have said, I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not going to vote for the suspension of the House for this purpose. I am not going to postpone the work of the House in these circumstances.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Have you risen on a point of order?

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know for what purpose we are going to suspend the House for 15 minutes?

The question that the sitting be now suspended for 15 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

3.15 p.m.

On resumption;

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, have we resumed?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes. It is time for Private Members' Business.

Mr. HINDS:

That is what I wanted to draw to Your Honour's attention. It is after 3.15 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

I agree that we should proceed with the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to facilitate Government Business, but not the rest of the Standing Orders.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Orders be suspended.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Government Business is the instant Order of the day. Would the hon. member intimate what is the first item of Government Business with which he is seeking to deal?

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 11

Head 103 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the first Resolution is for the sum of \$216,775.

In moving the passing of Head 103 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Item 19 (New) - Communal Baths and Latrines, I would say generally that this matter has been engaging the attention of my Ministry for some time and progress was rather slow in that there were no funds to proceed with the construction of these communal baths and latrines. This was caused mainly by the depletion of the rural amenities fund to establish these communal baths and latrines. The Cabinet has recently decided that this matter is very urgent and should not remain hanging any longer, and has earmarked twelve sites that should be granted priority for the construction of these communal baths and latrines. A certain amount of delay was caused through the shortage of architects, engineers, etc. and it was agreed that some of these be done by way of tenders and others by the Ministry of Communications and Works.

The sites selected are Bridgefield, St. Thomas; Rock Hall Porey Spring, St. Thomas. It was decided to put one at Coffee Gully, Branchbury, St. Joseph and then it was changed to Andrews Tenantry, St. Joseph, but we have decided since to proceed with the one at Branchbury Instead of the one at Andrews Tenantry, St. Joseph. Both are needed, but it is a question of priority. The others are Meadows Venture, St. John; Flat Rock, St. George; Workmans, St. George; Baywoods, St. James; Parish Land, Christ Church; Ruby, St. Philip; Brereton, St. Philip; Black Bess, St. Peter and Pie Corner, St. Lucy. We have made some progress with about four of these sites in that we have plans in the Ministry of Communications and we are attacking the matter despite their shortage of staff.

In so far as the others are concerned, we have got permission to do them by tender; so it is hoped that before the end of the financial year we may be able to do quite a number of these communal baths and latrines despite the difficulties which we have been having in providing funds for their construction. This money is naturally coming out of the Consolidated Fund, and that is briefly an idea of what is the position.

I beg to move that Head 103 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - stand part.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I am indeed very-happy to know that the Government has brought this Resolution to this Honourable House. It is long overdue. I remember serving as a Councillor and Chairman of the Southern District Council for two consecutive terms and that the Councils had recommended these sites a long time ago, and speaking for the former Southern District Council and for the parish of St. Philip, I would like to say how pleased I am to know that Ruby, St. Philip and Brereton, St. Philip, will now get a communal bath and public conveniences. It is a fact, Sir, that it is the policy of this present Government to give water to all the homes in this Island, but this is a long term policy, and as you are aware there are youngsters in this Island whose relatives may not have water at their homes, and it may not be convenient at all times for them to have a bath to which they are entitled, and this Resolution will alleviate this hardship which these youngsters must face at present.

It is a fact, Sir, that in this age we are here to grant the amenities of life to the residents of the various parishes, and I am happy to say that these public baths will do a lot to improve sanitation in this Island. There may be times when people may have to use the public conveniences so as to give them the necessary health which they need occasionally, 3.40 p.m.

It is a fact that in doing so the Government has done something which is long overdue, and for which I am sure the people in the various districts will be grateful to this Government for assisting them in this amenity of which they are in dire need. I again, commend the Government, and I would like to say, speaking on behalf of the people of St. Philip, how much I appreciate that they have selected two sites in the parish, but again I repeat that it is long overdue and something which the former Councils had recommended.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to see that the hon. member is so critical of his own Government. This Resolution, as he says, is long overdue but I am only interested in the part which relates to Parish Land, Christ Church. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister is in a position to tell us today what site has been selected for this, because Parish Land is an area for which this House over two years now passed a Resolution for the vesting of that land, and the land is vested now in the Government and I know that the people there are desirous of the opportunity to purchase the plots where their houses are. Those houses have been there for over 40 years, and they are very anxious to purchase the land so that they can convert their houses into wall; maybe if the Government had a proper development policy in relation to Parish Land, the necessity for building a communal bath there would not have arisen, but that money could have been used in some other area in Christ Church where the need would be greater. I would like to point out too, that the necessity for these communal baths is very often arising because of the failure of the Town and Country Planning Development to specify when development permission is granted certain minimum standards, and agricultural land is being allowed to be sub-divided and the provision of water is not being made a requirement. Unless this is done now it means that in the future the demand for communal baths is going to increase, and I hope that the Government will have the courage to lay down a strong policy in relation to this, because all the tenancies that are being subdivided, the people feel that they can only put in a road, but that is not good enough today in 1970.

The point is that it is the duty of the Ministers to see that the law is administered; that is the position,

and you have that in the areas in Christ Church. As far as the Rural Amenities Fund is concerned I notice that it has been depleted, and I would really like the Hon. Minister to state whether it has any money in it at all, it may be depleted to an extent not to meet this charge. I would like the Minister to be in mind the points I have made today; of course with the hon. member who criticised his own, it is good to see the former Councillor to the Government.....

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have not in any way criticised the Government and would like this to be made quite clear, I have commended the Government for bringing this.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

That is what I call a real backhanded compliment; with the front of his hand he commended the Government but with his elbow he gave them a good jab, saying they are too late.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows quite well that what he has said is half the truth. Parish Land, Christ Church has been discussed on several occasions, but the problem there is one which the whole Island is facing, we just cannot get Surveyors, I bought some land in 1964 from the Housing Authority and up to this day I have not got it surveyed. I believe that the problem here is that the Surveyors are making too much money, and the hon. member himself knows that it is difficult to get Surveyors; you have to beg these people to work as well as to pay them. We are willing to sell the land to these people, and he knows this because he discussed this with me when I was Minister of Communications and Works.

As regards water, we have laid a 15" main running along that area, but all the money cannot be spent in Parish Land because he talks about it, water is running along the re by the gasoline station and then into Parish Land. The hon. member knows quite well that we cannot put water in Parish Land in one financial year, but I do agree with him that the people out there are willing to buy the land, but the problem is that we cannot get surveyors. What I would like to see happen here is that people stop blaming the Government for everything; further, he is a lawyer and I would expect that a Lawyer would have sense and would therefore speak intelligently, but do not try to rub in things about the Government not having any policy, this is not true. You know this is not true because I have discussed this with you on many occasions. The hon. member ought to be ashamed to get in here and criticise the Government as far as water is concerned, because since this Government came into power Christ Church has two of the biggest reservoirs. The hon. member knows quite well that we have done more in our term of office as far as water and everything else is concerned, especially with the reservoirs in Christ Church, but what we are doing is to do some this year, some next year and so on. He must also remember that Barbados was discovered 500 years ago, I believe, so do you mean that Parish Land was only discovered since the Democratic Labour Party came into power? 3.50 p.m.

The Barbados Labour Party was in power for a very long time when Labour was cheap, and they did not put water in those places. We feel that it is the duty of the Government in power to give the people certain facilities. I have already told the hon. member what the plans were, and he is well aware of everything in connection with this matter.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with the hon. member on this matter, but it is taking too long. If they do not have surveyors, then it is the fault of the Government. Qualified people have come here to work as surveyors and the Government would not employ them.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, that is not true. It was not the Minister of Home Affairs who is responsible for what took place. Apparently, there was some antiquated law in connection with surveyors here and it was a sort of closed business among certain people. I am not saying that we were not partially to be blamed, and I agree that something must be done in the matter. It is not correct to say that the Minister refused to give a work permit to a certain gentleman. Today you have to pay a surveyor \$100 before he starts to work on something that should cost \$30.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, surveyors can be obtained. There are plenty of therein other parts of the world who would be willing to come here and work. I notice that the Hon. Minister has not replied to the point regarding the necessity for communal baths in certain areas. For instance, in Lodge Road you have a complete tenantry and no baths.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member says that I should deal with the matter. The other Minister introduced the matter and he should deal with it. I was merely dealing with the matter as a member of the House and not as a Minister.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies, I should like to say a few words. It is good to see that 12 new baths will be built, but as I traverse the country I still feel that proper use is not made of the baths. People complain that they would like to have baths, and yet when the baths are constructed you go along the road and see young men in bath trunks bathing under the pipes with the communal baths a few yards away. We have erected these buildings so that people can go there and have a proper bath.

Mr. Chairman, the baths are opened at six o'clock every morning, and you can still see people bathing under the pipes. That is not good enough. The Government has spent over \$200,000 in erecting baths. When that is done several people get work. We want the people to stop the antiquated habit of bathing in canes and under the pipe. Some people are merely breaking up the equipment in the baths. I can speak on this subject with some knowledge, because I am a member of the Sanitary Board and I know that expenses for plumbing are very costly. We not only have to look for surveyors but plumbers as well. When you erect a bath at a cost of \$10,000 or \$12,000, install the necessary amenities, and then people go and destroy the equipment, you are merely throwing away money. I should like the people to use these baths properly instead of trying to destroy them.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister in introducing this Resolution made mention of the word "urgency". I wonder whether the Minister is in a position to explain how Government explains or determines urgency in a matter of this sort. (Asides.) Mr. Chairman, I am being heckled by an hon. member. He had the opportunity to talk as many times as he liked and I did not interrupt him. We have been given the approximate length of time that these matters were held in abeyance. We appreciate the fact that they

had reached the point where they had to scrape the bottom of the bucket and there was no money in the Rural Amenities Fund, but the Minister is now saying that it is a matter of urgency.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman, The position is that all of my efforts to establish these baths over the last year or two proved futile owing to the persistent burning of canes and no money being available in the Welfare Fund. After I realised that the fires would continue, I decided to take the matter to the Cabinet in order to get funds. The Cabinet decided that it was a matter of urgency and agreed to build 12 baths, and it was in this context that the word "urgency" was used. They should have been built from the Rural Amenities Fund, but over the past few years there were so many cane fires that we did not have any money to build them.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we are saying that urgency -could only arise out of the present need of the people who are going to use these communal baths in the areas. We have heard enough from the hon. senior member for Christ Church to know that by putting one at Parish Land, Christ Church, it is not going to serve a useful purpose. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

This sitting is not suspended, and I only expect to hear one hon. member at a time. Let the hon. member proceed. 4.00 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

What I am saying is this I have been listening quite attentively to what the hon. senior member for Christ Church has been saying, and the hon. member was at pains to state the case of a place called Lodge Road, and gave the number of houses as if to cause us to understand that he himself has carried out some sort of investigation. That is the type of thing that must in itself determine what we must call urgency. You carry out an investigation to see to what extent people are suffering and you put their case. It is not a case where Government might have had on its files for nine or ten years a place called Parish Land, Christ Church, a place called Black Bess, St. Peter or a place called Pie Corner in St. Lucy. All these are good. We agree as in the case of Black Bess, St. Peter that the poor people of that area have been looking forward to this communal bath and latrine for years now, but what we are saying is that the same urgency that now arises at Black Bess has exhibited itself more readily in other areas in St. Peter. There is an equal, if not greater, pressing need in some other areas.

I do not want the Minister of Health to feel that I am overstating my case. I appreciate his in my own parish, and evidently there has Government's possession a list of places suitable for the siting of these communal baths and latrines, but has Government been carrying out constant reviews? Areas, have become over a period of time more built up and inhabited. What has Government done in that respect? These are things which we feel, Mr. Chairman, should determine the question of urgency.

Now the Minister having come for \$200,000 ought to be in a position to tell us how much money it is estimated would be spent on each of these baths. We are hoping that we will see conditions return to a state of normalcy in the sugar Industry so that we may not have to continue taking money from the Consolidated Fund to carry out this type of work. Nevertheless it is a work which must be done and we want to see it expedited. We do not want any more mention of labour shortage, because we quite

appreciate the fact that as the Minister said, some of these baths will be constructed by tender, and some by the Ministry of Communications and Works. I wonder what type of comparative tables you have got to show where you can effect a saving in one way as against the other. Some sort of consideration must be given...

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, until the money is voted we cannot invite tenders. We have not got any money at present, but generally speaking we want to get an idea through the Ministry of Communications and Works what it would cost to build one of these baths. That is a figure which should normally not be given now, because with the decision to invite tenders you can well understand it would not be expedient to disclose that figure at this stage, otherwise what useful purpose would a tender serve? If the hon. member would see me, I would give him an idea.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not agree with the hon. member. We have our Ministry of Communications and Works, and one purpose of that Ministry ought to be, as in the case of a matter of this sort.....

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

On a point of order, I would say that it is not just the amount of money it would cost to build one of these units by the Ministry of Communications and Works as against what it would cost by tender. The Ministry of Communications and Works have it up to their teeth in maintaining and building Government works. Therefore it is felt that as far as some of these units are concerned, they might be given out to tender. The idea is not to get it cheaper. The over-riding idea was to get it done within a certain time, and I am glad the hon. member gave way so that I could give him that piece of information.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. member has said. The point we are driving at is that we are not concerned with whether it is to cost less or more, but the Ministry should have its Department so functioning as to be able to give advice to any Tenders Committee or any supervisory body concerned with a matter like this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, as far as the tenders are concerned, the technical officer in the Ministry of Communications and Works will prepare the tender. He will have all the information. Although it is a matter affecting the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the tenders as such will be done by the Ministry of Communications and Works who will have specifications, designs, etc., and not by me or anybody in my Ministry. I cannot get here and tell you what it will cost to build one public convenience.

4. 10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think I have a list of 11 of these units here before me; the Minister has read out 12 and we accept that there are 12. If there is no question as to cost, if time is the only factor, how do we arrive at \$200,000? Is that the cost of the time it is going to take? That is not for material plus expertise. If you are asking for \$200,000 for these baths, we are asking you to tell us on the floor of this House what is the approximate cost of building one, and we are willing to look into the fact that the foundations

at this site might be deeper or cost more than another site, but we want to hear that you will have to spend so many thousand dollars in Christ Church for building one as against so many thousand dollars in St. Joseph for building two; how did you arrive at \$200,000? Why did you not come for \$400,000 if the question of cost does not arise?

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, having listened to him attentively, he has said that the Minister read out 12 sites for baths, but the position is that if 12 baths cost approximately \$200,000, he could work out the cost of one bath by dividing the \$200,000 by 12; that is an elementary question, does that not call for all the mathematics in the world. The Minister has come here asking for \$200,000, and although the amount.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, is that still a point of order?

Mr. WEEKES:

You gave way.

Mr. HINDS:

I did not have to give way, if he rises on a point of order, the Standing Orders require me to sit. Mr. Chairman, did he not rise on a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are now two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I would.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member for St. Peter may proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, rising on a point of order, has demonstrated most ably that he has been to the Dover School. I am glad that he is able to make calculations and to determine if 12 toilets and baths cost \$200,000 what one would cost; I want to tell him that I have boy who is Just 3 years and 4 months who will soon be able to calculate just as well, but what the hon. senior member for St. Philip seems not to understand and appreciate is that we are In Parliament and that I am the hon. junior member for the parish of St. Peter, and what we will find here is this, that the list as put before us here shows us that in the parish of St. George there will be two, in the parish of St. Philip there will be two, and it goes on, in detail for other parishes.

Mr. Chairman, I feel if I want to do my Parliamentary duties properly, represent my people properly, I ought to be in a position at a future date to make my own calculations and to know how much money Government spent in this particular respect in my parish for so many people as against what it spent in another parish for so many people. What we are saying is this, the hon. introducer of this Resolution has said that he is in possession of the approximate cost of producing one of these communal baths; he had

to get the approximate cost of producing one because they are going to build more than one. I do not share the hon. member's view that it can produce 3 tender here or there, I just do not. It is just this, that our Ministry of Communications and Works ought to set itself up as a department to be trusted, a department of experts whose knowledge can be relied upon, and when this department says a job should cost so and so, that is it and anyone tendering is expected to go a little below, a little above or something like that but not twice as much. That is the reason why the Minister is now in possession of the, price of one; the hon. member must remember that we do not carry fools on this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I could state the claim of thickly populated areas of St. Peter, like Gays, the Mount, I know of the Minister's hard work in the Road View area, but we appreciate the fact that there is no money. We understand there is no money in the till and we are willing to hear what the Minister has to say as to the question of costs, and we believe that if the people in St. Peter know that work is being done in Black Bess, the people in other areas that have an equal need will still get the feeling that something will be done for them in due course. 4.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I must agree with my colleague in respect of the cost of these baths. If we looked at the method by which the hon. junior member for St. Philip would like us to calculate the cost of these baths, simple arithmetic would show that one bath would cost approximately \$16.6 thousand.

In introducing his comments on the Resolution for \$200,000, the Minister said that some of the baths would be built by tender and others by the Ministry of Communications and Works. We see that the sum of \$200,000 is arrived at by some method other than that which is known to persons who know about building or surveying. There is no mention in these estimates about the cost of the land. I have personal experience of that in respect of one of the portions of land in St. Philip, and I know that negotiations have been going on for some time for that piece of land. The price has been fixed, and I know the solicitors who have been dealing with the matter. If we, on this side, attempted to accept the method of calculation suggested by the hon. member for St. Philip, it would mean that it would take as much to build one communal bath and toilet as it would cost to construct a complete house.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt the hon. member in his maiden speech, but I would like to draw attention to the fact that, as far as the acquisition of the land is concerned, it was done by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Land Acquisition Act.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am well aware of that. I am saying that, the cost of the construction of the bath itself exclusive of the land is at such a high figure, if one took the method suggested by the junior member for St. Philip it would show that it would cost as much to build a toilet and bath as it would cost to build a normal dwelling house with similar facilities. If one looks at the statement by the Minister that some will be done by tender and some by the Ministry of Communications and Works, then he must have in his files the approximate cost of one built by the Ministry of Communications and Works, They cannot be giving us the correct figures.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out something to the hon. member. The reason we decided to put

out a tender is that we wanted competition. I remember when we were building certain facilities in Queen's Park the matter was put out for tender and there was a tender for \$40,000 to build a bath. Of course, we did not accept that. I asked if they wanted to have their heads examined. That sum did not include the pit. You cannot pin down the Minister to a particular amount. If one man says that he will build it for \$x, then everybody will agree to build it for \$x. In a small community like Barbados everybody knows what is happening.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is saying that somebody tendered to build one at a cost of \$40,000, then you could only produce baths.

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to refute what the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has said that the Government did not accept the tender for \$40,000.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that they are going to put some to tender and some will be built by the Ministry of Communications and Works, and the Minister is asking for the sum of \$200,000. Look at the bath which was constructed at Andrei Tenantry in St. Joseph. Now, Andrews Tenantry a hill on solid rock. When you compare and find Tenantry with Parish Land or Ruby in St. Philip there should be a big difference in the cost of those baths. Can the Minister say that they have carried out tests in the various areas to know the cost of the foundation and so on? The Ministry should have had a Quantity Surveyor who would have been able to say what would be the cost of building things in the respective areas. He would have been able to say that it would cost \$x to build a bath in a certain area, and the Minister would not be telling us that some would go to tender and some would be built by the Ministry of Communications and Works. When the Minister tells us that he wants \$200,000 to build 12 baths, then it certainly leaves us in the air as to how the money will be spent.

Now, the hon. junior member for St. Philip says that the tender was not accepted. We know that one is not bound to accept the highest or lowest tender, and one acts on the figure which is appropriate to the job to be done. I would prefer to take \$16,000 and go into the housing area and build a proper house for a family than to build a toilet and bath for the same amount.

Let us go on to the comments made by the hon. junior member for St. George when he refers to young boys in bath trunks bathing under pipes. When the Government erects Community Baths and Latrines, these facilities are meant to be used particularly by those persons who do not have such facilities in their own homes. When you look at the list of names here, you will find that the majority of these baths and latrines are constructed in rural areas where you have a working-class community.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. George must remember that these baths are opened at six o'clock in the morning and closed at five o'clock in the evening and are not in truth and in fact serving the people who are meant to use them. Now, Andrews Tenantry is purely an agricultural district. In order for a man or woman to get to work at 6.30 a. m., he or she will have to get out of bed at five o'clock. 4.30 p.m.

They have got to do the necessary cooking of their food etc, before getting to the bath, or they go to the bath first. In the evening they come home from work and have things to do before going to the bath; so to erect a bath and then open it at 6 o'clock or 6.30 a. m. and close it at 5.30 p.m. or 6 p.m. is serving no purpose whatsoever. I know that in England baths and latrines of a similar nature are open at all hours during the night because after completing a day's work from 7.30 a. m. to 4.30 p.m. or 5 p.m. all one wants to do is to rush into the bath, and we cannot deny the fact that Barbadians have still got the idea that you must not bathe when you are hot, you must cool off first. The hours should be so regulated that the persons living in the immediate vicinity can use the bath at their comfort. If it meant closing it between 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock in the day and then reopening from 3 o'clock until 9 p.m., it would serve a far better purpose than the opening hours at present, because the person employed to open these baths are working the same hours and the persons meet to use the bath are also engaged elsewhere; so therefore the bath in itself is serving no useful purpose.

When the Minister speaks about vandalism and damage to plumbing, it is obvious that if you open a communal bath between 10 a. m. and 3 p.m. when the working class people are out working and when only those who are left to use it are persons who are unemployed or going into the bath and washing up and jumping about for the sake of going there, there must be vandalism; but it also shows one thing. Are the keepers of these baths doing the job they are employed to do? Do they inspect the facilities after they have been used to see if they are sanitary for the next person coming? If this was done, there is no doubt that the person would know who last used it, the condition it was in before that person entered, and the condition it is in after he has left. So to tell people to take better care is begging the question. What you have to do, Mr. Chairman, is to make sure that when they are put up, they can be used profitably by the people by whom they are intended to be used.

Once again I join with the hon. junior member for St. Peter in saying that to ask for \$200,000 without specifying how it is going to be used, or what a facility is going to cost is asking for a figure which may not even meet the cost. On the other hand it might be far in excess of the cost, but we on this side have got to watch the pockets of the taxpayers, because if any other sum is to be asked for, we will hear that the estimate was wrong or something was wrong. This is why I say that the Minister responsible should have from his quantity surveyor the cost dealing with the specific bath, and then we will know what five in such areas would be if put out to tender, and the others built by the Ministry of Communications and Works will cost us \$x.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Chairman this Resolution is to construct communal baths and latrines in several districts. We clearly understand that some of the work is to be done by contractors. They will go around and survey the districts and will know that foundations generally vary, and then they will submit plans to Government. We are asking for \$200,000 but we cannot say that we want one built for \$12,000 or \$10,000. We have to leave it to the contractors to make their proposals. I am sure they cannot build without submitting a plan and then we will know what they will build for.

With respect to the opening of these baths, it is not necessary to go around the Cape of Good Hope; we can come through the Suez Canal, because I am sure that what the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said about the working class is untrue, as some do not get home before 6 o'clock, especially if they are cutting burnt canes. They stay out until 7 o'clock sometimes; so opening the bath earlier or closing later would not be a help to the community. Reading the Resolution, one will see that both St. Philip and St.

George will have two and the other parishes will have one. I have not seen any for St. Michael. However I think it is pretty fair, but let us wait and see.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a Resolution like this, it is inevitable that all members will participate and show the keenest interest, but I am fully convinced that all of us are anxious to see these communal baths built. I will just reply to one or two points made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He asked whether we have got permission in Parish Land. It is a portion of land in the middle of Parish Land. The area of land selected forms part of the land owned by Government, and the tenant is willing to give up possession of the area required, I am afraid I have not got the tenant's name, but the surveyor had been requested to prepare a plan as far as Lodge Road is concerned. The hon. member knows as well as I do that if you were to compare the standard of the economy of the people who live normally in Parish Land, they are entitled to this priority before the people in Lodge Road. A survey has been taken of Lodge Road, and in truth and in fact that is an area I tried hard to get a communal bath and latrine for, but the matter was deferred for a survey meeting, and after the survey was taken, the matter was deferred further; so it is not that Lodge Road has not been seen after, but as a result of the survey Parish Land has been granted first.

I would like to congratulate the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who made some very valid points. Of course, I had not given all the information I had, but the position is that the Ministry of Communications and Works owing to short staff, that is, architects and engineers, could not get ahead with building these communal baths, and we have got permission for them to be done by tender. 4.40 p.m.

The position is that the Ministry of Communications and Works, owing to short staff, could not get ahead with the building of these communal baths, and we then had permission to deal with it by tender and we used plans which were used at Walkers and St. Simons in St. Andrew. It turned out that those plans were not sufficiently detailed. The Ministry pointed out that the communal baths at Walkers and St. Simons were built with the minimum working drawings and that if tenders for the construction of similar baths and latrines are to be invited more detailed work than normally required by their construction staff would be needed in order to tender on a competitive basis. The Ministry of Communications and Works has further stated that to invite tenders at this stage would impose a greater burden on the planning and design section of the Ministry, particularly since the number of Architects has now been reduced to one. On the other hand, the Ministry of Communications and Works has suggested that with the minimum of drawings used by the construction staff they will be able to commence work at seven or eight facilities before March, 1971.

The position is that we could not call for tenders, but we have an idea of the cost of the public conveniences at Ruby, at Brereton and the one at Black Bess in St. Peter. A revised system is being prepared, we will start with those three that have been given priority. The one at Bridgefield, St. Thomas is almost complete, now we have come for \$200,000 and I agree with the hon. members that you cannot just sit down and divide \$200,000 by twelve because it would vary from place to place depending on the terrain and the nature of the land etc., as the hon. Junior member for St. Joseph has said, but we have an idea as to what the average communal bath and latrine would cost, but it would not be proper for me....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Sir, the Minister has told us that the one at Bridgefield, St. Thomas is almost complete; let us hear how much money you have spent at Bridgefield.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It is no secret, a communal bath and latrine would cost at least \$20,000 but it would vary from place to place. I want to say this however, although we have come here for the first \$200,000 it does not necessarily mean that we will be coming from time to time for more, provision will be made in the Capital Estimates for it to continue. Now that the fires have burnt out all the canes and there is no more money coming from that source we will have to put it in the Estimates. This is a typical exhibition of parish pump politics which is the worst kind of politics. We will all get, but let us get the first \$200,000 passed, get another \$200,000 put in the Estimates and get the communal baths which are needed for all the poor people all over the country. The Opposition, I think, needs the baths as well.

The question that Head 103 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 104 - Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This is merely an extension of the School Meals Service which is to be extended all over the Island. For fear that I do not give all the information, I will give all now. There are at present six school meal centres providing lunches daily to some 13,000 children in 58 Primary Schools. The extension of two of the centres at Clement's and St. Christopher has recently been completed and all is now ready for providing lunches for another five schools in Christ Church. That is gone ahead with. The Minister drew attention to the fact that the families living in St. Joseph have seriously been affected by the flood damage and we have extended the School Meals Service in St. Joseph.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Minister will not be able to be heard if this behaviour goes on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It goes on to say that the Reed Street Centre is sufficiently well equipped to undertake the provision of the additional meals required, so that the School Meals Service was extended to St. Joseph Boys', St. Joseph Girls', St. Elizabeth Primary and St. Bernard's Primary. As the Addendum sets out, this Resolution seeks provision of the sum of \$16,775 to supplement the following item in the Capital Estimates under Head 104 - Education.

Head 104 Education - Item 14 - School Meals Service, and it is proposed to expand the school feeding programme to four schools in St. Joseph St.

St. Joseph's Boys, St. Joseph's Girls', St. Elizabeth's Primary and St. Bernard's Primary, and the amount now sought is required to meet the cost of equipment, furniture and other miscellaneous expenses.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I want details in respect of the parish of St. Peter. 4.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the object of this supplementary expenditure is to enable the extension of the school meals programme in the parish of St. Joseph. I do not have the overall plan for the future with me, but it is coming down here later. It will include schools in St. Michael, St. Peter and so on, but this is not the object of the Resolution under discussion at the moment.

I beg-to move that Head 104 stand part. Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for \$216,775 do now pass.

Mr. LOWE:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 12

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution to grant the sum of \$300,050 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71, No. 12 which form the Schedule to the Resolution do now pass.

This supplementary is necessary in order to carry on the services rendered by the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the end of the financial year. The amounts are set out quite clearly:

Item 16 - Substitutes & Temporary

Staff \$118, 104

" 17-Overtime 8, 320

" 18 - Apprentice Engineer 120

" 87 - Laundry Worker 504

" " 98 - Provisions 107,000

" 100 - Furniture & Equipment 5,000

" 103 - Water, Fuel, Light & Power 15,000

" 104 - Telephones 20,000

" 105 - Travelling 2, 600

" 107 - Stationery 10,000

118 - Furniture & Equipment 5,000

(Non-Recurrent) 5,000 23 - Laundry Equipment

(Non-Recurrent) 8, 402

\$300,050

With regard to Item 16 - Substitutes & Temporary Staff - I should like to inform the Committee that the sum of \$118, 104 is needed in order to continue employing the staff. Steps have been taken quite recently to place all of the temporary staff on the Established Staff. In other words, a directive has been given to appoint all of the people who have been working or acting temporarily and put them on the Established Staff. A large number of the staff has been employed on a temporary basis and the expenditure has been maintained as a result of certain posts which have been required to make the services at the Hospital efficient.

It would appear that certain officers were apparently paid from the Head Substitutes and Temporary Staff. You have 8 Special Nurses, 7 Staff Nurses, 11 Clerical Officers, 4 Typists Stenographers, Maids, Ambulance Drivers, Physiotherapists, Therapeutic Dietitian, Secretary, 1 Nurse at the Education Office, 1 Senior Executive Officer, Surgeons, Radiographers, Senior House Officers and so on. As I have said, this matter has been discussed quite recently and we have decided not to wait until the Hospital Board has been set up to put these people on the Established Staff.

Under Item 98, at present approximately 1,000 persons are fed daily at this institution. (Asides.) The breakdown is as follows:

Porters and cleaning staff 5

Maids in the kitchen 35

Supervisors including catering staff.. 15

Cooks 25

Nursing Staff .. 360

Patients approximately 525

Medical Students 20

Doctors approximately 15

Total 1,000

Now, the provisions are bought from the Barbados Marketing Corporation according to instructions. (Asides.) That is a standing instruction which has been going on for some time. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been buying provisions from the Barbados Marketing Corporation for quite a long time and even at a loss. We are now asking for \$107,000 to supplement the amount in the Estimates. 5.00 p.m.

I am giving a breakdown of the larger amounts. Item 100 - Furniture and Equipment \$5,000; Item 103 - Water, Fuel, Light and Power \$15,000; Item 104 - Telephones \$20,000. If I may explain this last item. The sum of \$20,000 has been provided in the current year's Estimates under this Item, and this in itself is \$1,000 more than was provided for the year 1969-70. An increase in rates was anticipated but not to the extent as it shows below. In March 1970 the sum expended was \$4,426.52; in April \$5,181; in May \$4,673.83; in June \$3,045 and in July \$3,085.75; so that the estimated expenditure for the five months is in excess of \$20,000, and the additional sum of \$20,000 is required as a supplementary under this item.

Travelling \$2,600; Item 107 - Stationery \$10,000. The reason for this is that during the year 1969-70 expenditure under this item totalled \$26,000, and at the end of the first four months of the current fiscal year expenditure amounted to \$16, 136. Staff communication has been responsible for the fantastic rate of expenditure under this item as well as communication of the daily resident population of 580 persons, and equipping and maintaining the nursing school have also had an effect on this vote. The current year's provision is \$22,000 which is less than the total expenditure for 1969-70. Consequent on this and the present rate of expenditure, the sum of \$10,000 is required to supplement this item. This is largely due to having the functioning of the medical school and twenty odd interns that we have to deal with. Furniture and Equipment (non-Recurrent) \$5,000; Laundry Equipment (non-Recurrent) \$8,402. Under Item 118 -Furniture and Equipment - the sum of \$28, 764 has been provided under this item to purchase specified items like scrubbing machine, clothes dry machine medicine trolley, wheel-chairs etc. Prices have risen by approximately 25 per cent above those which formed the basis of the estimate. The sum of \$5,000 is required to supplement this provision.

Under item 123 - Laundry Equipment (non-Recurrent), the sum of \$52,750 has been provided in this year's Estimates to purchase certain items of laundry equipment. Included in these items is a flat ironer from the U. S. A. which has arrived and has already been installed. Due to increased cost of freight charges, the overall price has now risen to \$58,735. The difference here is \$5,985. Provision for the purchase of Water Control Valves was also included in this item and forms part of the \$52,750 mentioned above. These valves have also arrived at a cost of \$2,417.44, therefore the expenditure under this item is expected to be \$58,735 plus \$2,417 making a total of \$61,152, and the sum of \$8,402 is needed to supplement this item.

I think I have given some information, but what hon. members have to bear in mind is that in an institution like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or any institution for that matter where the cost of materials vary and the cost of wages and salaries etc. have gone up, it is not easy to estimate to the last dollar or the last \$100 what it will cost to run the institution beforehand; so that every year it has been the practice to come late in the year about this time in order to get a supplementary to see that the services are kept

going, and to provide the necessary emoluments and pay the salaries and wages of the various people who are entitled to their money like everybody else. I am pleased to report that at long last the people who have been acting on a temporary basis will be established in their positions so that there will be no more bickering and everybody will feel contented and satisfied. In other words, justice will be done, and the treatment which they have long merited will be meted out to them. They will be put on a permanent basis so that they will not feel that their case is being left out.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 16 -Substitutes and Temporary Staff, it is very enlightening to hear the Minister say that these people will be taken on permanently. Now I realise that the Hospital is doing a very good job especially as a Teaching Hospital, and we have in our services some very competent doctors and nurses. However, I feel that we should have a physicist especially to deal with cancer patients. I have been reliably informed that cancer can be cured if the symptoms are diagnosed early. I understand that at present there is a doctor who is doing his best at the hospital, but we do not have a qualified physicist who deals with radium for treating people who suffer from cancer. It is a known fact that if a patient would go to a doctor and is told that he is suffering from this terrible disease, immediately he starts to shrink. I think it is something that doctors should withhold from patients, but there are some doctors who are fearless. The hospital is doing a wonderful job, and I feel there should be some expansion in this particular field now that we have at our service a capable man, who if given the tools such as a physicist and all the records that are needed, could do much for the people of Barbados. At present we are also treating cases, as far as I have learnt, from overseas. I cannot give a percentage of the success, but I understand that our hospital is showing progress, and I feel that if some loan either from the Canadian Government or some Government could be had to expand this service for the people of Barbados, this is an opportune moment for this Government to either acquire some soft loan to have this hospital going forward to alleviate the suffering of these people with this terrible disease known as cancer, 5.10 p.m.

As the Minister has explained, there are things for a hospital of this nature, you will have to look for more money at some time, as is the case under Item 98 for \$107,000, and it would be expected that a hospital, feeding so many people with the high cost of foodstuffs today, would crop up in a Resolution like this from time to time.

Water, fuel and light are of the same because as long as you have so many people in a hospital you must have these services. As for Stationery, the people must be billed and letters sent out, so I hope that this Resolution will pass with the greatest of ease, especially I know a member of the Opposition who likes to speak on the hospital, but I think the case is well put and I hope that this Resolution will do some -thing and we will have no hindrance in getting it passed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I certainly do laugh when I hear reference being made to the new hospital, when I look back to see that all the complaints are old. Mr. Chairman, Substitutes and Temporary Staff. There can be

no doubt about this at all, the Minister is being badly advised if he stands before this Committee and tells us that there is a therapeutic Dietitian, when the Minister on the Just occasion when this debate came up in this House of Assembly the Minister was advised by a Permanent Secretary who sat in the Gallery that there was no such thing as a Therapeutic Dietitian.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member stressed the need for more, but I did not say there are no Therapeutic Dietitians, we have two.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister does not seem to follow what I have been saying. On the last occasion when we were in our own place, I made reference to the need for a Therapeutic Dietitian at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Minister, acting upon the advice that he had received from a Permanent Secretary who has been misleading everybody associated with the hospital from the time it became a hospital, advised the Minister that there was no such thing as a Therapeutic Dietitian, and today I am now hearing the Minister say for the first time there is somebody now performing the duties of a Therapeutic Dietitian. Mr. Chairman, I intend to teach the Minister until the last day I am in this House how to run the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There is a lady who was trained in Canada, attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who made some sort of a study of therapeutic dieting, but unfortunately for us that Therapeutic Dietitian has not yet become familiar with local dieting conditions and local foods, after more than one year - almost two - that the same Therapeutic Dietitian understands and appreciates -in other words, he cannot say that the Dietitian has acquired the taste that the patients in the various wards of the Institution have expressed from time to time for various foods.

Where we fall down and why we have so many at this institution is - and the Minister will admit this as time goes on - but where we have so many deaths, and particularly people who are suffering from diabetes, these are things, Mr. Chairman that I have tried to point put to this Committee, and I do so not because I want to criticise the hospital, I would be glad if there was nothing to be said against this Resolution or the hospital, but it is my bounden duty, and particularly where the lives of human beings are concerned I have a double and a triple duty to perform. Having the type of Dietitian who does not understand and is not familiar with local dieting conditions, a doctor prescribes but the patient in the ward does not like a particular item of diet, it is the Dietitian who should know; this patient is there because he is sick and a doctor has prescribed this diet for this particular patient whatever diet it might be, and if this particular property is to be subtracted because the patient does not like it, the Therapeutic Dietitian is there to be able to offer the substitute that the person will still have exactly what the doctor ordered for the person's system, and the person can respond to the type of treatment that the doctor is offering. That is what we are trying to instil in the mind of the Hon. Minister, that we are asking him not to be fooled by the Civil Servants. You have had a case, Mr. Chairman, where only yesterday - I am to wonder by whom the Minister is so badly advised in a matter of this sort only yesterday you had over 200 nurses without anything to eat at that institution, their only meal being a drink of mauby, biscuits and Jam, 5.20 p.m.

The Minister tells us that this institution is feeding over 1,000 people, I am now telling the Minister that the institution fed 744 people today: 186 special diets, 298 regular diets, 20 doctors and 240 nurses.

He can ask where I got that information from.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is always very up to date with his information, and it is very encouraging to find that other members are interested in the running of the institution. My information is that they had trouble with the natural gas equipment and there was a breakdown.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has admitted that they were given mauby and biscuits because there was a breakdown in the natural gas equipment. If he had people who were properly trained to run the institution, he would find that whenever Natural Gas people were going to carry out certain repairs they would give the Hospital due notice. If the first meal was normally completed at eleven o'clock, then the Natural Gas people would adjust things so that the meal could be prepared before they started to work on the equipment. How could you feed a Nurse with mauby and biscuits and then expect her to be able to lift a patient?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. No notice was given by the Natural Gas Corporation, and that is why the breakdown took place.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Natural Gas people are treating them so. They have lost respect for them. I would like to know what is their Natural Gas bill. During the past the Natural Gas people treated them as human beings, so why are they treating them in this manner today? Perhaps they have brought down themselves. The Minister has been advised that the Hospital is dieting thousands of people.

Mr. Chairman, this Hospital is run at a considerable loss. The wastage at the Hospital is also responsible for a considerable loss. Even the Therapeutic Dietitian that the Minister says he has at the Hospital has not demonstrated the ability to show that she knows anything about food-cost control. If she knows about it, then she does not put it into practice. If you go to the kitchen at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital you will notice quantities of food drawn from the main storeroom; they use what they want and put the balance in the kitchen. That should not be the case. People who know what they are about would not act in that manner. We would like you to relate the waste that is now experienced at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with that which is being experienced at other institutions.

Mr. Chairman, it is within my knowledge that another institution - (Asides.) The institution to which I refer is feeding more people than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the waste there has been reduced from 5 barrels to half barrel a day, and people who have been contracting for the food to feed their animals are thinking about not going to the institution any longer for such food. The Minister is now talking about all sorts of specialists and so on.

Can the Minister tell us why Mr. Marshall, who was attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, has left the Institution? He was the type of individual that no chef could stand in front of, pull down his pants and make all sorts of vulgar motions in the presence of women at the institution. Mr. Marshall and others have had to leave that institution because of the conditions there. If the Minister is willing to have a proper investigation carried out into the operation of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will find that

one of his dietitians has a record of not being able to get along with people. He can get a copy of that record from Guyana. It is wicked and sinful to be persecuting people just to accommodate one dietitian.

Mr. Chairman, every time I mention the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the kitchen and what I know is going on there, tears come to my eyes. I turn to my left and I miss the hon. junior member for the City. I refer to the late Louis Albert Lynch; he ought to have been alive today, but nobody from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been charged with manslaughter arising out of his death. Is the Minister going to wait until several other Lynches have died before he carries out an investigation into the working of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? We are asking the Minister not to accept the advice of a few civil servants who want to cover up things for their friends. This is not good enough, because the taxpayers' money is involved in this matter. This is an institution catering to a large number of people.

Mr. Chairman, I am telling the Minister that as soon as I am in possession of all the information I require, I will come here and ask what is the number of deaths that occurred at that institution from the day it was opened. I will ask the Minister some very embarrassing questions about the Hospital. I will complete my information and then ask questions. 5.30p.m.

Dieting at an institution such as this must pose problems. It is not catering to two dozen people. The numbers must rise and fall, but nevertheless the number of nurses would not rise and fall as it does in the case of your patients. There is a necessity to have these substitutes, but the Hon. Acting Leader of the House as a Minister has a lot of effrontery. Sir, the Minister is now telling us that there is need for more dietitians at the hospital. I hope I am correct in quoting him. Sir, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if the present dietitians attached to the hospital are devoting their every duty to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or whether it is not a case where the dietitians are being used in other avenues elsewhere. The two which he has are so deployed that the work of the institution is neglected and the business of other institutions is attended by the same dietitians. The Minister is making a huge joke of an institution that the Barbados Labour Party built and gave to the people of this country.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member apparently needs my assistance. It is a fact that an institution as large as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital needs more dietitians. At one time there was none. Four years ago we only knew the word, but today we have two which we have had for over a year, but I have been advised that in a large institution like the hospital two dietitians cannot cope with the volume of work. Normally you need one dietitian for every forty or fifty patients and the hospital carries 500 odd patients; so there is a need, and I am happy to say that provision is being made for another two, and I will not be satisfied until I see six dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and one at the Mental Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has never served in the Government. Does he think that when you want something done you just write it down and you get the money? It is a job to get these things done, but from my way of thinking I would like to see six dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and one at the Mental Hospital, and until such time as this is done, I shall strive for it. Although I brought a Resolution for \$200,000 for communal baths for which hon. members have been asking, look at the opposition it has had.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has said that for about one year now we have had two dietitians at the hospital. Prior to that, according to the Minister, we only knew the word "dietitian"; but prior to our having the present two dietitians we had patients who suffered from the same complaints and they had to be dieted. I would like to hear the Minister honestly say - and I am underlining the word "honestly" - what was the situation immediately before the first dietitian came on the scene. In other words, your patients were coming and going, your death rate was not as high as at present, and definitely did not include Louis Lynch although he had been there several times before. I would like the Minister to tell us here and now what was happening immediately before the dietitians came on the scene I am willing to sit at this stage and hear him if he has a reply, if not I will continue. My information and knowledge is that the Minister well knows that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been having the services of a dietitian for four years or thereabouts now, if not longer, but because the dietitian had not been trained in the United Kingdom or Canada, she was not a dietitian. What the Minister does not know is that the therapeutic dieting which he now so proudly boasts about today has come right out of the United States of America by books brought to Barbados by the wife of an ex-policeman who is herself a dietitian trained in the United States and working there, and handed to his dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who have been trained now for burn the midnight oil since they have been in our employ drawing our money and posing as this? that and the other. They had qualifications on paper, but not in their brains.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of certificates are still bought today. Some people come down here as doctors, lawyers and big educationists with bought certificates, and the Minister does not have to go far to prove what I have been saying; but what fools the Minister is that he will not stand up as a man and tell Civil Servants the torture he has to undergo in this House. 5.40 p.m.

What we are saying is this, a Minister must accept advice but he must know in process of time how much value he should attach to it, not minding which source it comes from as he goes on and on. Experts have given advice to laymen and the laymen have been sensible at times to stop and look at it to see that it could not ring true; that is a layman with something that the Minister might be lacking, and so when you have a Resolution like this the Minister has not attempted to deny, his advisers can tell him, he has told us here he is feeding, 1,000 people, I told him today he is only feeding 744, where are the others coming from? Deny that, deny that diabetics are given dry peas and rice and fried pork; deny that patients, when enquiries are made on their behalf, the Dietitians tell them the lettuce is for the doctors; Dietitians come to Barbados and tell our Barbadian patients, diabetics, that they must eat dry peas and rice and fried pork, but the lettuce is for the doctors. Are you making sport? There is going to be one answer to this, Mr. Chairman, until the people who have sick and suffering in that institution, cease being afraid - do you know how many people in that institution, we have had a doctor who is presently on the staff of the institution, a leading doctor, a specialist who decided he would go into the hospital and stay three weeks, but after three days he quit. The doctor discussed the matter with me but he did not want me to say anything; that is the kind of thing you are having, the people have got to demonstrate around that hospital, picket the hospital and get things put right. You can bring all the specialists; we do not mind whom you bring, the best substitute staff, do not mind what part of the world they come from, I maintain that if the doctor prescribes and sends the prescription to the druggist and the druggist mixes the wrong medicine the patient cannot respond.

Mr. Chairman, I have had to suffer the Hon. Minister coming before this Hon. Committee and telling us about diet sheets for diabetics that were prepared at that institution; Mr. Chairman, I believe that the

Minister thought he was speaking the truth at the time, but there was no such thing as this new diabetic sheet that had been prepared after consultation with any other doctor, it was not true at all, the diabetic sheets were the same old sheets that had been left there by a lady who had been performing & duties of a Dietitian with satisfaction, and the new Dietitians, the ones that had been appointed to fill the office with dignity and what not, merely took them and copied them, had new copies made of the old diet sheets, so I believe as I said, the Minister was in earnest but he was acting on the advice that him at the time.

On the question of overtime, Mr. Chairman, what are we to think of a Minister who so loves his people to come before this Horn Committee to tell us that all you are going to pay an electrician, a plumber, a fitter and a welder for being on duty for a night is \$2.00 in the year 1970? That is not even \$2.00 an hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of explanation, if the hon. member would give way, there is an "on call" allowance of \$2.00 per night; that Jura special allowance. As far as overtime is concerned, the following is a list of posts which qualify for overtime

Unestablished staff 84

Casual staff when necessary

Laboratory Technicians 19

Radiographers 8

Dispensers 9

Laundry Workers 27

Seamstresses 22

In addition to the above, there is an "on call" allowance of \$2.00 per night for the following categories: unestablished staff, electricians, plumbers, fitters and welders. The amount provided under this Item is \$26,000, and expenditure to the 31st July, 1970 was \$19,250; at the rate of \$2,000 per month, expenditure for the entire year would be in the vicinity of \$34,320 and this is due in part to the fact that Laboratory Technicians, X-Ray staff, etc. are required to attend for extra duties as it has not been possible to implement a new system.

Mr. HINDS:

Is that still a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You gave way, the Minister specifically said "a point of explanation".

Mr. HINDS:

I will not argue with the Chairman. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

I will not argue with you Mr. Chairman, but the Shorthand Reporter's notes are still there. I sat and listened to the Minister, and he is still trying to make himself more ridiculous.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member interrupted me when I was reading extracts to him. It is \$2.00 per night for Electricians, Plumbers, Fitters and Welders. The position is that they are paid a rate and a half per night apart from the \$2.00, which is an extra amount.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, in addition to that even when they are at home and not on call they still get the \$2.00.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the point at issue is that there is a duty roster with the names of the various Electricians, Plumbers and Welders as the case may be who are on call, and the nights are laid down when they are on call. That means that they no longer have their freedom to go where they want to when they want to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. How can it mean that? It means that when they are going out they will tell somebody where they are going.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, if every time you get up from your Chair you have to say where you are going, and if you are coming at me you have to tell somebody that you are coming at me, then are you a free man? What kind of freedom is that? Those people are subjected to all of this, and all they get for it is \$2 a night; Can the Minister feel proud of that? When a man is on call, then when the hour of duty calls he must obey. If they must obey the call, then their names must be posted up somewhere so that the person in charge will know the names of the persons on call. If a man goes to see his girl friend at ten o'clock; at 10.30 p.m. He goes to see his aunt, and between 10.30 p.m. and 11 p.m. he is on his way to his bed - (Asides.) This is a Minister who pretends to love his people.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I object to that remark. I have done my job successfully for 23 years, and, even if I may not get back at the next election, I will still have done my job successfully.

Mr. HINDS:

If you want to get back, you will have to join my party. Anyway, we would not have you because we would not have traitors in my party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the remark "We would not have you, because we would not have traitors in my party."

Mr. HINDS:

I withdraw that remark. I have lost neither friend nor foe since I came into this House. I am going to carry on with this matter until doomsday. What I am saying is that you cannot appear to be doing justice to one section of the community and let it be seen that you are so blatantly unfair to another section as the Note so ably sets out here at No. 3. I do not, for the life of me, accept anything other than what is written here, and it says \$2 per night. It goes on to say where the high rate of expenditure lies. It says

"The high rate of expenditure has been due in part to the fact that the Lab Technicians, X-Ray Staff and Dispensers are required to attend extra duty quite often. The Interns are also required to carry out a variety of tests as part of their training and consequently supporting departments are required to work extra time."

In other words, the Plumbers, Electricians and Welders must be paid at \$2 per night, but the high rate of expenditure must be paid to Lab Technicians and the X-Ray Staff and so on; They do not think much of the other workers.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. May I be allowed to clear the air regarding the \$2 per night? The Minister has already stated that these artisans are paid overtime plus \$2 per night for being on call, and even if they are not called out they still receive the \$2 per night.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know the fate of a Plumber who is on call and sets out from any part of St. Philip or St. Michael on a moonlight excursion to the Animal Flower Cave in St. Lucy and is wanted while he is out there- What would be his fate? 6.00 p.m.

I would like to know what is his fate. I ask that question merely to emphasise the importance of, the role the man is expected to play, and it is for that reason that I am asking that greater consideration than \$2. 00 in the year 1970 be given when he is on call, and also in the light that X-Ray staff and other staff are treated differently.

Now to come back to the question of the provision of \$107,000, it is a known fact that, as the Minister has said, directives have been issued from time to time to the various Government Departments to do their purchasing through the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Really and truly the Barbados Marketing Corporation has never been able to perform its functions, because it ought to be an organisation for marketing and not a retail shop; so when the Barbados Marketing Corporation has the responsibility for supplying the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with various commodities, it means that the BMC must first have these commodities in its possession, if not as soon as possible after an order has been received from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or Whatever institution, it must make contact where these commodities can be obtained and ready itself to be able to meet the requirements of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

It is known that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has overspent much of this money that is now being asked for. This is to pay debts, that have already been contracted. The Minister can rise and correct me. That ought not to be so, and what has been discovered is that the BMC has been supplying these provisions at prices that are very far above what they can be got at in other places in Bridgetown or elsewhere; so the Executive Officers at the Departments have had to cut back, and seeing their votes

bursting, they have had to trim their sails and try and sail away wherever possible from the BMC to avoid having to come to the Legislature at as early an hour for a sum such as this. In the face of this, less than a week ago, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health has made it his business to go to these various institutions and give very definite instructions that in spite of cost, they must buy from the BMC.

Mr. Chairman, this is the money of the taxpayers of this country, and if we can provide provisions or whatever commodities for less than \$107,000 at a time like this by buying here, there and everywhere provided the standard and quality of the items purchased are of the standard required..... (Asides.) I heard the hon. junior member for St. George and the hon. senior member for St. Peter talking about weights, Mr. chairman, but the Barbados Marketing Corporation has established a record for giving short weight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to remind the hon. member that he is not now dealing with the Barbados Marketing Corporation, He Is dealing with an item for provisions.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, with due respect to your reminder, directives have been issued to Government Departments according to what the Minister said here today to purchase these provisions from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, Must we not talk about the BMC giving short weights and that is what carries up the cost of the provisions to \$107,000? What we are concerning ourself with is that undoubtedly pressure is being applied on the Ministry of Health from some quarter, and we believe it is from the Ministry of Agriculture. What is really wrong to some very great extent is that we need better marketing advice, or the Ministry of Agriculture needs better marketing advice than is available at the present moment so that the Government institutions like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would better be able to buy commodities at greatly reduced prices as compared with what they now have to pay. 6.10 p.m.

All of this would evolve as a result of proper marketing advice, but when we find that in the face of the high cost, because we are told here also, Mr. Chairman, "it should also be noted that quantity discounts are no longer available." Mr. Chairman, do you know what cut out the quantity discounts? Trading with the BMC, because the BMC has not been able to pay its debts, so that when you go trading with the BMC, the BMC cannot get any discounts from the merchants or other people they deal with to pass on to the hospital. In other words, if the BMC was getting 10% from a firm they might be able to give the hospital 2%, but the BMC is not getting it so the hospital cannot get it, consequently the taxpayers are being asked to pay for this; that is the whole of it in a nutshell. It is very, very unreasonable, and Government will have in the very near future to review its policy where purchasing of these provisions for these institutions is concerned, because you cannot take the taxpayers' money and merely throw it in the hands of these institutions to try to pop up the BMC's deficits. If the BMC is becoming bankrupt we cannot use the hospital or any other institution as a means of getting it back, and we urge upon the Minister to convey to the Cabinet our views on a matter such as this.

There has been a constant rise in prices during the year. Mr. Chairman, if there is anything that smells of disgrace, these few words convey it; this is the Government that is talking, Mr. Chairman, That has Government done up to this present moment to control prices from rising so that we could administer the affairs of the hospital within a reason-able budget? Government has done nothing, has sat by;

Government prefers to control the prices of motor cars than the prices of foodstuffs, provisions for the hospital, let them rise and rise. Government does nothing about it because the Government can rely on the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and all other hon. members there. When they come for \$107,000 to pay for provisions for the hospital they say AYE irrespective of whether that \$107,000 would have acquired twice as much in another quarter, carefully managed. Mr. Chairman, I believe that; I have done justice to this institution for this moment, but I want the Minister to counsel his advisers, I want the Minister to make it known to his present advisers that he is not always being told the whole truth about matters relating to the hospital, and as such the Minister cannot be expected to make bricks out of straw when he comes in here; unless he is given good substance he cannot get on the floor of the House and do justice to the Resolution.

We appreciate that the hospital has got to be properly staffed, the sooner the better, because it involves the health of the nation. I want to see Government take a stand and approach the problem of bringing the St. Joseph Hospital into rendering better service or more adequate service. We appreciate it is a very good hospital, but there are certain benefits that are now being derived, and all these benefits come from the taxpayers purse. We appreciate it is a private hospital, but wherever it is, we are an independent nation and it is sited in Barbados and serving the Barbados community.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, under the Medical Services Act, 1969 and the regulations thereunder, the Minister is given power to issue licences, etc. for the operation of the hospital, so the St. Joseph's Hospital operates under a licence and has to comply with the regulations. We have a certain measure of control, and it has to comply with the regulations and requirements as set out, so it is only

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister knows with any degree of certainty just what he is saying; we know, Mr. Chairman, that the hospital should make available twenty of its beds, but can the Minister say with any degree of certainty that this is done? We are not concerned with what is on the books, we want to know what is put into practice, is this being done? 6.20 p.m.

Is this ever done? In other words, how many of these beds were made available last month? If the Minister does not know, he can say so.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 98, I am particularly worried when I see in the Note that quantity discounts are no longer available, and that there has been a constant rise in prices during the year. Is this due to the practice of purchasing from the Barbados Marketing Corporation? This is certainly a sad state of affairs in relation to the trading practice of large institutions. We are still living in a competitive society, and I am sure that if we are going to operate with monopolies of this nature whereby instructions come from one Government Department or some other source to the effect that Government Institutions must only purchase from a particular supplier, in this particular case the Barbados Marketing Corporation, then they could never be any check on prices which are going to be asked for commodities sold at the Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, it is known that the Barbados Marketing Corporation has not been functioning efficiently for quite a long time. If the Queen Elizabeth Hospital must now make all of its purchases from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, then this is certainly a move to circumvent what will have to be dealt with in this Chamber at some future date. I am referring to the efficient management of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. By this process you will find that other Government Departments will be subsidising the expenditure of the Barbados Marketing Corporation to cover the wastage in the Corporation. I would say that it is certainly a dangerous method of procedure to be used between Government Institutions and the Barbados Marketing Corporation. This means that the Corporation can operate as inefficient as it cares to do without those inefficiencies coming to the knowledge of the public, because the Corporation knows that as long as it makes it known that it is in financial difficulties other Institutions or Government Departments will be directed to purchase directly from it and thereby offset any financial difficulties with which the Corporation may be faced without the general public knowing anything about the matter.

Mr. Chairman, in view of the statement that quantity discounts are no longer available, the Minister should immediately stop the practice whereby the Queen Elizabeth Hospital must purchase things from the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It is clear, Mr. Chairman, that the competitive spirit still exists. If the Minister responsible for the Hospital realises that he can no longer get quantity discounts from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, then his duty to the taxpayers of this country is to stop the arrangement whereby the Hospital Authorities have to purchase things from the Barbados Marketing Corporation and allow the Hospital Authorities to make their own arrangements with suppliers based on current prices and discounts.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at the vegetable situation in this country. There is no doubt about it that St. Joseph is one of the parishes most suitable for the growing of vegetables. Several people in St. Joseph make their money out of planting kitchen gardens. As long as a man knows that he has an agreement with the Hospital, whether it be the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the Mental Hospital, to supply a particular produce at any given time the supply will be forthcoming.

At the moment, a man plants so much of a particular crop; he takes it to the Barbados Marketing Corporation; he is told that only x pounds can be purchased today; on another occasion he is told that none will be purchased. During that time the retail price would be the same as that in the Market Square. I know that last month beans were sold at the retail price of \$1.00 per pound, but the farmer was only getting 600 per pound. If the Hospital Authorities had an agreement with suppliers other than the Barbados Marketing Corporation, they would be able to buy beans at a price lower than \$1.00 per pound. That was the price that the Barbados Marketing Corporation published in the Advocate. This matter should not remain in the hands of the Barbados Marketing Corporation to enable it to offset its inefficiency. I hope that the Minister will take note of these things.

Mr. Chairman, the agricultural policy in this Island is such that nobody knows where he is going -not even the Minister. If the policy is changed, then there would be no need for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to purchase things from the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It is said that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital provides 1,000 diets per day, and I know that an arrangement could be made to have four or five suppliers for various things. I am sure that if prices rose at any time they would remain the same for the Hospital, as long as a proper arrangement was made. The Hospital would then be in a position to purchase things at a reasonable price and there would be an arrangement for quantity

discounts. Under the present arrangement there will never be any discount, because the Hospital and other Institutions are being used to support the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

With regard to Item-104 - Telephones, everyone knows that the telephone rates have gone up. It is known that the Telephone Company is not providing the service it said it was going to provide. For some time now there has been some ruling in the Hospital that persons in the wards including Nurses should not get telephone calls after ten o'clock at night. If one went back to a couple of years ago, one might say that the facilities of the Telephone Company were such that it would be a strain on the service to have telephone calls in the wards after a certain time at night. It is rather strange that if you attempt to telepose anybody in a ward at the Hospital at two minutes to ten o'clock, the telephone operator either does not answer or you are told that no calls will be going through after ten o'clock; 6.30 p.m.

I have made enquiries about the telephone system in this country and I have been told that there is a strange situation where the bulk of the traffic on the telephone is during the day with little or no traffic at night. What then is the reason for nurses and/or other persons working on the Wards at tile hospital not being able to receive telephone calls after 10 o'clock? I know that it might be said that the ringing of the telephone might disturb the patients, but how could that be the case when at 11.30 p.m. or 11.45 p.m. there is a television set going in the corner and keeping as much noise or more noise that, the telephone would make when ringing. There is also so provision on the telephone through which the bell can be turned down. It is plain to-all that night, work is the hardest work irrespective of how long you have been doing it, and if you put nurses to work on the wards at night, they must drowse and fall to sleep, and if a nurse leaves her home and her mother, father or boy friend cannot ring her at 10.02 p.m., this is very difficult to understand.

Mr. Chairman, I have never been able to find out the reason why it is so, but I would like the Minister to look into this now, because if the Telephone Company says that the traffic Is in the day, then the telephone should work at night. There are disciplinary methods which can be used against any person who uses the telephone more than normal, but I am saying that the telephone at the hospital should not be out of bounds to outside calls after 10 o'clock, because nurses have families and one does not know what will happen to their families at night. I know a nurse living in St. Joseph who has a child and she has to leave it with somebody. Why shouldn't she be able to get a call in case her child became ill? They should be able to receive calls at 11 p.m., 12 midnight or 1 o'clock or 2 o'clock in the morning. I find the present system where you have to ask the Sister in charge to carry a message very unsatisfactory, and if we are going to pay a further \$20,000 for use of the telephones, I believe that the telephones should be fully utilised for that money, because whether you use them or not you have got to pay the same rates at the end of the month. I hope that the Minister will look into this and remove the restrictive practice which exists at the hospital now that tells people that they can only ring the hospital up to 10 o'clock at night.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I rise merely to ask toe Minister what information he has that nurses are afraid to sleep in the nursing home because during the past weeks there have been raids carried out on nurses in the nursing home. One nurse found a man under her bed. Nurses are staying away from their duty because after they finish working at night, they cannot rest comfortably in the nursing home, and prefer to remain at home. That is a situation with which the Minister has got to deal. There has also been much stealing. Nurses have lost jewellery from the nursing home. An electric iron has been stolen. What

information does the Minister have about this, and what steps is he taking to remedy the situation? (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. HINDS:

Ask the hon. member if he is addressing the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If the hon. member was still addressing the Chair, I would ask that one hon. member address the Chair at a time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I have made notes of the salient points raised, for instance, the last two points which the hon. junior member for St. Peter made and certain points raised by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I will look into the matters, especially that of the telephone being used after. I agree that it should be possible to get that after that hour.

In so far as the electricians are concerned, the average wage for a forty-four hour week is \$60 a week at the rate of \$1.34 per hour. They are paid overtime at time and a half which works out at \$2.01 per hour; on Sundays they receive double time which is \$2.68 per hour, and for Christmas Day, Good Friday and Independence Day they receive triple time which is \$4.02 per hour. In addition the \$2.00 per night is for duty allowance to be on call in case they are needed. They have not got to stick one place so long as they can be found. Doctors are on call and you can get them on the telephone. Like plumbers and electricians they come in and leave a telephone number where they can be found. The electricians get the \$2.00 whether or not they work. This is for standing in readiness, but whether or not they work they receive the \$2.00. A lot of the other information I gave as I went along.

As to the dietitians, I will not worry with that. We will deal with that later again. The comments have been noted. The hospital is an old matter and no matter who the Minister is, he is attacked. I promise to do my best to provide the further information and to look into the points which have been made.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$300,050 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

6.40 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, the sitting was

suspended until 8 o'clock p.m.

6.45 p.m. On resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; automatically to that it now reverts.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 10

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$872,661 and it is an omnibus Resolution.

Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, Head 17 -Prime Minister's Office, Item 12 - Conferences and Delegations, for the sum of \$45,000. In moving the passing of that Head, as hon. members will recall, the sum of \$ 230,000 was passed in the Estimates under this Headland at the 24th November, 1970 the state of the vote was as follows

Actual expenditure .. \$180,604.06

Commitments on conferences already attended or being currently attended 41,520,87

making a total of \$ 222,624.93

The commitments on two conferences to be held in January, and February, 1971 amount to \$18,800, making a grand total of \$240,924.93. A submission was presented to Cabinet on the 26th November, 1970 for expenditure of \$1,316, and in response to an enquiry by the Cabinet Secretary some Ministries have submitted a list of conferences and/or seminars expected to take place between now and the end of the financial year; this list is as follows:

Ministry of Trade

(1) 27th session of GATT in Geneva, February, 1971, and the estimated cost \$ 3,044

(2) Oils and fats and rice meetings,

January, 1971 \$ 1, 430

(3) UNCTAD conference on generalised system of preferences in Geneva, February, 1971 \$ 3,044

Prime Minister's Office

(4) Barbados/US Air Services Agreement in Washington, February,

1971 \$ 8, 450

(5) 3rd session of the Barbados/UK Air Services Agreement negotiations in London, January, ;971....
\$ 9, 348

(6) Air fares regional Committee meeting in Guyana, Trinidad and St. Lucia between January and
February, 1971 \$ 300

Ministry of Home Affairs

(7) Conference of inter-national Caribbean Emergency Relief Organisations \$ 850

Ministry of Finance

(8) Regional Co-ordinating Census Committee in Jamaica,

March, 1971 ".. \$ 665

Ministry of Education

(9) Meeting of the University of the West Indies Appraised Committee in Trinidad, January, 1971.....
\$ 1,000

Carried Forward..... \$ 28, 131

Ministry of Education (Coat'd)

Brought Forward.. \$ 28, 131

(10) U. W. I. Council Meeting in Jamaica, February, 1971 \$ 900

(11) Meeting of Advisory Council of the U. W. I, February, 1971.... \$ 1, 400

.... \$ 30, 431

If the several requests and commitments as described above are to be met the amount of \$42,671.93 would be required to supplement the original vote. I may add that departmental heads, Permanent Secretaries etc., and members of the Economic Planning Unit, Civil Servants, attend about two thirds of these conferences so that the vote is almost entirely spent by Civil Servants and not Ministers as is the

popular opinion. 8.05 p.m.

I merely mentioned that in passing. If there is other information which members need, I will try to give it. All of these Conferences are essential, as far as we know, and we have been cutting them down. You will observe that there is no conference to be attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology. There is no conference to be attended by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, and there is no conference to be attended by the Minister of Communications and Works. Those three Ministries do not anticipate having to attend any conferences up to the end of the financial year. The Ministry of Trade, The Ministry of Home Affairs, The Prime Minister's Office, The Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Education are involved.

I beg to move that Item 12 Conferences and Delegations - Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office -stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that it was last year when the Leader of the House in a document before the House informed us that the Government had intended some 92 conferences in the last financial year. It seems to me that this year they are going to break that record. Now, there can be no doubt about it that \$275,000 a year under this Item is a very substantial amount of expenditure. In the light of the present condition of accounts in this country, it is difficult for people to check and control expenditure under an item such as this. It is a sad state of affairs and it is very unsatisfactory. How can members of the Opposition and the public satisfy themselves that money is not being wasted under this item? We merely have to depend on the statements made by the other side.

Mr. Chairman, I notice that the Hon. Minister was careful in his introduction to specify that certain Ministries were not going to any conferences between now and the end of the financial year. However, we know that the Prime Minister, civil servants in his office as well as those in the Ministry of Education will be going to conferences. Of course, the Hon. Minister has to do the dirty work here. He has to come here and present something to us today. The file was probably handed to him this morning. I recall that in the last Auditor General's Report it was mentioned that you could not get replies from the Prime Minister's Office in respect of reconciliation of expenditure. We are here today and the Prime Minister is not here to tell us anything.

Mr. Chairman, it is felt by some people that these conferences are there to enhance the salaries of Ministers and the Prime Minister. I challenge the Hon. Minister to tell this House what allowances Ministers get when they go abroad to attend conferences. It is nothing else but a glorified racket.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has already asked a question in connection with this matter. You will notice that Question No. 107 was tabled by the hon. member on the 12th May, 1970. Six months have gone by and we have not yet had an answer to the question. The question sets out every person involved:

"The Prime Minister;

A Minister;

A Parliamentary Secretary;

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker or Mr. Chairman of Committees of this House;

Any member of Parliament not mentioned above;

A Civil Servant;

Any other person attending a conference or a meeting of an International Organisation as part of or an adviser to a delegation from Barbados."

The Permanent Secretaries who are responsible have treated the Auditor General with contempt by not sending in returns; the House is treated with contempt; the Prime Minister treats this House and his party colleagues with contempt, because he fails to come in here and be asked about it. It is an abuse of public money by this Government headed by the Prime Minister, but the days of reckoning are coming. I ask the Hon. Minister to state how much subsistence he will get. Let him tell us how many conferences they will have this year.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I have already said that the Prime Minister should not travel in a train, in the subway, and so on when he goes abroad to represent Barbados. I agree that when the Prime Minister goes to England to attend any conference he should be able to live under conditions better than a Prime Minister. I feel that the Prime Minister should be better paid than an ordinary Minister. I put the Prime Minister in a different category in a Minister. I have said that when the other party was in power, and I have said it since this.

Of course, we have heard whisperings that people get big allowances and they make a lot of money out of it. We are entitled to know what is paid to the Prime Minister, Ministers, and so on by way of subsistence allowances. Some people say that Ministers get as much as \$25 a day, and we are entitled to know the true position. If I had to go away and I was given \$30 a day, I would not go. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, when I went abroad in 1962 I think they paid me \$55 a day. I am not trying to bring the Prime Minister or Ministers into the gutter, but we are entitled to know what is paid to the Prime Minister and Ministers when they attend conferences abroad. 8.15 p.m.

I support the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that you must tell us something about that. You must have a figure fixed for the Prime Minister and one for the Ministers, one for the Permanent Secretaries and other officers going away. What is wrong that we cannot know that?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, I will assist him. In so far as the hotel expenses are concerned, it depends on the country to which you are going, but normally it works out at about \$60 per night. If you are going to the United States of America or a hard currency area, it is at least \$US40 per night. (Mr.

ERNEST MOTTLEY Who is allowed that?) Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. As far as allowances are concerned, if you are going in the Caribbean, a Minister is allowed \$15 per day, but if you are going outside the Caribbean the allowance is \$25; so it is not any money making affair. In the Caribbean it is \$15 and in Trinidad it is \$20. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY What about transport?) The rate is about \$5 a day for transportation. Of course, if it is in the United States, you get \$US5 per day for travelling. The hotel rate works out at \$60, but the Prime Minister would get a little more. He may get about \$80 a night and if he goes to the United States he would get more than \$US40, probably \$US60.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I understood the Minister when he was giving us the amounts which the various Ministers get in the U. S. A. and the Caribbean. He told us that they get so much and no more. In the case of the Prime Minister, is he giving us the exact amount?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I have nothing to hide. I am giving the information that I have. I said that in so far as travelling in the Caribbean in concerned, Ministers get an allowance of \$15 a day and in the case of Trinidad it is \$20 and \$5 a day for travelling. In the case of the U. S. A you get \$25 a day and roughly the hotel expenses for Ministers would be about \$60 per day. In the case of the U. S. A it would be \$US40, and the Prime Minister's rate would average about \$US60 and not \$US40, but his allowance would be the same as other Ministers. (Mr. ADAMS How much did he get for Japan?)

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

While that is so, I read the other day where the Minister of Education was invited to Brazil or some place in South America and his wife went with him. (Asides.) I am talking about Senator Sandiford. Did the Government pay for her, and is it the practice of the Government to pay when the wife is not invited? (Asides.) I beg your pardon; it was the Minister of Home Affairs. My argument is that if it is so for one Minister, it should be for all. Is it the policy of Government that if a Minister is invited somewhere and his wife goes with him, that the Government pays for the wife?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, only quite recently a decision has been taken in Cabinet to the effect that once a year the wife of a Minister should travel with him, and the Minister of Home Affairs and his wife made a trip and created a precedent, and on that basis the precedent was established that once a year a Minister's wife should travel with him. Three Ministers' wives have enjoyed that privilege.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Now let us get this straight. I also want to know what happens when Ministers go and stay on Barbadian territory in the form of houses in England or the United States, which houses belong to the Embassies abroad. Would they still get the hotel expenses? (Asides.)

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

In a case like that, the Minister has not got to render an account of his stay. Sometimes you are called to render an account of how much money was spent. Some of the items are accountable. In answer to the question raised about Ministers, if a Minister is fortunate and has friends with whom he can stay, he is entitled to stay with them, and he gets something in his pocket to buy a gift.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, when a Minister's wife travels with him, is she given a daily allowance and if so, how much?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

She is given her passage and hotel expenses. 8.25 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question about this and I do not want to anticipate the answer, but I wonder how seriously hon. members are taking this conference vote; this is \$275,000 a year in the Cabinet Office alone, and that is a lot of money. I have some experience of seeing the accounts for travelling under the previous regime and I remember that I had the opportunity of seeing all the accounts of the delegation, which included the hon. junior member for Christ Church, that went to the Federation Conference in London in 1956, and I remember the stringency with which accounting was then carried on. I remember that Sir Grantley Adams had a quite small suite which was absolutely necessary because the delegation had to meet on several occasions in Sir Grantley's room, and I remember distinctly that a great deal of entertainment was done, sometimes by people not even members of the delegation, at the expense of Sir Grantley and this had to be accounted for most stringently, because I was even written to in London and asked to check up on certain bills incurred by the hon. junior member for Christ Church, Sir Grantley Adams, Dr. Cato and others, and I had to check that these drinks had really been drunk and so on, but now we are hearing differently about this Government's spending on conferences overseas. I will admit that they were a little bit too stringent in those days.

I do not know what has caused the decision to be taken recently in Cabinet about the carrying of wives to Buenos Aires and Paris; it may very well have arisen from the words of the Prime Minister, that this decision was taken after certain wives have travelled to Buenos Aires. I understand, for example, that there was a question of Senator King's wife going to the United Nations, and I would like to know if that was done at Government's expense because I do not believe that Senator King is as yet a member of the Cabinet. If you really examine the itinerary I think you will find that the Prime Minister took the opportunity to visit Cairo, Jerusalem and Athens on his way to East Africa, but hon. members must not feel that no wife has ever travelled at Government's expense before the decision was taken in Cabinet. I am talking about things that happened before; it is nice to be able to go away on a conference and be in the bosom of your family and have a little peace of mind from certain points of view. Speaking for myself I would be glad to think that whenever I go away for the purposes of my work I would be able to travel with my wife, but Sir, we still want to look a little more carefully at this travelling. The Minister said something that had me alarmed when I heard that it was said privately in a house you effected a saving, I want to know what is the system of paying hotel and other bills; do you mean that the Prime Minister is given \$US80 a day to travel to the United-States and that is passed into his pocket?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain to the hon. member that in most instances, especially in places like Trinidad where Ministers pay a specified rate they undergo a number of embarrassments. I have had the misfortune already to be travelling with Mr. Dudley Wiles, the Fisheries Officer at the time, and if I did not have money in my pocket I might have been in prison, and I have had a similar experience in London with the Prime Minister when we were charged L5 per day, and the amount of subsistence allowance, hotel bills, plus other things that we have had to pay out of our pocket just was not good

enough. The same thing has happened with Civil Servants, and I think it is rather embarrassing to Civil Servants to find themselves in a place where they cannot pay the actual bills, but I would say this, and I say this frankly, that the subsistence allowance allowed to Ministers in this Government is a joke as compared with what is paid in some of the smaller islands. Often at a conference you just cannot stand a round of drinks and most of the Ministers are out of pocket with entertaining. As far as travelling allowance is concerned, often three or four of us have to travel together to make out; if we travel individually it is impossible.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

That is the very reason why members on this side of the House do not at all feel that the Prime Minister, or a Minister for that matter, should be put in such a position. I feel a Prime Minister should be able to take a car when he goes to England, but what the members here are saying is that you should bring it to light, let the public know. The general public feels exactly what the Leader of the Opposition has said, that this is a means of somebody going on a trip and there is no accounting for it. If I were given an allowance of \$25 a day to pay a hotel bill I would not account to anybody for it. What we do know is this, that when the Deputy Prime Minister went up to Manchester, I do not know what they were feeling out the 59,000 odd Barbadians for, but they certainly did not get a good reception. 8.35p.m.

I understand that in England Ministers can go and live at the house on the Thames. I am referring to the property Government bought recently in England with all of the silver and a Station Wagon. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am sure the Reporter will have some difficulty in recording what the hon. senior member for the City is saying while other members are conversing.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I feel that it is extravagance to have to pay two maids at \$90 a week, and to have carpet from the street right through the house in New York. You now have Mr. Oliver Jackman living there. (Asides.) If he invited my son there and my son told me what he saw, I see no reason why I cannot speak about it. It is nothing but squandermania.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, an allowance of \$15 a day in the West Indies can be considered as small, and I do not believe any member would ask a Minister to account for that. I would be opposed to asking anybody to account for that, A bottle of whisky in England would cost \$15, and if you ordered it at the hotel you would have to pay an additional fee, There are certain places in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States where the Government would have to ask officers in the Embassy to book a room at a hotel and send the bill to the Government. I do not think it is right to say that we should give the Prime Minister \$20 (U. S.) because a hotel will cost that amount, and then permit the Prime Minister to stay somewhere else while receiving the money.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, there are several ways in which this matter can be dealt with you can have the estimated cost of the hotel, or you can have a flat rate. I think the flat rate is and you are allowed to stay where you want my colleague, the hon. junior member for can substantiate that. It is only during the last

few months that the Pegasus Hotel in Guyana is charging \$60 a day. Prior to that we paid \$40 a day in Guyana at the Tower Hotel or similar hotels. Nowadays we stay at the Pegasus Hotel and pay \$60 a day.

Mr. Chairman, in Trinidad the rate varies or fluctuates according to the time of the year. In Jamaica the rate also varies between the months of December to April at which time the rate is higher. In Trinidad the rate between December and April would be higher than in August to September. The Cabinet has considered this matter very carefully. Whether it is the Prime Minister, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, or any other Minister, the hotel bill and your allowance will have to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. A paper is also circulated to members in connection with the matter.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, am I to understand that a Minister goes to a conference; he does not have the money to pay his hotel bill, and the bill is settled afterwards?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; No. What I said was that before we attend a conference a paper is submitted to the Cabinet for approval regarding the purpose of the conference, the hotel bill and the subsistence. For instance, in Antigua during the months of December to April the rate at hotels would be much higher than during the other months. Everything depends on the time you arrive in certain countries.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, nothing we have heard so far can convince us that a case has not been made out for reducing this sum of \$275,000. This is a large sum of money to be paid out for conferences every year, and taxpayers in this country cannot afford this expenditure. I feel that the Government should either evaluate the invitations it receives, or reduce the number of people who attend certain conferences. If you look at the Approved Estimates for 1967-68 you will observe what has been happening. Now, in the Approved Estimates 1967-68 the amount was \$75,000 and it was supplemented by \$15,000, which made it \$90,000. In 1968-69 the amount was \$125,000. 8.45 p.m.

The actual expenditure in 1967-68 was \$85,000. The approved Estimates in 1968-69 were \$125,000. In 1969-70 it was \$190,000 and in 1970-71 the estimate was \$230,000, and now it has gone from \$190,000 to \$230,000, and there is a supplementary for another \$45,000 making a total of \$275,000, nearly 100 per cent. Are you going to tell me that the Government is anxious about the welfare of the country when in one year you allowed an item such as this to increase to the extent of 100 per cent? No wonder the people of the country are very well fed up.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word on this. I agree with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the amount is high, but I would like hon. members of this Chamber to know that there is nobody more concerned over this than the Prime Minister himself. The amount would even be greater but what we do very often is to request that papers be sent to the particular Ministries rather than attend the conferences. There are lots of conferences like GATT and others that take place in Europe that we do not attend at all, because the Prime Minister would say that he does not think anybody should attend, and since we have a High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, it would be far cheaper for him to go across to Europe or to Switzerland to attend a conference and send back the documents. This is true also of Canada and the United States as a whole. Copies of papers are forwarded to the Government rather than having

Ministers go where they can be substituted.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

What actually happens when the British Government invites the Deputy Prime Minister on a familiarisation tour? How much do we pay out? How long did the British Government pay his hotel bill for? Did we pay him a subsistence allowance? (A VOICE We had to.) How do you mean you had to? The British Government invited him and paid his hotel bill. That seems normal, but was it the business of the Government here to pay a subsistence allowance? (Asides) How would it benefit the Government? I am not pinning it down to the hon. member who went, but when somebody invites you like that.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, we often attend conferences where the host country pays the passage and allowances. What the Government usually does is to allow a subsistence allowance for the particular country. If he goes to the United States he would be given \$25 a day as a subsistence, and if it is in the United Kingdom for whatever number of days he is given a subsistence allowance, because you have got to remember that he is still a Government Minister, and although his passage is paid, his dignity and standard of living still remains the same.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

We are not at cross purposes on that when it is a conference; but are you going to tell me that somebody invites you on a familiarisation tour and you are given a subsistence allowance? That is reckless expenditure on the part of Government. Would you tell your constituents that it is normal practice to give a man a subsistence allowance if he is invited on a tour?

Mr. St. JOHN:

And what is more, the gentleman stayed at the house on the Thames and Mr. Sydney Alleyne was living there and doing the cooking along with Watkins. That is perfectly true. When the Ministers go to London, some of them stay at the house they bought with the taxpayers money, and the High Commissioner has not lived in it one night.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I think hon. members on the opposite side are under a misapprehension. Most of the money spent on conferences is spent on Civil Servants and not only Ministers. I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that this is for building up somebody. When you see I leave the country and go any place, especially to Trinidad, when I come back I have to borrow money. I do not blame anybody for this because these are the rates, but hon. members should not get the idea that we go out with somebody's money.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am not objecting to money being spent on conferences, and on Civil Servants. As a matter of fact, I would like to say that Governments rise and fall, but Civil Servants carry on all the time, and Civil Servants should be the persons to go to several of the conferences to which Ministers go. I honestly say that I do not think that the allowance given is enough, but I think it is wrong to give a subsistence allowance to someone who is invited on a tour. You must remember that you have a lot of starving people here. (Asides.) Man, don't talk nonsense!

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am not talking, far more talking nonsense.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

But you heard other people talking nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I expect the hon. senior member for Bridgetown to address the Chair and not other hon. members.
8.55 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I know the Hon. Acting Prime Minister so well that I have to believe him, but normally I really would not want to believe that \$25 a day is all they get, because you have to stand a drink or something like that. If the Prime Minister goes away and he has a suite, do you think he has to call in somebody for a drink? If you cannot afford a tour, why should you give subsistence allowance? It is nothing to do with the business of this country, what could the country benefit from it?

Mr. St. JOHN:

As a matter of fact, the Auditor General should do something about it, because it could never be a conference at all. What is more, if the British Government is so cheap that they are going to invite somebody for a familiarisation tour of Britain they should give them subsistence, and I cannot see how Cabinet could approve that as a conference. That is what I call a rackety and I will tell the House something now, the Governor-General was invited to Africa, and out of this Conferences and Delegations vote he spent some time in Britain because he did not want to break his plane journey; I challenge the other side to deny that that came out of the Conferences and Delegations vote. That is why it has been increased 100% and these things are happening.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

When the United States Embassy invites Ministers to tour the United Statute, the United States Government gives them hotel and subsistence allowances; does the Government still give them subsistence allowance too? Then why should you give him subsistence allowance because Britain asked him to go? The United States, National - is Chiana, they give you the money to cover this, and it is accounted for at Washington.

Mr. St. JOHN:

We have to decide in our minds.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

If the hon. member would give way, a committee has just been set up to decide if we are to attend certain conferences. Personally, I do not feel that as Minister of Labour I should attend some of the conferences, and I am not so fussy about attending these ILO Conventions, but I do not see any benefit from it coming to Barbados. I have said that I do not see we are getting any benefit and I am not prepared to go to these Conferences, but we have a committee setup with Civil Servants, of course to tell the Ministers what conferences they should attend; I do not feel that is right. I do not blame the Opposition, because when my Party was in the Opposition they used to say certain things, but I do not get into this kind of stupid criticism. What I am saying is this, when they first built the Ministerial

building we thought this was the last thing in Government, but in a very short space of time the whole building got filled up, with everybody stepping on each other. Years ago all the Government business used to be done in here, so things are expanding all the time and this is why you will get conferences and delegations increasing, especially now we are independent.

When we were not independent there were a lot of conferences we did not have to attend because Britain was looking after these external matters; now we are independent, some of them you just cannot get out of. There are lots of them we do not accept at all, but there are some you cannot get out of, those like OAS, ILO and UN. I have never heard one word in opposition raised against Barbados joining the UN as an independent member; I personally do not feel we are getting any benefit, because I feel it is a big joke and should close down tomorrow. The United Nations is worse than the League of Nations because South Africa could tell them to go to hell and they can do nothing about it, because they want to suppress black people. They want to run into Egypt and Israel. I do not care if you agree with me, no argument was raised against joining the UN, but they raised arguments against joining the OAS, and the UN does not serve any purpose for the small nations, it is for the big boys. I am a negro first and I do not think we are getting anything out of it; let us get the position straight.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Since the other side has said that there are some conferences they cannot get out of, I know they can get out of every year attending the opening of the UN General Assembly and carrying people up there as an unnecessary appendage to the delegation. Last year they carried Senator King and his wife, but to do absolutely nothing when they got up there; they went just for a joy ride, a free trip. One member of this House even benefitted from that; I heard he went up there to buy parts for the Fix-it -Right; himself said so. The Leader of the House gave him a rip up there to the United Nations and he himself If said he used the occasion to buy parts for his business. All of this is foolishness going on with the taxpayers money, and he allowed himself to be seduced to leave the Party, to his failure. This is used to some extent as a reward to Pa Ay hats and an in ducement to others. Thee is scope for a reduction in this vote from the 100%. 9.05p.m.

Definitely something will have to be done in this matter. Every year the "Kiaki King" gets a trip to the United Nations under this Item - Conferences and Delegations - and still he abuses you for not sending him to the International Labour Organisation Conference. In Committee or out of Committee there is scope for pruning this vote. An increase of 100% is a serious increase in any man's country. -It is only when you can put your hands in the pot and take out money that you can spend it in that manner. If it were your own money you would never spend it so. Nobody could get a corresponding rise in income of 100% a year. The taxpayers are groaning and grunting when they have to pay so much taxes. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: We pay income tax, too.) The hon. member can afford to pay his income tax, but several people in this country cannot afford to do so.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. You have people who have evaded paying income tax.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, is that a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Chair rules that it is not a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

It is a point of ignorance. The position is quite clear that you must look seriously at this joy-riding to the United Nations. You have sent people up there who neither made a speech nor contributed to anything at the conference. You have just given them a trip.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that \$275,000 of the taxpayers' money spent in any year On Conferences and Delegations is a sum which must be questioned, if members of the Opposition have the interests of the taxpayers at heart. When we look at it in the light of what we have heard from the mouths of Ministers that a Cabinet decision has been taken that a Minister may take his wife with him once a year when he is attending a conference -(Asides.) We have nothing against that. We have had it in the case of the Minister of Education who recently attended a Conference in Paris. His wife accompanied him to London, Paris, and subsequently to New York. If the taxpayers money is being spent to pay the passages and hotel expenses of the Minister and his wife, we want to know. We want to know. We want to know also whether her hotel expenses were paid after the Conference was concluded. We want to know who paid her passage from Paris to New York. We also want to know who paid her hotel bill in those places. We want the Minister to tell us exactly how the money is being spent.

Mr. St. JOHN:

We have to decide in our minds.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

If the hon. member would give way, a committee has just been set up to decide if we are to attend certain conferences. Personally, I do not feel that as Minister of Labour I should attend some of the conferences, and I am not so fussy about attending these ILO Conventions, but I do not see any benefit from it coming to Barbados. I have said that I do not see we are getting any benefit and I am not prepared to go to these Conferences, but we have a committee set up with Civil Servants, of course to tell the Ministers what conferences they should attend; I do not feel that is right. I do not blame the Opposition, because when my Party was in the Opposition they used to say certain things, but I do not get into this kind of stupid criticism. What I am saying is this, when they first built the Ministerial building we thought this was the last thing in Government, but in a very short space of time the whole building got filled up, with everybody stepping on each other. Years ago all the Government business used to be done in here, so things are expanding all the time and this is why you will get conferences and delegations increasing, especially now we are independent.

When we were not independent there were a lot of conferences we did not have to attend because Britain was looking after these external matters; now we are independent, some of them you just cannot get out of. There are lots of them we do not accept at all, but there are some you cannot get out of, those like OAS, ILO and UN. I have never heard one word in opposition raised against Barbados joining the UN as an independent member; I personally do not feel we are getting any benefit, because I feel it is a big joke and should close down tomorrow. The United Nations is worse than the League of Nations because South Africa could tell them to go to hell and they can do nothing about it, because they want to suppress black people. They Want to run into Egypt and Israel. I do not care if you agree with me, no argument was raised against joining the UN, but they raised arguments against joining the OAS, and the

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Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, there are several conferences which Ministers will have to attend when held at Ministerial level. Very often four or five officials have to attend a conference before it reaches Ministerial level. If it is a Ministerial Conference an official accompanies a Minister. If it is a conference such as the Regional Shipping Conference, CARIFTA Conference and so on, then a Minister may not go. I would say that 4 to 1 of these official conferences are not attended by Ministers.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I was saying that the Minister mentioned that it was nonsense to have any suggestion that a Minister should remain at home and allow civil servants to attend certain conferences. 9.15 p.m.

We are saying that this is a tidy sum in any person's language, and it is a sum over which we must be concerned. We must require of Government to carry out a considerable amount of pinning in the future. We have heard Ministers say how meagre the allowance is; we have heard some Ministers say that they are out of pocket after attending some of these conferences; we do not like to hear this. If a Minister leaves the country to attend a conference, we feel that the country that sends him ought to bear all his legitimate expenses. A Minister should not be sent abroad to feel embarrassed, at any point, but one thing that happens is that we pick up Ministers and send them abroad to attend conferences and no Minister comes back to make any report.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of explanation, it is not correct to say that no Minister comes back and makes a report. A report is made to the Cabinet within about two weeks of return; so reports are made of each conference.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Minister say that a report is made to the Cabinet. It would be a good thing if the Cabinet alone could be concerned with having to vote the money to send the Ministers to conferences. We represent the people of Barbados and they want to know what goes on at these conferences. We are spending \$20,000 and that is too much for the Cabinet alone to expect a report from the few lackeys whom the Government chooses to send on a joy ride from time to time. No official report is laid on the table of this House at any time no matter how important the conference is for the benefit of hon. members, Are we to understand that there is no such conference of any such or reasonable importance that it would necessitate the laying of a paper or statement for the benefit of hon. members of this House? What are we spending this money for? This is taxpayers money and we must urge upon Ministers and upon the Cabinet as a whole that they must have a higher regard.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

At this moment there is no quorum.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, there being no quorum, I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is no Bell, but I will ask the Marshal to summon members.

The Standing Order says that when the attention of the Chairman of Committees has been drawn to the lack of a quorum, the Chairman shall, after the expiration of two minutes, count the Committee. If he ascertains that a quorum is not present, he shall leave the Chair.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat, and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we as members of this House cannot feel happy in having to vote more subsistence allowance when we know that the sum asked for is not being administered in the best interest of the community, and when we hear Ministers say the extent to which they suffer, we feel that it calls for a considerable review, and the sooner this is done, the better it would be. It is not merely a case of coming before the House and asking for a sum of money for a particular purpose. We must show that some benefit is being derived by the community in general from the sum of money that is spent. You know, Mr. Chairman, as well as I do that in the constituency you represent, \$275,000 - ' could bring about a considerable measure of relief among the wretchedly poor. In my own constituency and the constituency of the hon. senior member for St. Philip, it could bring about a considerable measure of relief if spent in the right way. These are " things to which we must address our minds in the first place. The composition of the delegation is another matter. We have seen from time to time members on a delegation whose purpose there could turn out to be no more in the interest of the general public than what I cannot begin to essay, because it is known that this vote has been used to win friends, and the strange thing is that it is not used to win friends in other countries, but purchase friends at home. 9.25 p.m.

This is what this vote is being used to do. We have ha4the spectacle of the hon. senior member for St.

Joseph being carried to the United Nations; they do not hold beauty contests for men, if not, why certainly he would be the first in the U. N. What purpose then, Mr. Chairman, could you find such a member being on a delegation to attend so important a conference as a United Nations conference? What we are saying is this, Mr. Chairman, we would like to know that the remaining conferences, which are going to become a charge on this vote, are conferences which really mean something to the uplifting of this country; we would like to know, Mr. Chairman, that any conference which is to be attended by any Minister during the remainder of the financial year is a conference which in truth and in fact means something to the poor, down-trodden, suffering people of this country. We have too many of them; in my own constituency we have people who are naked, starving, have not had a job in years and they want employment. We want to see industries established there, we would like to see this \$275,000 taken and used to set up a housing scheme or something in the area to help the poor people in my parish, we do not want to see this \$275,000 taken and spent - and as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has so ably demonstrated - and unaccounted for in any proper manner, and this, Mr. Chairman, as we go further on in this same Resolution, this being unable to be accounted for in a proper manner, reference has got to be made to it time and again, because we have seen the ill effects that it is having on the state of affairs in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Prime Minister is concerned about having to ask for an additional \$45,000 today to supplement this vote, but what is the Prime Minister doing to see that we get \$45,000 in value for the money they are going to spend? He makes sure that he is not present here today, item one, he absents himself, and mid-day today the Acting Prime Minister - I hardly believe he did not see any of the boxes with all of these files before midday today, but nevertheless he has got to face the music, he has got to stand up to the test here now and explain why they are asking for \$45,000; he has had within him to justify that request. I have seen, I have heard absolutely nothing coming out from the ministerial benches, Mr. Chairman, nothing whatsoever to justify this expenditure, and I cannot for the life of me see myself supporting a supplementary vote for \$45,000 to be spent under this Head.

I do suppose that as the Minister has told us, "There is to be an amount of \$18, 800 to be spent in 1971; Mr. Chairman, that is good spending, but with what result? I wonder if the Minister would be in a position to tell us how many persons will be accompanying the Prime Minister to the Heads of Government Conference in Singapore; undoubtedly he must be accompanied by a number of Secretaries. I was trying to find out if the Minister knew at this stage how many persons will be accompanying the Prime Minister to this conference, because I believe you would have to know how your delegation would be constituted so as to arrive at an estimate of cost and the length of time the conference is going to last; all of these things must be taken into consideration in arriving at your \$18,800. 9,35 p.m.

One of these Conferences is the Heads of Governments Conference, but there is one other Conference in 1970 which caused this sum to rise. I will await the information from the Minister. In any case, we are not voting for this Head because the amount of money is too large.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I have not been able to find the information required. Normally the Prime Minister is accompanied by the Financial Secretary, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Director of Economic Planning. He is usually accompanied by about three people when attending Heads of Governments or Prime Ministers' Conferences.

The question that Head 17 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

AYES; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. HOPPIN; and Hon. N. W. BOXILL - 7.

NOES:

Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. HINDS - 2.

HEAD 22 - ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION Head 22 - Establishments Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 22 - Establishments Division -\$85,000, I should like to explain to hon. members that the sum of \$320,000 which was provided in the Current Estimates under Head 22, Item 11 - Temporary Staff - has proved inadequate because of the continuing expansion of the Civil Service, the need to attract and retain skilled personnel for whom positions are not immediately available and the inability at the time of making the original provision, to assess the full effect of salaries revision.

At the end of October, 1970, the sum of \$239,490 was spent, leaving a balance of \$19,510 to meet commitments at the end of the financial year. In the Clerical Grades the conditions of service were considerably improved. The monthly rate of expenditure was \$43, 730 based on the following estimates for the month of November, 1970:

\$ The Deputy Chief Town Planner..... 1,000

1 Special Assignments Officer..... 1,000

1 Senior Education Officer 950

2 Meteorologists 1, 800

4 Assistant Secretaries and related 2, 525

8 Administrative Assistants and related 4, 160

10 Senior Clerks 3, 240

1 Secretary 360

2 Technical Assistants 695

66 Clerical Officers 21, 140

Carried Forward 36, 870

Brought Forward, 36, 870

15 Stenographers 2, 265

27 Subordinates 4, 595

Total 43, 730

I beg to move that this Item stand part.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the hon. member for talking about cost. I have heard a list of officers read out, and it is obvious from the quality of work we see coming out of some of these Government Departments that the Government is in trouble. I know that the Government is in difficulty in the Town and Country Planning Department, because it is the only Department that is administering the laws and regulations and is definitely breaking everyone of them. It is a terrible Department the way things are being run at the present moment. I know that several people have submitted applications there for years, and the Department does not even favour you with the courtesy of a reply. It no longer circulates things. You can wake up one morning and see a rum shop at the side of your house. I know that that Department has been giving some of the worst decisions in the world. 9.45 p.m.

If you go down to the end of Broad Street you will see that when a new building was put up by Hanschell and Larsen, they had to pull back in; but when the Chase Manhattan Bank was built they were allowed to put a storey on top of the other one. I say it is a scandal. Nobody will have confidence in the integrity of the Town Planning Department as long as the Chase Manhattan Bank is there. It is a shameless piece of discrimination and it is there straight before your eyes. They have contributed to the rise in land values in Broad Street more than anybody else, and what is another public scandal is that they gave people permission in the context of the economy of this country to destroy a building which was built four years ago. A brand new building was put up at the end of Broad Street and the Town Planner has given permission for it to be destroyed. That is a national scandal. It is a complete waste of the resources in building. It is a complete waste of capital resources, and I will watch them. I want to know how much parking they will provide there. (Asides.) They are providing labour, but there are other urgent Government projects that could use the same labour. Civil Servants will always be able to get away with murder when you have people who are so patently ignorant of modern conditions to justify their actions. They will always be able to fool you. That is a waste in the context of the scarce resources of this country, because they could be employed on much more important work. Even on Government projects there is a shortage of carpenters and masons in this Island. They have discriminated with the Chase Manhattan Bank. They bought the land at \$127 a square foot and applied for permission to the Town Planner, and the argument used was that since they paid for it at so high a price, they would have to go up with a third floor. The people next door applied for permission and were told they could not do it. They have got themselves in a vortex.

Mr. Chairman, when Hanschell and Larsen was built, they were made to put in a big sidewalk. At the corner of Prince William Henry Street and Swan Street the old Victoria Hotel was rebuilt, and they did not pull back in a foot. The whole of that was rebuilt before the eyes of everybody and they have not pulled back in a foot. How can the public have confidence in them? It looks to me as if the personality of the applicant has something to do with it. If you go to Forde Road in Christ Church, you will see that people were allowed to develop without putting in roads, light and water, and the Government has to do that because we will put so much political pressure on them that they will have to put in these things. In Lodge Road they did the same thing. The people were moved from the tenantry to the other side, a road was put in, but no water; so the people are pressuring the Waterworks Department and you have to put in forty odd mains.

I am shocked that the Establishments Division has not done anything for accounting in the service. One of the greatest services is accounting, and if you are talking about attracting staff, what about people in the accounting field? They tell you that the Public Accounts are three years late because they have no accountants, and the Accountant General says he cannot get the Establishments Division to get past this and that. What about accountants and accounting staff. It is absolutely necessary. In the meantime, while you are training, you must make special efforts to get these things done.

Mr. Chairman, the Waterworks Department is a commercial operation. They really need some help over there to send out the bills. People are getting double bills and paying twice, but everybody has started keeping receipts now. I only hope that the Establishments Division will take a serious look at the manpower they have in the service. There is a need for seeing that public money is properly accounted for. The public is not going to be satisfied with what is going on, and I hope that it is remedied. You should have more executive officers because you want people at supervisory level in the service. People are moving in and moving out and you want more middle level people who are in charge of supervision and the accounting aspect of the service. You have to do something about that.

Mr. Chairman, if you could segregate Ibis money for the Town Planner, I would real against it because it is not fair for people to put in applications and a year passes before they are granted permission. I hope the Minister will tell us what is the posit ion in relation to them. I would like the Town Planning Department to know that we are satisfied with the way they are running their business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in so far as the Town Planning Department is concerned, the Chief Town Planner was employed on a month to month basis; so this is provision for paying him for the year he has been kept on.

The question that Head 22 -Establishments Division - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 39 -Ministry of Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the notes set out briefly the purposes for which this additional supplementary amount is needed. If there are any specific points which hon. members might need clarified, I shall try to do so.

I beg to move that Head 39 - Ministry of Education - stand part.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 31 there is an amount of \$600 to pay overtime allowance to clerical staff who will be required to work after the normal hours. Now, if an officer has put in an honest day's work, unless the Department is short-staffed, and from what we have seen here there is no evidence to that effect, why is it that you have got to pay staff to work overtime? 9. 55p.m.

Doing what? Preparing paysheets in good time for payment of salaries on the specified date in December, 1970? Mr. Chairman, what we want to say is this, it was known on the 2nd day of January, 1970 what day would have been pay day in December, 1970.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, the hon. member wants to know for what purpose this supplementary for overtime is needed. To date the expenditure under this item is \$1,195 and the balance available is \$5.00; it is considered that additional funds will be required under this item for the following reasons The total provision of \$3,388 for the year 1969-70 proved inadequate and as a result some claims for clerical officers who were required to work on an overtime basis during the months of February and March, 1970 could not be met from the provision for the year 1969-70 and payment was therefore made from the sum of \$1,200 provided for the current year, The Ministry has begun to reorganise its filing system and some clerical and typing staff will be required to work after the normal working hours since the preparatory work cannot be conveniently done during the official working hours unless the public service offered by the Minsrery is considerably reduced. Clerical Officers will be required to work after the normal working period during the months of November and December 1970 in order to complete paysheets for the month of december, 1970 and, paysheets for any advance of salaries that may be made.

Mr. HINDS:

Nowhere in the note do we see any reference made to what the Minister has told us with respect to work done during the months of February and March, 1970, so one must come to the conclusion that this note is incomplete. If then hon. members are to be treated in tills manner, be given only part of the information to which they are entitled, how do Civil Servants expect us to represent the people? It could not be considered fair to us at all. From what the Minister has just said, work was done during the months of February and March and the money now asked for is to make settlement in respect of that work, in addition to the amount that is asked for in respect of that work, in addition to the amount that is asked for in respect of paysheets for the advance of salaries for 1970, and this filing system that is now being introduced in the Ministry.

I would like to notify the Minister, it is something to be regretted that the Minister for Education is not present, but the filing system that is being introduced is going to be a very, very casual undertaking; they will have to stop the overtime and still what the Minister would like to achieve in the Ministry is not going to be achieved because it is exactly a case like taking children unwillingly to school. There is

something radically wrong in the Ministry of Education, the approach to problems there is very bad and I am saying that no officer in that department can say that he is getting the co-operation that he would like; he might be getting the co-operation he deserves, but not the co-operation he would like, and when we find a situation such as this in a department such as Education, one can very well understand how far-reaching can be the consequences. What we are saying here and now as regards the bringing of this filing system into operation, to dislocate the public and the like, Mr. Chairman, that is not true, it is not true to say so, it is a case where officers are saying if certain people want it done we will do it for them, but not during our regular working hours; that is all it is. That is the kind of ride that the taxpayers of this country are being taken for, it is not fair to the taxpayers, and we are asking the Minister to have all of these matters properly investigated.

Again I must say the Minister is being badly advised on a matter of this sort, definitely being badly advised, but these files were put before the Minister, I believe, at mid-day, so his knowledge of these things only runs for a matter of hours. Mr. Chairman, we have heard an amount of \$1,541 for furniture and equipment, and we see here from the notes that some furniture has been delivered late because there has been a lot of dilly-dallying about the confirmation of orders. In addition, it is proposed to establish a National Commission for UNESCO and you are going to set up permanent staff; it would be interesting to hear exactly what is the estimate for the initial expenditure with respect to setting up this National Commission for UNESCO. 10.05 p.m.

There is an amount of \$9,165 here. I shall now deal with Item 10 - Garden and Grounds - \$5,000. I am asking the Minister whether the grounds at Holy Innocents School were repaired and whether the repairs bill amounted to \$935 or thereabout. I am also asking the Minister whether the Ministry of Education prepared a voucher for the \$935 and sent it to the Treasury. The voucher was made out in favour of the person who has rendered services to an amount of \$935; the money has been paid out by the Treasury; the voucher was signed, but the person in whose favour the voucher was made out has not received the money I am asking the Minister whether this sum of \$935 is included in this Resolution to reimburse the person who has rendered those services and who has been defrauded. Will the Minister give us the true position of things? The Note says that the provision in the Current Estimates has proved inadequate, and an additional sum of \$5,000 is required under this Item.

Mr. Chairman, surely the Committee should be advised as to the true position of this matter. I understand that promises have been made that the amount would be passed today. Civil Servants have made those promises. Other amounts have also disappeared from the Treasury through this voucher system. I repeat that the money has been paid out, but the person who did the work has not received it. I hope that the Government is not lending itself to this sort of racket.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will wait, I will get him the information. With regard to this Item, the sum of \$8,500 was provided in the Current Estimates to meet expenses in connection with the maintenance and enclosure of Gardens and Grounds as well as for the supply of garden tools for Primary Schools. The present position is as follows

Provision 8,500.00

Expenditure to date 6,565.25

Commitments to date 1,657.30

Balance available 277.55

The available balance under this Item would be inadequate to complete the requirements for the schools to the end of the financial year, and the Ministry has been requested by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to clear the bushes and trees at the schools. When the new Health Regulations are considered, a further sum of \$5,000 would be required to meet the requirements of the new Health Regulations.

Mr. Chairman, in so far as the sum of \$935 referred to by the hon. member is concerned, this amount of \$5,000 does not include the \$935, since the Treasury is responsible for it. That is the responsibility of the Accountant General and not the Ministry of Education. 10.15 p.m.

In so far as the UNESCO matter is concerned, the cost is all here. There is an Assistant Secretary at \$7,500 per annum, a Clerical Officer at \$1,680 per annum, and Library Assistant at \$1,680 per annum, making a total of \$10,860.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, who is going to deal with the accounts of UNESCO when you set up this Department? Which officer is going to look after the accounts from day to day? There is no provision for any such officer, and that is one aspect of things that Government seems not to be interested in.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, the hon. member knows that the Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer in every Ministry. They have a Chief Accountant and a Deputy Accountant, but they are responsible to the Permanent Secretary who is responsible to the Accountant General.

Mr. HINDS:

He is the Accounting Officer but not the Accounts Officer. We are concerned with an Accounts Officer who is going to look after the accounts. For that matter the Minister is the accounting officer; he is the accounting officer to this House and has to account to this House for what goes on in his Ministry; but we are talking about an Accounts Officer. Who is going to look after the accounts when the UNESCO Department is set up?

Mr. Chairman, we have a system here of money lapsing and we are asked to revote a sum of \$11,978 under Item 9 - Practical Education.

At note 9 we see that provision in the Current Estimates has proved inadequate in view of the following factors:

(a) The sum of \$13,764 which lapsed at 31st March, 1970, due to the late submission of claims for payment, was met from the provision in the Current Estimates;

(b) during the current financial year, there was an increase in the cost of labour and material;

(c) it was necessary to carry out more extensive repairs to a number of Primary Schools than was at first thought adequate.

Now I wonder if at item (c) the note really means "than was at first thought necessary", because at all of these schools I think the Ministry carries a building inspector, and I am sure that the building inspector has available to him the Ministry of Communications and Works in carrying out certain inspections if he is in doubt at any point. For what he cannot see with the naked eye on the surface, he can request that the services of a technical man from the Ministry be placed at his disposal, I feel that there should now be more than one building inspector attached to the Ministry, and the officer should be a qualified man, not necessarily of a architect type, but he should have some training in construction work and should know something about materials and their patterns. With an officer backed by the knowledge of someone in the Ministry of Communications and would one would expect that the repairs to schools should not then occasion any considerable difficulty to the extent of \$65,720, bearing in mind that an amount of \$168,000 has already been spent, and I am sure that the Minister ought to be in a position to tell us what could have happened.

We know that it is going to be thrown at us that it is the cost of material and the cost of labour, but we are in a position to say that Government has it in its own hands to exercise a fair and reasonable measure of control where certain materials are concerned, and that cannot be accepted as an excuse any longer. It is not a case where you have the Minister of Education going from school to school and trying to make the building inspector or Headmaster look like a fool and trying to make everybody believe that the Minister can see more in two minutes than everybody can see in two years. When the Minister says something is wrong, the same building inspector goes and tries to drag off every window and put in new windows almost overnight and thus carry up the cost of things by doing work that he did not estimate for in this particular year. He tries to do it because the Minister goes to a particular school and says it should be done.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, what information the Minister has as to what I have just said, because that is exactly what happened in more than one instance, and we feel that something should be done to stop this kind of business, because to have an estimate like this and then require one-third of it again is just not good enough. We appreciate the fact that if you have an estimate there can be an increase of \$2,000, but when you come for one-third of it again, that is something different.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I will try to assist him. The hon. member started off with Practical Education. of the original provision of \$61,660, the amount expended to date is \$26,152.01, and the commitment to date is \$27,469.34; so the available balance is \$,038.65. 10.25 p.m.

The total provision for the year 1969-70 was \$68,824 and the expenditure at 31st March, 1970 was \$51,846.90; and the unexpended balance was \$16,977.10. The balance of \$16,977.10 at the 31st March, 1970 was due to the fact that some orders were not honoured by suppliers by the 31st March, 1970. The sum of \$16,977.10 in respect of outstanding commitments for the year 1969-70 was made from the provision in the current estimates.

Mr. HINDS:

Just one moment, when the Minister says that orders were not honoured what does the Minister really mean?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Not honoured by suppliers. My understanding is that some orders were received but they were not furnished in time.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Sir, my knowledge of an order not being honoured - and in your case you are in commerce somewhat - and an order not being honoured does not necessarily mean the case of not being received from the supplier. It might mean the passing of documents and a mere signature. In other words, that a supplier might have sent an order to a department for confirmation, and it not having been confirmed by the department by a particular date the supplier then was not able to despatch from overseas or wherever it might be.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

What the hon. member said is not incorrect, but the fact remains that there was a transaction to the extent of \$16,977.10 which should have been paid for and was outstanding, and it is considered that the present available balance of \$8,038.65 would prove inadequate in order to supply the needs of the schools to the end of the financial year. When we speak of practical education, that amount of \$61,660 is provided in this item for the cost of the teaching of art, needlecraft, handicraft and other specialised subjects in the Primary Schools. In so far as Item 12 - Maintenance of Buildings - is concerned, provision originally made was for \$168,000 but the expenditure to date is \$120,069.85, commitments \$26,008.36, available balance \$21,921.79, and it is considered that additional funds will be required for the following reasons. The total provision under this Item for the year 1969-70 was \$187,230 and at the 31st March, 1970 the expenditure was \$173,465.02; and the savings of \$13,764.98 was due partly to the late submission of claims which were met from the provision in the current Estimates. During the current financial year there was an increase in the prices of some building materials, and the private contractors also increased their labour charges. Extensive repairs were necessary on a number of Primary Schools and work was completed by the Ministry on the following schools

St. Alban's Junior Speightstown Boys' St. Joseph's Girls' St. Saviour's Mixed Holy Innocents' Mixed Half Moon Fort Primary Wesley Hall Infants Carrington's Primary St. Paul's Primary

\$4, 336. 68 \$6,000. 00 \$6, 936. 45 \$6, 500. 00 \$6, 538. 29 \$6, 861.24 \$7, 851.14 \$5, 561.08 \$9, 525. 78

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, what is the date of that information?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I will give you that at the end, but on the 20th October, 1970 the work had not yet been completed.

The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 49 - Ecclesiastical - was called.

Hon. C. E. - TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 stand part. If there is any additional information which is needed I am quite willing to try to supply it.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Head 41 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that Head 41 stand part. Again, if there are any items which need further clarification I will be willing to do so. Item 146. An amount of \$16,500 was voted in this year's Estimates under this Item - Medical Aid Scheme to assist persons in obtaining medical and surgical treatment not normally available in Barbados. The position in respect of expenditure under this Item at the end of September, 1970 was as follows Expenditure, \$6,560.00, and outstanding commitments \$7,963.00, making a total of \$14,523, and the balance available is \$1,977. It is considered further that a balance of approximately \$2,000 as stated above is inadequate to meet the cost of any other cases that may need to be considered for the remainder of the financial year, and we are seeking \$4,000 to meet these requirements. In the last financial year 15 persons were sent overseas for medical treatment, and up to September this year financial assistance has been approved for 16 persons and it is necessary to provide adequate funds to meet the expenditure estimated for the five remaining months of the financial year. It is estimated that an amount of \$4,000 would be needed to meet these requirements. 10.35 p.m. This is really a Medical Aid Scheme.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, let us go on to Item 251 - Sanitation and Cemeteries Board.

SANITATION AND CEMETERIES BOARD

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Item 251 - Sanitation and Cemeteries Board - \$101, 521, I should like to explain that in the Estimates for 1970-71, the sum of \$1,557,974 has been provided as a subvention under Head 41 - Ministry of Health, Item 251 - Sanitation and Cemeteries Board.

Included in this subvention is the sum of \$946,058 for the payment of salaries and wages at pre-salaries revision rates, and it should be noted that these salaries and wages were revised and increased by approximately 30% which amounts to \$283, 817 over the current provision of \$946,058.

At the end of September, 1970, expenditure under Personal Emoluments amounted to \$557,832 or a monthly average of \$93,000. It can be seen therefore that an amount of not less than \$558,000 will be required to pay salaries and wages for the remainder of the year. The balance available under this Item was \$388,226 at the end of September, 1970, and this represents a difference of \$169, 774 which will be required.

In addition to this, some 19 Refuse Collectors are on order, six of which have already been delivered and the other thirteen shipped. To each of these units three workers will be assigned and consequently, there will be further increases in expenditure under Personal Emoluments as soon as these units are put into operation. It can be seen therefore that wages must be provided for an additional fifty-seven men for a period of between twenty to twenty-four weeks up to the end of the current financial year at approximately \$2,622 per week. Say $\$2,622 \times 22 = \$57,684$. The total deficit would therefore be $\$169,774 - \$57,684 = \$227,458$.

Mr. HINDS:

When do you expect to receive these 10 outstanding Refuse Collectors?

Hon. G. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, they have been ordered about eight months ago. The nine which we have received were ordered since October last. Apparently, they do not start to build them until an order is received. We expect to receive one before the end of the year.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Nobody has ever told the Minister so, and I do not want to see him putting himself in this position.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the first order was placed in October last year, and we received some of the vehicles about two months ago.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The first order was placed before October last year. We have been getting along quite good during the past few hours, and I am trying to assist the Minister. I would say that four months ago the Minister ought to have been advised that the firms supplying the Refuse Collectors did not have any idea as to when they could deliver them. It may be a question of whether we are ordering a small amount of vehicles as compared with other people. I would prefer to hear the Hon. Minister say that he does not have the information.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board is opposite you, and probably he can come to my assistance.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, as far as I know, we have already received 9 Refuse Collectors, and we expect to receive 10 more before the end of this current financial year. When we put in the last order we were told that within 25 weeks we would receive the vehicles. That offer was placed with the Bedford Company, and I presume we will receive the vehicles around February, which would be before the end of the current financial year.

The question that Head 41 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Head 42 - Local Government - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head -42 - Local Government - stand part.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

10.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear what are these outstanding debts of the former Local Government Councils.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We are now dealing with Head 42 and not Head 42A.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot quite understand how you can vote \$350,000 for Welfare Grants and then vote another \$200,000 for continuation of Welfare Grants. If it were new persons who needed grants afresh, how could the Estimates Committee have made such a bad calculation? In my view it should be some supervening circumstances which must be explained to us. The Estimates Committee could not calculate that in a year \$350,000 would be enough, and before the end of the year you have to come for \$200,000 to continue; so I would ask the Minister to explain that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The explanation is this. When the Estimates were being prepared, it was estimated that 8,000 registered persons each receiving \$1.25 per week would have required \$520,000 for the year. During the first three months of this year the number of persons has risen to 8,600 on the register, and provision for the additional 600 at \$1.25 per week for approximately thirty-nine weeks amount to \$29,250. It can be seen therefore that the provision for the year should not be less than \$520,060 plus \$29,250, making a total of \$549,250. The amount provided in the 1970-71 Estimates is only \$350,000 out of which \$93,000 remain unexpended at 15th September, 1970. In order for these payments to continue until 31st March, 1971, the sum of \$199,250 is required to supplement this item.

Mr. HINDS:

What amounts are you going to pay these people now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

They will be paid \$1.25 per week.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister would have any information as to the additional 600 people and the parishes they came from. You might have forty from St. Lucy, ten from somewhere else and so on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I think the majority comes from St. Michael.

The question that Head 42 - Welfare Department - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 42A - Local Government - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this provision is required to pay outstanding debts of the former Local Government Councils. The sum of \$275,000 was granted by Parliament as supplementary provision under Head 43 - Local Government, Item 13 (New) for the settlement of outstanding debts of the three Councils at 31st August, 1969.

The hon. member would like to know who are the creditors. The most substantial sums are: Frank B. Armstrong Ltd. \$111.78; J. K. Archer & Co. Ltd. \$169.92; Noel Roach & Sons \$2,773.06; Waterworks Department \$2,115.30; Estate of the late C. W. Springer \$437.65; \$662.31; \$719.50; \$730.92 and \$1,091.80; Advocate Co. Ltd. \$533; Barbados Light and Power \$589.28.

A notice was published in the Advocate-News on 27th February and 5th March, 1970 inviting persons who had contracted business with the Councils and who had not yet been compensated to submit their claims to the Local Government Commissioner for settlement not later than 6th March, 1970. The necessary vouchers were prepared and issued for payment after which the relevant claimants were informed. However at the 31st March, 1970, a number of these vouchers were unclaimed and were therefore cancelled by the Accountant General. These unsettled claims have now been renewed along with several others which were not previously presented. Out of the sum of \$275,000 which was voted, only the sum of \$233,898.06 was expended leaving a balance of \$51,101.74 at 31st March, 1970. The claims in hand amount to \$12,333.20 and it is considered that 10 per cent should be added to meet unforeseen claims, making a total of \$13,566.20.

I beg to move that Head 42A - Local Government - stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head - 45 Ministry of Trade and Tourism - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 45 - Ministry of Trade and Tourism stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 46 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that Head 46 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I see that Head 46 calls for supplementary provision in respect of three deaths of persons for whom the Government is liable to pay workmen's compensation; and I should be obliged if the Minister could tell us the circumstances in which these three persons met their death. For example, we have heard recently of the danger of tractor operations. I wonder if any of these deaths were in respect of such operations.

Hon. C. B. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, Oscar Mills, an employee of the Ministry of Communications and injured by a motor car \$ 688 on Sandy Lane Road on 12th May, 1969 when engaged in the course of his duty and died as a result of in deceived.

10.50 p.m.

The Legal Department gave their advice and the amount of compensation payable to the estate of this former employee is \$6,406.40. The Ministry has been informed that two other Government employees died recently as a result of accidents during the execution of their duties, namely Elliott Neblett, an employee of the Ministry of Communications and Works, while engaged in transporting a tractor on a low loader along Carlton Road, St. James, on 31st August, 1970, while Winston Blenman, an employee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, died on 4th September, 1970 at Jackson, St. Michael. Claims for compensation have not yet been received in respect of these two cases, but it is estimated that compensation payable to the estates of these employees will amount to \$20,000, and the liability therefor will not be inherited by the National Insurance Scheme when it is extended to cover employment injury benefits.

Mr. St. JOHN:

There is a gentleman who was injured in the Waterworks Department when a pipe fell on his foot in the course of his duties, a man called Cadogan, and I just want to illustrate how heartless some people can be. The Workmen's Compensation Act says that after three days you should be paid part of your salary, and do you know, Sir,; that this is now two months and this man has been going to the Treasury and being told that it will take months to get his compensation? It only illustrates the stupidity of some of these Civil Servants; that is all nonsense. If the Government is an employer, the Government must act like any other employer and if a man is not working because of injury sustained in the execution of his duty, he must get his money at the end of the month, his three-quarters pay, his name should not be taken off the pay sheet. The point is that he should not be off the pay list, the pay list should be reduced to three-quarters and a note made. There is no question about his position, but why must Government be

different from everybody else? The basic point is that the procedure comes under a different Head in the Estimates, and a voucher has to be prepared and forwarded, and the voucher takes up to two months because it is a special thing. I understand now from my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, that he cannot be paid now either because they have to have a supplementary for that. That is true, if this is the Head, it means that the vote is exhausted. The money under the salary vote is lapsing, so I do hope that some other alternative can be arrived at; you have your standard insurance and you have to have contingencies, how is the man going to live?

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I was a little alarmed when I heard the Minister talk about the liabilities that are going to be accepted and amounts that are going to be paid to the estate under Workmen's Compensation. No Workmen's Compensation is ever paid to an estate nor is there any liability, the money should be paid to the Registrar the very minute a man is working for more than \$x a week is dead on the job, and you must give the Registrar the \$10,000. It may stay there for his widow, but it is obvious that the poor man whose foot has been pressed on of he goes under Workmen's Compensation and the vote is exhausted he is not going to get it. The insurance companies that deal with Workmen's Compensation deal with it very simply, they instruct the employer once they get the medical certificate to put the man on the pay sheet was a note that he is getting three-quarters pay for Workmen's Compensation and the man sends to draw at the end of the week and the data is then computed at the end of the year, because they work both for employers and for persons' claims. The claim is made by the employer against the insurance company but this question may not arise so much because of National Insurance, but until that is done there should be some system by which you can charge the pay-sheet with the three-quarters pay as required by the Workman's Compensation Act, and then let the head which has paid out the three-quarters claim take from Head 46 Item 28; there should be some system for doing that. He will not get the money now unless they vote new money under Workmen's Compensation.

I have not got the statistics to hand and I only speak from personal experience, but over the last six death claims I have worked with in respect of Workmen's Compensation, five of them relate to tractor drivers and I am doing one now with a man and I have been going through the courts in the last six or eight weeks trying to apportion between 16 children of an apparently young man who died with a tractor. 11.05 p.m.

I am not an expert on tractors, and I do not know what precautions should be taken to stop people from killing themselves. There was a tractor accidental Hopewell Estate; there was one at Boarded Hall; there was one at Enterprise, and nearly always the accident was not cause by other traffic. It would appear that the drivers of tractors are having difficulty negotiating corners. We have just had an accident where the driver was told by the Manager that he could balance at the back of the tractor and carry home something. The Driver fell off and broke his leg. The Manager wants him to get workman's compensation, but I am not sure whether he will get it. I feel that safer conditions for the use of tractors should be carefully examined.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I notice that when people work with the Government and the time comes for them to retire that there is a lot of redtape before they can get their gratuities and pensions. We know that there is a lot of stealing going on in the Treasury. As a matter of fact, voucher; were delivered in the Treasury for Mrs. Browne and nobody knows what has happened with the money. No. \$57,000 was paid out.

CHAIRMAN:

I understand that the matter is sub Mice.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

A man carried away \$57,000 from the Treasury. I do not know whether the man was arrested.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Chair says that you will not be allowed to speak on that matter.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, do you know about what I am talking?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I know that a man has been arrested in connection with this matter.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to talk about the man who was arrested. Do you know why I am raising this question? When the meek and the little suffer, only God cries about it. Is this an example being set? I know of people who have resigned, and I had to go to the Minister and ask him to help them to get their gratuities and pensions. I have telephoned the Hon. Leader of the House on several occasions in connection with this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the points raised by the hon. member in relation to the payment of pensions and gratuities are valid. Only recently we have been looking into this matter, and we are very concerned when delays take place. The matter is being looked at and dealt with at the moment. It is a very deplorable state of affairs when people die and their relatives have a lot of trouble to get what is due to them. I would suggest to hon. members that they should get in touch with the Minister when such cases arise.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, only a few weeks ago the Prime Minister was very concerned about a man who was killed in St. James over a year ago. 11.15 p.m.

This man was killed in St. James now over a year ago, and so long as a person get between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., there is no argument about whether he is dead, he died on the job and therefore his estate should receive the money. This is one of the problems we have been facing. Things take exceptionally long to be done.

With respect to the point made by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, I would not blame Mr. Brawn, but I feel there must have been some collusion that a bank can cash a cheque that has been crossed, and the Bank should be made to pay this money.

I drew to the Cabinet's attention the question of old age pensions. You know that a person has reached the age of 60 years at a particular time, and yet he has to wait and the Ministers carry the blame for this.

What I have discovered is that vouchers would be in the Treasury for persons and nobody sends to tell these old age pensioners that there is a voucher there for them, and later somebody else signs these things and nobody knows. We are trying to see what we can do. This is a matter not for the Government, but for all of us because we are Barbadians and it could be our grandfather or grandmother who is affected. Only two weeks ago a similar thing happened and I checked at the Treasury and was told the voucher was not there, and I checked and discovered it was there. I think the time has come when we have to put party politics aside and get down to the business of checking on these people's money, because when the money is stolen, the Government has to pay it back, and I am paying too much taxes already.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Minister has made some very valid points. I do not quite understand how it is in any case that a Bank can cash a Government crossed cheque. If the Government wants to give away the taxpayers' money, the Minister is not to blame. Personally if I crossed a cheque and gave it to somebody and it was carried into a Bank and exchanged for cash, the Bank would have to give me back the money. My contract with the Bank is that when I cross a cheque, the Bank must not cash it.

I would like to say very briefly that Ministers must set an example if they do not want Civil Servants to steal. When there is corruption and waste and what people call "tiefing", everybody wants piece, and if the Minister wants to raise his voice against taxation, he should have sounded his voice against the Housing Authority to which everybody is paying \$80,00 towards a contract which Mr. Sidney Watson got for painting the houses in the Pine. Divide the money and see if you do not get that figure. That is one of the best things we can do by way of reducing taxes.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot let the hon. member get away with that. He knows this is a very unfair statement, and he had no right to come on the floor of the Chamber and make this statement when this was debated. He is reflecting on a debate of this Chamber, and I am surprised you did not stop him, because there was a debate on this, and I did not hear this. The hon. member is a lawyer and he represented a man when he was caught, and admitted to me that he knew the man was guilty.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the Minister is totally wrong. He has totally misunderstood the situation. I have never admitted that any of my clients are guilty of anything.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The hon. member now he should never have done this to a colleague of his. If you are a member here, you are a colleague of everybody. The hon. member knows it is an unfair statement to get up in here and talk about dishonesty in the Cabinet. Is he accusing me of being dishonest?

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I have selected the hon. junior member for St. Thomas as an honest Minister whose voice should have been raised in Cabinet if he knew what was going on. If when the Minister says "I was being unfair," he means he did not know, that's a different matter; but if he knew, I am selecting him as a man who would not have built houses in his yard or carried the Housing Authority's down to this building site, and as a man whose voice should have been raised if he knew.

The question that Head 46 - Ministry of Labour National Insurance and Housing - stand part, was put and resolved in, the affirmative without division.

Head Annexed Estimates -Post Office -was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$872, 661 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, the Resolution were read a first and second time and agreed to.

SEASON'S GREETINGS EXCHANGED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of this House, I take it that this is our last sitting before the Christmas recess is taken, and in traditional manner we should like to extend to you and Lady Brancker the compliments of the season and wish you both the best of health and prosperity in the coming year. 11.25 p.m.

We trust that your recess will prove invigorating and that we will return with renewed energy to combat the forces in this Chamber.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I must associate myself with the remarks which have been made, and I can assure you that next year - we all look forward to next year - and I hope that we will come back next year and that it will be a prosperous year for all of us, some of us if in other nelds of activity, but I would like also through you to convey the same greetings to members of the staff.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I associate myself with the remarks made. I have received cards up to today and I do not see the card which I am accustomed to seeing for the past 35 years, and I am sure that will be arriving, but I do wish you a pleasant and healthy Christmas. Wishing you prosperity would be like carrying coals to Newcastle; I wish you good health, a happy Christmas and a happy.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I would like to associate myself with the remarks expressed, and I wish each and every member a happy Christmas, and I would like to know that everybody around this table and his family have a most enjoyable Christmas and a pleasant Yuletide season. I hope that we will come back out in the New Year ready to do battle in spirit and without rancour; some of us will not be here at the end of next year but I am hoping to be among those who are returned. I hope that we all enjoy ourselves in the coming season.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am deeply grateful to hon. members for what they have said, and I wish to thank the Hon. Acting Leader of the House, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Leader of the minority Party of the Opposition and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Minister of Labour and Housing, the compliments of the season and I assure the hon. member for Labour and Housing if he is back in this House we will be meeting, and I take this opportunity of thanking hon. members for their co-operation at times, and the fact that at other times they have ensured that we cannot have a sleeping Speaker, that one has to be alive and alert at every moment and be ready. I thank hon. members for their very kind remarks to me and to my wife and I wish them a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. I hope to see all hon. members again when the hon. junior member for St. Thomas and myself will be here, but in the other room.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that this house do now adjourn until Tuesday, 19th January, 1971 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

11.30 p.m.