

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday; 8th December, 1970 Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour Sir. J. E.. T. BRANCHES, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY, C. B. E., J. P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Social Welfare); Hon. J. C. TUDOR C. M. G., M. A. (Leader of the Rouse); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J. P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSOK, (Minister of Communications and Works Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P.; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M. A.

Prayers were read.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the business of this meeting is proceeded with, I have the honour to draw to the attention of hon. members that I have received a document bearing the signature of the Secretary to the Cabinet, and it reads as follows

"I hereby certify that the Writ issued by the Governor-General on the 5th day of November, 1970 under section 23 of the Representation of the People Act 1957 for the election of a member to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly caused by the resignation of Sir Grantley Adams, C. M. G., Q. C. was returned to the Governor-General on the 4th day of December, 1970 certifying that the member elected for the constituency of the Parish of St. Joseph in pursuance of the said Writ is Charles Lindsay Bolden.

I hereby further certify that the said Charles Lindsay Bolden subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance in the usual manner before the Governor-General on the 8th Day of December, 1970.

Dated this 8th day of December, 1970.

I am perfectly satisfied with the authenticity of this document and the signature thereon. I therefore declare that Mr. Charles Lindsay Bolden is entitled to take his seat as a member for the parish of St.

ill the General Assembly of this Island, and I hereby invite the hon. senior member for Bridgetown and the hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas to introduce the new hon. and learned junior member for St. Joseph to this Chamber. Will those hon. members be so kind as to proceed?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL entered the House and took his seat.

(Mr. BOLDEN, accompanied by Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY and Mr. ADAMS entered the Chamber, bowed to the Chair and took his seat.) (Applause).

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have pleasure in welcoming the hon. and learned junior member for St. Joseph to this Chamber, and I am of course looking forward to his earnest co-operation in the context of the business of this House.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform hon. members that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 26th May, 1970 have been, as I am informed, duly circulated, and unless there is any objection they will be confirmed. Hearing no objection, declare the Minutes of the meeting of the 26th of May, 1970 duly to be confirmed.

Hon. A DaC. EDWARDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the following

The draw back of Duties on Sale of Goods to Tourists (Spirits) Regulations, 1970.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Re-debits for seven months ended 31st October, 1970.

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the East Caribbean Currency Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1970, and on my own behalf -

Reports and Accounts of the Urban Development Co. for the years ended 31st March 1969 and 31st March 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Spencers Plantation, Christ Church for the purpose of expanding Seawell International Airport.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Bridge Gap, St. Michael for the purpose of completing Canalization of the Goodland Drain. 12.25 p.m.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance -

Resolution to grant the sum of \$216,775 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1970-71 No. II, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$872,661 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 10, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$300,050 out of the Consolidated"1 Fund and to plaice it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71 Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 12, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

BILLS

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I give notice of a Bill to enable Barbados to become a member of the International Monetary Fund and a participant in its Special Drawing Account.

I also give notice of a Bill to amend the General Loan Act 1933.

Mr., Speaker, I shall address the House later in respect of the first. Bill...

I give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with the money Resolution to which notice has just been given.

Hon C. E TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 120, Head 43, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Part I Current, of the approved Estimates 1970-71....

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that there are no members in their places to ask any questions.

INDISPOSITION OF Mr. SMITH:

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regret to announce that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is absent due to his indisposition.

Mr. CRAIG; Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope he will soon be restored to health to come back here and continue the battle that he was waging in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a very happy Christmas sentiment;

BILLS - FIRST READING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to enable Barbados to become a member of the International Monetary Fund and a participant in its Special Drawing Account be now read a First time.

I believe Your Honour's permission was asked for the circulation of this Bill, but there are two things hon. members should know. I think it was only circulated yesterday and, secondly, the Schedule to the Bill is a rather voluminous one. I discussed this matter with the hon. member opposite. In the light of those two things I know that hon. members would like to study the Bill, and we will proceed with the Bill on Friday afternoon.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, in the light of what the hon. member has said, may I point out that joining the International Monetary Fund has certain implications with regard to the domestic position of Barbados¹ currency, and we would expect a full statement regarding currency in due course in dealing with any Bill for second reading. The House could not be asked to deal with this Bill unless members knew what would be the future plans for Barbados' currency.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the General Loan Act 1933 be now read the first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

12. 35 p.m.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL), (AMENDMENT) (No. 6) ORDER, 1970

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 6 be taken as the first Order of the day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to Second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking leave to take charge of this Order, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1970.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this Civil Establishment Order seeks in its various sections to deal with several Ministries and Departments of Government, and the Order itself sets out in detail what is to be done. I am and of course other Hon. Ministers will be willing to answer any questions on their respective Ministries.

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

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I want to address my mind to the matter in respect of the provision of a post of Senior Assistant Secretary at \$12,000 per annum to replace the post of Government Security Officer in the same grade. The explanation given here is that re-designating of the post of Government Security Officer is intended to allow for a greater flexibility in the assignment of duties and provide an officer of

such a grade in the Ministry to assist the Permanent Secretary in the normal administrative duties, allowing him more time for planning. The additional staff has been provided on a temporary basis for a long time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my view is that particularly in an independent nation such as ours, we are embarking on an extremely dangerous step in appointing Civil Servants to carry out the duties of security officers in this country. I am saying here and now that our own experience has been that the Government's reason for attempting to adopt such a principle would be that the trained policemen who had been performing the duties of security officers at whatever level in the past, are now considered a people who, members of the Government, would not like to have entrusted with the affairs of a social nature of some of their friends, and we have seen in this very Island of ours particularly since independence that many of the security risks found about this Island are people who have used their association with the Rt. Hon. 'prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and several of the other Ministers. We have Kid it in this Island that a man entered and me rely mentioned that he had an appointment with the Prime Minister? walked into a bank and carried out what we call a raid on the bank, issued bank book, bank cheque and everything to carry out a raid on the about this place by merely mentioning that he had an appoinment with the Prime Minister. What ire' are sitting is that the duties of a security officer are of such a nature that we cannot see the 'Untrained, undisciplined mind of the civil Servant measuring up to the retirements that the Security of the nation ctetrfaitdst a stage such as this. We have g6t to see 'that too often, too much affecting too many is it stake, and we do not want to see the Security of the nation placed in the hands of civil servants who act merely at the whims and fancies of 'politicians.

12.45p.m.

A Security Officer has a duty to glean from a security risk information conveyed to Government for the use of the nation, and he has got to bring to bear upon such an exercise the trained and skilled mind in extracting that information without the security risk realising that the information is being gleaned. That is one of the essential characteristics of a Security Officer. Twill tell you this, Sir, I well remember Barbados has had its own experience with Civil Servants as Security Officers, and I want to make mention here and now of a gentleman, since dead, called Mr. Don Chase, and he had to be got rid of, he had to be relieved of his duties when the Graf Speech sank. It will be recalled that Mr. Chase broadcast details of the struggling, and those details were not available to any of the other Security Officers -and I am speaking with authority on this matter -they were not available to any of the other Security Officers throughout the West indies.

I well remember a Colonel Fleming who was in the Security Service of Trinidad having to fly from Trinidad to Barbados¹ to rescue this country from Don Chase, and eventually Mr. Tom Walker Peyton had to be put at the -Mad of affairs, and he had a staff of trained, will screened arid efficient police -men: security men. Some of them, I want to admit, did an excellent job, but when the Schonhorst sank

Mr. Tom Walker Peyton was" in office, and it was Mr. Peyton who was able to demonstrate to all the Security Officers throughout the West Indies that he was made of entirely different stuff from the late Don Chase. All of these things I am say trig for die good of the Government what I am saying is this, to disarm the Police of pertain powers and appoint Security Officers who do not possess the powers -and there are no two way's about it, in security work there is a certain element of policing that has got to be brought to bear, at all stages - 430 if you disarm your policemen of certain powers and appoint your Security Officers without those powers, you are reducing the security of the nation to nothingness; you are endangering it, so to speak. What we feel is this, that no attempt should be made by Government to imperil the security of the nation by entrusting into the hands of a civil servant, or a number of civil servants, responsibilities which require a mind much more disciplined than that now possessed by many a civil servant.

We might tell ourselves, that there are to be found in the Civil Service today many persons who have had military training, which is in itself a good background to assist in disciplining the mind, to assist in bringing home to persons a national responsibility, but that is not all in itself, Sir. A Security Officer has got to be hand-picked, if I were to put it that way, it is not every person who possesses six 'A Level subjects or a, dozen 'O' Level certificates that will or can become a good Security Officer; that is not the answer to it, a certain basic educational standard must be required, because as a Security Officer one must expect that in the course of his duties he will come into contact with people of many nations, of varying mentalities, people whose outlook, on life on the whole is so changing, and it is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that we should urge upon Government the necessity for going cautiously in this matter of having civil Servants perform the duties of Security Officers.

One other thing comes to my mind, and it is this. If Policemen, whatever their grade or their rank, are to function in the Security service, one has got to be very, very careful indeed that we do not one day find that the Civil Service section thereof does not adopt the attitude hereby the Government can be informed that the Police end of it is up in arms against the Government, 12.55 p.m.

Now, such a situation obtained in Guyana in 1959, and that was known in Barbados. The Barbados Government was well aware of the fact that the Security Service in Guyana was in the hands of Dr. Jagan, if I were to put it that way, in 1959. I am not in a position to say in whose hands our Security Service might be in here, but I am sure that the Prime Minister of all persons might feel justified and might have reasons to feel justified in taking the Security Service completely out of the hands of the Police. I cannot, for the life of me, understand how one of the chief Security Officers who is now almost holding up the Prime Minister's coat tail at every turn - he is the chief body guard; and he is the same man that the Prims Minister knows in 1961 made it possible to put a witness before the court to take a false oath. The Prime Minister knows that and he discussed the matter with me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would ask the hon. member to keep to the principle of the matter.

Mr; HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, there is a principle involved, and it is that the same Security Officer who got people to take false oaths in a case when the Prime Minister was a practising barrister.....

Rt. hon. E. W. B. BORROW:

Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member suggesting that one of my witnesses took a false oath?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, a witness took false oaths against both of us. How can the Prime Minister believe a single word from such a Police Officer? I am saying that on the question of security too much is entrusted and involved to leave things in the hands, of a man like that. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW I do not want a body guard.) It may be that the members of the Government are now saying that they want better people than policemen to be Security Officers. That may be so, but I do not understand it. What we are saying is that there is too much at stake to leave this matter as it stands at the moment. We are willing to admit that the type of risk to which the information is presently exposed demands Security Officers of the highest calibre and not the false-oath type.

Mr. Speaker, we are urging that if Civil Servants are to perform such functions, then they must be persons who are properly trained persons who know their job and who do not have to lean on politicians for advice because a politician happens to be a barrister or has some special training in the legal field. These are matters of the utmost importance. You must remember, Sir, that I have had my own experience. I know and I think I have been able to give this House an example of what can happen, or what has happened, in relation to this matter of security. There is a type of Security Officer who will go about gambling, carrying on his own sprees and so on, and the next day he can sit down and prepare a report for submission to the head of the Government that Mr. X said so and so, and he is planning to do this, that and the other. However, in truth and in fact, Mr. Speaker, apart from the fact that there is a Mr. X in existence, there is nothing else in the report that is true. From then onwards Mr. X and his family will be in danger.

Mr. Speaker, security is something of the utmost importance, and when it comes to the question of National Security it is something of very vital importance. 1.05p.m.

I am inviting hon. members to pay some special attention to this matter of having civil servants

unskilled and untrained performing the duties of security as we are seeing the steady height of the demand more and more each day. It is not an easy matter and it is about time. Above all, Sir, a security officer has got to be a person who can obscure his identity. It is very essential as a security officer. For these reasons I ask hon. members to examine this Order and take all possible steps to see that something is done.

Now we have been told further that provision is made for a number of temporary posts and also that additional staff had been provided on a temporary basis for along time. Mr. Speaker, security is something that will last longer than you or me. It goes on and on, and if Government really and truly want to see the security machine of this Island functioning efficiently, temporary staff is not the answer and is a very bad beginning. We feel that with independence all of this ought to have been gone into and for those members of the Force who could be trusted and who had demonstrated in no uncertain terms that they were qualified for appointment on a permanent basis, arrangements ought long to have been completed for their transfer to build up a security service on which this Island could very well depend, and we pray God we could feel proud of this at some future date; but it does not appear so from what we have seen.

Now there is also, Mr. Speaker, at the Government Printing Office the upgrading and redesignating of Machine Operator to Letter Press Operator. I wonder if we can be told whether or not the Barbados Workers' Union has had any part to play in this, because little children and fools have absolutely no right with sharp-edged tools. A machine operator in the United States is something quite different from what you find in Barbados. A machine operator in Barbados is a pressman. If you go to the United States you will find that a job that three men are employed to do in Barbados is done by one girl and a boy. The girl is a machine operator. The machines are set to work and she just paces up and down, and the boy is used either to lift off what we call the form or if the machine should jam, to pick the paper out of the rollers. Here in Barbados our machine operators are pressmen; so we find that we are promoting our pressmen from operating one type of machine to another. I hope that any increase in salary or wages will have a corresponding increase in production. We are not against the increase in salary. What we are concerned with is to know that we increase their pay and that they give corresponding production to satisfy their increase. We are creating a post of Proof Reader going from \$4,320 to \$5,760 and one Copy Holder. Sir, the big Advocate commercial printery ceased carrying this luxury of a copy holder for years. 1.15 p.m.

The Copy Holder holds the copy and reads it aloud for the Proof Reader, but any competent Proof Reader will tell you that the reading aloud annoys him and he much prefers to put his copy on his left or immediately in front of his proof and read on from there. It is no slower than if he had a Copy Holder; I would certainly like to hear from the Government benches what got into their heads to be re-introducing or re-creating this post of Copy Holder in the year 1970, when a commercial printery like the Barbados Advocate News has long since done away with the Copy Holder. If it is the intention to find employment for somebody, by all means find employment, but employ the person as a Proof Reader, because a Copy Holder should remain a Copy Holder for two weeks and no more; after two weeks a

Copy Holder should graduate to a Proof Reader. Anybody who is familiar with the running of a printery will tell you that after two or three weeks a Copy Holder should graduate into a Proof Reader if he has the interest of the business at heart, so creating the post of Copy Holder is something that somebody will do for two weeks and it does not make sense. Instead of appointing a Proof Reader at \$4,320 Copy Holder at \$2,880, you might well appoint a junior Proof Reader at the same salary or maybe at a few dollars more than you would appoint a Copy Holder, because it amounts to the same thing. These things really need some sort of revision, they certainly do not make sense in 1970.

The explanatory note tells us the Machine Operator who operates the Letter Press Machines - I would like, Mr. Speaker, to hear from the Leader of the House how many Letter Press Machines the Machine Operator operates because this explanatory note says "The Machine Operator who operates the Letter Press Machines", and from my knowledge of what goes on in Barbados, there is no Machine Operator who is operating more than one Machine, and if it is a case of one man to one machine, this explanatory note must be misleading. It says that this Operator is required to be fully responsible for all the work falling to this section. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Operator who is paid from 300 to \$400 a month - let us put it at an average of \$100 a week - are we not to understand that that Operator must be a person with some sort of responsibility upon his shoulders? This explain to not us that this person is required to be fully responsible for all the work falling to this section; how many Letter Press Machines is this Operator contending with? How many of these Operators do you really have, Mr. Speaker? What we are submitting is that the Operator is being paid for any responsibility which revolves around him; we are not asking for a reduction in his pay because to our minds it must be adequate to meet the responsibility that he has got to bear.

"Proof reading is now undertaken by the Supervisor of the Composing section, and a Varitypist to the detriment of their section. The provision of the additional staff will permit the discontinuance of this unsatisfactory arrangement. " Mr. Speaker, I am submitting that the Varitypist had been used as a Proof Reader because there was no machine upon which she could work, and rather than have her sitting about the place doing nothing, she had been given proofs to read week after week and month after month. This is the true state of affairs at the Government Printery. All these notes are misleading, and we are saying here and now that when you appoint a Proof Reader and a Copy Holder you are only putting two people back to idle.

In the Ministry of Communications and Works, there is the creation of the following additional posts:

1 Executive Officer \$6,000 - 7,200

10 Clerical Officer \$1, 680 -. 4,140

1 Machine Operator \$1, 680 - 4,140

2 Engineer \$6,480 - 10,800 2 Draughtsman \$2,880 - 5,760

1.25p.m.

Now, Sir, the additional staff is required to man (a) the new Traffic and Highway Engineering Section which has recently been set up and which is presently headed by a United Nations Engineer on a two-year contract.

(b) the new Telecommunications Unit which is being set up to enable the country to exercise full control over its external communications and to have its own expert advisers in these matters.

Mr. Speaker, this question of the new Traffic and Highway Engineering Section is very important. We are wondering whether these Engineers and the Executive Officer are going to bring to bear upon this voluminous exercise any expertise that will help us to solve our Traffic and Highway problem. It is a very serious problem, and I feel that if it were thought necessary or found expedient that additional staff would help in solving the problem we, on this side of the House, would be ready and willing to support it.

Sir, we are not far removed from the day when we will have to face the problem of constructing fly-over bridges. My View is that, on approaching Eagle Hall corner, light vehicles and possibly heavy vehicles travelling to Bridgetown should be able to travel overhead, but vehicles setting down passengers in Barbarees Hill should continue along the usual road. Anyway, I will not deal with that any further, because it is not for us to give the Government ideas upon which to work in order to solve the traffic problem. The Government would not have time to put these things into execution with the Prime Minister repeating his performance as he has recently done in St. Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Resolution on the Waterworks Department, and I am wondering how best we can go about this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is getting close to Private Members' time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we have a full-scale investigation into the Public Works Department. Anyway, I will leave that Department to be dealt with by other hon. members at this stage.

With regard to the Ministry of Health and Community Development, the following additional posts are now provided: -

1 Senior Dental Officer

2 Dental Officer

3 Trainee Dental Hygienist

Dental Hygienist 4 Trainee Dental Auxiliary Auxiliary Dental Officer 4 Dental Assistants.

Mr. Speaker, the Explanatory Note tells us that the Dental Services are considered to be very unsatisfactory at the moment. This comes from the Minister, and he is saying that the Government Dental Services at the moment are considered to be unsatisfactory. One must know how rotten these Services are. The Minister has admitted how unsatisfactory they are.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. We do not have enough Dentists to cope with the work, and that is why we say that the Dental Services are at the moment unsatisfactory.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Point made.

Mr. HINDS:

How much longer must rotten teeth remain in the children's mouth? Is the Minister still objecting to that? (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW Some Dentists pull good ones, too.) You must be that type of Dentist.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not that Dentist.

Mr. H3NDS:

Are there any mad Dentists employed by the Government? 1.35p.m.

The principle involved is that the Government selected their own supporters as dentists, and they are the same people whom we are learning from the Prime Minister are so rash that they pull the good teeth out of the children's mouths. That is what the friends of the Prime Minister are doing to the children of this country, pulling out the good and the bad teeth. That is why the Prime Minister has said it is so unsatisfactory. We have doubted the Prime Minister on many occasions, but we do not doubt him on this occasion that it is very unsatisfactory if they are treating the little children like this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, no friends of any member of the Government are appointed by the Government as dentists or any other public officer. All public officers are appointed by the Public Service Commission of Barbados. When I made the aside about pulling out teeth, the hon. member suggested that they were leaving rotten teeth in the mouths of children, and I said that far from leaving rotten teeth they may be pulling out some of the good ones, and what; I was alluding to, was the fact that due to the shortage of staff, it takes a lot of time to fill teeth which are defective, and we feel that a lot more teeth may be saved if we had enough personnel to do the fillings and matters of that kind, and a lot of teeth that are being pulled out because they have cavities could be saved. They tackle this in Jamaica by giving people a two year training course in dentistry. I do not want the hon. member to distort or twist anything I said in good faith. I personally feel that a lot of teeth that are taken out could be saved, and we would like to see an increase in the number of personnel not necessarily qualified dentists who will be able to take care of the situation.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, am I right in saying in respect of the appointment of dentists that the former politically controlled District Councils used to appoint dentists and these dentists have been taken over by the Central Government and are still pulling out teeth in the manner to which the Prime Minister referred?

SPEAKER:

No point of order. Let the hon.. member proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to take the Prime Minister seriously. If it is the intention of the Government to re-organise the dental service, we have got to take a census and have statistics before us of the number of children and others requiring immediate dental treatment. Our problem then, Mr. Speaker, must be how best to solve tills immediately. What we are doing here today is nothing to help the situation at present. We are not increasing the number of staff except for a full time senior dental officer and two dental officers. Would these dental officers be allowed to carry on their private practice on the premises where they take Children? How many children require this attention? Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many children are involved? (Hon. C. E. TALMA I will give a full reply.) Where are these auxiliary dental officers going to be trained? We want to know whether they are going to be trained in the United States. Are scholarships being offered by dental schools or colleges in Canada? The explanatory note should have told us all this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would give way, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has given way.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, three dentists obviously cannot cope with all the work required in the schools and in the health institutions and clinics. However a considerable amount of dental work can be efficiently and economically performed by dental auxiliaries or hygienists. During the past eighteen months the Ministry has been assisted by a qualified dental hygienist, a G. U. S. O. volunteer who has ably demonstrated the potentialities and the value of this member of the dental health team. The trained dental hygienist among -other things conducts the education of parents and children in oral health care, renders oral prophylaxis, makes oral inspections and records the findings, takes dental X-rays and conducts a follow-up service on referral cases resulting from dental inspections. It is a big scheme to train dental auxiliaries. Provision has already been made at Head 41 Item 31 for two non-established posts of dental hygienists on an experimental basis and a Barbadian has recently been sent for training to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. The Ministry recommends that these posts should be properly established in order that recruitment and/or training of suitable officers may proceed immediately. In Canada the dental hygiene schools require that a student has a senior matriculation which includes chemistry, one other science subject and language with a good standing in biology influencing selection while the dental hygiene curriculum requires two years at a University after which a diploma of dental

hygiene is awarded. 1.45 p.m.

In Canada the Dental Hygiene Schools require that a student must have a senior matriculation which Chemistry, one other science subject, a language and a good standing in Biology. The first selection from the Dental Hygiene curriculum requires a University Diploma; we are training Dental Hygienists and Dental Auxiliaries to assist Dentists in doing their work. A number of Dental Assistants will be required to assist the Dentists at the dental chairs, repair dental material, sterilise instruments, process dental X-ray films, and act as Receptionists and keep office records; these will be trained by the Dental Officers and/or the Dental Hygienists or Dental Auxiliaries, and may well be equated with Nursing Assistants, and it is recommended that four posts be established. The present non-established post which is attached to the Mobile Dental Unit will then be discarded.

As far as the Dental Technicians are concerned, they should be skilled in making dental appliances which are designed and prescribed by the Dentists; however, the establishment of such posts should await further development in the Service, so we are appointing three full time Dentists and they cannot use the Government's instruments for their work. You will have one is not Dental Officer, two Dental Officers, two Dental Hygienists and another senior Dental Hygienist and then four Dental Auxiliaries.

Mr. HINDS:

Are these Dental Hygienists not trainees?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The position is that we have people at present who are qualified and they will hold on.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I understand from the Hon. Minister that the Government's Dental Service is to be re-organised; can the Minister tell us how many people now man the Mobile Dental Unit, what schools and parishes the Unit serves and what Government plans doing with the Unit after it has this qualified staff and what not? Mr. Speaker, we have got to be ultra cautious when we see the Government admitting in its own words that the Service is very unsatisfactory; they do not say it is unsatisfactory, the Government says it is very unsatisfactory.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, although we have a Mobile Dental Service, too much time is spent on the road

with the result that the sessions, although there are supposed to covey three hours, they do not work for three hours; the time is not beneficially spent, in that the bulk of the time Is spent in travelling. For that reason we are trying to re-organise the Service that the time will be beneficially spent and more work will be effected. In the Schools9 Dental Service five Dentists are expected to do fifteen hours work per week during a school term at \$45 a session, with one of the Dentists receiving an additional \$50 a month for certain administrative duties. A MI three hour session is never achieved, too much time is wasted on the road in travelling. At best, only about half the time is ever given in terms of Dental work; there Is inadequate control of the service. There Is the fact that a considerable amount of time Is spent in travelling by the Mobile, Dental Unit to the various schools which are distant from Health Centres, and also by the Dentists travelling to the schools and the Health Centres., Furthermore, the service provided by the Unit is restricted to the Schools which are equipped with appropriate electric current.

The acute shortage of Dentists in Barbados -twelve for a population of 255,000 - is also an important factor. The following extract from a Report of a survey made by a Dental Hygienist, a CUSO volunteer attached to the. Ministry indicates a serious backlog of Dental treatment required in the Schools' Dental Service:

1.55p.m.

"(1) Out of every 100 school children examined, 50 have one or more teeth that need extraction urgently. These children have decayed, overgrown teeth with granulated tissues, crumbled gums and postulated fragments as well as abscesses.

(2) Out of every 100, children examined, 95 have decayed teeth and need fillings. Prophylatic is urgently needed.

(3) Out of every 100 school children examined, in the age group 12-15 years, half or 50% have beginnings of pyorrhea, heavy calculus deposits, bleeding gums, and in some cases mobility of teeth. "

We have had a survey, and we are doing our best in this matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has brought to light a very vital matter in regard to the health of the children in this community. The Government stands indicted for having robbed the children of this country of a proper milk diet that is so essential to good teeth. The Minister has brought this matter to light through reading that document today.

This Government has provided us with a Milk Plant that has denied every school child being supplied with the food and the vitamins that are necessary. Sir, if we will look back at what the Barbados Labour Party has done and what Sir Grantley Adams has fought for and obtained I 1947 in order to give little children in schools biscuits and milk, then we will understand the present situation. It must be remembered that the milk diet was fortified with certain vitamins which are so necessary to help children build bones and teeth.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

This sitting will now be automatically suspended until 2.30 p.m.

On resumption

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time. NO answers to Questions have been received and, accordingly, we will revert to Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 9 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am not ready to proceed with that today.

DISTRICT AUCTIONEERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1969

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 10 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, and it deals with the Third Reading of a Bill to amend the District Auctioneers Act, 1904.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill which stands in my name was referred to a Select Committee and, evidently, the page dealing with the First and Second Reading of the Bill and the reference to the Select Committee has been omitted from the Order Paper. I imagine that there are other matters which have been omitted.
2.35 p.m.

So far, Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been considered and amended in Select Committee. I think the Committee was under the Chairmanship of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, but the Committee has not yet reported. Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully ask if the Clerk would go into this matter and have an early report. It was intimated to me by the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the Minister of Health, that certain law reform measures which are coming up will embrace the position of district auctioneers in so far as they may abolish them. Nonetheless I would urge on hon. members as a temporary measure to consider the Bill which the House has already approved in principle. It may be many months - and this after all is December, 1970 - before any Committee presided over by the Attorney General reports, and it seems to me to be unlikely that district auctioneers will take such a high place on the priority list as to form the basis of any legislation during the next twelve months, and therefore I would urge on hon. members to recall that it was a point of principle which was decided when the second reading was granted for this Bill, namely, that it is inconvenient at the present time to use the machinery of the present District Auctioneers Act. There are to my knowledge, Sir, goods levied on in the possession of the district auctioneers which can neither be sold nor returned to their owners, and I would urge you to get the Clerk to make this report so that hon. members would have a chance to see it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would certainly do that; but did I understand the hon. member to move the third reading?

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, I do not believe the Rules would permit me to do that at this stage. Of course we do not even know, until we get the report, amendments there -have been, and I cannot tell you until the Report is published.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I seem not to be with it today. I do not know if the battering that was dished out in St. Joseph.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That has nothing to do with this.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, don't tell me what has nothing to do with what. We were going all right. I respect the person in the Chair for now. Let us be on a good wicket today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. CRAIG:

I rose to find out what is before this House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We are dealing with Private Members' Business and we proceeded from No. 1 to No. 10.

Mr. CRAIG:

Am I to understand at this point that you have (tone No. 10 and that is the end of Private Members' Business?

Mr. SPEAKER:

All Private Members' Business has been put before the Chamber.

Mr. CRAIG:

No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the hon. member who was not in his place when the particular item was called is seeking now to proceed with the matter.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, it is with great respect to your ruling but it is usual for you to call the items from 1 to 10, and I did not hear this.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. CRAIG:

You do not know what is going on in here, you nuisance;

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is exactly what I did.

Mr. CRAIG:

I said I did not hear you and therefore I apologise. Do you think I am talking about drinking rum? Sir, I said I did not hear you and I got up to question this. Since we have come to No. 10, I am asking if this is the end of Private Members' Business. (Asides.) Do you think you are at the Old City Bar?

Mr. SPEAKER:

To the hon. member who was not standing, let us get this straight.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Oh, Weekes!

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no question of addressing weeks, months or days.

Mr. CRAIG:

I apologise because I did not hear you.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The apology has been accepted.

Mr. ADAMS:

What I am suggesting to the House perhaps I should have developed when I rose earlier, I do not think the Order Paper is complete. I know of other Private Members' Resolutions that I cannot recall having been dealt with in the House, for example the hon. senior member for St. James Resolution on Mr. Burnham and Mr. Gary Sobers.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Hurt was withdrawn.

Mr. ADAMS:

There was also the hon. senior member for St. Joseph's Resolution on charges at Church Yards. I do not see this on the Order Paper and the Order Paper obviously ends at page 12 in a hiatus. There seems to be something to follow the District Auctioneers Bill which was read a second time and sent to a Select Committee. Obviously there should be page 13 and probably it might be found that there are other items.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The only point that remains now is that Private Members Business does not expire until 4. 30 p.m., and if the hon. senior member for St. James is disposed to proceed to Item No. 4, he may do so. Let the hon. member proceed with Item No. 4 which is to move the passing of a Resolution re local secretarial schools. This Resolution was given notice of on 20th January, and on 10th March, the hon. senior member for St. James was speaking when Private Members' Business came to an end. Let the hon. senior member for St. James proceed.

RESOLUTION re LOCAL SECRETARIAL SCHOOLS

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have been very concerned for some time now over the running of many of these secretarial schools or to be more emphatic some of these so-called secretarial schools around here. One will find that many of the schools are supposedly qualified and given diplomas as telephonists, receptionists and some are not qualified; but what bothers me Sir, is the actual standard of these young boys and girls when they leave these secretarial schools with these diplomas. There is one thing which bothers my mind even more, and it is that many of them if not all of them cannot obtain employment in the Government Service on the qualification alone from these secretarial schools. Many of these girls and boys come from very humble homes and are unfortunate not to have gone to some of the secondary schools, and their parents spend, I am told, \$300 or \$400 a term for the purpose of obtaining nothing. I say "nothing" for this reason. 2.45 p.m.

I say nothing for this reason, Government is the largest employer in this country, and is the door open to many of these girls - and sometimes young boys - that after leaving these Secretarial Schools they go in search of work and many of them apply to the Government for jobs to be told that Government cannot employ them on this qualification alone. What concerns me more than anything else is that if Government is aware of the fact that these schools are not turning out people that can work in the Government service to help keep the machinery of Government going, then one can only conclude that you might as well close them down. I know, Sir, for sure that the Managing Director of one of these schools is supposed to be a very ardent supporter of the Government, and I wonder if the whole reason for allowing these so -called Secretarial Schools to come into Barbados to fleece the public did not really originate out of the friendship of this Managing Director and Government.

I remember, Sir, one of them applied for a job at a little business which I carry on, a little thing just big enough to pay the telephone bill, and when a friend of mine gave her a test, he gave her the address of John Citizen, Barbarees Hill, and I was the most amazed person to see that she, as a Barbadian spelt the word "Barbarees" B-a-r-b-a-i-s-e. This is the type of person you have leaving the schools, a typical

American setup where one is only concerned with the individual coming and paying his fee at the end of each quarter; a typical racket. Not only the Secretarial Schools, there are one or two Medical Schools - and here one of the Government members was a High Priest in it at the age of 18. If I am not mistaken, I think you, Sir, were some High Priest or something like this in one of these Schools, something to do with herbs and giving people baths and this kind of thing. I am not quite sure but I remember reading something like this sometime ago, and I make reference at this point to the Medical Schools which call themselves Nursing Schools; I think one is known as Dr. Wiggins or something like that, and Nurse Chandler. These people set these schools up, the parents of the children are rather interested in seeing their children succeed in life, and these fancy gimmicks you see on the homes of these people where they carry on their business, they give a diploma, then the parents become frustrated because the children are day after day up and down the City going from store to store, from one industry to another industry, going to Service Commissions asking for jobs to be told there is no room in the inn. They cannot even get into the Nursing School here, yet some of them are qualified as bedside nurses. This is a whole racket, and what bothers me most is that most of these people who are at the head of these organisations are prominent members of the Government Party. I am told there is one of the Skinner's Schools which only operates in Barbados, St. Vincent and Tortola, and the first thing they ask you to do is to pay the first six months in advance; the people who suffer most in this are the people whose income really cannot afford them to give their children the education which the Government claims they provide for them - and I underline claim - because you only have to look at schools like Mrs. Smale's School to realise that she can always produce 99% passes.

I do not know if the Government think they can cloud the people's eyes all the time, they should be able to see that the tide is going against them, but they might have an opportunity to redeem themselves, maybe in 1981, it is still not too late. What I do not understand again, Mr. Speaker, is this; you have most of these Secretarial Schools here which are supposed to be schools from America. There is always some branch of some American School that can find themselves here; these racketeers can always find themselves here, I have not heard of any Canadian or English association with these schools, the head offices are always in Minnesota or Miami near to the Mafia gang. There is always something like that mixed up with these schools, and the people who suffer most are the people who day after day go out and sweat, they hardly earn more than \$30 a week, because they have a half-baked Union with a half-baked Secretary, a piece of socialist who does not provide for the people themselves a proper wage Bill whereby they will be in a position to give their children a longer course. Then when they apply to Government, Government gives them the right to come in; I believe Government would have to screen them for them to come in, although I know the Minister of Education is only, and will always be as long as there is a Parliament, a Senator; he will never face an election. I wonder how well the Minister of Education screens these people, because I do not believe that he should be satisfied to allow these people to come into Barbados. 2.55 p.m.

The Government allow these schools to take money from the children, and after they are trained they are told by the same Government that they cannot be employed because their diplomas do not permit them to work with Government. What is Government's policy on this matter? If Government were absorbing these people, then one could say that they are doing a good job. They are not doing a good job

because they are not allowing those people to work in the Government Service with the qualifications they have. You will find that several of these young people become frustrated and they do not know where to go for a job. Their parents also become disillusioned. Why is it that the Government can do nothing for these qualified people? Some of them, if they are lucky, may get a job in the hotel industry for \$10 or \$15 a week, and they are told that they are being trained. You can certainly see where we are going.

Mr. Speaker, these schools say that they are turning out qualified secretaries and receptionists. When these qualified people are employed at \$10 or \$15 a week in the hotel industry they are told that they are being trained. However, when the hotel season is in, you will find the Managers of Hotels bringing in their daughters, wives and uncles' sisters to do the work at \$400 a month with free food and free living, but the girls who were supposed to be qualified were merely paid \$10 or \$15 a week. That is the type of democratic Government we have in Barbados today. They are filled with corruption; wherever you look you can see corruption around the necks of the members of Government. (Asides.) Time will tell.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow these statements to go entirely unchallenged, because my daughter has benefited from attending one of these schools and she has a good job as a result of being trained at Duffs College. I, therefore, could not sit here and allow such statements to go unchallenged. What the hon. member has said about the basic training of certain people is true. Unless people have a basic training and a good foundation in education, then they will never be able to benefit from the training received at those colleges Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of parents in this country that every child should have higher education. This is a good policy, and the people of Barbados should be paid a tribute for feeling that way. It is not true to say that Duffs College or Skinners' does not provide a proper education.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid the hon. member is making a speech, and it is not a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have always respected the Minister. He said that his daughter has benefited from training at Duffs. You will note that she is a Minister's daughter. Now, Ministers' daughters and sons are likely to benefit from anything, because they find themselves in a position to have anything done for them. The Minister should refer to another case.

Hon. C. E. TALMA; She benefited overseas, and I had no control over the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER; No point of order!

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not have a chance to speak at the by-election, and he is now taking a chance to put Government's case here. I am saying that the Minister cannot refer to another case to support his argument. He is. a Minister of the Government, and I know that he will have people coming to him repeatedly asking for recommendations for jobs. I challenge the Minister to refer to another case.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member was speaking in a general way, and I think it is incorrect to say that there is no need for the training obtained at Duffs or Skinners in this community. The colleges have provided proper courses and people who qualify..

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is making a speech!

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

People are taken into the Government Service as typists and not as stenographers.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has no right to speak now; he can make notes and speak later.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I can always appreciate whatever that particular Minister has to say, but I would not accept anything the Minister of Trade has to say (Asides.) Mr. Speaker, I am being Interrupted by a wealthy Minister; ask him to leave lib Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I cannot do that. Will the hon. member proceed with the substantive Motion.

Mr. CRAIG; Mir. Speaker, there is a lot in what the Minister of Health has said, but I am building my argument on the ground that many of these girls and boys enter these Secretarial Schools, and when they complete their courses they are given a diploma as a Secretary or a Telephonist. These girls and boys then find it extremely difficult to obtain jobs. I feel that before the Secretarial Schools admit these people they should be asked to submit a certificate in English or be given a test in English, so that when they leave the School they would be able to obtain a job with the Government or anywhere else. I know that the standard of admission at these Schools is at a very low ebb, and there is a big racket going on.

Mr. Speaker, you may find four or five girls leaving school with an A level Certificate; they take Secretarial Courses and they get a job with the Government. You will also find other girls entering these Secretarial Schools with no qualification whatsoever and they seldom made the grade. The Ministry of Education should not permit these Secretarial Schools to admit such girls, because the Schools as well as the Ministry know that these people are being fleeced. 3.05 p.m.

I do not know if the Minister would like to get up and defend that it is unfair to admit these girls knowing that they cannot get a job in Government. Government are supposed to be the largest employers in the country and therefore provision should be made for them. How many lawyers are there in Bridgetown according to the Prime Minister who can afford a secretary, because he said there are lawyers and lawyers, and I always suspected that he is an "Awyer". They can afford to have somebody to answer the telephone, but not a secretary. They call them "Secretaries' V, but you, only have to walk up somebody's stairs, open the door, sit down and answer the phone and be able to type a couple of words and you are a secretary, tod then you will hear that the Government is providing for the young people of this country an opportunity. What opportunity? I heard the Minister..... what Minister is he now?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG:

The piece of Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER; Tits hon. member will continue to maintain a high level of debate.

Mr. CRAIG:

I am trying to find out what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS Minister of riches, because I have brains that you do not have.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member continue his address.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I heard the Minister himself defending the private schools in this Chamber when I think it was the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister who tried to condemn them. I wonder, Sir, how many Ministers can get lip in here and have the audacity to say what the Minister said, that is, that his school and the other private secondary schools made a contribution as against the secretarial schools and other nursing schools in this country. It is pathetic to have these people showing you a piece of paper and saying that they are qualified bedside nurses from Dr. Wiggins or from Dr. Cameron Tudor or from Pope so-and-so. The Government cannot see that they are fleecing the unfortunate people and' this is why I brought this Resolution because I have seen too much of this. Over and over you find these young girls walking around, and when you ask for their qualifications, they tell you that they went to Skinners or Duffs or to Dr. Wiggins. You have to butt about and tell them something or the other and give them a ray of hope. The parents pay \$600 and then another \$400 when they are qualified, and if they are bright and show any signs of success, they are failed very early. This is corruption. They fail those that are good so that they will continue and pay for an additional six months, but there is no hope at all for those who are not very good. They are sent out and the same politicians around this Table are the ones who have problems trying to place them. When they apply to Government, they are told that they cannot be taken because they have not got the qualifications. I am calling on Government to assist these people. If Government is prepared to accept Skinner and Duffs, then if these people can type and can take shorthand, open the door for them and give them an opportunity, because private enterprise is not absorbing them. There are not enough lawyers who can afford to employ them, and therefore I am calling on the Government not to lend a deaf ear to my plea. I am asking Government to give these unfortunate girls who leave these secretarial schools with a diploma and walk around town, an opportunity to going into the Government Service, or stop the secretarial schools from admitting them unless they have the proper qualifications which would entitle them after they have qualified as typists to an opportunity to succeed, otherwise the whole policy of Government as usual will always fall. I hope the Minister makes his plea again for these people because some of them might have gone to his school and left with "O" level certificates in Scripture or History. It is true it is none of his fault. I know he tried his best.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Minister is aware of the fact that many of them leave his school with an "CM level certificate in Scripture or History, they cannot get into the service on that qualification alone and therefore they drift into the secretarial schools with the hope of succeeding. They end up with an "O" level certificate in Scripture and a diploma from Duffs or Skinners only to hear that there is

nothing at all for them to do, and they become frustrated. No wonder you get all this crime and lawlessness. I hope that the Government will look into the whole running of the secretarial schools in this country and lay down a policy for them to follow so that when these children are qualified they would not have the problem of looking around for a job and being denied one.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the passing of this Resolution, and in doing so I must say that Duffs Business College enjoys the counsels of Government and I know that it has done quite a bit of training of Civil Servants, policemen and others for Government, but I cannot say the same thing of Skinners. 3.15 p.m.

I feel that these institutions come into our midst to benefit from the taxpayers' money and that they should be investigated.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will ask the hon. members to remember that only the hon. member addressing the Chair should be audible to the Chair. Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say the same for Skinner's Secretarial College, because my own experience has been that there are some business houses in this community which do not, and have not in the past accepted or attached much value to certificates or diplomas issued by Skinner's. I can say that, Mr. Speaker, with some authority, because some students have complained to me and I have tried to investigate to see where I could assist them, but there is one thing which the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said, and it is that many of these students who go to these Colleges do not have the necessary background, particularly the basic training in English, and that is where they tend to fall down, after taking a stenograph course or a course in shorthand and typewriting, whatever it might be, because however one might look at it, the English Language is the basis upon which your training must be founded. Even if you are doing a foreign language the English Language plays a very, very important part, and we have seen that these schools, apparently with a view to swelling their numbers, do not carry out screening to the extent that they ought to, because perhaps it would mean that they would eventually have to teach M. P. benches, but yet at the same time one would like to know that they are fair to their students and to the taxpayers, and I think that if an investigation were instituted into the curriculum, and to follow up the students from the day of entry until the time of graduation, even in the case of one class

where we might come up with a solution that might serve to the betterment of all who might come after, because one cannot deny that there are many institutions in our midst that are merely cashing in on our people's thirst and quest for education, and they are not all concerned with what products they turn out. I want to say here and now - it is not a secret, it is not known to everybody I should say - but the same Skinner's College has been offering its business for sale as a going concern since it was established here. If that is the case, the students who have been running back and forth had better be very careful in what they are going about, because these - if we were to call them fly-by-night Colleges - these Colleges can be very irritating and they offer no stability to the country. They come and catch up what they can, close down overnight and leave out students in mid-air, and since there is enough finance to support them - in the case of Skinner's I am sure the Government has not been as ready to accept students from Skinner's as it has been from Duff's, I think that Government ought to go into the matter of investigating Skinner's, because we are very, very sure that Duff's has lived up in some respects to what was expected of it, and has really turned out some good students who have shone at home and abroad. I want to say that for them, and I say that in seconding the passing of this Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, it is only after listening to the hon. seconder that I got understand what the Resolution was all about. He has convinced the hon. member who has sat down that we are discussing a very important matter, so important in fact that I find myself as little prepared to deal with it as the mover of the motion, and consequently I beg to move that further consideration be now postponed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. HINDS:

That is the end of Private Members' Business, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

We now revert to the Resolution which was being discussed when the sitting was suspended automatically for the luncheon interval, and when the hon. junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair on Order No. 6 of Government Business. 3. 25 p.m.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT)
(No. 6) ORDER, 1970**

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I had attempted in, perhaps, a very small way to point out to this Hon. House the very serious view that we, in the Opposition, take of the Government's indifference to the health of the children of this country. In arriving at that decision we were ably aided by the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development, because it was he who told us in no uncertain terms that, in short, the teeth of the school children showed signs of the absence of pure cow's milk.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I have been misquoted. I never for one moment said that it was due to the absence of cow's milk. That is a (Education by the hon. member who was addressing the Chair. I referred to extracts from the Report of a Survey which was made in connection with the matter. The hon. member wanted to know whether a Survey had been made, and I pointed out that a Survey had been made by Dental Officers attached to the Ministry. The Survey referred to the backlog of dental treatment required in the School Dental Services, and it stated

"(1) Out of every 100 school children examined 50 have one or more teeth that need extraction urgently. These children have decayed, overgrown teeth with granulated tissues, crumbled gums and

postulated fragments as well as abscesses.

(2) Out of every 100 children examined, 95 have decayed teeth and need fillings. Prophylactic is urgently needed.

(3) Out of every 100 school children examined, in the age group 12 - 15 years, half or 50% have beginnings of pyorrhoea, heavy calculus deposits, bleeding gums, and in some cases mobility of teeth. "

Mr. Speaker, the Nutrition Survey made in 1969 revealed the same picture and the recommendations have placed great emphasis, on the need for improved dental care of children. We are now dealing with the dental cars of children, and it is the main factor as far as health is concerned.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the best dental care you can give children is to feed them properly from the early days so that they may have strong, healthy teeth and build strong bones. In other words, what the Government is now trying to do is to repair the damage that it has created in this community since 1961. From 1961 this Government had offers of milk from WHO and other Organisations. The Government could have encouraged dairy farmers to produce more milk for sale rather than sending the milk to the Pine Hill Dairy. When the Government realised that the Pine Hill Dairy was not producing good milk the Government should have closed the Pine Hill Dairy.

Mr. Speaker, the Survey to which the hon. member refers relates to 1969. In other words, the 1969 Survey discloses what the Survey in 1937 disclosed. You will find that, during the period 1961 to 1969, this Government destroyed everything that was done between the period 1937 to late 1961, denying the children the opportunity of getting the vital milk diet that is so necessary for building strong teeth and healthy bones.

We now have the School Meals Programme, and this Government can do this country no greater good than to see to it that every child is given not less than a half pint of pure, unadulterated cow's milk per day as quickly as possible in order to help repair the tissues and rebuild the teeth of these children. The Minister has just told us that the Survey has disclosed mobility of teeth. In other words, the children's teeth are shaking.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HINDS:

Are you a dentist?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the impression that is given here today is that Government has stopped the milk in schools. The children are still receiving milk and biscuits with the school meals. All of the children who want milk and biscuits can get them. If the children are not getting these meals it is not the fault of the Government, but it will be the fault of the Headmasters of the schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I want to assist the hon. member who has just sat down. At the beginning of the present term many schools that depended on the milk and biscuits had, for three weeks, received neither milk nor biscuits on their premises to give the school children. 3.35p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this House voted funds for a nutrition programme under the Ministry of Education where every primary school is entitled to milk and biscuits over and above the fact that they get the hot meals, and if the hon. member wants to say that there is a breakdown in administration, let him say so, but let him not say that provision has not been made to feed these children.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the little children cannot help themselves. It is for us as hon. members here to do all we possibly can. We might provide funds for the most propitious schemes for children which mean absolutely nothing if these schemes do not reach out to the children, and in this case into the children's stomachs and into their teeth. What we are saying is that we are satisfied that since the Government has launched its school meals programme, we have not seen that the material benefit is of such as to help to fortify these children. In other words, they are still losing their teeth. If they were losing their teeth prior to 1962 and the Government has been attending to this matter from 1962 until 1970 and the 1969 survey shows that we are as far back as in 1937, we are making the suggestion that we are satisfied that there is no better diet for children than pure unadulterated cow's milk, and regardless of what school meals scheme we may have, we should increase the amount of milk that we give to children, if it means reducing the bulk food that you give them under the school meals programme. We are asking the

Government to act quickly. I do not think I will get rid of this Order Paper because the Government cannot deny that they are aware of the fact that the situation is very bad.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member asked this question some time ago and was told that of a total of 56,000 school children the number treated in 1968 was 18,425 and the number for 1969 was 15,764. As indicated above, the vast majority of school children need fillings to arrest the decay of their teeth. The number of fillings done during 1968 was one, and 600 during 1969. So the Government is re-organising the service, appointing full-time dentists, training and employing auxiliaries and hygienists, and this is to upgrade the service so that instead of dealing with 18,425 as dealt with in 1968 out of a total of 56,000 school children, it means we will be able to deal with probably all every year. We are trying to see that all school children receive dental service for the most of the year. That is the object of the scheme; so we are trying to upgrade and re-organise the scheme so that all the children receive the treatment.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we have got to be grateful to the Minister for giving us this information bit by bit, but it is every word that comes out of the mouth of the Minister that is "betraying the Government. The Minister tells us that what the Government is now doing is trying to employ these dentists to arrest the decay in the teeth of children. The decay is already there; it is continuing and will continue. While you are arresting the present decay, we are submitting to you ways and means of preventing the decay, strengthening the children's teeth. Be brave and honest about it. Do not come out because you want to have your school meals scheme to put in these numbers. We are not concerned about that. We want to see you give the children milk. In other words, give them your school meals three days a week and give them the milk diet and cakes or whatever it might be two days a week.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, only last week at St. Saviour's school there was a row between the server and the Headmaster because the Headmaster of the School wanted the server who is employed to look after the hot meals to mix milk when that was the function of the janitor who did it in the past. He put the janitor to weed grass. What I am trying to point out is that even although there is the hot meals scheme in these schools, there is still the milk and biscuits scheme. The hon. member has asked us to give them hot meals three times a week and milk twice a week, but we give them milk every day.

Mr. HINDS:

All we are asking the Government to do is to reduce the hot meals and increase the milk. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to charge any hon. member with dishonesty in this matter, and least of all the Leader of the House, concerning the milk that was given. 3.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to address our minds to what the Minister has said. There is no doubt that the decay is present in the teeth of the children; it has got to be arrested and we are saying that you should increase the amount of milk given to these children. We are not merely saying that the amount of milk should be increased, because we have been told that the children are given milk and biscuits in addition to the free school meals for 10 cents, but what we are saying is that the milk that was given prior to the coming into being of the school meals programme, which was known as the nutrition scheme, when it was first launched was a scheme that had a vitaminised biscuit and the milk was further fortified with properties to assist in building the bones of the children. Now, can the Minister tell us if the quality of the milk now served is the same quality as was served prior to the coming into existence of the school meals programme? We say no, the biscuits that are now served are the ordinary biscuits that are sold in the shops they are not the vitaminised biscuits that were given to the children. In other words, what entitled it to be called a nutrition scheme is no longer present in the scheme, you are only now prostituting the name of "nutriment"; you are fooling the children, giving them a lot of cassava flour that they cannot digest properly, and when they smell all the sauce and greasy gravy that you are serving them free for 10 cents as against a good milk diet, I agree that certain days the children will go for this, but if the teachers in the schools knew their job, if they cared about what they were doing, and if they sought to educate the children in what was best for them, and if the Government was really interested in the children, the Government would try to push the nutrition scheme much more than to push this school meals scheme. It is a political nuisance, a vote catching scheme, because since we have had our school meals scheme no survey has been carried out to tell us that the weight or condition of any child has been improved; nothing of the kind. My reason for saying that is this.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member is attempting - I do not know if he is conscious of the fact that a survey has been carried out because quite recently on a Government television programme evidence was shown of a nutrition survey being currently carried on in this country, so it is not true to say that there has been no survey, there is one being carried on now.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Point made, but no point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

The Hon. Minister has made reference to the Government television programme, but Mr. Speaker, what can anybody in Barbados believe about the Government television programme in the Government television station when they showed us Lloyd Smith coming out of the Government Party Headquarters? They are responsible for all that bluffing.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I naturally assume the hon. member is not speaking of a member of the House.

Mr. HINDS:

Some man called Lloyd Smith. I am talking about a television programme, Mr. Speaker, and we have got to be serious about this matter because it is the health of the children with which we are concerned. We cannot make sport about it; we agree that you should employ Doctors, Dentists and train your technicians, but that is only one part of the answer. The other part of the answer is that you must increase the supply of milk, and the quickest way to assist these poor children is to increase the supply of milk and fortify it with vitamins. Do you know when Government should launch its fresh milk programme? During the vacation periods. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, this Government introduced legislation to prohibit every peasant farmer who kept a cow in his backyard from selling milk to the public. He now has to sell milk to the Pine Hill Dairy.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is not a fact. A man with one or two cows can still sell his milk. He must, however, have three or more cows to be considered as a dairy keeper. This Government has not prevented any peasant farmer from keeping cows and selling milk.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is reflecting on a debate which took place in this House quite recently, and I cannot see how you can sit in the Chair and allow him to carry on in this manner!

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister ought to be told when you cannot reflect on a debate. There is a time when you can not do so. If something was passed 50 years ago, why cannot someone refer to it? (Hon. N. W. BOXILL fit was passed this year, you nincompoop.) Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has referred to me as a nincompoop.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That remark I do not deem to be unparliamentary; it is merely a thrust in Parliament.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Government must now avail itself of every possible means of collecting every possible gallon of pure cow's milk in this island and putting it down the throats of children in schools. Pregnant mothers should also be given cow's milk. This is no laughing matter, and Government should do something about it. This is a case where the Government should be looking after pregnant mothers and preparing them for the type of children they should bring into this world long before the children are born. If the Government is not prepared to measure up to these things quickly, then we invite them to get out of office, resign and call an election. We are willing to take over tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Government to give very serious consideration to this matter. I am appealing to the Leader of the House and to the Minister of Health. I am saying that this is not a matter that should be proceeded with today, because it requires more careful consideration than has been given to it at the moment. This is not merely a question of providing additional staff. There are over 56,000 children to deal with. In 1969 there were 56,000 children to deal with, so you can think what a sight it would be if all of these children had to open their mouths at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, adults feel pain when they have bad teeth in their mouths, so you can understand how much pain these little children have to undergo when they have bad teeth in their mouths. The Minister referred to children between the ages of 12 to 15, but we are asking the Government to extend the scheme to include all children in schools. Children cannot learn when their mouths are filled with rotten teeth. Bad teeth impair the health of school children, and the Government should do something about this matter. We are asking the Government not to deal with this matter lightly. (Asides.) Mr. Speaker, hon. members are asking me to come home.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has told us that there is a backlog of work. When the additional staff is recruited it will be necessary to start with the backlog, but the children with decaying teeth will be suffering in the meantime. 4.05 p.m.

There are a number of abscesses that might require surgery, and in all these things I am asking the Government to come before this Hon. House for a sum of money to buy pure cow's milk from whatever source is available, and during the present vacation period let all children be invited to attend their schools and be given if not more than half a pint per day. We are asking Government to do this not only during this vacation but during every vacation period. They need something more than the present greasy food that is being offered as school meals free for ten cents. As for those with pyorrhoea gums, it is a very serious matter in the case of children. I am sure the number of children with pyorrhoea gums

would require the services of half a dozen whole -time officers alone to treat their gums, and I would encourage Government to seek expert advice and have the situation remedied once and for all. I am being heckled; so I must sit.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I trust that is not the case. Has the hon. member concluded? (Mr. HINDS Yes, Sir.)

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I hope I will not be quite so long as the hon. member who has just sat down, although I have perhaps a good deal of the ground which he has covered to re-examine. First of all I wanted to say something about the matter with which he opened his speech, the matter of the security. officer. He did not dwell perhaps on this for quite the length of time as he dealt with teeth, and I think all of us would agree that it is a matter of some importance. Sir, I must agree with the hon. member for St. Peter when he says that the trained policeman is the answer to the security problem. Though it might seem glamorous and attractive to shunt it away from the police because in many ways the training the police get does not permit them to be efficient security officers, I think that in this matter we want to get away from one or two ideas about security that might be engendered by going to films and reading the books of Ian Fleming. As I see it, Barbados will never have either the problem or the resources to require a secret service, a C. I. A., M. I. 5 or K. G. B. Any external threat to Barbados will have to be prevented and avoided by our friends overseas. I do not believe that we need any agents walking about with concealed guns under their arms like in other countries, and I think when we are talking about Mr. Don Chase and Mr. Peyton and other incidents which the hon. member might have mentioned which perhaps he does not realise will be the subject of publication, it is a fact. This is merely in passing. I do not believe it will happen again, but in December, 1941, the two chief Japanese spies in the Western Hemisphere were arrested right here in Barbados. British security officers had to be flown out to interrogate them here; and there were people in Barbados who said they were occupying such and such a place. For example, it was I who told the hon. junior member for St. Joseph of this fact. That is merely a frivolous piece of information, but I use it to illustrate my thesis which is that never again will any security forces of Barbados have to deal with that sort of matter. The Japanese gentlemen with their trunk loads of American plans were taken off the ship in Carlisle Bay and kept here. It may be that we may have to offer facilities for somebody else to do something like this, but I do not think that the external security of Barbados can be guarded against by us; so no threats to the external security will be discovered by us. You are then thrown on to internal security, and I know of no country where internal security is not in the hands of a Police Force of some sort. The Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States is so far as the Constitution of America allows a Federal Police Force. They collaborate with the Treasury Police which is the American Secret Service in Great Britain internal security is taken care of by M. I. 5 special branch of Scotland Yard, and M. I. 5 is recruited from the police. It is not a secret service of secret agents being trained in karate, and a properly trained security police department in my view will provide all the security force that Barbados could need; but I think it is important to understand what is involved in proper training.

Mr. Speaker, the person who trained Mr. Lynch and his boys as security policemen were persons concerned with the security of Great Britain and with global security. We are not any longer worried about that. The American base at Harrison's Point will take care of any Russian submarines that pass Barbados or in the Caribbean. We do not need any local security men to deal with that type of problem in which the senior members of the Police Force were all trained. That came in the days of the German spies after the gentleman in Cave Hill who was shining a light and the man at Brighton who was transmitting, and it came in the days when a B. W. I. A. plane had seen a German submarine off the Crane.

I would be idle to pretend that it has never been said on public platforms that the security branch of the police is pressing a little bit heavily on the Barbados Labour Party, but many of the complaints can be avoided with proper training. We need political training for what is in effect political police. If you are worried about internal security, you must train them and tell them whom the risk comes from. I am speaking quite seriously when I say that the first risk in which the Constitution may be perverted and destroyed comes from the Government. You have the Governments of Rhodesia, Lesotho -where in the middle of an election the Prime Minister stopped the counting because he was going to lose, arrested the King and sent him to South Africa - Uganda and Sierra Leone. In three of these countries the Government took over and destroyed the constitution, and in the fourth the Army stopped the Sierra Leone Government from doing the same thing in the middle of the elections. The first risk comes from the Government and Government Ministers who wish to stay in power. I am honestly not suggesting that there is any serious danger here, but I will return to that in due course. Proper political training of the police will make them understand that point. Even in Guyana.....the hon. member for St. Michael suggested Trinidad, but you can have different views. At least it was not the Opposition in Trinidad which started it; we are seeing here in the Caribbean that it is the Government which shows itself authoritarian in these matters and not the Opposition which shows itself revolutionary.

The next risk comes from the Army or police. This is usually the most successful. I have heard of successful army or police actions in Pakistan, Nigeria, Ghana, and in Sierra Leone for a time and in Ceylon when police attempted a coup with the assistance of the Navy, and in Talanyika the Army attempted a coup; so it is always the forces of law and order which destroy Constitutions in newly independent countries. 4.15p.m.

This is a simple fact, this is not any Opposition argument. It is either a faction of the Government, the army or the police in some way, it is the upholders of law and order who overcome the preachers of moderation and destroy the principles of newly independent countries. The facts are the same in the French-African countries; it is always forces from the side of law and order which either shoot the President, shoot the Opposition sometimes, and a faction takes over, and this is what happens. Mr. Speaker, hon. members may remember in Burma in 1947 it was not an Opposition group that came through the doors of the Legislative Chamber with machine guns and gunned down a third of

parliament, it was a faction of the Government, so when the Security Officers of Barbados consider it their only duty to go to Opposition meetings and use their tape recorders, they are making a mistake, they are not looking after the security of the State. It is not that they are malicious but just that their duties have not been clearly explained to them.

When we were in power Superintendent Lynch was just as hard on the hon. junior member for St. Peter as he is now, so it seems that security here is always interpreted in terms of security for the Government in power, I think the person in charge of security should, be the Prime Minister, apart from the personality of the present Minister of Home Affairs, but I think the Prime Minister is the proper person to be entrusted with the secrets of security. He should be in a position to order an investigation of his Ministers just as he should, and no doubt does, order investigations of the Opposition. In the old days I think they had a Committee which worked very well, but the days when it is possible to have English people coming here to sit on Commissions are over, and I do not believe it is possible to have a Committee in Barbados sufficiently free from Party loyalty to deal with that, so I think you have to put it in the hands of the most obvious trustworthy person. The Prime Minister is the most obvious person in whom you can put trust, and of course a political education is essential for police officers to make them understand what a threat to security is; to make them understand that Government and Opposition are part of the fabric of the society and that their first duty is to find out who will try to destroy the Opposition as well as the Government. Once that is put to them, I believe we can have the kind of security which we deserve.

I do not think the police in the security department are well enough trained even to succeed in their own self-appointed task; I think the time they waste at political meetings could well be spent talking with one or two persons that might give them information as to whether or not there are revolutionary forces about. Do you think the police should be asking a mere bystander, namely myself, who is the owner of the land on which the Black Star bookshop stood? My messenger could tell me that he has seen money being passed over the counter at the Black Star bookshop, and yet when I tell the Police about this they pay no attention to it, I have heard them go to extremes about the presence of Russians in Barbados; there have been various Russians who have visited Barbados, and I have heard Mr. Lynch say if a Russian ship came into Bridgetown they are perfectly right to stop any Russian from getting off the ship because if they got off they do not know what they, would do. The Prime Minister, I believe, solved it for them, but persons have told me that when a Russian Agricultural expert came here they were rung by somebody in the Agricultural Society who told them to be very careful, yet on the other hand when a Russian gentleman came down here, to my knowledge he was charged with making a political report on such West Indian Islands as he had gained admission to and was particularly charged with making a political report to the Russian Foreign Office about Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

I know of a man who was in a political situation in Barbados and who was walking about looking for people to talk to about the political position; the security service acted as though they did not know he was here. I do not know what liaison at present exists between the security branch of the former

Colonial Office and our present security arrangements, but those arrangements were obviously, to me, not put in force. The security branch needs proper training, it must know when Dr. Jagan comes here from Cuba - he is my friend and I have a lot more respect for him than for Mr. Burnham but the fact that Dr. Jagan has been travelling about using his position to support revolutionary movements in such West Indian Islands as he is gained admission to, and these are matters which should be investigated. I do not at the moment believe that with a two thirds majority the Government intends to pervert the Constitution, I know the Opposition does not intend to overthrow the Government by revolutionary means; none of us, I am sure. We are going to overthrow the Government by open argument as we argued in St. Joseph and not even a fire cracker would we throw to disturb the Government, so I believe we all have an interest in protecting Barbados against what happened in Trinidad, of protecting Barbados against any possibility of such confusion as would allow the Guyana situation to arise. 4. 25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we are all interested in this matter, and we deserve better officials than those who are at present trying to carry the security load on their shoulders. I do not know if the Senior Assistant Secretary is Major Headley who has a lot of imagination. He went to "Verona" in Bank Hall to find out whether it was true that a man handed Tom Adams a Voters' List worth about 50. (Asides) He told me that he went there to make enquiries about it. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: He was fooling you.) I do not like Major Headley's position in the Ministry. Perhaps he has the political training to carry out the job, but I would not like to see a set of Civil Service snoopers doing this work.

Sir, I would like to see a Treasury Security Branch investigating certain things. This sort of thing is done in the United States. I cannot see for what these temporary posts are needed. It is stated that the re-designation of the post of Government Security Officer is intended to allow for a greater flexibility in the assignment of duties and provide an officer of such a grade in the Ministry to assist the Permanent Secretary in the normal administrative duties, allowing him more time for planning. More time for planning what, Sir? The Ministry of Home Affairs is creating work for itself.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who have been living in Barbados for years, and because they did not report to the police the year after they landed here they are being persecuted. It is the duty of the police to check on these people. (Asides). The hon. senior member for St. Andrew knows the gentleman to whom I am referring, because he is associated with him. That man never gave me anything to wear in my shoes. (Asides) I can tell the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that I do not write anybody's name on a piece of paper and put it in my shoe with a chart.

(Asides) I have never had to change from wearing sandals to wearing shoes so that the things I had in my sandals would not be seen.

With regard to the question of work permits, it certainly deserves a full-scale debate on the matter.

I should like to refer to a matter under the Ministry of Communications and Works. It is unfortunate that the Minister looks a bit tired. Whenever his Ministry is attacked he looks a bit tired. He has recently taken over from the other Minister and he has not yet had time to correct the mistakes made by the former Minister. I should like to refer to the new Telecommunications system that is going to be set up. Will it duplicate the services of Messrs. Cable and Wireless? I suppose it has not occurred to the Minister that there is a Security Officer who vets outgoing messages at Cable and Wireless and Government messages might very well be subject to analysis. I would not like to think that all of these Clerical and Executive Officers are going to be set up to duplicate the facilities that, for the main part, could be carried out by existing private organisations.

On the question of the Traffic and Highway Engineering Section, I will not detain hon. members for an unreasonable length of time. I know that I will have the hon. junior member for St. Thomas with me on this: certain Officers come here, they see our traffic situation and prepare plans on the basis of what they see without realising that if our traffic facilities were different they would not be seeing a lot of traffic along a particular road. You will find heavy traffic along a particular road because Barbadians have found it easier to use certain roads. Now Martindales Road and Halls Road were inadequate even when we had a few cars travelling along those roads. You will find that some people drive along Spooners Hill, go across the Bow Road and come all the way down to Constitution Road rather than going down Roebuck Street to get into the City.

Sir, when Traffic Engineers and Experts come here and see that certain roads are not used frequently they get the wrong impression. For instance, when they laid out Martindales Road one still found that near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the road was too narrow for the amount of traffic that had to use it. Halls Road and the river should have been cleared long ago. A Church and School are there, but they could be resited in other places both from the view of the flood and from the amount of traffic in the area. Halls Road should be made big enough to take traffic from Bridgetown and River Road. 4. 35 p.m.

Part of this is that when the experts come here....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, I did not want to interrupt the hon. member, but the reason why I am saying this is because in the last debate I got up to address the Chair and was not allowed to speak. I am thankful to

the hon. member for giving way. The plan is that the houses on the right side in Halls Road will be removed. You will notice that; one has already been removed, and we are going to widen the road at the corner by the Martindales Road Constitution Road Halls Road junction by King James shop.

Mr. ADAMS:

All this I believe the Minister would know very well, but that is merely an example of original advice given by the then Town Planner to the effect that it should not be done. We are Barbadians and we know very well that that would be a convenient road for the way you can drive. It might not seem to an expert from abroad that people would leave Cave Hill and come across Bow Road and down Station Hill. That is what people would like to do if the road was good. You have what is a good road because there is no parking along that road. The Bow Road gives you a long run with no houses and no parked cars, and now that the Stadium is there it will be a more convenient road. Experts come and see the wooden houses, and they think it is easy to re-site wooden houses. They look at a district like Goodland which is thickly populated and think that all we have to do is to put the houses on a lorry and take them away. The Government has trouble in removing people. People do not want to move to Bissex Hill; they want to stay in Bridgetown; The Farm Road Housing Area for which the Housing Authority is responsible is not a district from which you can clear away all the houses to start an entirely new road.

When you talk about a traffic engineer, I would like to see a closing down of roads. It is a very unpopular view to advocate the closing down of a road but I would like to know what Mangrove Road in St. Thomas is, when in the Shop Hill Vauclose Tenantry the people cannot get out on a rainy day. I would like to know why the Government spent money in St. Philip maintaining a road going around three squares instead of building a new road to an established St. Philip centre that would avoid the existing duplication and avoid a great deal of maintenance costs in the future. These are things I would like to see the Government do when it comes to traffic engineering.

Another point that everybody is losing sight of is that we are going over the period where the parked car is the greatest hazard. Only this year the parked car was the greatest hazard, but we have gone a little bit beyond that. Even if you move all the parked cars at the rush hour time, you will still have bottlenecks. The reason why you cannot get down Roebuck Street on mornings is because people are turning out of Country Road and into Country Road and the road is not wide enough to permit turning. That is what I want to see the traffic engineers work on - clearing away the parked cars during busy times and clearing away the road turns and junctions that are too small to accommodate traffic. In the days when there were not many cars, maybe you could afford to wait, but every car that turns right from Country Road to Roebuck Street has traffic blocked up in Roebuck Street, Is Road and up to the traffic lights, in Welches, you get down there you realise it is a policeman allowing traffic to turn right. The hon. junior member for St. Peter talked about Eagle Hall, but Eagle Hall is one of the worst bottlenecks at any hour of the day. I see them widening Bamboo Walk. What about developing a road through Hanschells Tenantry from Bridge Gap Corner? What about an alternative road to the Harbour Road from Bridge Gap Corner? Westbury Road is not an entirely satisfactory Road and is a very narrow road

as an entrance to the Harbour, and Goodland is not an easy road to drive through as things are at present because of a lot of turns that the hon. senior member for St. Michael knows so well. A road from Bridge Gap by-passing Eagle Hall would greatly assist both commercial and ordinary passenger traffic, and I certainly look forward to the day when Barbados can afford to build a fly-over at Eagle Hall first of all and to give us a little run through.

Sir, I want to talk about teeth too, but it seems to me that the hon. junior member for St.. Peter has exhausted the subject. It seems to me from observation that school children's teeth are not as good as some years ago. I am told by many doctors that soft drinks are the worst possible danger. I do not know if it is the carbonic acid as well as the sugar, because I have asked doctors if soda water can be taken and they say this can give you trouble. I am not going to call the name of any manufacturer, but the consumption of soft drinks has risen. It is good to be able to drink a fizzy drink, but it is having its effect on the teeth, and I hope that all hon. members will hearken to the member who spoke before when he said that the day you took away milk and gave sweet drink, you really opened war on their mouths. I see a lot of decay in the teeth and I welcome the provisions made here. I also welcome the Prime Minister's remarks which were made a little bit under pressure. It is my experience even with private dentists. I have never let a dentist take out one of my teeth yet; they can fill them six times. I prefer the pain to the needle. Dentists in Barbados are in such a short supply that they prefer extractions. Even though filling a tooth is a little more expensive they take out teeth that should be filled, and people need to be re-educated. The dentists know it but the people need educating that when they go to a dentist and there is a little hole giving trouble, they can fill it. One of these good (Jays you will have people swallowing food without chewing it properly or a lot of young people with false teeth which will cost much more than the difference between extraction and filling. If you make these dentists to understand that they must entourage children to think in terms of saving a tooth rather than taking it out, you would be re-educating them properly. This is one part of the Resolution I can whole-heartedly support and if it gets rid, of some of the yard fowl dentists who owe their position to the political influence of the District Councils, I will not in any way shed a tear.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to start off by complimenting the last speaker. For the four years he has been in this Chamber, this is the first time I have heard him in a debate in which he has contributed something valuable to it.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the Minister has said that before.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

That is not true. I really have to commend him, but what I am going to say is going to be paradoxical

because I am going to lash him later on. He has contributed something to the debate today; he was sober in his speech and lucid and I really have to give Jack his jacket. 4.45 p.m.

When I say sober I mean in his speech, and he was lucid, so I really have to give Jack his jacket, especially when he made reference to roads. All these things are what we have in mind; of course we know that "The Truth" always knows things before anybody else, but as I pointed out on a point of order this is the programme as such. I do agree with him that some of the so-called experts that we get coming down here do not always know what the problem is, and when I was Minister of Communications I used to have it out with them, but he himself and the junior member for St. Peter tried to lambast me, saying that I always know more than anybody else. Sometimes when people come to me with their fancy ideas and I do not accept them I am criticised by the very senior member for St. Thomas and the junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, if the engineers say they do not want to work with him, what am I to do with that?

Mr. ADAMS:

I do not think I have ever disagreed with the Minister on any view he has had on road traffic.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I categorically deny what the lion, junior member for St. Peter has said, but even if this were true, I am proud. As soon as you find somebody does not want to work with you, you have to have an examination of yourself and I am sure that nobody can say conscientiously that as Minister of Communications and Works I have not acquitted myself fully and adroitly and better than most people in the whole West Indies as Ministers of Communications and Works. As I was saying, I am not going to let anybody come here to this country and rub things down my throat and I accept them before I examine them thoroughly and am convinced that they are suited to Barbados and the Barbadian people. I am a Barbadian and I have nowhere to go; if I die I do not want to go to Heaven, let me remain in Barbados.

Getting back to the debate, Mr. Speaker, in commending the senior member for St. Thomas, he also went on to say that one of the biggest hazards on the road today is the parked car; this is quite true, but I am sure that as soon as the Police start reporting people for parking on the roads it will be different. The hon. member said that he would like to see some of the roads in the country repaired. I agree with him because for the square mile Barbados has more roads than the United States; I do not mean more miles

of road, but you live in a small community and therefore we all have to stroke the pump at some time or other, and when people are living in areas that they cannot get to and from Church on Sundays and to and from town during the week, they will come to their representative and the representative is going to pressurise the Minister. You cannot get out of it, and I agree that there should be more roads done, but you must tell yourself that before the Democratic Labour Party came on the scene and you were driving through the country it was difficult to tell which went there first, the Estate or the road. When the Conservatives were in power they built the roads in conjunction with the estate owners; they made sure that the estate carts would not have any trouble in getting the canes from the ground into the estate, so these are things we came and found and we cannot change the entire structure of the country overnight, for two reasons. One is that you will get the same people you are trying to help saying that you are pushing them the wrong place; Barbados is the only place in the world where canes live to the front and poor black people live to the back. "The greatest supporters of oppression are the people who have been oppressed; " this is a famous quotation and it is quite true; It is for us as leaders to lead from in front and not from behind; the only thing you lead from behind is a donkey cart. We have to stop this kind of annihilation of each other. Do not take everything and make it into party politics.

I am sure there is legislation coming down against parking on the roads, because I feel people are very wrong in doing this. If you come down Collymore Rock any morning between the hours of 6.00 and 8.00 you will find people parking their cars all along that road; my idea is that they should be reported. 4.55 p.m.

There are several side lanes in which people can park their cars, but they prefer, to leave the cars on the road with impunity because there are several lawyers who will go to the Court, make out that the policemen are liars, and 9 out of 10 times the offenders will be set free. That is why I am glad to see that Magistrate Reid has been imposing fines to the extent of \$150 for the traffic offences. I think that a few jail sentences will bring some of these offenders to their senses.

Sir, it is now five o'clock, and if you were to go near the market in Bay Street you will find cars parked on the road despite the fact that people will be trying to get home. I have to make my living, and I know that lawyers have to make their living. This is the time when we have to call a spade a spade, and I feel that lawyers should not take a man's money and fool him when they know that he has a bad traffic case.

The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that he does not agree with the roads in certain areas. We know that Barbados is very small and that land is being sold as if it were uranium 235, Barbados was 21 x 14, but it is now about 22 x 14 since we have built the Deep Water Harbour. Everybody is looking for a home in Barbados nowadays and the price of land has gone up.

The hon. member represents an agricultural area in the same way as I do, and he knows that when we had to climb certain places to beg for votes we had to wonder whether the people would come down to catch a car or bus to vote for us. After the slaves were released they had to get to work early and they had to live close to their work. They put up houses here, there and everywhere. When you have 50 people living in one area and 50 people living in another area it will be necessary to provide them with roads. They are all citizens of Barbados; they have contributed to the economy of this Island more than some people who are drawing money from the Treasury have done, and they are entitled to some of the benefits of the country. That is one of the reasons why we have introduced free education in this country. We cannot provide roads for people living in one area and deprive other people in another area of roads. I do not believe some of the so-called Superintendents of Highways know where some of these roads are. (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker, am I allowed to speak without being interrupted? I do not think that we can stop providing these small roads. The hon. member knows that, but he is merely coming here to talk about certain things in order to get his name in the Advocate,. The hon. member did not have the decency to tell the House that Porey Spring has more lights than Bridgetown.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Minister that we were waiting for lights for four years, and that the lights were only provided after he had left the Ministry.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Did you get the lights a month after I left the Ministry? The hon. member is entitled to say anything. I will tell the hon. senior member for St. Thomas that there are three oaths that I know of. I know of the socratic oath which states that a man cannot divulge the secrets of his patients , to anyone; the priestly or religious oath, especially the oath taken in the Roman Catholic Church, whereby when one goes to confession and tells the priests of one's misdeeds, and the priests are not supposed to divulge them; and the third is the one which lawyers take. A lawyer is to have the full confidence of his client and he should not divulge what his clients tell him unless he thinks it can be used to the advantage of his clients.

Now, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said on the floor of this House that one Nestfield told him something in confidence. 5.05 p.m.

The moment a person can divulge what his close confidante has told him, it shows what can happen.

You could never represent me. I want this for the debates because I am going to use it, People must know that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is not one that people can entrust with their secrets, because if Nestfield told him something in confidence, he had absolutely no right repeating ft.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, who said Nestfield told me something in confidence? If you want to know of somebody who respects confidence, ask the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. Nestfield told me in front of a big set of people. To say that I heard him say it would have done me more credit than saying that he told me so. He told me that when he was out for cursing his uncle. I have never worked for Nestfield yet.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The hon. member is a lawyer; he is a man who has won a Barbados Scholarship. I would hope that no village idiot would win a Barbados Scholarship; so for somebody to win a Barbados Scholarship, in spite of the fact that he won it with 55 points which were the highest marks at the time, shows that the person had a modicum of sense, and therefore he should have said that Nestfield said so, and I would never have challenged it because he might have said it anywhere, even in front of a political platform.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is this a Nestfield solution?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order, but I would remind hon. members that Nestfield is a reputable area in St. Lucy.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I am not dealing with Nestfield, I am dealing with what the hon. member said on the floor of the House and what has gone in the debates. I am not interested in Nestfield.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member continue with the Resolution.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like again to draw to the attention of visitors in the Gallery - I did not look back to see who it was, so it can be somebody on my side or on the other side -that they are here on sufferance, and they are not to get themselves in the debates on the floor of this Chamber. Let those who have been elected in here get into the arguments.

Mr. SPEAKER; There can be no doubt about that, because if my attention is drawn to strangers, out goes everybody. I will ask the Marshal to reconnoitre.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

When white people were in here they could not come in without a jacket. There was no law for that, but I remember the time a man missed, and smiled and showed his gold teeth and he was put out. I do not expect that to happen now, but I would like people to be reminded.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I take it that this question of gold teeth comes under the heading of dentists.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Getting back to the debate, Mr. Speaker, apart from those brief remarks and observations which I had to make in commending the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on the contribution he has made, I do not think there is anything else I need say. However, before I sit, I would like to say one more thing. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that the traffic engineer was taught differently about going through houses and clearing for a road. We had a good traffic engineer from the United Nations and we have a Barbadian now who is doing a good job. He himself said that the houses in Halls Road need to be cleared from there. Not only do they need to be cleared, but we must be serious about what we are doing, and I think the time has come when we have to forbid people from living there, because we had a flood and houses were washed away, and the next day people put their houses there again. If the hon. member had not joined with the others in the other Chamber and encouraged the people of Emmerton Lane not to remove their houses, they would not have been in the predicament in which they found themselves a few Fridays ago. Now you have seen how it back-fired.

Mr. ADAMS:

The hon. member is inviting points of order. I never encouraged that. I do not know what the hon. member is talking about. I am sorry the hon. member is forbidden to refer to the Gazette even in a negative way and to a debate in this session. I cannot remember ever having contributed to any debate on Emmerton Lane. I have my views and they have never been expressed in this Chamber.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Then the hon. member agrees that these houses should be removed.

Mr. ADAMS:

No, I do not agree, nor do I disagree. I have no comment about it. I never agreed or disagreed. I have my views.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anything else I need say. I think I have covered all the points, but I would say again for the records that I was gratified to hear the way the hon. senior member for St. Thomas spoke this afternoon, and I hope that this is an indication of the debates that will take place in the Legislature and not the haranguing we are accustomed to from members on the opposite side.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can safely take a break which I believe would be more than palatable after hearing one of the finest speeches, or indeed the only speech I have ever heard made by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, what the hon. member is saying is quite true because he has never been in here until today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

Some people seem not to appreciate a compliment. I said I am quite sure we would want to have a break and we can enjoy it after hearing from the hon. junior member for St. Thomas the only display I can safely think about in here, and I would like to move that further consideration be postponed for twenty minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, who seconded the motion? I only heard the motion moved, and when the question was being put the proposer was still on his feet.

The hon. senior member for St. James got up and moved that further consideration be postponed. He did not sit down before the Speaker began to put the question. 5.15 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am nothing to do with any Minister not being here, I am something to do with a principle. The hon. senior member for St. James got up and moved that further consideration be postponed, he has not yet sat down, so I do not see how that motion could have been seconded. I do not agree with it, I do not agree that there should be a suspension now and I will talk through. We just came in here at 2.30, and do you tell me that at twenty minutes past five you will suspend the House? I am not accommodating anybody, I am concerned with getting through with the business. The hon. members over there did their pussy-footing the whole day and I am not agreeing to any suspension; it is nonsense. If the people put us in here to do their business, let us do the people's business, but do not get on with any nonsense, this nonsense must stop.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am speaking, and I will speak until 7.30 because I am not agreeing to it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will both hon. members please sit? This is the present situation; the hon. member moved that further consideration be postponed with a view to having a short break, two hon. members from opposite sides have assured me that they understood the hon. junior member for St. Joseph seconded the motion that further consideration be postponed. I have the assurance of that from the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Acting Leader of the Opposition; actually, I saw the hon. senior member for St. Philip rise.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I understand that it was seconded and I am speaking on the motion for the suspension. I am not concerned with what arrangements were made between the Leader of the House and the Acting Leader of the Opposition, because I was not consulted and I was elected in here like anybody else; I am not agreeing to any suspension.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I want to make my position quite clear. I want to speak on this motion which was before the House, and I moved the suspension simply because the Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had intimated that you, Mr. Speaker, wanted a cup of tea; therefore I moved the suspension, but as far as I am concerned I could talk for ten hours.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am not agreeing to any suspension. We came in here at 2.30 and it is now 5.23; I feel that if we have left our homes to come in here to do the people's business that is what we are here to do; we are not here to go out there and eat and drink. We have not even got through with one Resolution for the day, and I do not care who agrees with it, I am not going to agree to it and I will talk till tomorrow morning on this issue because I do not feel there should be any break. We do not come in here to eat and drink, we come here to do the people's business and I think this suspension for people to go out and eat is nonsense; I do not agree with it and I am not going to support the issue. I am dealing with a principle; we have not passed one Resolution for the day, all we have done here today is to eat. The point is that we did not come down here to eat and drink alone, we came down here to do the people's business. All these things I feel very strongly about; we are either here to do the people's business or we are here to have fun, and I cry shame on the hon. senior member for St. James to have moved this motion when he is the same person who will say we have not done any work.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I made my position clear. I did this after the Leader of the House and the Acting Leader of the Opposition intimated that you, Mr. Speaker, would like to have a cup of tea. I could talk too, but when you are here arguing with the Speaker for two hours on a point of order, are you doing work? What nonsense are you talking, boy? What are you ashamed of me for?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. senior member for St. James would join in something like this, to give a break after two hours since lunch and I do not think anybody even went to the toilet yet, so

the lunch is not yet digested and the hon. senior member for St. James..... (Mr. CRAIG I am a party man, I go along with my party. It is not me you want to kill, it is Mr. Speaker.) As far as I am concerned, the hon. senior member for St. James moved the motion for suspension and I disagree with the motion, I feel we should continue to work and I am not voting for it. 5.25 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Session continues to the normal hour.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In view of the fact that His Honour the Deputy Speaker is not here this afternoon and certain hon. members do not approve of a short break for tea, it is the duty of the Speaker to remain here so long as hon. members decide to tarry on without a break. He alone cannot leave, and he will not leave so long as he is living. May I appeal to the hon. senior member for St. James to withdraw his Motion.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, in withdrawing this Motion, I want to say that this Motion was moved purely to prevent you from getting a cup of tea. It is their intention to cause you to suffer. I can leave here at any time and go and get a cup of tea, but you will have to remain In the Chair. As a matter of fact, I feel like speaking on the Motion just moved by the hon. member if I withdraw thy Motion I will be accommodating the Government, and I am not here to accommodate the Government benches.

I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. James has asked leave to withdraw his Motion. If there is no objection.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, if there is an objection to the Motion, what will happen?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, did the senior member for St. James ask that the Motion be withdrawn?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes, and I deem it to have been withdrawn.

Mr. HINDS:

The Motion cannot be withdrawn unless the hon. member seeks leave to have it withdrawn, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

He has sought leave and leave has been granted for its withdrawal.

The hon. senior member for St. James may now proceed with his speech on the Substantive Motion, if he has not yet spoken.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 6) ORDER, 1970

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this Resolution, I should like to address my mind to the Ministry of Communications and Works. It says here that additional staff is required to man (a) the new Traffic and Highway Engineering Section which has recently been set up and which is presently headed by a United Nations Engineer on a two-year contract.

Now, on several occasions we have had a number of Engineers looking after our network of roads. We have also had a number of Engineers in the Ministry of Communications and Works, but I am told that very few Engineers are there nowadays. I think there is only one Engineer in the Ministry of Communication and Works. I should like to know why it is necessary to have this new Traffic and

Highway Engineering Section.

Sir, I am glad for this opportunity to say something which has been bothering me for a very long time. There are a number of vehicles travelling along very narrow roads in this Country, and it is noted that in the majority of accidents motor cyclists are involved and responsible for the accidents. When the police arrive at the scene of an accident and ask for the licences of riders, in 9 cases out of 10 motor cyclists do not have any licences. I know that the Government is not responsible for this sort of thing, but something should be done in this matter. Perhaps the Traffic and Highway Engineer would be able to find some method of containing these young motor cyclists between the ages of 17 and 18. They are really a nuisance to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Perhaps they should be asked to produce a licence before they are allowed to purchase a motor cycle. 5.35 p.m.

Now this may sound impossible, but the same way you can go to a driving school and pay money for the purpose of learning to drive, I see no reason why these people should not go to some school also. I am no specialist in this field, but I am making this comment. There should be some manner in which you can control this danger which you have on the roads. I know there is a well qualified man here that Government had at their disposal, but the Government ditched him or he ditched the Government. I am told that Mr. Leonard St. Hill is a qualified Town Planner and he has written some articles on the traffic and actual network of roads in Barbados; I am to wonder if this man could not be of some help to Government in solving this problem, or whether he could work with the new Traffic and Highway Engineer who is coming down.

I am not going to hold this debate up, but what I want to find out primarily is whether there is some way in which you can control motor cyclists, not from using the roads, but from riding without a licence. We hope that when this section is set up that we will not have any more Al Wasons pushed into the wrong job at the right time. As a matter of fact, I am quite sure that there will be a new Government in power. (Aside) Who? Do you mean Smithie is going to join you? I am confident that by that time there is going to be a new Government in power and we would be in a position to help the same traffic engineer carry out the policy of the Government in another few Months. My reason for speaking was because I feel very strongly about the activities of these youngsters, even those who ride the bicycles. There is a team called "The Stompers" and when you are driving they dash in between cars, and I hope this Department can be set up through which some rigid bit of legislation can be made to control them to a better degree.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker,....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid the hon. member has already addressed the Chair.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, a number of questions were posed to the Minister and I think the Minister wants to reply. The Minister should be given an opportunity to reply. I understand that he has been briefed to some considerable extent, and we would be glad to hear what the Minister has to say.

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

THE RATE OF INTEREST ACT, 1970

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 4 be the next Order of the day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The instant Order of the day stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to repeal the Rate of Interest Act, 1754.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Bill which we are now doing is one of the very earliest Acts on the Statute Book of Barbados. I think it is the second or third Statute which was passed and it is still existing on the Statute

Book. It is actually the fourth Statute. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

One hon. member at a time, and the one who is standing up.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber is not conducive to good behaviour. The disposition of members would seem to create a lot of noise. We are too close to them, not ideologically but physically.

The Rate of Interest Act as I was saying, is one of the very earliest enactments, and I think that there is a very strong feeling that in many respects it could be the salvation of the small shopkeepers and business people in this Island, because for a very long time it has been known as the Usury Act. In truth and in fact it was the Rate of Interest Act and, it provides 'certain penalties for breaches of the statutory limit on the amount which can be charged by way of interest for any loan or any contract made for valuable consideration. That was in 1754. I cannot really say from my research whether it started off at 6 per cent in 1754, but certainly by the time the Laws of Barbados were revised by Mr. W. A. Fergusson and Sir Clyde Archer in 1942, I believe it was, the Rate of Interest was 6 per cent and this was the maximum rate. In many countries in the Commonwealth there is no limit to the interest which may be charged. There is now in the United Kingdom the Pawnbrokers Act and the maximum rate is fixed at something like 20 per cent. The rate of interest in the United Kingdom and other progressive industrialised societies is something which is not fixed by Act of Parliament, but in countries where there is a Central Bank, the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Minister in charge of Finance usually in consultation with the Central Bank fixes the rate at which the Central Bank lends to the discount houses, and then the normal market rate for normal business transactions is between half of 1 per cent above that; so that in November 1968 when there was the devaluation in the United Kingdom, not only was there a devaluation of 14.2 per cent of the pound sterling vis-a-vis the American dollar and in terms of one ounce of gold being valued at \$US 35, 14, 2 per cent on that, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer also took the opportunity to increase the rate of interest, the Bank rate as it is commonly known, at which money is lent to discount houses and the Joint Stock Banks by the Central Bank itself. What has been happening in the colonial regime is that as soon as the Bank rate in England changed, the commercial banks in Barbados automatically increase the Bank rate in Barbados with very damaging effects to the economy of this Island. We have protested on the floor of this House from time to time over this slavish imitation of what has been dictated by circumstances which may be contradictory to the economy imperatives of Barbados from time to time. Let me give an example of what I mean. 5.45 p.m.

In the United Kingdom you will find that in a time of inflation when there is too much pressure of consumer demand on the market, thereby creaming away the export potential or demanding local consumer goods, you will find that they tend to push up the bank rate in order to discourage consumer

spending. At the same time in Barbados there may actually be unemployment when there is a shortage of labour in the United Kingdom, and we may have a situation in which there is a very low level of economic activity, and we may actually be encouraging people to put down more factories or more commercial concerns and so on, but we have hitherto been at the whims and fancies of the commercial Banks in Barbados, and they have not taken the time from the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Barbados, who is the Minister of Finance, but they take the time from their Head Offices in the United Kingdom or to Toronto or in New York and to push up the local rate to the general public just because the Bank rate has gone up in England. I would like to feel that the coinverse is true when the bank rate comes down, but we find a certain amount of slowness when it comes to a reduction in the bank rate in England; the lending rate in Barbados does not follow with the same rapidity as it does when the bank rate goes up. One fallacy is that there is something known as the rate of interest; there is a rate of interest on Treasury Bills, it may be 6.75 per cent or something like that on the last quotation, there is the rate on mortgages which we have fixed by legislation to a maximum of 8 per cent, there is a rate on fixed deposits, and the rate on fixed deposits deposited by commercial banks is not even a fixed rate, because it varies depending on the length of term for which you want to leave a deposit in any particular bank, so there are several rates of interest operating at any one time.

What the Bill which we have before us tries to do is to repeal what is known as the Usury Act, and I should like to make it clear that it is not intended to take the lid off the rate of interest so that people can charge whatever they like at any time that like, we have clearly set out as part of our economic policy that there should not be any increase in the mortgage lending rate, this rate is fixed at 8 per cent, and I have no intention in the foreseeable future to alter that rate because we have taken measures to ensure that there is an adequate amount of money available from the Mortgage Finance Corporation, and as long as this is so, nobody can put any pressure on us.

We are also discouraging of course lending money to foreign hotels and foreign apartment buildings; as a matter of fact the Banks themselves voluntarily agreed to restrict lending for hotel construction to Barbadians and Barbadian based interests. We do have a policy under Exchange Control where a firm brings in a certain amount of foreign investment capital, and we are in certain circumstances quite prepared to allow lending by the commercial Banks on a basis of priority up to 50% so that people bringing in \$2 million of hard currency we will allow \$4 million, and if they do not bring in any money they cannot borrow any money in Barbados. The Rate of Interest Act remained unchanged - I would like to say from 1754 about since I can only speak for the time I was alive and under the Queen's peace, which is a relatively short time - until 1958, and in 1958 the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited wanted to issue some debentures to Commonwealth Development Corporation and the Corporation would not lend them money at 6%. It is as simple as that, I do not want to go into that story or have any criticism of any former Government, but the Rate of Interest Act was changed in 1958 by the Amendment Act No. 26 of that year to allow foreign investors to lend at rates greater than 6%, and again this was changed from 6% to 8% by the Act of 1967 No. 62.

I explained, Mr. Speaker, that there are several rates of interest operating in an economy at any particular time, and we are setting up a central Bank which will be under the Ministry of Finance. The Governor of the central Bank will be in the same relationship to the Minister of Finance as the Governor of the Bank of England is vis-a-vis the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain, and the Governor of the Bank of Canada is in relation to the Minister of Finance of Canada, and therefore although the changes in the rate maybe promulgated by the central Bank, in truth and in fact the central Bank will naturally change the rate of interest from time to time to steady the economic position of the country, after the Bank has been given permission by the Minister of Finance, and what this Bill seeks to do is to allow the Minister of Finance from time to time to fix rates of interest for: various sectors of the economy, various activities, instead of having it as it is now under the Act of 1754 which by close arithmetic you can see is 216 years old. The economic scene of Barbados has altered since then. All we are doing here now is to remove the rigidity which the Statute Law has imposed upon the economy, and as far as I am concerned I like to see the 21/2% rate, of interest. I would like to see some big money in the West Indies where we can get more expansion, but you cannot have this rigidity in the rapidly changing economic conditions which exist today, and this really was one step towards the implementation of our proposals which I made since last year, that we should establish a central Bank which would be established by the 30th April, 1971.

5.55 p.m.

We have another Bill before us dealing with the International Monetary Fund and the membership of the International Monetary Fund, which is a very important matter and it is another step to the implementation of our proposal.

Now, the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament on the 10th June, 1969, declared that it was the policy of the Government to amend the Rate of Interest Act, and that is the purpose of my reason for moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, it is with some sadness that in 1970 we have to consider whether 220 years of economic policy have not proved outworn, or whether the policy of the fixed rate of interest which served Barbados for so long should not now be abandoned. I have thought about this matter a great deal. It seems to me that there is a lot of dishonesty in the way the Commercial Banks in Barbados present their case to Government. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is influenced by what they tell him. I hope the Prime Minister is not going to believe that the Banks will have to get money from abroad and

are, therefore, entitled to a higher rate of interest. If he says that, he will still be under the influence of the bad arguments put forward by them.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot trace any time in recent years in which advances by the Banks in Barbados exceeded the deposits. From the last report on banking statistics that I have before me, the loans and advances made by Commercial Banks in Barbados amounted to \$141 million and the deposits to \$175 million, and this has been so for years. The deposits have always exceeded the advances.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, according to law, the hon. member is not entitled to see the individual returns of the Bank loans and advances and deposits. The hon. member knows the reason for that. Two Banks are, however, in the position to have an excess. What I am allowed by law to present to the House is the Consolidated Returns. I should like to assure the hon. member that if he had an opportunity to see the individual returns of the Banks he would find that there are two Banks in which the loans and advances exceed deposits, but the overall picture is that there has always been an excess and it has been so since 1963.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has made a very cogent point, but I would like to refer him to the fact that there are efficient and inefficient firms. (Asides.) It is no point the hon. senior member for St. Andrew saying that some motor vehicle firms make profits and others do not make profits. The Banks, instead of using the argument that they are unable to attract deposits, should endeavour to make themselves more efficient. The money is indeed in Barbados. Under our Exchange Regulations we could prevent the Banks from sending money to the Sterling Area to be invested in Manchester Waterworks and so on. Barbadians could ask the Banks to invest money for them overseas rather than lending it out on mortgages in Barbados. This is really an argument in favour of Exchange Control rather than an argument for an alternate rate of interest. (Asides.) The Prime Minister says, "Why have exchange control in the Sterling Area?" I have money in Trinidad which I would like to get out, but I am unable to do so. Somebody assured me that he would send me a cheque. Of course, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew can explain how to recover certain things from Trinidad.

Sir, Barbados and St. Lucia share the same currency. I do not see any flight of money from Barbados, and I do not see any circumstance immediately threatening Barbados that would cause the flight of capital from this country. We need money for development in this country. I do not see the Banks lending money in Barbados for development purposes. Look at the returns which the Eastern Caribbean Authorities gave us. Look at the Schedule and its Annual Report and see what is happening. In the developing sectors of the economy, tourism apart, only 8% of the bank's money goes for manufacturing purposes; 16% goes towards tourism, and we know what happens with the distributive trade. I presume

that that takes care of the overdrafts of the merchants in Bridgetown.

Mr. Speaker, I have not had time to consider the document which has been laid before me, but the distributive trades have a very small long-term advance. It means that the Banks in Barbados are not lending money for developing Barbados, as far as we can see here. 6.05 p.m.

That argument in itself I have very grave doubts about. I am glad to hear the Prime Minister's assurance about suggesting to the Banks, because he can only be suggesting to them. For example, I suppose that any such control used to control the loans of money to foreign hotels and apartment builders is a suggestion to the Banks that they do not do this unless they bring in money, but how much money is in fact being lent? 16 per cent of the Banks' advances are absorbed by tourism. How much of that is being lent directly to assist Barbadians to expand and build hotels? It may be a little more now, but it was certainly not so much in the past, and if the Prime Minister thinks that mortgage money or money charged on loans is not being lent at more than 8 per cent, I would be glad if he would look at personal loans. It is insisted by the Ministry of Finance that you cannot lend out money on mortgage at more than 8 per cent. All that happens is that the Banks call them personal loans and you carry in your papers to get the loans, and you pay month to month interest. You carry in your papers and they put down personal loans and they charge 9 per cent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I can assure the hon. member that if any member of the public comes and informs us that the Banks are charging more than 8 per cent on mortgage, we would take action; but we cannot play detectives. I have a letter here written to Barclays Bank on my instructions by the Financial Secretary and the letter reads as follows

"Sir,

It is understood that Barclays Bank has recently commenced a Mortgage Loan Scheme under which loans are being granted at rates in excess of 8 per cent.

In moving the second reading in Parliament of the Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act, 1754, the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance emphasised that the provisions of the Rate of Interest (Amendment) Act, 1967, did not and was not to affect mortgages.

I am directed to inform you that the Hon. Prime Minister does not approve the making of mortgage loans at rates in excess of 8 per cent." All we need is the information and we will take action. (Asides.) I understand from the Minister here that he has paid 9 1/2 per cent. If he is a Minister and is doing that, he should know better.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It was the only way I could get the loan.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the Bank would not give you a mortgage on your property; what they do is to hold the title deeds as security for the advance of a loan which they give you at 9 1/2 per cent. They call it a personal loan or demand note. They will give you this demand note for twenty years, but they give you an understanding that it is for ten, fifteen or twenty years. This is a gentleman's agreement, but they call it a demand note, or a sort of equitable mortgage.

Mr. ADAMS:

That perhaps is the reason why personal loans have now reached \$26 million, where the loans can be distributed as trades 22 per cent, tourism 23 per cent, agriculture \$14 million and manufacture \$11 million. The reason for this enormous expansion in personal loans, which I believe is unlikely to be matched in the figures of commercial Banks in the United Kingdom or United States, is because they want to charge this to people who only have the security of land, and I do not see how you are going to stop Banks from making 'personal loans if they are prepared to accept the security of land which many Banks in the United Kingdom are not so willing to do by any means as they do here. They are going to charge you a personal loan rate of interest as against your land and restriction of mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go into matters that are sub judice, but it is also a fact that the Bank of Nova Scotia has been sued by a barrister who objected to having to pay a 2 per cent finding fee for mortgage. I cannot go into this because this is a matter for the Magistrate to decide and for the Divisional Court to decide. I can refer to another matter. I belong to the Board of the Barbados Labour Party and we have a mortgage loan on our property, and the same Bank of Nova Scotia though we borrowed the money many years ago at 8 per cent, has purported to charge 9 1/2 per cent on our loan, and at the moment, our solicitors have it in hand to enforce the penalty, and it will be a welcome addition to the Barbados Labour Party's treasury and the Government treasury, because the Government will get half and the mortgagees will get half. I have just mentioned these things, because it is nothing more flagrant than the deposit of title deeds, a signature at a particular percentage, no provision for further advances, and then the raising of the rate of interest. I am surprised that a country, that operates under laws, and where lawyers cannot be bought and sold, can do something so terribly foolish against the advice of good counsel. If the Prime Minister thinks that all mortgage money is passed at 8 percent, I can inform

him that the Banks are discovering many ways of subverting it, and one of the ordinary straightforward ones is that you borrow money from the Bank, threaten the Bank with the Rate of Interest Act and they tell you to pay the money back. They bill you for the money right away. This can happen with the greatest ease. You will remember the case of Mr. Crawford and the trouble he had when he tried to put pressure on his tenant and foreign Banks in favour of foreign persons here offering to foreclose his mortgages at a second's notice.

The Rate of Interest Act is one effective means of controlling them; you cannot control them by competition. The Government of Barbados cannot control them by competition as the Prime Minister suggested you can control mortgage loans, because the Mortgage Finance Development Act provides for mortgage loans, and that Act only lends \$30,000. Many people who want to build a house today need more than \$30,000. It is an unfortunate commentary of building costs in Barbados. From the time of inception the Mortgage Finance Development Act has been chasing just a little away behind the prices that builders are charging to the sort of person who qualifies under the Act. It is useless to tell people that they can borrow \$30,000 at 8 per cent because to get the \$30,000 they may have to pay down, the \$2,000 or \$3,000 they may have in hand as an integral part of qualifying to borrow the money. If it is really wished to have competition with the Bank to keep its rate of interest on mortgage by competition, you must raise the limit under the Mortgage Finance Development Act. If the Government cannot afford to lend more, then the Act will be ineffective, I dare say that it will not be very long now before the Minister of Finance will give us an interim report on the amounts of money lent out by the Government Corporation, but I myself believe that many people have to worry more about how to get the money out of the Bank without paying too much money, than about going to the Government to borrow the money.

6.15 p.m.

The Act, as the Prime Minister quite correctly said, does away with a rate of interest altogether, and for that reason, I am not opposing it in this form because as I understand it, it takes away from the Statute Book and puts in the hands of the Minister of Finance - and as I said earlier today in respect of security you have to ignore personalities and ensure that the office of Minister of Finance would administer the prescription of a rate of interest in the interest of the people of Barbados. At least the Act will not be there for the Ministers of Finance to shelter behind, but its language seems to me to be a little loose in places, and as I read this Act I think we have to look entirely to the Minister of Finance in the future, call on him, blame him or praise him for the supply of money at rates that either increase or fall below expectation. I see that section 3 deals with the maximum rate of interest on contracts, and I am glad to see that what we are complaining about here in respect of personal loans, that that at least is covered by section 3 (1) (b), and I would particularly ask the Minister of Finance to bear in mind what he had heard publicly in my speeches and privately and oil points of order from members of this side, that the Banks are using the device of the personal loan to charge interest for real estate. He can prescribe 8% for real estate, and when that happens I am happy to think of the large number of hon. members who by their asides or points of order made it clear that they will be charged 9 1/2% when the Act only provides for 8%.

If there is one point I would criticise in the Act as set out here is the penalties. The penalty on any contract made in contravention of sub-section (1) of section 3 being that such contract shall be void and may not be sued on or enforced in any court in Barbados or by any process of any such court is not a stiff enough penalty. How does that possibly help you for a personal loan which the Bank holds your title deeds as security, and if you refuse to pay the 9 1/2% interest the Bank may hold on to your title deeds, and that can embarrass you. Suppose you borrow \$10,000 from the Bank, the prescribed rate is 8% and they ask you for your title deeds to secure the \$10,000; they then proceed to charge you 10%, but this Act says that any contract made in contravention of the particular subsection shall be void and may not be sued on or enforced in any court in Barbados. That means you keep the \$10,000, but if you want your title deeds back the Act says that you can not be made to pay the \$10,000 if they charge you more than the prescribed rate, so it follows that you can contest it through the courts, obtaining a new title and leaving the Bank with a mere piece of paper. I know that this will be said to be a dishonest act, but if the law of Barbados permits me to do such I shall do it, and I shall certainly advise my clients to do the same, because I like to abide by the law. Do you know what happens if you charge more than 8% on a loan? The person who lends you the money has to pay you three times the amount of money he loaned. If you borrow \$10,000 from Barclays Bank Trust Company, and they charge you more than 8% they have to pay \$15,000 to the Treasury of this Island and pay you \$15,000; three times the principle sum is forfeited, half to you and half to Government, and all that they can do is from your half take out whatever they say is owing and give you the balance. That is here in the Act, and honesty or dishonesty go out through the window when you are dealing with matters of this sort. This law is going to say a Bank is so dishonest in charging you more than the prescribed rate of interest, and they are going to say that the Bank is not going to get its principal or forfeit its right to collect its principal; that is what the Bank is saying. I do not believe the Minister would introduce a dishonest law in this House, but I was talking about the language of the Act. 6.25 p.m.

I am not familiar with the source of the language, but I am referring to the particular sections that appear here. You will have to produce all bills of exchange, and that will take us back to the unique language in 1754. I hope that the lawyers, who succeed the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and myself in practising at the Courts in a year's time, will have a happy hunting ground under Section 3. I cannot foresee the future. (Asides.) I hope that I will so conduct myself as never to run foul of any magistrate.

Now, Sections 3, 4 and 5 are directive Sections. Section 6 has permissive as well as prescriptive power granted to the Minister. With regard to Section 7, when you are dealing with millions of dollars, are you going to fine a Bank \$2,500? I would suggest that the penalty Clause should follow what was set out in the Act of 1754. A penalty along those lines would form something fair and realistic, and you would make money for the Treasury. Half of the money should be paid to the Treasury and half should be paid to the person offended. Even in dog-licence cases the person who reports the matter gets half of the fine imposed on the owner. There is a list stuck up in the Chief Justice's Court showing what portion of fees should be paid to people who report certain cases. Are you going to charge a Bank \$2,500 for charging

10% on a loan of \$1 million? That would be a joke; the Bank could pay that every week and still make a profit. These penalties are not realistic at the present moment.

Before I take my seat, I want, to some extent, to agree with the Prime Minister in what he said about the difficulties in relation to the industrial economies of England, the U. S. A., Canada and poor Barbados. I do not know what is causing the present rise in the U. S. A. Manufacturing Industries are down and the cost of money is going up; in the U. S. A. Cheap money in an inflationary situation cannot be used as an argument to explain the manufacturing situation in England. There is sluggishness in productivity and at the same time there is inflation. You cannot carry up prices to the point where people are getting almost nothing for the money they spend.

However, Barbados is not in the same position as the United States or Great Britain. Barbados can take a lot more inflationary pressure than the United States or Great Britain ever could. For instance, wages could be raised here in circumstances where something similar would cause a desperate wage strike in the United Kingdom. This is a particular benefit of living in a small Island that imports most of its consumer goods, but for the past few years we have seen a situation where conditions in the United States and in the United Kingdom have drawn us along the same road; Sometimes we get inflation here merely because there is inflation abroad. We have had the argument from the Prime Minister that when wages are increased, the prices of goods must increase.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have never used an argument like that. I do not think that the increase of wages can induce inflation in Barbados, because we do not produce most of the goods we have to buy.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I thought that the only person to raise that argument in here was myself. I agree with what the Prime Minister has said; therefore, when we increase the salaries of civil servants it should not increase inflation, because they do not produce anything which is paid for. They produce something and they are paid something. The very Civil Establishment Order which we have just passed today will produce nothing more than was produced before. The sort of inflationary pressure that would swamp England would not hurt Barbados. I will have to look at the Debates to see whether that argument was in the Prime Minister's mind when he made the statement years ago.

Mr. Speaker, what I know is that the same goods imported by agents in Barbados will cost more in Barbados than they will cost in the Leeward and Windward Islands. Transshipment causes people to pay

more for goods and price controls are not extended to cover certain items. (Asides.)

Have you ever tried to buy a motor-car tyre, a bonnet cap, or an exhaust pipe? The price of a secondhand car has gone down to such an extent as to give the car dealers a better profit margin. The Aerospace Programme in the United States has contracted. I do not have the benefit of the advice that surrounds the Prime Minister, and I do not know what the Pundits are saying. 6.35p.m.

I only know that Barbados is suffering. We cannot afford high rates. I do not see anything in the barbadian economy that calls for a 9 1/2 percent rate of interest on personal loans. People build blocks of flats. It is true that the block of flats will primarily benefit those who build them, and the building is giving employment and presumably is meeting a housing need. I cannot see why the rate should be 9 1/2 per cent on \$120,000 or however much it is, and I have heard nothing today in what the Prime Minister has said other than that he wants to have a more flexible rate of interest that would permit the Minister of Finance to accommodate the Banks without having to come.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I have never said any such thing. I made it clear in my introductory remarks that I thought it was a hangover from colonialism for the bank rates to be affected by the economic mood and fiscal conditions in the United Kingdom or in any other metropolitan country and that we are introducing a Central Bank here and it is necessary for the Minister of Finance to take a firmer control over rates. I am not accommodating any Banks. If you think I am accommodating the Banks, wait until this is passed and see how much accommodation they will get. I do not take advice from the Banks; I only issue instructions from time to time.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Prime Minister made reference to the Banks saying they will no longer be able to say they have to get money from overseas and that they have to pay for additional money from overseas. What I was saying is that I could not see anything in the speech other than the accommodating arguments of the Bank. Maybe the Minister of Finance has said that he wants to accommodate the Banks or the Barbados Light and Power, but I cannot see any immediate purpose, and nothing I have heard suggests that steps are going to be made for example to bring the rate of interest back to 6 per cent which would not accommodate the Banks very greatly. I have heard nothing about that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The hon. member knows that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer changes the rate of interest, you wake up one morning or hear it in the 12 o'clock news from the B. B. C. You do not telegraph your

intentions in advance; so how can he expect me to make a statement. I could not be dishonest to make that kind of statement. What I would say is that they are not going to get more on the mortgage rate than 8 per cent which will necessarily lead to a matter of adjustments invariably in a downward direction in some of the interest rates, but I am not going to forecast or telegraph my intention to the Banks, The hon. member knows better and I am surprised at him making a statement like that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance made a point that he will be taking this whole matter into his hands more firmly than before. I want him to make sure that he is aware of every chicken that he has put out to fly around. He has assured us that there is no question of accommodating the Banks, but that inevitably with this 8 per cent mortgage rate certain adjustments to other interest rates will be made in a downward direction. I hope I have not misquoted his statement of a moment ago. I want to see exactly how the Banks will react if there are downward adjustments, because if any adjustments made by the Minister of Finance do not suit them at the present time, you can reasonably anticipate that they will reduce the deposit rates to people who have money on fixed deposit and say that the Minister of Finance is to blame. One can reasonably say they can do that. If the Minister of Finance is taking all this on his back, so be it. I hope the Act is good enough finally to allow him to do all that.

On the question of the Central Bank, I presume I will have an opportunity to hear about that in the debate on the International Monetary Fund. As I said to the Leader of the House earlier, I do not see how you are going to join the International Monetary Fund in a currency which you share with six or seven countries. I will have to have that explained in the fullness of time. I notice there is going to be a Central Bank whose Governor will stand in relationship to the Ministry of Finance as the Bank of England stands towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I remember that the Governor of the Bank of England in the election held a few months ago in Great Britain canvassed very actively against the Government which they appointed and Lord Cromer had a very deal to say about the Chancellor of the Exchequer's lack of understanding and of Mr. Harold Wilson's policy, but we are confident that in Barbados someone will be found so to administer the affairs of the Central Bank as not to have to raise his voice to those who put him, there. While I hold no brief for Lord Cromer - I believe he is a vagabond to behave the way he did - I would not be surprised if he had spoken to his friends in the Treasury to publish bad economic statistics in the election week as well; but at least it is refreshing to think that there is a country where you can appoint somebody in the way of slipping in a yard fowl, but not such a yard fowl that picks day or night.

Mr. Speaker, subject to those few brief remarks and subject to the fact that we in the Opposition are regarding this Bill as placing the whole interest rate question squarely on the back of the Minister of Finance, and anything that goes wrong, let him carry, as he has said he will carry, we await to let this Act pass and await the prescriptions and orders and fixings made by the Minister of Finance to pass final judgment on economic policy in respect of banking and banking matters.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEAR WOOD in the Chair.

Clause 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed. 6.45 p.m.

Clause 6 was called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, beg to move that clause 7 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, it is meaningless to fine anybody \$500 for lending money in excess of the prescribed rate of interest. I would multiply those figures by ten, making them \$5,000 and \$25,000. I beg to move that the figure of \$500 be deleted and that \$5,000 be substituted therefor in Clause 7 (1) (a), and that Clause 7 (1) (b) the figure of \$2,500 be deleted and \$25,000 be substituted therefor.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 7 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 8 was called.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, when is it expected to come into force?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

As soon as the Senate passes it.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 9 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the figure 8 be deleted and the figure 9 be substituted therefor.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 9 as amended stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill with amendments in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 7 Is the next Order of the day, and it is the second reading of a Bill to provide for the amendment or revocation of Or in Council, standing in the name of the Hon. of the House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I am asking leave for the Hon. Prime Minister to take charge of that Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no objection, leave will be granted; there being no objection, leave is granted.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of this BUI set out very fully why this Bill has been brought to the House, I think I should inform the House and the nation why I find it necessary and it is that when we pass certain fiscal measures - this House actually passed legislation increasing certain landing fees, and there are few of the airlines who have complied, because the authority to make landing fees come under the Colonial Navigation Act Order in Council. There was no pressing need to do it until we had completed all our studies but we are losing a considerable amount of revenue, and I am very glad to say that the agents of one airline, Air France, have told their principals that they intend to comply with the laws of Barbados, and they have paid in their increased landing fees but some of the airlines are

applying to IATA, and we have to comedown very heavily on them. It is a very simple Act, and the only thing which is affected is the Colonial Air Navigation Order and all other Colonial Orders which have applied to Barbados by universal or specific application. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

6. 55 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the separate Motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, The Bill was read a third time and passed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until Friday this at 3.00 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the the sitting accordingly. 7.00 p.m. On resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister -

1. Were the arrangements made for the invigilation of the Barbados Scholarships Examination this year satisfactory to the candidates participating?

2. Were any of the scripts written by any of the Scholarship And Advanced Level candidates NOT sent on to Cambridge University and as a result some of the candidates were marked ABSENT in at least one subject?

3. In the light of No. 2 above can the Barbados Scholarship Awards for 1970 be legally justified, if all the work of all the candidates was, not corrected?

4. Will Government consider compensating; the wards or parents of those candidates whose papers were not sent up to Cambridge University and who thereby had the expense of keeping their children at school for two years in a sixth form y4th no resulting qualification?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is it a fact that the Ordinary Level French Oral examination Mark Sheet and Report, fox at least one school, in this year's Cambridge University Examination were lost and as a result the candidates of this school have experienced considerable delay in receiving or have not received any results in French?

2. What attempt has been made by the Ministry of Education to find these papers? And if they have been found, have they been dispatched to Cambridge University or have they been quietly suppressed?

3. If the answer is that they have been dispatched to Cambridge University, will the Minister give the date and any relevant postal information which should be in the Ministry's possession to help in tracing same if lost in transit? If they have been suppressed why has the guilty not been brought to justice?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

What are the academic qualifications, or what certificates or diplomas are held by those persons attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital whose duties are of a dietary nature?

2. Is it a fact that Government accords the distinction "dietitian" to persons who have received their training either in Britain or Canada and not to persons trained in the U. S. A. ?

3. What, if any, has been Government's experience with persons trained in the United States of America and serving in Government Departments and performing such functions that dietitians perform?

4. How many dietitians have been attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital kitchen Department for the period 1st August, 1969 to 30th September, 1970 inclusive?

5. Have persons who are "qualified" dietitians, been employed by Government as Catering Officers or Supervisors during the period mentioned at No. 4 above?

6. How many such persons have quit the job?

7. Is Government aware that a dietitian, trained in Britain, and attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, has been ably assisted in her work by a refresher course from a United States School of Dietetics which has had the distinction of offering Barbados a number of efficient dietitians?

8. Is Government aware that therapeutic dieting, the most essential characteristic in Hospital dieting, is absent from the dietary attention given at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and should be corrected without delay?

9. Would Government seek advice on No. 8, avoiding wherever possible, the body of persons at present constituting World Health Organisation being responsible for such matters in the Commonwealth Caribbean?

10. If the answer to No. 9 is in the negative, will the Minister please state why?

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS the proper functioning of the Water Works Department at all levels is of very vital importance to the National interest

BE IT RESOLVED that Government be urged to call for an immediate investigation, inter alia, into the following matters:

- (a) The deployment of staff for duties other than departmental;
- (b) "The causing of unnecessary hardships to householders requiring water services by the above mentioned department refusing to accept deposits when tendered;
- (c) The unnecessary discrimination against workers because of their choice of working clothes;
- (d) The refusal to employ labourers because of their shown preference for Afro as against English or European hairstyles;
- (e) The breakdown of discipline at every level;
- (f) The extent plumbing and office staff, amongst others are working under fear;
- (g) The general dissatisfaction amongst all categories of workers employed by the above mentioned department.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

We will now revert to Government Business. Will the Hon. Leader of the House indicate what he proposes to proceed with?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 38

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, a Bill entitled an Act to enable Barbados to become a member of the International Monetary Fund and a Participant in its Special Drawing Account was circulated to hon. members and given its first reading yesterday, and I should like to proceed with its second reading today.

I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 38.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND BILL, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Item stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Finance, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill which would make such provision as is necessary to enable Barbados to become a member of the International Monetary Fund.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill the object of which is to authorise the signature to the agreement which would make this country a member of the International Monetary Fund, I should like to give a very short explanation because it is not a matter which is popularly known. I refer to the intention of the International Monetary Fund, when it was set up, the reason why it was set up, and why Barbados should become a member.

Now, several of the Western democratic countries met at a place called Bretton Woods in the United States of America, I think largely because of the writing and prompting of Professor John Maynard Keynes on the subject of International liquidity and the desire to avert the kind of fluctuations which were rather disastrous indeed during the period of the depression in 1929 and at the outbreak of World War II. They reached agreement on the establishment of two main institutions: one is the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is now known as the I. B. R. D., and the other is the

establishment of a Monetary Management associated and known as the International Monetary Fund. Since then two off-shoots have been created The International Finance Corporation and the International Development Association which are specifically authorised to provide soft loans for developing countries. 3.10 p.m.

Membership of the World Bank and membership of the International Monetary Fund is open to any sovereign-independent-country. Therefore Barbados could not have been a member of the World Bank or the IMF before 1966, but by association with the United Kingdom, had we qualified under the provisions of the International Development Association, we may have been able to benefit from the funds which were available under the IDA. I said we may have been advisedly, because we were caught in this position and we are still in the position where to qualify for assistance under the International Development Association, we must have a minimum population, you must have a national income which is not past a certain amount and our income is far above that level, and furthermore the IDA does not go in for projects which are of a development nature; they like things like hydrodams or large projects of hydro-electric operations and matters of that kind. That is one of the matters which prompted the Government of Barbados to agitate for the establishment of the Caribbean Development Bank, because we found there was a long queue of petitioners who were qualified lining up for assistance and soft loan assistance under the IDA, and furthermore that in many respects most of the Caribbean countries did not have a sufficiently low income. We were not below that level of subsistence within which the IDA or the International Development Association considered it fitting that loans could be made available.

If I may come back to the International Monetary Fund, the IMF is not a Bank. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is one off-shoot, one of the main branches of the Bretton Woods Agreement, and it is just what it says, a Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and its terms are usually not far below those which are the prevailing market rates of interest. The IDA on the other hand does make many capital amounts available at more favourable rates of interest when you can get them; but the fund itself is a monetary device for stabilising world currency, and the members contribute to the fund by "way of their subscriptions, and each country has a quota. The quota is not a quota in the sense that you are entitled to a certain amount of money. The amount of subscriptions or the quota subscription is what you are expected to contribute, but the benefit of drawing from the fund is that to these days of international trade when we are so much dependent on international trade, the members of the International Monetary Fund can call upon the fund to assist them with foreign currency when the international liquidity situation demands.

I am sorry I have to use a lot of shorthand terms, but I think that members of the House of Assembly are people who should be interested in matters of general interest, general knowledge of international concern and have some kind of acquaintance with the workings of the International Monetary Fund or International Laws, and therefore I cannot at this juncture pause to explain the economic shorthand I may have to employ from time to time.

The main object of the fund, as I said before was to assist countries in coping with their short term foreign currency difficulties. That would sum up the the whole situation In a nutshell. The purpose of the fund is not to make loans available for development or to assist countries with carrying out development programmes or anything of that kind; so in that respect there could be no question of any duplication of effort or contribution or subscription when one joins the fund and still may belong to institutions such as the Inter American Development Bank and the Caribbean Regional Development Bank. The functions of the two things are separate and distinct in the same way that the functions of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are quite separate and distinct from the IMF. All that happens is that both of these things were discussed at Bretton Woods. It was the first opportunity after the outbreak of war which coincided with the World wide depression that the countries of the Western world and as members of the sterling area we do belong to this financial grouping - had had an opportunity to discuss solutions to the problems of international liquidity, the ability of one country to pay for goods which it may be purchasing from other countries and to assist its international trade over a given period of time without actually becoming bankrupt.

The fund therefore is there as a monetary device; it is not a Bank; it is not a source of development financing. There are other institutions which deal with this. Now when the fund makes foreign currency available, and I say "foreign currency" because a country which is managing its own money does not have any problem over its local currency.....,

I was horrified shortly after I left my home in 1940 to discover that the Legislature in Barbados was making a donation from the total amount of the Hurricane Emergency Fund to the United Kingdom to assist them in the prosecution of the war. My recollection is that the Hurricane Emergency Fund which does not exist any more - it was totally depleted at the time - stood at the figure of 200,000 or close to \$1 million, and all this money was taken up out of the Treasury and given to the United Kingdom to assist in the prosecution of the war. The war at that time was costing the United Kingdom 14 million a day; so if you divide a day into fourteen waking hours, it was costing the United Kingdom - 1 million a hour; so the . 200,000 which Barbados sent to the United Kingdom helped to prosecute the war for one - fifth of that time which is twelve minutes. So we paid for twelve minutes of World War II.

The reason why I mentioned this is because it depleted some of the resources of the Barbados Treasury; it depleted all that was there for the Hurricane Emergency Fund, but it did not assist the United Kingdom because that is one thing the United Kingdom did not need during the war it was waging. What they needed during the war was manpower and materials and the application of manpower to the materials to produce the necessary foodstuffs and munitions that were required, because a country which has a Central Bank and manages its own currency, if it needs money prints money It is as simple as that, and that is why you have inflation in some of the countries in South

America, because when they need money, instead of raising more taxes or getting more production out of the country, they go and print more money, and all that happens is that there is more money in circulation than there are goods and services coming forward; so it creates an inflationary spiral. I mention this for a particular reason, because the International Monetary Fund does not give you local currency. A country is supposed to manage its currency in such a way that if it needs currency which is local currency, it can either get more production or it can increase the fiduciary issue in the Central Bank of that country. 3.20p.m.

At this time every year in the United Kingdom the balance sheet of the Bank of England will show larger sums than for the remainder of the year, so Your Honour will find that the fiduciary issue, the amount of money which is not backed by specie in the vaults of the Bank of England is increased specifically in November and early December between 25 million and 35 million or between \$130 million to \$145 million, and the reason why that is done is because there is more of a demand at this time of the year for actual currency to pay for the goods which people buy. People buy more goods during December than they buy during any month of the year, because they buy Christmas gifts in December, and so more money has to be in circulation, but money in this sense means notes which people will accept, Bank of England notes, and they print more, so when they need more money they print more notes.

During the war the Legislature of this Island passed large sums of money to send to England, and it was particularly wicked for Barbados to take up taxpayers' money and give to the United Kingdom when the United Kingdom needed money least of all. Twenty efficient pilots or navigators were far more valuable to the United Kingdom than the taxpayers' money, or even the old moth-eaten destroyers that President Roosevelt made available, altogether were not worth 2,000. All of this is to illustrate that the International Monetary Fund is not really concerned about supplying money in a country's own currency, and frequently - I would say invariably the currency of country A is not acceptable in country B, and there is one normal means of exchange which is acceptable, unfortunately, and that is gold. All the contributions which are made to the IMF are made in terms of gold specie, although they will accept something with which gold can be readily bought and the value of gold today is US\$35 for one ounce of gold, and so in terms of that you will see the amount of gold when we say that our contribution to the IMF is US\$1 million. If we had in this country in the vaults of the Treasury the equivalent amount, divided by 35, ounces of gold, we could deposit that with the IMF as our immediate contribution under our quota which is about \$30 million.

The IMF not very long ago established a scheme for special drawing rights, and the member countries met with difficulties over international issues, when countries had, due to adverse balance of payment conditions or for other reasons, difficulty in finding gold or specie or acceptable measures of value or means of exchange to pay their debts, and this spreading then of the special drawing rights over and above what they are entitled to draw from the Fund will entitle you to call upon the Fund to contribute towards the amelioration of these temporary difficulties.

I do not know if there is much more I can explain about joining the IMF. First of all, I should like to say that you can belong to the IMF without joining the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, although they both stemmed from the same thing, they both were conceived about the same time, and they operate as two arms, as it were, of International Monetary payments. You cannot belong to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development unless you belong to the IMF but you do not have to join the International Bank in order to join the IMF; the reason why I say that is that all of these things call for a lot of thought, and I explained the difficulties that countries who are members of the Bank have had in qualifying for loans from the Bank, whether from the Bank itself, the International Finance Corporation, or from the International Development Association. There is no point in paying subscriptions to an institution unless that institution is going to be of some benefit, and it is for that reason that we have made the decision not to join the IBRD or the World Bank, because there may be another \$2 million of subscription without benefits commensurate with the amount of subscription we have to pay.

Quite apart from that, we have access to two other institutions which this Legislature has sanctioned already which did not exist in 1945. Neither one of them existed, as far as I can remember, in 1961; the first one, the Inter-American Development Bank, as far as I can remember, was not instituted until 1963 although the Alliance for Progress was promulgated some time in 1961, and the other one did not come until last year, and that was the Caribbean Regional Development Bank, so the considerations which may have motivated us to join the World Bank in 1960 or 1961 if we were Independent would not be the same as in the case of the Inter-American Development Bank which has a membership of 23 or 24 countries, or in the case of the Caribbean Development Bank whose membership is limited to 15 or 16. The World Bank has competition from probably 85 member countries, and some of them have standards of living and per capita income far below what we have here in Barbados, so I should like to make it clear that the Government of Barbados has no present intention, does not see any good and proper reason why Barbados should join the World Bank, because we would merely be paying out money and not getting any benefits in turn which would be commensurate with the contribution we would be called upon to make.

IMF on the other hand is a different kettle of fish altogether, because as long as we are involved in world trade, as long as we have to pay for imports and receive money for our exports, international liquidity is of the utmost importance to us. Our balance of payments difficulties have not arisen yet largely because of the invisible imports in the form of tourism which assist us in our balance of payments. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we are assisted by the remittance we receive from those Barbadians who have emigrated to the United Kingdom and North America. We have not yet run into serious balance of payment

difficulties. If we were to run into such difficulties in Barbados, the first thing we would have to do is to go back to the position, in which we were, in the 1950's and restrict the importation of certain goods from hard currency areas. We have not had to restrict the importation of goods from hard currency areas because our International liquidity is fairly sound. Of course, this is largely, if not entirely, due to the tourist trade and the remittance that we receive from abroad.

Mr. Speaker, there is a fantastic gap in the balance of trade and the Barbados National Accounts. I cannot remember the precise figure with regard to the balance of trade, but I know that imports exceed our exports. I think the figure is between \$67 million to \$90 million. (Mr. St. JOHN: It is \$84 million.) The hon. member says that it is \$84 million, and I will accept that. There is a fantastic discrepancy in our balance of payments figures, but when it comes to the balance of trade figures the deficit of the trade accounts is offset by the invisible imports which we get from the tourist trade and the remittance we receive from abroad. I made a slight mistake in connection with this matter a few moments ago, and I should like the Reporters to correct it.

Now, as long as we continue to go in for conspicuous consumption of certain goods and follow the standards enjoyed by people who are living in countries with wealthier economies such as North America, we will be going in the wrong direction. We have to keep a close watch on our balance of payments position, if we do not want to call somebody to rescue us from our financial difficulties. Anyway, we should not feel ashamed if we should run into balance of payment difficulties. The United States had balance of payment difficulties last year. The United Kingdom also experienced balance of payment difficulties, and for five or six years they had been under stress and strain. The Bank of International Settlement and the International Monetary Fund have saved the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In a small open economy like that of Barbados, I respectfully submit that we have even greater need for an institution of this nature.

I beg to move the second reading of the Bill. Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to thievery interesting dissertation by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in which he gave his justification for spending \$1 million in joining the International Monetary Fund. I notice on this occasion he does not holdout that the fact of joining means that Barbados will be able to get loans for development capital with soft rates of interest.

Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is well sat out in the Articles of Agreement, but it is my submission

that at the present moment we are putting the cart before the horse, because balance of payment difficulties could never arise in a situation like ours where we are part of the currency unit. The reason why the Minister of Finance has brought this Bill before the Central Bank Act is that he wants to use it as an excuse for disengaging himself from the Currency Unit of the Windward and Leeward Islands, and he knows it is not in the interest of the economy of Barbados for him to do so. All of the books on monetary economies will tell him that where you have a Currency Unit which is backed to the extent of 100 per cent, it means that no more currency can be printed without proper backing. The Minister of Finance knows that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish the hon. member would refrain from saying that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance knows this and that. He is talking pure, unadulterated nonsense.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, that is not a point of order; make him sit down. The Hon. Prime Minister must withdraw that remark; I call on him to withdraw it, and I call on Mr. Speaker to call on him to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not regard the expression "unadulterated nonsense" as being unparliamentary, and it does not conflict with our Standing Orders. On the other hand, it was not a point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I am on my feet, and the Prime Minister cannot speak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am also on my feet. I have ruled that the hon. senior member for St. John did not make a point of order. He has risen again on a point of order, and I must hear him to see whether it is a point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the hon. member is not entitled in a debate to make statements which he knows to be absolutely incorrect. I will go further and say that his remarks are nonsensical.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, how could that be a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has made his point.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, this is utter and absolute nonsense in here. I am making a speech; the hon. member gets up on a point of order; Your Honour rules that it is not a point of order, and I cannot see how Your Honour can sit down and allow the Prime Minister to keep getting up on a point of order. Your Honour ruled that it is not a point of order, and I have not made any speech subsequent to that; It is obvious that the smallest child without an iota of commonsense would know that the Prime Minister should not be allowed to speak at this stage. 3.40 p.m.

I charge - and the Hon. Prime Minister should know because he is Minister of Finance - that if you are part of a currency union in which you do not issue your currency, you have no powers to issue fiduciary issues, and you cannot have balance of payments in the same manner as you have in the United Kingdom. It is a completely different thing because of the fact..... (Asides.) Don't tell me what I do not know. I do not know about corruption.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members not addressing the Chair must observe the Standing Orders.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, you are either going to preside or we will breakup the House today. I call on you to deal with the hon. member for persistently breaking the Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, if my conduct to here at anytime was like the Prime Minister's conduct today, you

would put me outside. I call on you to speak to him.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have called on all members to observe the Standing Orders.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I call on you to deal with him under the Standing Orders.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to ask the hon. member to stop spitting across the table. The hon. member is frothing and spitting over me. I will ask you to ask the hon. member to stop frothing at the mouth and spitting on me.

Mr. HINDS:

It is only the spittle of lunatics that affect other people.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order. Mr. HINDS The hon. member is not a lunatic.

Mr.; SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member proceed with his speech. -

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am going to proceed, but I want to proceed in the same manner as any other hon. member. When the Prime Minister was speaking, I sat down. While I am speaking he should do the same. Your Honour, people have to be strong if they are holding certain positions. This is the fifth time the hon. member has interrupted me and I call on Your Honour in accordance with the Standing Orders to deal with him. Now he has done it the sixth time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member proceed in silence.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Not if you are not going to rule.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have ruled that the hon. member may proceed. (Asides.)

Mr. St. JOHN:

I rise on a point of order to point out that the hon. member has eight times broken the Standing Orders in your face and you have done nothing about it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am only going to proceed on the one assumption that if the Standing Order is broken once more you will deal with him.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I hope hon. members realise that there is no question of terrifying or intimidating me. But let all hon. members observe all the relevant Standing Orders.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Not all. Call on the Prime Minister to observe the relevant Standing Orders. You have to do it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I said all hon. members.

Mr. St. JOHN:

As the Hon. Prime Minister knows, he is trying to use the joining of the International Monetary Fund as an excuse to disengage himself from the Eastern Caribbean Currency union, which he has been advised by competent economists, is a lunatic action in the context of Caribbean integration, and that what you do not want now is multiplication of further currency units; you want contraction of currency units. The hon. member should know that, and that is the stand of the Barbados Labour Party. It is nonsense to suggest that today in Barbados without its own Central Bank we can have balance of payment problems in the same sense as any other country with a Central Bank, You can trick them, but you cannot trick me.

Anyone reading Article I of the Agreement will see that the purposes of the International Monetary Fund are:

"To promote international monetary co-operation through a permanent institution which provides the machinery for consultation and collaboration on international monetary problems.

"To facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, and to contribute thereby to the pro motion and maintenance of high levels of employment and real income and to the development of the productive resources of all members as primary objectives of economic policy.

"To promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members, and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation. "

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would just like to find out.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of elucidation. I would like to know from what the hon. member is reading.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am not giving way, I have quoted a document; it is part of a document. The hon. member can. only elucidate his speech. I am asking Your Honour to rule.

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I rule that both hon. members shall sit.

Mr. St. JOHN and the Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I however rule that a member is entitled by virtue of Standing Order No. 26 (16) if he has spoken on a question, to be heard to offer explanation of some material part of his speech, and a member is entitled to rise on a point of explanation or a point of elucidation under Standing Order No. 28 (b) to elucidate some matter raised by that member in the course of his speech.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Your Honour, I was quoting the Articles of Agreement. I was not quoting any speech; so do not let us bring these specious interpretations of the Rules to here.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order,...

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I was saying.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER rose and both hon. members sat.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair. The Hon. Prime Minister rose and said "On a point of order"....

Mr. HINDS:

We are not concerned how you feel brother.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Prime Minister rose and said "on a point of order. The hon. member may make the point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

What I got up to ask is document the hon. member is quoting from. (Interruptions)

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, the interruptions are right next to you. You cannot deny hearing them.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member sit and let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

I have risen on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member make his point of order?

Mr. HINDS:

Yes,. Mr. Speaker. I want to draw Your Honour's. attention to the point that when you ruled just now drawing hon. members' attention to Sending Order No. 28(b), you read only part of the Standing Order and did not proceed to read the proviso, that is, that the member speaking is willing to give way.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I said I was not giving way, and when I speak about specious rulings, that is what I meant. What sort of person could you have who would leave out the last part of a rule in order to justify an action?

As I was saying before I was fraudulently interrupted:

"To pro mote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members, and to avoid competitive exchange; depreciation."

The thrust of the debate is that the hon. member is attempting to use this as an excuse to disengage from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, because Barbados would have its own Central Bank, its own currency and; utilise the power the Prime Minister wanted from the time he became Minister of Finance to print money without a backing. All hon. members will remember the irresponsible speech when the hon. member talked about a fiduciary issue. He wants to be a Latin American Minister of Finance printing currency not backed by production in the country. They want a licence to print money, and I suppose the chief printer is going to be the Prime Minister's friend. 3.50 p.m.

"(iv) To assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments in respect of current

transactions between members and in the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade. "

" (v) To give confidence to members by making the Fund's resources temporarily available to them under adequate safeguards, ..."

When the United Kingdom had balance of payment problems the other day, they used the special drawing rights otherwise they would have had to devalue again. I go further and I will continue to read sub paragraph (v):

(v) "... thus providing them with opportunity to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity. "

All these problems are problems that arise with countries which have their own Central Banks, print their own money and do not depend upon a system of monetary control that you have when you only issue the amount of money that is backed; that is the basic point. We on this side will never ever agree to any suggestion of disengagement from the Windward and Leewards Islands; a large part of these invisible exports the Prime Minister spoke about come from the earnings that you get from Commissions and from services rendered in the Windward and Leeward Islands, and we do not want any competition beyond what was developing already. We see the effects of it, and when they take Corresponding action against you, when they pursue their economic nationalism in the Eastern Caribbean in America against Barbados, all we would be left with is the Hon. Prime Minister and his stupidity in attempting to disengage Barbados from historic, economic and cultural assets which have been built upon. We will fight the battle oil this. There is no advantage at all to Barbados in getting any loans from the IMF, and the Prime Minister was forced to admit that himself.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

May I now rise on a point of explanation? I said.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am not giving way, and the rule says you must give way. You must sit down and wait.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Standing Order No. 26 (16) "A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to offer

explanation of some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood; but he shall not introduce new matter. " It has happened that on this occasion for the benefit of certain hon. members I have read the whole Standing Order and not merely a part which I thought would be sufficient to refresh hon. members minds of the whole. The hon. member may rise to offer explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for Christ Church persists in misquoting me. He says that I was forced to admit that we could not get loans from the IMF for development; I said in my speech, unsolicited and voluntarily in explaining the functions of the IMF, that it was not the same thing as a Bank dealing with making loans for development, that the IMF was concerned with international liquidity and monetary policy. When the hon. member says that I was forced to admit this, I am the only person other than he who has spoken, and I spoke before him and he did not call on me to say anything; I volunteered the information.

Mr. St. JOHN:

So we continue. (Asides.) Spit on you? I would not waste my spit on you.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. St. JOHN:

As we continue, Sir, if these Articles of Agreement are up to date, and there is no mention here nor did the Prime Minister as Minister of Economics and Prime Minister of this country and a much vaunted proponent of the idea of Caribbean integration; what is the attitude of the other territories of the Caribbean on this matter? Is it not a fact that before the Council of Ministers of CARIFTA is this question of the problem of the multiplication of currencies in the area? The idea is to have a common approach to this whole problem. The Prime Minister is the same man that said external representation would cost us \$500,000 and it is now costing us nearly \$5 million annually, and what happens now? Must we take the excuse he has brought forward? On that side they like to deal in millions, they can steal a million and feel happy; they would allow the shrimp industry \$3 1/2 million to go down to Trinidad to a terminal set up by the same man who has shares in the shrimp industry. \$3 1/2 million down the drain. (Asides.) Mr. Speaker, tell that unmannerly man to keep quiet.

Mr. SPEAKER:

All members not addressing the Chair must observe the appropriate Standing Order; any member addressing the Chair must keep to the subject.

Mr. St. JOHN:

We go ahead, Sir. The whole problem in this matter is that the Prime Minister, in my view, wants an excuse to be able to justify the Barbadian public, whom he thinks is unsophisticated that when we join this, when we have our Central Bank we have a prop in the IMF, but he will learn and understand that the Eastern Caribbean dollar is being attacked, and in disengaging yourself from it you know there will be no necessity for it, you know that not a penny will come in, and this will be one million dollars that could be spent on housing, playing fields and many of the other things you are depriving the community of this country. In building a proper shrimp terminal instead of allowing the Chairman in Trinidad to hoodwink you and encourage the very bodies to build in Trinidad, this wasteful Government, this indifferent Government allows him to sell the invisible exports in Trinidad. 4.00 p.m.

They allow \$ 3 1/2 million to go into the coffers of Trinidad's invisible exports, and the Prime Minister is here taking up taxpayers' money and spending \$1 million in order to join a fund which he knows is absolutely inappropriate at the present moment in Barbados and it is absolutely unnecessary. I cannot sit here and allow this waste of the taxpayers' money without making a protest. The Prime Minister and his Ministers are accustomed to wasting money. They have access to money and they are accustomed to wasting it.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there is very little left for me to say after the speech I have heard, but I would like the Prime Minister to hear one or two things. There is no sensible argument he could bring forward at the present moment to show why Barbados should join the International Monetary Fund. Barbados, as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, by its present structure cannot have balance of payment difficulties. The only difficulty Barbados could have would have to come from the Treasury in White Hall., The Treasury in White Hall could say that advances to Barbados should be to such an extent that it could do this or that and it could dictate to the Prime Minister and Minister of finance as to what could be done to keep under the umbrella of sterling.

Now, the International Monetary Fund, as the Prime Minister will know if he reads articles on modern economics, has been trying to extend membership to several countries. We know that currency is usually tied to gold, and we know that several countries have complained about the way in which the International Monetary Fund is being operated. It is also known that when countries are in financial difficulties they have to beg the directors of the Fund to help them, and that is not something good. The directors of the International Monetary Fund are worse than the Gnomes of Zurich. One can easily see that those who have a controlling interest in the International Monetary Fund can look at the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain and say that they do not like the income policy. They looked at President De Gaulle in France and told him how he should run things there.

Sir, before we attained Independence we had to depend on the people at White Hall to tell us how we should handle our economic affairs, but we are now bound hand and foot since we are about to join the International Monetary Fund. Certain countries have already been told that they cannot expect to draw on the Drawing Account to the extent to which they wanted to draw. Great Britain and France have had to contribute to the Fund, and now Barbados will be in the same position.

Mr. Speaker, it may be said that we are joining now in order to help Great Britain out of its next financial difficulty because of the assistance given to us in the past. It must be remembered that Great Britain did not give us financial assistance in the past merely because of Colonialism. I do not know if the Prime Minister is thinking of reciprocity in dealing with this matter. We have a very exceptional adverse balance of trade when compared with the population in Barbados. The balance of trade is one of the first things that will cause us some difficulty when we join the International Monetary Fund. If we change our currency and then find ourselves in balance of payment difficulties, what would be our position? We would be told that we could not import so many motor cars and so on. They would tell us things that I do not believe the British Government would have told us.

Mr. Speaker, I was told by the former junior member for St. Joseph that at one time Barbados was in a position where it earned more dollars than it spent. Will the International Monetary Fund put Barbados in a similar position? I am not putting in any special plea for Great Britain. Of course, after we have joined the Fund the Prime Minister will not have the worries of going through a lot of export figures and so on on his desk every day. From the last Economic Review we were made aware of the very important part the Manager of Barclays Bank in Georgetown is playing. We know that the Banks, by the movement of capital, take care of the movement of the balance of payment. I refer particularly to Barclays Banks, because it is very easy for them to operate here and in England. If certain people want to bring in goods but the money is not available, then the Bank will advance them the money to purchase the goods. If you were to approach the Manager of Barclays Bank now, he will tell you that he is facing special commitments at the moment in connection with this problem. He is financing traders outside of Barbados at the moment. I may be selfish in this matter, but I would be happy to see it continue in this direction until the person; who is sheltering will have no need to shelter.

Now, if the Prime Minister will tell me whether the British Government instructed him to devalue our currency on the last occasion the Sterling was devalued, I would.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Has the hon. member given way?

Mr. ADAMS:

Yes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that the Eastern Caribbean Currency was tied to the Sterling. I came here and said that it was undesirable and we should cut away from that. 4. 10 p.m.

The hon. member is asking me, and that is why I rose, whether the British Government instructed me to devalue. There was no question of instructing me to devalue. The British pound was devalued and the Eastern Caribbean dollar automatically was devalued as well. If Barbados had its own currency, we would not have devalued, and the hon. member knows that and he knows that there is no justification for the Barbados dollar being devalued.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance's memory is very short. I remember him saying that nobody instructed Barbados to devalue, that Mr. Callaghan informed him that the pound was going to be devalued and he decided that Barbados would devalue, but that next time Barbados might not devalue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I must protest. The hon. member knows what he is saying is incorrect, and that is what is so heinous about it. What I did decide to do was to declare a Bank Holiday but there was no question, of my deciding to devalue. When I discussed the matter; in here I pointed out to hon. members that it was unsatisfactory that the Barbados currency should be tied to the pound sterling. I said that Mr. Callaghan informed me that; the pound would be devalued. The hon. member knows he is incorrect and that is why I am on a point of correction, because Barbados does not have its own currency. We are part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority which is automatically tied to the pound sterling at 4/2 in the dollar, and that is one of the reasons why I do not need a justification for joining the IMF or having our own currency. It was that devaluation which convinced me that we should have our own currency.

Mr. ADAM& Mr. Speaker, I have sent for the debate, but all of us here would remember how we laughed when the Prime Minister told us how Mr. Callaghan told him, and we had to laugh at him because we do not believe Mr. Callaghan said one word to the Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I explained to the House that on the Friday evening I had received direct communication from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and after 12 o'clock on the Saturday I summoned the Bank Managers and told them that the British pound would be devalued on an oath of secrecy and that at six or seven o'clock that evening an announcement would be made. At that meeting which was held after the Banks were closed, I informed them that I had received a communication from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and that I had decided to close the Banks for the next two days until we had sorted out the situation. The hon. member says that I decided to devalue. I closed the Banks.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has made his point.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Prime Minister is now saying that the Eastern Caribbean Authority is the issuing authority. Why would Mr. Callaghan bother to inform him? (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW I am Minister of Finance of the country.) The Prime Minister knows perfectly well that if he does not want to devalue he could have declared a Bank Holiday on the Monday and Tuesday and brought a Bill to the House. He is Minister of Finance of an Independent country. We are separating from the Eastern Caribbean Authority to set up our own Bank and join the IMF. How can you do that unilaterally?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

If the hon. member would give way, people who have sense and understand these matters can read the debates. The decision to join the IMF is a decision which is open to any sovereign independent country. The hon. senior member for Christ Church said that I am using this as an excuse to disengage from the Eastern Caribbean Authority. I served notice to this House and to all the Premiers and Chief Ministers over a year ago that Barbados intended to establish a Central Bank and have its own currency. At first we were not thinking of having our own currency. The hon. member appreciates and understands that as members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority we did not have any authority not to devalue because by the terms of the agreement which was signed by all of us, the value of the Eastern Caribbean dollar was tied at four shillings and two pence to the pound sterling. This is what I meant when I was talking to the hon. member, therefore as members of the Authority we could not say that Barbados was not going to devalue as long as we were sharing the same currency; but when we have our own currency we can make our own independent decision provided we do not do what the Authority has done and tie

our currency irrevocably to the pound sterling. I cannot be more explicit than that.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Prime Minister then, by emphasising to us the strength of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority is agreeing with us, we presume, that there is no balance of payments problem which Barbados will have by joining the IMF.

There are one or two matters, and I said it on Tuesday earlier in this sitting, that I cannot understand. What is going to be declared to the International Monetary Fund as Barbados' gold and dollar holdings? How can the Prime Minister come in and say that the contribution would be such and such, because the subscription is governed by the amount of your gold and dollar holdings?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority has no gold or dollar holdings. If Barbados wants to pay a subscription, it does not mean that it comes out of current revenue. We can use our reserves to buy gold or dollars. We have reserves in the sterling area but we have an escape clause whereby we can purchase gold and dollars at any time. I cannot remember what the total Barbados reserves are, but some of our reserves are by way of our share in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority. The Barbados reserves at 30th December, 1967, were \$ U. S. 13 million. When we were arguing with the Bank of England about the insurance scheme for devaluation of sterling, I think that our total reserves in terms of Eastern Caribbean Currency in the sterling area including sinking fund amounted to \$43 million, but our convertible U. S. reserves were \$13 million.

Mr. ADAMS:

The gold and dollar reserves of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority are the general gold and dollar currency of the sterling area as I understand it. I agree with the Prime Minister that there is no gold on deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, but the point I was getting up to make was how is the International Monetary Fund going to determine a quota of nil on the gold and dollar holdings of Barbados which total \$U. S. 13 million which may happen to be held at any given moment by the Banks as a whole. The amount may vary by the financial controls which the Prime Minister may surrender. 4.20 p.m.

I do not understand the Prime Minister to say that the Government of Barbados owns \$13 million U. S., I understand he is talking about holdings in Barbados. How can you join the IMF when we are still attached to the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, when the quota we have to pay to the IMF is so great? We have to furnish the IMF with data for them to arrive at the amount of our quota, and as I

understand it, the amount Barbados can afford is nil.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, in the hon. member would give way, the IMF had meetings already and they determined what our quota is and what our U. S. contribution is to be, based on the following factors. They took the 1967 figures as the last survey figures that they would go by, and they took the national income in 1967 as U. S. \$91 million or \$182 million Eastern Caribbean. When I use these figures, I refer to them after devaluation. This is what the IMF worked on, and we had to argue it out with them. They took the reserves as U. S. \$13. million the C. I. F. imports at U. S. \$9 million, and then there was a figure for what they call variability of exports, and they calculated the national income at 85% of the gross at market prices and not at factor costs.

As the hon. member will appreciate, the product is always the gross concept and the income is the net concept, so the national income figures always have to be below the gross domestic product figures, but we must always be careful that we use the same measure and that we do not use far one factor cost and the other one market values. I am speaking now of gross domestic product and market value; the IMF calculated for the national income at 85%. This is what they used for the reserves, all the foreign currency assets held by the Treasury, and this is how they arrived at our quota. We protested it was too high, and they said that there were countries poorer than Barbados who could meet that quota. The quota is \$13 million and the subscription is \$2 million; this is what we are immediately called upon to pay.

Mr. ADAMS:

I must confess the Prime Minister has baffled me with some information which seems to have bewildered him as much as it bewildered me. If the quota of Barbados is \$13 million, then I observe we are a more prosperous country than Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq - Barbados' quota is \$13 mill inn and Iraq, which is selling \$50 million of oil every year is only paying \$18million - Liberia, Luxembourg, Panama, .uay, the Philippines, Uruguay and Venezuela, The Prime Minister cannot be serious.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The formula which they used - some of the people joined this Fund in 1945, we are joining in 1970 and the quota was fixed at your initiation, the quota is not fixed from year to year, so that when these countries joined some of them had to pay less than if they were joining now because they would have a larger quota attributed to them than Barbados, but their economies were not as advanced as Barbados at the time when they joined. I have already told the hon. member the formula which was used; our per capita income is much higher than that of India, for example. That is why we have not been able to take advantage of things like the International Development Agency, because they say Barbados has too high a per capita income, which is nonsense.

Mr. ADAMS:

This is a bad concept, but it is not necessarily as bad for Barbados as it is, perhaps, for Trinidad. Mr. Speaker, whether or not these are initiation fees, the fact still is that Barbados has, as I understand it, to pay 10% of \$13 million in gold. This is my reading, whatever appears the file, of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF; I can understand a nation like Great Britain will warn the IMF to hold large quantities of sterling, its own currency, in order to let people overseas buy British goods and keep British workmen in work, but What are we putting money into the Fund for? At the present time I believe that our invisible differentials are really very high, they calculated on many of the tourist services that we cannot altogether estimate. Do we need to put poor differential Barbadian dollars to the amount of the balance of the quota - because you have to pay all the quota, you only pay a portion in gold but you have to pay all the quota in your own currency - but again the Prime Minister is only fortifying my argument by saying they will not be called on because the necessity of joining the IMF is not great, Obviously the United States will expect the American dollars will be going out of the IMF at all times, except once in a while when there is an assault on the American dollar when people try to raise the price of gold.

4. 30 p.m.

Occasionally under these conditions the pressure on the International Monetary Fund diminishes. The International Monetary Fund deals with all countries who are attacking the U. S. A. and tries to destroy them. The Eastern Caribbean Authority is concerned with the U. S. A. The International Monetary Fund is concerned with having a common medium of exchange throughout the world and it is the American dollar. In the long run they will have to bully people to accept it. This is merely an excuse to disengage Barbados from association with the Eastern Caribbean countries, if you want to protect yourself from devaluation.

Sir, Barbados is the biggest and most important of the countries in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Agreement. I believe we owe something to the people in the smaller Islands, We are now seeking to obtain protection by running away from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority and running to the International Monetary Fund. It means, as the Prime Minister has put it to the Market Square when he told Frank Walcott that he must take the blows for the windfall, as every man would have to break for himself. He also told the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that he could not get back in the House unless he brought a message. The Prime Minister is trying to treat the Caribbean Currency Authority in the same manner as he treated those people.

How can we possibly assist the other countries by reducing the purchasing power of St. Lucia and other countries when they are continuing to buy goods manufactured in Barbados; to deal with

Commission Agents in Barbados; to treat Barbados as a transshipment centre, and to send people here on holiday. I think they send more people here than we send to St. Lucia.

On the other hand, I believe that if Russia is more prosperous, Barbados will be more prosperous.

The more money people have in other parts of the world the better it will be for everybody in the world. I do not see the International Monetary Fund as a body for promoting foreign trade. It has always restricted the progress of substantially importing countries. Why did not the International Monetary Fund call on West Germany to re-value its currency? Look at how many years went by before anything was done in the matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member saying that the International Monetary Fund did not persuade West Germany to re-value its currency? My recollection is that West Germany revalued its currency early this year or last year.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I said look at how long it took. Why did not the International Monetary Fund put great pressure on West Germany? It is known that West Germany did not re-value its currency immediately after Great Britain had devalued its in 1968, but Great Britain and France were forced to devalue their currencies. The American dollar was also devalued. Sterling is an International currency; the U. S. A. dollar is also an International currency, but West Germany remained for a long time without doing anything with its currency. Why did not the International Monetary Fund proceed to discipline West Germany in the circumstances?

Now, Sir, the Toyota is costing less than other cars in Barbados. You pay less for a Toyota in Barbados than you will pay for it in Japan. The Japanese maintain a policy of selling things cheaper overseas than they sell them in Japan. I understand that despite CARIFTA Mr. K. R. Hunte sells goods in St. Lucia cheaper than he sells them in Barbados, but that is his business.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that I have not heard any argument in favour of our spending so much money to join the International Monetary Fund that convinces me that it is in our interest to join it. The quota is \$13 million (U. S.) and 10% of it must be in gold. We have to buy that gold; deposit it and make it available for loans to Britain, France or whoever wants it. Barbados will be lending out money to Britain

and France. The balance of the money will have to be paid in our own currency. In other words, 90% will have to be paid in our own currency. It will be noted that the issue to the Fund will be non-interest bearing and non-negotiable notes which cannot be used by the Government of Barbados. It will be a part of our reserves in a very limited sense. Are we going to pay the International Monetary Fund interest? Is it going to be like the Swiss Bank where you give them your money and pay them to keep it?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, we have non-interest bearing notes. If a subscription has to be paid we will pay it. If you hold the notes in your own Treasury you will not have to pay the Fund interest on the money which should be deposited with them.

4. 40 p. m

What you deposit with them is money like when you get a deposit from the commercial Banks. It will be non-interest bearing to the Commercial Banks. We intend in our Central Bank to have a compulsory deposit from the Commercial Banks 4% let us say, 5 percent of their total deposits. We will not pay them interest on that; it will be non-interest bearing, but it does not prevent the Central Bank from making use of the deposits which the Commercial Banks make to the Central Bank; so although they do not get interest, the Central Bank will utilise these funds and make money on them; but to be reciprocal, where we owe money to somebody we will not pay interest on it, although if they had it themselves they would be able to get money out of deposits. They are not asking for any compensation for holding money or that we pay such and such a sum.

Mr. ADAMS:

This is another case where the verbiage is confusing. I only have to listen to one sentence of the Prime Minister to know all he is going to say. All that he is saying is that the International Monetary Fund having no where else to put Barbados dollars will have to deposit them in the Central Bank of Barbados. In other words, since the Central Bank is not going to get a lump sum of \$13 million tied up in bundles in a Federal vault, the only place for Barbados dollars is in Barbados. It will be deposited with the Barbados Central Bank and will have to be there to be called on if necessary, which I hope will never be necessary. Sir, in the fullness of time I have little doubt that the existence of Barbados commitment to the International Monetary Fund is going to be used as justification for having a Central Bank and as justification of cutting free from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority. We are going to hear on political platforms that Barbados has joined the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and to do this we could not associate with colonial countries any longer. That is what is going to be put forward as the specious answer on platforms to people whom the Prime Minister thinks will not understand. The IMF is going to figure, although he has said it is not a development agency, as one of the development agencies. It will be said that Barbados could only join

by reason of being independent. Even though I have warned him about it, it is still going to come out on platforms how Barbados has joined all these important places, the IMF, IADP and so on, and all that is going to happen is that we are going to have to withdraw \$U. S. 1.3 million in gold from the economy of Barbados and place it into the hands not this time of the family of the Minister of Trade, but into the hands of the IMF, and there will be more direct opportunities including governorships and directorships on the IMF Board, and the Prime Minister will come back and say how he spoke to the Chairman of the IMF and told him he knew Lord Douglas in 1967. I would have to say that when the Deputy Prime Minister drops names, at least he drops names of constituents of St. Lucy, but when the Prime Minister drops names, it is the Director of IMF or a Marshal in the Royal Air Force or the Chancellor of the Exchequer or Mr. Ian Smith or Dr. Kaunda and all those gentlemen. (Asides.)

Mr. Speaker, this is another of those wastes of time in my opinion. I have not heard the Prime Minister say that we are going to so separate ourselves from sterling that we will not have balance of payments problems in the future, As I understand it, on 1st March or whenever we have our own currency, the Barbados dollar is still going to be \$4. 80 in the pound - I cannot tell you how many new pence - it is still going to be 100 per cent sterling. If as we are running now we are buying \$160 million or \$170 million or perhaps \$200 million in goods from abroad, the British taxpayer ultimately is still going to be footing the bill. The IMF will just have our money and we will be no further in economic development or anything else.

As has been pointed out to me, the countries of Europe were trying to work towards a single currency, and instead of we in Barbados trying to work towards greater independence for the Eastern Caribbean countries and little more economic development, we are separating the currency which we share with them.

Sir, I do not want to carry on unnecessarily long, but I want the Prime Minister to look again at Trinidad. Maybe I feel strongly about this because some of my money is in Trinidad and I cannot get it out, but who could have predicted a year ago that Trinidad would have separated its currency from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority? Who could have predicted that Trinidad would have an exchange between herself and Barbados. Nobody will carry money to Trinidad now. I have a few cents down there. Do you believe I would be so foolish as to acquire any more money in Trinidad. (Asides.) That was in fact from an investment. Who will carry money to Trinidad now that Trinidad itself has betrayed a lack of confidence in its own currency, because when you impose exchange control, it means that you cannot trust your own citizens to trust your own currency, that your citizens do not trust your currency, therefore they cannot be trusted with it. That was the immediate fate of Trinidad cutting itself loose from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, and Barbados as part of this whole transaction, by cutting ourselves loose will have our own currency, more money will be printed to pay Civil Servants salaries the next time it arises, because the Prime Minister believes that the printing press is one of the most effective means of development. I have heard the Prime Minister with this in London myself. He is not entirely wrong; he is only 90 per cent wrong. That is what he is seeking to deal with at the present

time. He has never heard anything about Brazil and Argentina. (Asides.) The Prime Minister knows something about Brazil. He will probably despise the experience of the former hon. junior member for St. Joseph, but I; will just remind him that when Germany set out to be economically independent, and when economic control of the German Mark was removed after the War of the experience of Sir Grantley Adams who, will tell him that he was In Berlin when it happened and In the morning when he left to go and catch the tram and the tram fare was 500,000 marks, when he came home in the evening it was 800,000 marks. He wanted to buy a pair of shoes when lie went to Berlin and they cost the equivalent of eight English pounds which was a fortune in those days, and he bought them when he left Berlin for the equivalent of three shillings and sixpence, and every week the notes were coming off the German press. 4.50 p.m.

That is what happens when small countries get this idea that a printing press is a means of economic development. Currency is lost in the country's own currency and the same IMF will tell you to get rid of the Minister of Finance. You will find you have so committed yourself in this document here - the Prime Minister wanted to know from what document the senior member for Christ Church was reading, but do you mean he could not recognise the same document which was circulated to members? This is the document the Prime Minister has circulated to members of the House. Mr. Speaker, for those reasons I support the arguments of the senior member for Christ Church.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon'bles C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSON, N. W. BOXILL and J. C. TUDOR; Messrs, J. B. YEARWOOD, W. R. LOWE, R. St. C. WEEKES, G. E. SARGEANT and C. A. E. HOPPIN - 10.

NOES:

Messrs. W. C. B. HINDS, C. L. BOLDEN, L. S. CRAIG, J. M. G. M. ADAMS and H. B. St. JOHN - 5.

Rt. Hon. E. W. ABARROW:

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

Hon. C; E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 1 to 6 were called and passed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members will please observe rule 29(6). (Asides.) The hon. senior member for St. James will observe rule 29(6).

Clause 7 was called and passed. Clause 8 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Can the Prime Minister say when he expects to sign the Agreement?

:

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I can tell the hon. member that the 17th December is the date, if Parliament agrees, and the reason why we want it on the 17th December is to take in the allocation of the special drawing' rights; I think we can take about \$1.4 million then.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

5. 00 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a certain important matter to which the House as a whole should give consideration. It is the question of the payment of salaries to the Clerk, Deputy Clerks and the Librarian. I understand that they have not drawn their salaries for the month of November.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the position is that the Debates Committee met yesterday and reached certain decisions which should have been embodied in a Report to come before the House today, and attached to that Report would be a Resolution which the House would be asked to approve. I understand that the Report and Resolution are now being cyclostyled. I, therefore, suggest that we suspend the sitting for 15 minutes.

I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On resumption.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the following

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1970.

The Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Raw Materials and Other Articles for use in the manufacture and packaging of Garments, Household Articles, Handkerchiefs and Neckties) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Acme Manufacturing Company Limited) Order, 1970.

The Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1969.

On behalf of the Minister of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs, I am commanded to lay the Tenth Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Tourist Board for the year 1967-68.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 121 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter is ready.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken for 10 minutes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

PROVISION OF WATER AT BENN HILL

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 121 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, and it-can be found at page 8, left hand column.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister -

Would Government consider the possibility of removing the standpipe at Pleasant Hall Road, St. Peter - opposite Ebworth Plantation Gap - to a point at Benn Hill, St. Peter so as to ease the difficulties of those persons who live at Benn Hill Great, but have to walk a long distance to this standpipe to fetch water to their homes?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

The standpipe at Pleasant Hall Road, St. Peter, has been resited at a point along Benn Hill, St. Peter. Anew main has been laid along Benn Hill in order that the residents may have a water service.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister in a position to tell us whether any applications have been received from residents in the area for the installation of water since the main has been laid?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information, but I can check with the Water Works Department and

let the hon. member know the position.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are no other Answers to Questions.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS REPORT OF, THE: DEBATES COMMITTEE ON THE
SALARIES OF THE CLERK, DEPUTY CLERKS AND LIBRARIAN OF PARLIAMENT**

Mr. SPEAKER; The Report of the Debates Committee on the salaries of the Clerk Deputy Clerks and Librarian of Parliament, I now order to be laid, I am informed that copies have been duly circulated to members present in this Chamber. 5.25 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON SALARIES OF
THE CLERK, DEPUTY CLERKS, AND LIBRARIAN**

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the adoption of the report which Your Honour has presented, I would like to remind the House that these recommendations arise out of the prior decisions of the Joint Debates Committee at a former meeting. As Your Honour and the House will recall, the Interim Report has already been presented to this House informing the House of the appointments which had been made in consequence of the new legislation. Unfortunately, however, when that Interim Report of the appointments was presented to the House, the House, did not proceed on this matter which was part and parcel of it, and there has therefore been a time lag between the announcement of appointments, and the determination of the emoluments.

You will remember, for instance, that in a report which the House received and adopted some months ago, it was recommended that with respect of the Clerk of Parliament, the salary should be fixed somewhere between the top of a Magistrate's salary and the top of the salary of Senior Crown Counsel. This recommendation agrees with that recommendation, and with this variation, the Committee yesterday decided, as hon. members will see, to start the Clerk at \$11, 160 in the scale with an increment leaving him to reach the maximum by two other increments, one of \$30 and one of \$40 a month with effect from 12th November, 1970.

With respect to the Deputy Clerks, in consideration of the fact that one of the Deputy Clerks had seen service in the House for some time before, it was decided to fix his at an increment above the other. In respect of the Librarian, the recommendation is that he be appointed from 12th November and be designated the salary of \$7,200 per annum in consideration of his 22 or 23 years of service to the House. With the report there is a substantive Resolution which will enable us to give effect to the recommendations which the House is now asked to adopt.

I beg to move that the Report be adopted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, there is something that is not quite clear to me. You have the Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Mr. J. A. Connell at a salary of \$7,800 per annum in the salary scale Z9 - 1 rising by annual increments to five points in the scale, whereas you have Mr. G. E. T. Brancker, \$7, 500 per annum in the salary scale Z9 - 1 rising by annual increments to five points in the scale. I would like the Leader of the House to explain this to me. They could not be in the same salary scale.

Mr. St. JOHN:

There is an error in setting out the scale. The scale must be less than \$7,800 in respect of Mr. Connell.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I thought I had explained that. The idea, Mr. Speaker, is that in respect of Mr. Connell the Committee recommended an increment in view of his year of service, but they are in the same scale.

Mr. St. JOHN:

But the salary scale according & this says that Mr. Connell is \$7,800 per annum.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

It should start at \$7,500.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Your third column is correct, but the second would be wrong.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that this correction must be made in the Schedule, because it is the Resolution which the House will have to pass to give legal effect.

Mr. CRAIG:

If the hon. member would give way. Which is right \$7,800 Or \$7,500?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

\$7,500.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The Report is correct because it sets out quite clearly that the scale is Z9 - 1. When you look at the Resolution, it says the salary scale \$7,800 to \$9,120 instead of \$7,500 to \$9,120; so all you have to do is to put in the correct scale in the schedule.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I received today the report of the Debates Committee, but the Debates Committee said that the scale shall be Z9 - 1 which entails an Efficiency Bar, because when you talk about the scale Z9 - 1, I think this \$8,400 was described by the Minister of Home Affairs as an Efficiency Bar, and I do not think it is our intention to adopt an Efficiency Bar and annual reports in dealing with Clerks of Parliament. I am wondering whether the report of the Clerk of Parliament has described it as accurately as we fixed it, because we said the increment would be \$360. I am wondering why we in the Schedule put down \$7,500 by \$300 to \$8,400 by \$360 to \$9,120, and in the report you have "rising by annual increments to five points in the scale." I do not understand this if he is already one point in the scale. Maybe five points in the scale may be a Civil Service way of describing a particular salary. As I remember it, Mr. Connell would get four increments to reach the maximum and Mr. Brancker would get five. Does it mean that at some stage Mr. Connell is going to get five increments and still we are taking him to a fixed maximum? What exactly does it mean is it decided after we pass the Resolution that the

Report be amended? As I see it, the only correction needed in the Resolution is to change the "\$7,800" to "\$7,500". This is what the Committee has reported, but from the point of view of the Debates Committee, I am still a little unhappy about adopting a report when I do not altogether understand the language used. Is it not possible to pass the Resolution and refer this to the Establishments people? I want it explained before I adopt the report.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I would like somebody to find out if Z. 9-1 is a scale from \$7,500 to \$9,120; it will have to be rising by five points. Can we amend the report? I beg to move the following amendment, "\$7, 800 in the salary scale \$7, 500 x 300 - \$8400 x 360 - \$9, 120, " and that the words "Z. 9-1 rising by annual increments to five (5) points in the scale, i. e. \$7, 800 and Z. 9-1 be deleted in respect of Mr. J. A. Connell. 5.45 p.m.

Similarly, delete the same words in respect of the Deputy Clerk of Parliament in respect of Mr. G. E. T. Brancker.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, consequent on the discussion we have just had, we will now have to amend the Schedule. The figure will now be "\$7,500" instead of "\$7,800."

I beg to move that the Resolution, as amended, do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, ordinarily we would be taking the adjournment until Tuesday of next week, but the Other Place want to use their chamber on Tuesday for their deliberation on the Bill which we have just passed. I wonder if Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. would be convenient to hon. members? What is the general consensus of the Chamber? (Mr. ADAMS Make it Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday next at 2.30 p.m. I would suggest to hon. members that we meet one day next week and dispose of the business and be free for Christmas.

Mr. St. JOHN:

What business do you have?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

A few Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, in the light of what the Leader of the House has said, why not let us meet at midday on Wednesday next?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I have tried to get the consensus of the Chamber. It would appear that members want to meet at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday next.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday, 16th December, 1970, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

5. 55p.m.