THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th February, 1970.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C. F.Z.S., (Speaker); Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J.P. (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development) ; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., C.M.G., (Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Trade and Tourism); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., and Mr. J. B. SPRINGER.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 3rd December, 1969, I understand, have been circulated, and unless there is any objection, they will be confirmed. Hearing no objection, I declare the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 3rd December, 1969, duly confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $400 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1969-70, Part 1-Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1969-70 No. 65 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

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

A Resolution to grant the sum of $8, 100 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1969-70, Part 11 - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1969-70, No. 66 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the two Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 56 asked by the hon. senior member for St. . Joseph is ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 7 be 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.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Item No. 7 is the instant Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Druggists Act, 1894.

DRUGGISTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1970

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons set out, this Bill would amend the Druggists Act 1894 (1894-3) to provide for the payment of a fee of $20 for examination by candidates, irrespective of the stage of the examination, and for the substitution) of a Certificate under the seal of , office of the

Registrar for the Diploma required to be issued under section 23 of the Act.

This is a matter which has been under consideration for some time, and it is felt by Government that the fees for the various examinations should be revised, and the fee for the examiners should also be revised. It has been agreed at Cabinet level that the fee, whether it is Preliminary Intermediate, or Final, should be $20.00; in the case of the fees payable for setting of the papers, $15.00, $15.00, $15.00, irrespective of whether it is Preliminary, Intermediate or Final examination. In respect of the examiner's fee for the marking and correcting of the papers, it should be $10.00 in each case. This is A matter dealing with the regulation of fees and bringing then up to date with present conditions.

I should like to mention, before I take my seat, that we have been fortunate in securing, as I have already mentioned here some time ago, from World Health Organisation, Pan American Health Organisation, as well as the Millbank Foundation, financial assistance and technical assistance in order to train our medical staff, including Druggists. I am pleased to mention that Dr. Robertson, who was the Chief of the Millbank Foundation and who has been mainly responsible for our success in this direction, is here. His office bias been set up; his staff has now been established; he has made a few trips to the other Islands including Caracas and he is covering the entire Caribbean area. The services to be set up will be for the benefit of all the people in the Caribbean, irrespective of colour, class or nationality. By that I mean that Surinam will be included, as well as French and Spanish Islands. The entire Caribbean will be included.

Sir, this Pharmaceutical School will be established; the facilities will be at the Doctor's disposal; his off ice will be fairly well equipped, and the House of Assembly has already passed a Resolution for assisting in that direction. The Druggists will stand to benefit in future as a re suit of this Pharmaceutical School dealing with all types of technical staff, and Druggists in particular. The Druggists Association is fully aware of our activities, and we can well look forward to the day when we have more Druggists, provided the salaries are made more attractive, and we will have an improved service. 12.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, 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.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, I just rise to say how glad I am to see that I can lay some claim to having convinced Government as to its responsibility for the entire health of this community. I remember tabling some Questions in this House asking if Government were aware of the increasing shortage of Druggists in this Island to meet the health needs of the community. The reply I got would indicate that Government could do nothing about it, and I am ever so glad, as I said before, to see that at long last and particularly by the remarks of the Minister who has moved the second and third reading of this Bill, Government has come around to appreciating its responsibility in this particular respect.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 4 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:
I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND NOTE TO ITEM 3 OF HEAD 105 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. SPEAKER:
Item No. 4 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Note of Item 3 of Head 105 - Home Affairs in Part 11 - Capital of the Approved Estimates 1969-70.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I think hon. members will recall that in the Capital Estimates for the current financial year there is provision under Head 105, Item 3 of $30,000, and this was supplemented by Resolution later in the financial year for $120,700, making a total of $150,700. Now in the Note to this Item it is stated that the funds are to continue expenditure on Silver Sands Beach Facility and Beach Studies conducted by Bellair Research Institute of McGill University. Since that provision was made, Cabinet has taken a decision to set up a Beach and Parks Authority, and the administration and maintenance of all parks have now been placed under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs as from 1st September, 1969. Consequently, in that Ministry's Estimates there has been no provision for this financial year for expenditure on this matter. Therefore this Resolution asks Parliament to approve an amendment to the Note to Item 3, Head 105, to read

"Revote to continue expenditure on Silver Sands Beach Facility and Beach Studies conducted by Bellair Research Institute of McGill University to the end of April, 1969. Includes provision to meet expenditure on Parks, Recreational Facilities and Conservation."

Now I cannot remember exactly when it was, but some few weeks ago some hon. member on the other side - it may have been the hon. junior member for St. Peter - drew to the House's attention the fact that

urgent renovation was required to beautify Farley Hill, and I may tell the hon. member.....

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, I would be grateful if. the hon. member would repeat that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that I believe some weeks ago - I cannot remember exactly when it was - the hon. Junior member for St. Peter drew to our attention the need for renovation and general cleaning up at Farley Hill. One of the things Government proposes to do if the House approves this change of Note is to carry out some painting and decorating to the summer house, to provide toilet facilities, to provide uniforms for care-takers, mounting the existing tank to assist in better water pressure, to provide additional space for storage shelter, to provide new concrete seats - I think, twelve of them - and generally to beautify and to more the grounds more attractive. 12.35 p.m.

In respect of King George V Memorial Park, some of the suggestions for this include the provi-sion of refuse bins, the levelling of the south-western portion of the ground, improvements to the public convenience, extension to the water system, renovation of the Park Hall and the provision of changing rooms, the construction of a pavilion to seat 100 people, the fencing of an area which is to be used as a children's playground and to produce a drinking fountain. I cannot now give the House any estimates of cost of these projects, but I have given information on what it is proposed to do both at Farley Hill and at the 1 King George V Memorial Park. If there is any other information needed I will be pleased to give it. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that No. 6 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.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTROLS BILL, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER:

When this matter was previously discussed, certain hon. members had spoken - the hon. introducer, the hon. Minister of Health, the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the hon. senior member for St. James. On the motion of the hon. junior member for St. Peter further consideration was postponed, and that hon. member may now proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is one which can have very far-reaching effects upon the life of the community. It deals specifically with one aspect of our day-to-day life, that is, the matter of attacking the cost of living. It would be surprising to find that whilst Government has seen the necessity for introducing a measure of this sort, you are to find at this very moment that none other than the Prime "Minister of this country is addressing public gatherings and when the question is asked of him "What are you doing about the high cost of living?", his only reply is that people are concerning themselves with what money they are working for and they are not concerned with the cost of living. Mr. Speaker, exactly what the people of this country have got to face up to are these two-faced monsters - I prefer to call them, for the simple reason we are presently debating a Bill which seeks, amongst other things, to set up a Price Control Commission and things of that sort. The essence of the Bill is that it has been established beyond shadow of doubt - and it has been established by the repeated cries of the people who feel it most, the consumers - that something has got to be done about controlling prices. Before Government sets about controlling prices, Government must of necessity examine the present structure for the distribution of commodities that are imported into this Island, and Government will have to take steps to establish or have established what wholesaling means and what retailing means in other words, who will be wholesalers and who will be retailers. You will also find, Mr. Speaker, that there are agencies functioning in our midst, and the way that their business is conducted - the conduct of their business in itself adds to the high cost of living. I remember the hon. junior member for St. Thomas making mention, I think it was last week, about importers using the Port sheds as bond houses. I did not support his view at that time; I do not support it now - at least, not to the extent to which he wanted this hon. House to believe it exists. 12.45 p.m.

You will find that every time an importer, for some reason or other, finds it impossible to take a package from the warehouse and an additional charge is made for the delay in removing the package, the additional charge is not absorbed by the importer, but it is added to the cost of the commodity and passed on to the consumer. This is what we have to fight most strenuously against. You will also find

that the necessity has arisen where Government must take stock of the necessitous requirements of our people in the forms of foodstuffs. We have to see and not merely talk about it; we have to act and see where we can take action on our own home-front to reduce imports into this country.

Now, mention was made of the fostering of cooperatives. Nobody would attempt to decry them, but we need more than mere shouting from the housetops that we must form co-operatives. The present Government has not yet realised that the spirit of serving on a voluntary basis has had a tremendous effect for good on organisations in this Island. If the Government were to attempt, at this stage, to assess its own achievement, if any, in any such field, it must be seen how slow progress has been made and that the attitude has been that people do not like the Government, in any form, ramming things down their throats and dictating to them, so to speak.

Mr. Speaker, we will find, as time goes on, that Government will have to pay very considerable attention to the fact that, with much of what has been done and is being done, there is still that cry from the working-class people. We see and we know that enough has not been attempted. Let us see for ourselves, Mr. Speaker. We have at present a Price Control Department. What is the strength of that Department in terms of staffing? How many people do you have in that Department? What are the functions of the Price Control Officers? You will find, Mr. Speaker, that there are 11 parishes, and the Price Control Inspectors cannot, owing to their paucity of numbers, cover the Island adequately in order to check the various complaints. It is very difficult at times for aggrieved parties to be able to make on-the-spot complaints, or to make complaints as soon as possible after they believe that an offence has been committed in any part of the Island due to communications, absence of a telephone, and things of that sort.

Mr. Speaker, one has to look broadly into the structure of things. It is not merely that we want to see a Price Control Commission set up, but there is no point in setting up any such body unless it is going to have adequate machinery for carrying into effect the full functions of that body with meaning. It will serve no purpose. We are hoping that some thing will be done quickly to assist the poor people of this Island whose complaints as to the difficulties encountered in coping with the high cost of living could not be more genuine.

The presence of this Bill today is sufficient indication that Government has at last come around to appreciating the fact that giving people money is not the end of it. We have often seen that immediately after the workers in the sugar industry get an increase, or a production bonus, or whatever it might be, the City merchants and others find it possible to increase the price of commodities. You will find the same thing taking place with our soft drinks. You will also find how inactive the Government has shown itself to be. The increased price was announced; the Government did not move to prevent the increased price from coming into effect, nor did the Government take any steps whatsoever to see that old stocks

which dealers had before the new prices came into effect were not allowed to be sold at the new prices in order to more a double profit.

12.55 p.m.

You will find that as it stands today, when some people buy an aerated drink, the vendors thereof are making two sets of profits, and this is wrong. We are urging that Government approach this matter seriously, Mr. Speaker, and they will find in the long run that if sufficient machinery is put into operation, the cooperation of the entire consuming public would be available to the Government in this respect.

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

Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House welcome any effort by the Government which would Indicate that Government is taking seriously its responsibility to the people of Barbados to keep down their cost of living, to increase domestic, vegetable and livestock production, and to carry out the purposes set out in the Objects and Reasons to the Bill now before the Hour. But we would be lacking in our duty as in Opposition if we did not comment on the state of affairs which after eight years of Democratic rule -I refer to the rule by the Democratic Labour Party - has allowed a situation that calls for the passing of such a Bill. As we understand it, Sir, the Prime Minister's view as expressed in this House and on political platforms is that we in Barbados are impotent in the face of a rising cost of living, that since we import most of our domestic consumables, there is nothing we can do about their prices, that we must accept inflation merely because we are an importing country, and other economic heresies which the Prime Minister has uttered from time to time. None of us should be afraid to utter economic heresy. It is not everything in the economics text book that stands up under the hard practical analysis of practising politicians, but I was taught when I read economics that an importing economy was one of the ways to beat inflation . The Prime Minister has turned economics upside down in his address to the House on the occasion of the increase of Civil Service Salaries.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give hon. members some indication of the economic nonsense that was then talked. Inflation and rising cost of living come about traditionally because too much money is chasing too few goods. Inside a closed economy there is no way of fighting inflation without serious unemployment, be -cause as long as you have a lot of employed persons with money in their pockets and you do not expand the productive resources of the country and production itself, it must put inflationary pressure on the economy. The traditional way to beat inflation is to import. Since you can no longer produce enough goods for your own people inside your own economy, you import those goods from outside. I know that the Hon. Leader of the House is familiar with Chapter 1 of the Economic Text Book used at Oxford for First Year Students. If he cares to turn to Chapter 4 he can give the Prime Minister advice along the lines I have just set out. Commonsense must tell us, Mr. Speaker, that there is no reason why, if the Civil Servants in Barbados have more money, a motor car or refrigerator - to look at the top Civil Servants and their aspirations - Argentine or New Zealand meat or

indeed American meat should cost anymore to bring it down to the daily pocket. There is nothing that we can pay Civil Servants here that will make a motor car cost more in Coventry or Birmingham. It is an absurdity to suggest the exact opposite of the truth. Apart from its being exactly opposite to the truth, it is absurdity to suggest that we are particularly prone to inflation because we are an importing economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in here now because at certain moments I have seen signs that his mind is not as closed as the minds of perhaps some hon. members on the other side. It is time for him to understand that he was talking nonsense when he suggested that the mere raising of wages in Barbados must necessarily raise the prices of imported goods. They are precisely the goods whose prices should not be raised in consequence of a raise in wages in Barbados I am going to give hon. members an example of something, for the need of this particular Act. Then was a particular brand of refrigerator imported into Barbados. A former Civil Servant who now works with the agents for those refrigerators told me that the name week that the Civil Servants' wages were rolled, the agents put $50 on the price of the refrigerator. The man jokingly said that the Civil Servants would be able to afford this, and the question was asked how they were going to Just put $50 more on, and the answer given was to say it was a new shipment. It was a new shipment but at the old price. This is an example of something which I am sure, when drawn to the attention of the Minister of Trade, he will attempt to deal with under the powers given to him by this Act. This is what the Act is useful for; but I am going to suggest that those particular importers could only be encouraged by what the Prime Minister said, because if it was made clear to them that a proper understanding of economics would make it obvious that Barbados is protected from inflation by the very fact that it imports the majority of its consumer goods, once it is made clear to the importers that there are some politicians in this House who have an understanding of economics, the importers would not stick their necks into the noose provided by this Act.

Mr. Speaker, there are, of course, many inflations which we are not protected from. We are not protected from on English or American or indeed a Japanese inflation. When the price of goods go up in England due to factors over which we have no control, the price must go up in Barbados; but it is going to go up whether the Civil Servants have more money or less. It is going to go up whether 100,000 tourists come or 200,000 tourists come. That is the disadvantage; that is the dark side of the mirror. The reflected side of the mirror is that in many ways we are more fortunate than the United States or Britain, because I repeat, nothing can be done in Barbados - it is too small an economy - to affect prices of the goods which we have to import here. What we have to try to do is to aim at the widest possible market for obtaining goods, and this brings me to a subject, Mr. Speaker, that you have been kind enough to allow me to canvass more than once by way of supplementary Questions. 1.05 p.m.

Sir, certain doctrines have come down and are vested in the Minister of Trade. You must not trade with a country whose political system is such that it will establish a dominating position over your imports of particular goods, and then use that dominating position to raise the prices of goods. That is a doctrine worked out many years ago to justify the use by Imperialist countries of their political influence

over their colonies and their clients to stop them from importing goods from their Imperialist competitors. It was used against the Germans; for patriotic reasons they could not import German goods; the German Government sells you the goods cheaply now in order to drive people out of work in Britain and so on. It was used after the war; we could not import Russian or Chinese goods; the Russian and

Chinese wanted to bring Communism here, and if you imported Chinese goodf it meant that you would have Communism in Swan Street; they would fell us now at a cheap price, but tome day they will fell us at a higher price. That doctrine is still believed by the Minister, his Permanent Secretary and many others; but I invite the Minister to consider this: is then not move substance in the doctrine of obtaining goods from the Japanese market? What reason can then be for restricting the importation into Barbados of Japanese goods when the line of Japanese goods which consumers seek to import axe almost uniformly cheaper than American goods? You are hurting two people - the American worker - as far as I am concerned, it is not for us to worry that much about; and you are hurting the Barbadian consumer when you deny him access to the cheaper market. It will be argued that you should make the Japanese import something from Barbados, but what have we got to sell the Japanese? Why do you not use that argument with the United States? The fact that the United States does not treat Barbados favourably with sugar is never argued; when they condescend to buy 30,000 tons of sugar from us, this is published in the newspaper as something very big indeed. When they buy seven million tons from the corrupt regime in the Dominican Republic, can Barbados claim better support from the United States than the Dominican Republic? I have never heard any argument used against importation from this country or the next which could not be applied with great force to the United States from which we import a very large number of goods without any counter-balance of export. How do you pay for these goods? You pay for these goods by roundabout terms in trade, by the dollars the American tourists spend here, and we use these dollars to buy goods where-ever we can as long as we can.

I would suggest to the Minister with great respect that the stop list of the countries be abolished altogether. We have two forms of import restriction in Barbados; there are restrictions based on the nature . of the goods - no matter what may have been said, it would be intolerable for a rice agreement to allow the free importation of rice. We have industries in Barbados making finished clothing products; I am satisfied from observation over the last 12 months in North America and Europe that we are turning out a range of clothing products here which in most respects cannot be bettered in the shops of New York or the shops of London. The quality is not perfect as yet; once we have some proper quality control, I am satisfied that we are putting out a good product. Also, especially since the Minister of Trade is here listening, I will ask him to be careful that he is not misled by his advisers when dealing with certain import applications; he may very well be told that these goods are available in Barbados where they are not. I will invite the Minister to go in Bridgetown and see any drip-day material that does not contain cotton and polyester; yet you are not allowed to import those shirts of this material; that is what I am informed. I would particularly ask that such matters as this be analysed carefully by the Minister before he lets anybody pull the wool over the eyes of his officials when those officials are dealing with import applications; but 'it is this sort of product, if any, which should be controlled by way of import restrictions, and not too far either. The Minister may not be aware, but there is considerable dissatisfaction among Barbadian housewives with the quality of little children's clothes available. I will

advise the Minister to be very careful with that; if he doubts that, let him ask the Minister of Communications and Works how many parcels come through the Post Off ice with free gifts of little children's clothes, where some young mother has written to ask relatives to send such-and-such for the baby because she cannot get proper ones here.

Mr. Speaker, I argue most strongly against having any stop lists of countries from which goods cannot be imported. We are independent; we do not have to worry about the British businessmen or the United States businessmen having so much influence over their Government and having it rubbed over on ourselves. The day when an Import Restriction Order has to be made by the Minister in Barbados saying that you cannot import goods from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Bulgaria, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary - not Yugoslavia, although it is as Communist as many of the others, not North Vietnam, although they are Communist in arms itself, not Korea, but including Japan. The day when a list like that has to be made is Colonial; that is finished. 1.15 p.m.

Have diplomatic relations been broken off with Bulgaria? What justification is there in this day and age for doing that? We are not fighting the Americans' Cold War anymore. They are not fighting the Cold War, and why should we be fighting it? If goods to be imported into this Island will come in and compete with Barbadian products giving employment to Barbadian labour, by all means restrict their importation; but I do not know and I cannot believe that there is any vice in a Russian camera merely because it is Russian, or a Japanese tape recorder merely because it is Japanese.

If we are disapproving of Government, Sir, we could find many Governments throughout the world - I omit South Africa and Rhodesia from which goods cannot be imported at all - where, as far as I am concerned, speaking personally, the former regime is more offensive than the former regime in Russia or Poland. If you are going to say that you disapprove of a particular structure of Government in Eastern Europe, why does not the Minister have a constant running list? The Prime Minister of Basutoland - Lesotho - when he realised that the Opposition was winning the election, had the King put under house arrest, the Leaders of the Opposition, who were busy winning seats, put under ordinary arrest, and declared a state of emergency. Why do you not put Lesotho on the stop-list? That is a more offensive Government than any I know. I sincerely hope that the events in Lesotho will be studied as an example to avoid and not as an example to emulate.

Sir, I find it impossible to believe that the Minister for Trade, with his long experience of free trading, with hit long experience of what greases the commerce of Intercourse between nations, a man who had been in the very business himself and who knows that trade is one of the things that make the world go round, is going to say that merely because something is Russian it must not be imported. I would suggest to the Minister that the list of countries on the Open Order - whatever it is called; the Minister knows what I mean - be done away with and that list be not renewed and that we confine our restrictions to

restrictions qualitative in nature. Do not let Barbados become like Jamaica when it had the Match Factory and you could get none but Jamaican matches, and although the price was the same, they made up for it because only one match in three would strike. When you bought 50, in fact, you are only getting 16 or 17. That is the position with goods on their way in.

Sir, other members who have spoken have dealt with the question of import substitution and the necessity for restricting imports generally. This obviously is something on which the Minister of Finance and we on this side can be atone. I have never heard of any country with 250,000 that had imports of $190 million. When I heard the figure I thought the Prime Minister had misread it. I do not know how it can be thought of. The United Kingdom would devalue its sterling to $1.20 if it had comparable imports, and the United States would be raising the price of gold to $50.00 or $60.00 an ounce, if it had comparable imports per ratio to ours. Bermuda manages to have a larger number of American tourists with a smaller import bill. In Bermuda, despite the fact that they only have 18 square miles, I have recently been assured that they produce as much as 30 per cent of their vegetable needs for the tourist season and also have an export business in high-quality cabbages and one or two high-quality vegetables. All of this I hope the two Ministers, who are going to be responsible for administering the Bill, will look at and analyse.

Sir, what happens to the goods when they get here? The Bill, I am relieved to see, is not quite the Bill setting up the Price Control Commission that the Hon. Minister - he is now Minister of Housing, but he may then have been Minister of Agriculture, or he may have been Minister of nothing - presaged when he said that there would have been a Price Control Commission with the Leader of the Opposition as Chairman. That was altogether too obvious an effort to trap the Leader of the Opposition into having to carry the can for the Government's mismanagement of the cost of living in Barbados. This Prices Commission as it now appears, Sir, seems to be a more manageable and reasonable proposition, because the Minister will keep in Ms hands the responsibility for control of prices. That is some thing I was very glad to see, Sir. Section 5 says:

"....the Commission shall be to advise and assist the Minister on matters relating to the control of prices of goods in Barbados and of such services as the Minister may by order prescribe."

We appreciate that, Sir; but let it be quite clear that irrespective of what the Prime Minister says about not being able to do anything about the cost of living, and irrespective of what the Minister of Housing lays about this being in die hands of the Leader of the Opposition - a Price Control Commission - the responsibility if back where it belongs in any democratic and civilised country, The responsibility is on the Government to keep the prices of the people's food and the consumer items that they have to purchase down to the minimum consistent with economic development. I am suggesting that in Barbados you could have a good deal more development without any inflationary effect on basic prices

as in larger countries with a smaller import bill for necessities.

Sir, I say that when we become the Government, no Minister responsible for Trade or, I hope, any other Minister is at any time going to tell the people that the cost of living is out of his hands because there is nothing he can do about it, and that they should be glad to have more money to pay the increased prices. Sir, what we ask for is this: we ask for an increased standard of living with the cost of living held as steady as possible. You can give an increased standard of living, Sir, with one hand by giving bigger wages, and take it away with the other by making people pay bigger taxes. That is one way of doing it. You can also have an increased standard of living by keeping wages steady and by keeping prices down. Despite what the Prime Minister may say, that has happened.

Nobody may ever be able to repeat Dr. Schacht's miracle in Germany. The Prime Minister likes to quote economic history, but he does not know much about it. Now, he can go and look at Dr. Schacht in Germany who had an average reduction in German prices of 20 per cent in the 1930s while there was a rise in real wages of 150 per cent. That was an economic miracle which even enabled Germany to use her economic power for destructive means, and enabled Germany to fight the rest of the world for five years. It is not impossible, Sir. We could not do it. 1.25 p.m.

We could not do it because a good deal of economics and physical imperialism was necessary for Germany to change that position; but we can fight here to hold down the refrigerator price; we can fight to see that the price of imported meat is not artificially inflated because people have more money to pay for it. That is the true battle we have always to be conscious of in talking about the cost of living, and the Minister of Finance has never shown the slightest consciousness that our true fight is to stop any price from rising merely because people can afford to pay more. Do you want an example of it? I bought a transistor radio in Grenada, where the duty is higher, for $16, and saw the some radio at Manning and Company in Brood Street, who are the agents, for $23. Do you know why that is? It is because the people in Grenada are poor and cannot pay $23 for a transistor, but here in Bridgetown, Manning and Co. and other firms who are prepared to conspire with the meaning, for example, of the American Anti-Trust Laws have aimed at a price of between $20 and $25 as a minimum for a brand of single-band transistor. That is agreed by everybody who sells it in Barbados to be the minimum for A North American or English brand name transistor. The same agents can sell them in Grenada for $16, but down Broad State for $23. That is something for the Minister to look at.

At a private meeting of our Parliamentary group last night, I said there was some thing I was not going to praise the Government for, but I am going to make some mention of it. If the Minister wants on example of how these things should work, irrespective of what the highpower salesmen from the Barbados Shipping and Trading and others who come in to him say, if he wants on example that things will still be imported with restrictive mark-up on price control, let him go and look at the price of

television sets. The only difference between the availability of a television set in Bridgetown and availability of any other piece of heavy electrical equipment, is that you may not get a cash discount because the price is so near to the bone that they cannot afford a cash discount. I saw at a duty-free shop at Kennedy International Airport a few months ago a little television set for $175. It is one with a miniature screen, a battery set that you use by your bedside. That same set sells at a firm in Bridgetown for $260 E.G. The reason why it sells so cheaply is because there is a restriction on the mark-up on television sets. If it can be done with television sets and people will still bring them in, it can be done with other goods. It is a Japanese set and I was informed at Kennedy that it would cost more in Japan than it cost duty free in New York. You can get it cheaper duty paid in Bridgetown than you can get it without any duty at all in Japan. It is not only in food that you can impose price controls.

Mr. Speaker, there is another thing. There seems to be some spirit abroad - I fear I may be attacking members of my profession when I attack this - that if you sell foodstuffs to a poor person at above the scheduled price, you are not just a little bit more guilty, but you are twice or three times as guilty as if you sell them to rich people in comparitively rich supermarkets. I merely mention this. I cannot understand how, when I first came back to Barbados, fish-sellers used to be fined $100 for selling flying fish for ten cents, and I see that a supermarket charged with selling chicken at 30 cents a pound about the scheduled price had to pay a fine of $ SO. I cannot see how after a deliberate effort in which a chance was taken with the law on the part of Barbados Dairy Industries....a chance was taken with the law, and the best you can say for the Dairy Industries was that they deliberately took a view of the law that turned out to be wrong; but people have to pay for that every day, and do you know what they paid? They were reprimanded and discharged. Fishermen who, as it turned out, as they were advised legally, were committing no offence at all in connection with the Careenage Regulations were fined $100 for anchoring in the Careenage, and if they sell fish over the price, what happens to them? Some guidance ought to be given by the Ministry by way of revision of penalties. I am not telling the Minister to call in the Magistrate and tell him to fine more. That would be political Interference; but Parliament how the intention by amending the, Act if they find that the Court! view the sale in a comparative affluent supermarket AS being a $50 matter, and the sale in a country shop of sardines at one or two cents above the price because the keeper was not perhaps up to date with the latest schedule as being also worthy of a $50 fine, and the sale by a poor fish-seller as being a $100 matter. It is up to the Courts to increase the penalties for the sales in the supermarkets if necessary. A fine of up to $5,000 can be scheduled by the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture under this Act. They can schedule a few fines higher than the present $500. If you make it clear that the fine for this is $500 and the fine for that is $1,000, even the most dense Magistrate would see that Parliament is not satisfied, because, after all, do not forget that it is perhaps a little more morally reprehensible to overcharge poor people than to overcharge people who go into Simpson's Supermarket and Goddards Food Fair; but the people who are paying the fine in the case of the poor people are very much less able to afford the fine than Goddards Food Fair or Simpson's Supermarket. If Simpson's Supermarket had to pay four or five fines of $500 for selling chicken at that price, they might have taken action against those who supplied them with the chicken that contained one-third frozen water. They might even have brought a law suit or two and given a little employment to one or two hon. members of this House to make it clear that this sort of conduct was dangerous and wicked. I would particularly like to exempt the Hon. Leader of the House from the many strictures that I am offering in connection with the sale of chicken. I am told that his chickens are always up to weight and very tasty.

Sir, I do not know if the Minister is satisfied that all the assistance necessary is being given to Price , Control Officers by way of helping them to do their Court work. It is to my knowledge that the Price Control Officer himself has a far greater knowledge of the Price Control legislation than anybody else. Certainly whenever I have had to deal with him in Court, I had to say either in the Court before whom he was appearing or to Counsel who was in the case that he is the only person I have ever known able to produce the 1939 Defence Regulations and trace through the 1939, 1941 and 1944 Regulations the statutory authority for any given price. I have never known anybody but Mr. Emptage able to do it really competently. This is too great a load to put on an individual. It is only the Price Control Officer's efficiency and knowledge based on the long years he has been in the position which enables these prosecutions to be carried through successfully. I hope the Minister will undertake the job. whenever he has a movement in price control, of authenticating that particular type of article with which he is dealing in this Act so that you will not have to be bringing charges referring to the Defence Regulations as amended by a long list of Acts. It is inconvenient. It is all the more inconvenient when in Barbados you cannot get proper copies of the Laws of Barbados although we were promised them two years ago, and even when we get the Laws of Barbados, we will not have the subsidiary -legislation. 1.35 p.m.

Even when we get the laws of Barbados we will not have the Statutory Instruments, the subsidiary legislation. This means that a newly called barrister in Barbados cannot defend a client charged with a Price Control offence effectively because he simply has no means of access to all the Acts under which these charges may be brought. Even the Law Library does not have a complete set of Statutory Instruments; that, Sir, is in parenthesis.

I welcome the establishment of this Price Control Commission; I only and very since rely hope that this Commission will not turn out to be a dead letter appointed for the sake of saying that you are doing something but not intending to do any real work. I very much hope, I really do deeply hope that this is not going to be a Commission consisting of faithful servants of the Democratic Labour Party who have to be found a pasture in which to browse. Let us not forget this; the people who sit on this Commission are going to be under some commercial pressure. You cannot afford to have Da Costa's man on this Commission; you cannot' afford to have Goddard's man on this Commission because it is against the Goddards and the Da Costas, against the import and export structure of this Island that this Commission is appointed; it is against the Commission Merchants. It is all very well to have a representative on the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association to put their points of view; we will be in an impossible situation if you have out of the five members one from the Chamber of Commerce openly, another from the Manufacturers Association openly and three more secretly there for the Commission Merchants, the same Chamber of Commerce and the same Manufacturers Association. You cannot afford to have five people go into that meeting room, each armed with a bucket of white wash; you cannot afford to have that. I personally do not see why the Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers Association should be represented; I do not see why you should have both. Do you mean to tell me that the people who are members of the Manufacturers Association are not also members of

the Chamber of Commerce, and you cannot appoint somebody to take care of the people satisfactorily? The name of Mr. Henry Forde springs to mind. Let this be a proper Commission set up to carry out its proper functions; let us be surprised for once when we seethe gazetted names of the persons appointed on the Commission, let us see that we have the people in whom the people of Barbados can place their trust and not sell them out, not sell them out either on behalf of the Commission Merchants or on behalf of the Government if it has friends it does not want to hurt with particular prices. You should have an independent Commission really carrying out the functions of this Act. Subject to that, we in the Opposition support this Bill.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, it is a little difficult to have any faith in anything that is emanating from the Government today because whatever they say on the floor of this House does not always conform with the truth of what the facts are. Today this belated attempt by the Government to bring forward -this measure after repeated pressure over a number of years by the Opposition as to the necessity for Government intervention to prevant the unqutition-able exploitation that has taken place in so far as merchandising of goods in Barbados is concerned, is such that even looking at the Bill, it leaves one with the impression that this is but only a half-hearted attack. The basic structure of the Bill is such that it is clear that it would be dominated by people who have a vested interest in perpetuating the existing conditions. No Price Control Commission can be effective unless it is staffed by a high-powered body of the people; I can see the point that the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association and the Retailers have an interest, but I would suggest that the true method of dealing with this is to have a majority of independent people on the Board - that is the only true way of looking at it - under an independent Chairman, because we know that there is so much back-scratching going around in Barbados that whenever any applications which come before this particular Commission by reference of the Government, there is going to be something in the nature of conspiracy of the majority on this Board, not to protect the interest of the people as a whole, but to protect their narrow-sectioned interests. Nothing could illustrate this more than the fact that even where you have a Public Utilities Board, the Chamber of Commerce nor the manufacturers of this country had any interest at all in the vicious application of the Telephone Company of this country. They are deserving of absolutely no respect at all in this country nor integrity, for, if they had any sense of integrity they would investigate this, and if they had the knowledge of business which they pretend they have, they would have seen that there was something radically wrong with the application. But their motivation has a narrow motivation towards financial self-interest, and the Telephone Company could have got away with the vicious increase they had asked for, and it would only be opening the door for the same Chamber of Commerce, the same Manufacturers Association and others to increase their respective products to a comparable rate. You can have absolutely no faith in any Commission which is dominated numerically like that.

As for the Consumers Association, the Democratic Labour Party pimps at the lower level, the yard fowls that have been with the Consumers Association being a body of women trying to subvert the whole community, and as a result of this subversion of the highest bracket of the taxpayers' money - the Consumers' Association never before as a body have been under such aspercious circumstances in a country. This ought to be a national movement irrespective of political affiliations, but a narrow group

of dedicated yard-fowls - you should call them yard-hens - have conceded as their duty to the country and to their political Party to capture control of this Association and to perfect this purpose, and I charge them with that today, because they are taking their orders from Roebuck Street, the Democratic Labour Party Headquarters, not orders in the interest of the consumers; people can have no confidence in them at all because they try to bring politics into the Consumers' Association. I do not care what they say about me.

1.45 p.m.

They are only a few women who support the Democratic Labour Party - you can count them on your hands - and they are pitch-forking themselves into poiitioni which they know absolutely nothing about. They are put up there became the standards are such in Barbados today that the Government in power has so debased it - it has so debased people's standards, and warped people's minds and Judgments to such an extent that they have people who think that only those who openly identify themselves with the Government in power can hold certain positions in this country. So-called intelligent people do it, but that is the warped nature of the position. I have no faith in them at all. What are you left with? You are left with a body that is dominated by people who have an interest in the matter. You want an independent body to protect the consumers as a whole. The proper machinery for this is to use the Public Utilities Board, enlarge the powers and make it a Public Utilities and Prices Commission. Make it a complete thing with independent power to call for investigations, to prohibit by Order the raising of prices unless and until certain investigations have taken place.

We go further, Sir. Never have I had more confirmatory evidence that lunacy is in control of this Government than I saw at a television programme the other night in which one person, who is supposed to be the acknowledged Prime Minister of this Island, manifested his propensity for mischief-making more than ever before when he got on the television and said that all of the engines in the fishing boats we have in Barbados should be used for pumping water for agricultural purposes. Nothing was calculated to cause more disquiet , among 1,500 and 2,000 people who risk their lives daily at all hours in the morning, and then to get that sort of gratitude from somebody who is supposed to be the Prime Minister. I am sorry he is not in here today. I would charge him today with the greatest degree of irresponsibility ever committed by a Prime Minister in any country. I am sure the hon. Minister of Trade would not agree with it. How can anybody, who claims to be sane, get on a television programme before the entire nation and insult and discourage the tremendous effort that is taking place by so great a mass of people? How can anybody do that? Not only in Bridgetown, but right through the coast line of Barbados he threw shivers among the souls of many people, and then says that he is a responsible man! His propensity for talking nonsense, for displaying lunacy and speaking untruth, is so well known .....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will ask the hon. member ..... Mr. St. JOHN Who is his?

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member has said 'the Prime Minister.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Speaker, what are you asking me to do?

Mr. SPEAKER:
I refer to the last remark which, the hon. member made in reference to a member of this House,

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Speaker, his propensity for stating facts which turn out later to be completely different from how he represents them is so great....

Mr. SPEAKER:
That is now being said.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Speaker, you just have to pick up today's paper and see. The Government cannot get ready-mixed concrete. They are only getting 10 tons a day. There is a public contradiction, and only the dishonest newspaper would try to mask it. There is a public contradiction in the newspaper by Ready-Mixed Construction saying that it is a lie; he must have been misinformed because of the fact that 'we have been complying with our quota requirements.'

I am going to deal with this matter in detail, because it is necessary to quiet the fears which were generated by the Prime Minister's speech. No fishery resources in the in-shore 30 to 40 miles out have been discovered by the United Nations. Nothing that could be operated on a commercial scale, having regard to the capitalisation necessary, has been discovered. I saw the present United States Director of the Fisheries Resources in Barbados and the Caribbean Development, and he told me that there is absolutely no evidence that it would be profitable for a trawler to ope rate within the 40-mile range of Barbados. That is what Mr. Dibbs told me, and I believe him.

I am sorry the Prime Minister did not come in here today. Every Report that has been published by the United Nations in connection with the Caribbean Fisheries shows that there is a resource, but it is situated some 180 to 200 miles off Barbados along the continental shelf of Guyana, Surinam, starting from Trinidad and going right up. Any village idiot, any person with any degree of responsibility, would have recognised that it is perfectly consistent to have a fishing complex based upon the exploitation of that fisheries resource 180 to 200 miles off Barbados and at the same time maintain what is your essential in-shore fishing resource; but such is the animus and the capacity for spite of some people that, because of the fact that it was the Labour Party Government in 1956 which built up the industry and the mechanisation of the boats today, this Government can never conceive the fact that it is making a contribution; yet, between six million pounds to nine million pounds of fish are caught yearly in Barbados, depending on the tide conditions in the respective areas. It fluctuates between six and nine million pounds. Those figures are found in the Government's published Report. I would not expect the Minister of Agriculture to know this, because the Minister of Agriculture is a failure as Minister of Agriculture. I would expect that the Minister of Trade would know this. The Minister of Agriculture is gone; he has neither the physical energy, the mental energy, nor the capacity to cope with these modern-day problems.

Sir, this Government has no agricultural policy; - it cannot get a proper Minister of Agriculture; there is so much division within the Ministry of Agriculture itself between the Technical Officers and the Administrative Officers that that whole Ministry of Agriculture is a joke. All the time is spent in there tug-of -warring and in making speeches;, and the Minister of Agriculture will read them nicely. The position is that the Flying Fish, the Dolphin and the Albacore that are caught in Barbados provide a source of livelihood for a significant number of people not only in the sea, but on the land. It is questionable whether they are getting the best out of it now because of the policy consistently pursued by this Government. You have them in a strait jacket of control for the end product; the manufacturers of the engines and the people who have to supply the wood and other items that they use, and on the materials that they have to use for fishing you allow the merchants unlimited mark ups; so that the cost of the operation is rising, but you have them in the strait jacket of control. Everybody knows that they have to break out of it. Sheer economics will make them break out of it. 1.55 p.m.

In any event, if this Government was a Socialist Government, a Government that knew what it was doing it would not allow Bookers to exploit Barbados Fisheries which is only a subsidiary of Bookers really and truly, and exploit this so-called fish reserve which has been discovered. The Government through the Agricultural Development Corporation, the Barbados Marketing Corporation or one of the agencies would have promoted a company and said it was willing to put up at least 50% of the share capital; but the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade cannot do anything about it because they are so completely and absolutely dominated by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister goes mad now and again obviously, because how could you tell me that you want to pump water in agriculture with the engines in fishing boats, that you need trawler fishing and at the same time you tell me that your Government in an under-developed country is not going to do one whit to help promote this trawler fishing? This is one of the areas into which the Barbados Marketing Corporation could go easily. There

is no doubt about it. The capitalisation of a company is in the vicinity of $250,000. I have seen the feasibility studies. The Government could go in fifty fifty, the B.M.C. could go in and there are other distributing outlets who would go in too; but this Government does absolutely nothing about it, and uses television, a public medium subscribed to by the taxpayers of this country, to insult the general masses of people in this country. This Government will have to pay for this irresponsibility of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I want to hear the Hon. Minister, say what are the Government's views in relation to price control for fish. You are not price -controlling the fish that it brought in by Barbados Seafoods, but you axe going to price -control the fish that is brought in by Barbadian seamen. You are not price-controlling shrimps. They axe brought in by a big American Corporation that has its business set up in such a way that they do not have to pay taxes in Barbados. You axe not price-controlling the price of parts, paints or wood. The Barbadian fishermen must pay whatever the merchants charge for them, but their end products must be price-controlled. Don't you see the viciousness and unfairness of this whole thing? It is no wonder people are coming to the conclusion that in this country there is no future for them, because there is a Government in power which is completely devoid of any interest in what is going on around them. They are only interested in catering to the developers who come down here, people like the Hilton Organisation, people who come here to promote them and their friends in executive positions based, not upon ability, but upon the fact that they have the decision-making power in this country, and therefore they can exploit it money-wise. They are not interested in protecting the masses of people in this country.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:
This sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m.

On resumption:

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

I understand that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No.56 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, is ready.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:- Is the Government aware that a great hardship exists in certain parts of the Island where, in villages where there is no electricity supply although the power mains are only a short distance away, the people in such districts are unable to meet the high cost quoted by the Barbados Light & Power Co., for bringing the supply into their homes?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government consider alleviating such hardship by either (a) subsidising the cost of bringing the electric supply into the people's homes; or (b) guaranteeing to the Company the cost of extending their supply to the people in the same way that loans to certain public utilities are guaranteed by Government?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. No, Sir. The Government is aware that the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited is making a positive contribution to alleviating the hardships experienced by the people through its Rural Development and Extension Programmes and Assisted Wiring Programmes."

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, is the Minister aware that the poles are within a stone's throw of some of these homes and they still cannot get electricity?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

The reply to that would be "No". As long as the poles are within distance of !the homes, I have never heard of any complaints about getting electricity. I have heard of complaints where poles were too far away and people would have to pay to put down their own poles; but where there have been poles, I have had no complaints and I am sure that if the hon. member can give me the names of people that are within short distance of the poles where it would be convenient for them to run the wire from the main poles to their homes, I am sure the Electric Company would instal the current, because if there is one Public Utility company that has cooperated to the greatest extent with Government, it is the Electric Company.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, , is it the policy of the Government to help these people to get light into theii homes?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, in reply to that, I would have to say that this is something that Government would have to consider. As long as there are sufficient people in any district who apply for electricity, the Electric Company has put up poles and extended electricity as long as it was a paying venture. If there are forty or fifty people in any particular area interested in lights and they had submitted applications, the Electric Company would review the position, and I am perfectly sure this is what they have done in several villages, and every month I receive information from them setting out the numbei of people !in areas applying for the installation of electricity. What I have heard complaints about is that two or three people might pay to put up a pole and then other people run electricity from that pole, and they feel they should have a refund on the cost of putting up the pole. This is what I am worried about, because I do not think it is fair to those persons who first installed the pole not to get a rebate.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his reply made mention of the Rural Development Programme of the Barbados Light and Power Co. I wonder if the Minister can tell us how far this programme extends, and what is the cost of this programme.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have here on the file a certain amount of persons who received light in the year 1969, but this I will have to quote from a letter written by the Public Utilities Board to a lady who applied. It reads as follows

"Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 5th December enclosing the text of the Parliamentary Quaition tabled on 4th November, 1969. Our company has so far this year completed approximately $50,000 worth of work.....

2.45 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Speaker, will the Minister re-read that, because we cannot hear very well over here.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Yes, will the Hon. Minister reread slowly?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
I go on, Mr. Speaker,

No. of Cost of

Places

persons extension

Fair View 23 $ 5, 850

Coverley Land 8 1, 185

Thornbury Hill 12 2, 380

Whitehall and

Mount All 102 18, 360

Workmans and

Free Hill 17 890

Carmichael Tenantry and

Mannings Village 12 1, 798

Bowmanston 17 2, 312

Sealy Hall 11 1, 670

Thicket Tenantry 24 2, 327

Near Rices 5 1,083

Mount Brevitor 19 1, 130

Olive Lodge Gap 8 1, 633

The Risk 21 4,200

Fisherpond 8 1, 315

Welches Land and

Welches Village 7 948

Exchange and

Salmonds 17 3, 576

No. of persons supplied - 311; cost of extensions - $50, 657. Orders have been issued for six other extensions and preparatory work has already commenced".

Mr. Speaker, I would like to as sure hon. members on the other side that the Electric Company is one company which I am satisfied is doing everything in its power to help the people of this country. ;

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in the light of the information given by the Minister, does the Minister not understand that the Question asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph relates specifically to those cases where you find the Light and Power Company telling you as in the case of Mount Brevitor when they have an application for 19 people that it will cost $1, 130 for the lines? Does the Minister understand that the Question if asking Government to either guarantee the loons that these people will be called upon to pay or to subsidise the payment or to do something so that the Electric Company would expedite

its programme?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the names and number of people that I have called out are places where they have already completed work. With regard to the hon. junior member for St. Peter asking about Government guaranteeing loans or subsidising these amounts, this would have to be a policy decision, and I as a Minister cannot state that it will be considered by Government, or what their intentions or views would be; but I am perfectly sure, from the demonstration of this and the amount of people that will be served, that as long as there were sufficient- people in any area which would make it feasible to run lines, the Electric Company will do so. I am perfectly sure that this is the policy of the Electric Company. These are instances where services like water facilities etc. can be made available to people in most areas, but some people live so far in the back that we must encourage them to come up to the road where they can get services rather than let the services go to them.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, you will pardon me, but I am not asking the Hon. Minister a supplementary yet; I am appealing to you. The Minister has missed the point completely, and I wonder if youwould allow me to read the Question again because he is straying from the point.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may put it this way "Does the Minister not appreciate that purport of my Question is" and then repeat the Question.

Mr. SMITH:

Is the Minister aware that the purport of the last paragraph of my Question was whether Government would guarantee the loan or the cost for the installation of power into these people's homes? Since the Minister has let us know that the Electric Company is bending over backwards to help the people, will the Government do likewise to help them too?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, I answered the hon. senior member twice already, and I said that as Minister I will have to get the Government's policy on this.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not now speaking for the Government?

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister not pursue the policy which was pursued by the Councils in the past of guaranteeing to the Electric Company that Government will pay part of the cost of the lines by erecting street lights in these areas?

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Christ Church knows that the Cider the Ministry of Communica-and not under the Ministry of Trade think he will have to ask the Minister ations and Works his supplementary

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not answering for electricity?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Electricity is one of the public utilities, but not street lighting; street lighting is separate and distinct. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are no other answers, according to my information laid, and, therefore, we can revert to Private Members' Business. The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, before you revert to Private Members' Business, I must apologise to you and to the House for arriving late for today's sitting, but I had asked my colleague on my left to give notice of a Resolution which I would like to introduce. My colleague did set out to do this, but he had some difficulty in haying this done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member had no difficulty, and I am sure the hon. memberwould have told the hon. senior member for St. James. He was advised that this did not conform to the appropriate Standing Order as it was a Question, and it was not handed in before twelve noon on Friday. I am now, within the last 60

seconds, informed that it is a Re solution and, accordingly, I will give permission for the Resolution to be given notice of. Please proceed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS dissatisfaction is rife among taxi-drivers and taxi-owners who ply their trade at Seawell International Airport;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to enquire into such dissatisfaction, and alleviate the hardships experienced by these drivers and owners.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I understand that there is also one in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. Would that hon. member care to give notice of it now?

Mr. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS Inspectors of Motor Vehicles (Grade One) of the Ministry of Communications and Works are called upon to work all round the clock (bonk holidays and Sundays included);

AND! WHEREAS no overtime pay is given to these Inspectors;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to consider the inconvenience and embarrassment that these said Inspectors have to undergo when engaged in such extra duties with a view to paying them lor this kind of work by an allowance or overtime.

Mr. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS there are a great number of very old people who are In receipt of Public Assistance living in homes that are in a very bad state of disrepaid;

AND WHEREAS the said old people cannot qualify for a loan from the Housing Authority to effect the necessary repairs;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to take steps to ameliorate their deplorable condition by giving them, the necessary assistance toeffect repairs to their homes, so that they will have adequate shelter from the sun and rain.

Mr. SPEAKER:
For the future, I will remind hon. members of Standing Order No 20(7) wherein it is stated

"Any member desiring to give oral notice of a motion shall, not later than noon on the Friday preceding the next sitting of the House, notify the Clerk's Office in writing."

As to that, I am quite mindful that last Friday there was a continuation of a meeting of the Chamber; hence the latitude which is now allowed.

Reverting to Private Members' Business, Item No. 1 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James, and on the 10th February, 1970, when further consideration was postponed, it was done on the motion of the hon. senior member for St. James who may resume now, or who may move again that further consideration be now postponed. It is a matter for the hon. senior member for St. James.

RESOLUTION re MINIMUM WAGE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, again today we have the spectacle of the Minister of Housing, who threw down a challenge - and I courageously took it up -that he would produce documentary evidence to the effect that the sugar workers' case was taken up by the Union and by the Sugar Producers Association before I gave notice of this Re solution. I can appreciate, however, the Hon. Minister's position. It is regrettable that I would be ruled out of order by you, Mr. Speaker, if I were to use the language that would be best suited for the Minister in private. In here I am forced to call him a Ministerial bluffer. If there is one person who should be given a Ph.D. in bluffing, it is the Hon. Minister. That lithe second occasion he has attempted to bluff Parliament. On the first occasion the Prime Minister called his bluff and fired him. On the second occasion he attempted to bluff me, but I gave him enough time to play his game. Two Tuesdays ago he promised this House that he was go-Ing to produce evidence to show that the Resolution, which I gave notice of for out-of-crop wages for the poor sugar workers of this country, was introduced after negotiations for increased wages had begun. I remember it very well.

Sir, I remember reading an article by Senator Frank Walcott who said that it was only political trickery in the Press. He would know that better than anybody else, because even in his own Party he could see that this is another political trick which the Government Minister has set out to try on this side of the House. I am going through with this Re solution today. Let it go to the vote. I warn the Leader of the House. "Heads I win; tails you lose." You have to support it, and if you do not support it, you are in trouble. This is a Resolution like a pan of hot cakes, and you must support it. If you do not support it, it is going to cause a lot of argument, and public argument at that. Do you know why? You have failed to represent the masses, and you set out to re present the classes. What am I asking for? I am asking for an increase in wages for sugar workers and agricultural workers - the people from whom I sprang and whose case I have the honour today to represent in this House. 3.05 p.m.

The half-baked Socialist Government on the other side refuses to give an increase of not less than $5.00 per week to these workers! They have the right to give $100 a week more. I know they are suffering people and are worthy of their hire. The Government is not going to support them, but they were early to jump to give Civil Servants an additional $200 a month to live in their own houses, and an entertainment allowance and salaries of $1,400 a month. What an agricultural worker earns for a whole year some Civil Servants get in one month, because the sugar workers average $1,024 per year. I would have felt rather proud today if Government had made a statement saying that I had only asked for not less than $5.00, but it was their duty to give them not less than $10; I would have withdrawn my Resolution and hung my head in shame. I have not got at my disposal the economic guidance available on the other side. I am not saying that the Prime Minister is an economic genius, but I would just quote Senator Walcott and say that he is a half-baked economist. This is the same Prime Minister who four years ago said that we now have a country'. When we told the people that they now have a country but they need a Government, they said "no" to us. Three years after the Prime Minister says we may soon lose our country if we are not careful. What a bad driver this Prime Minister is. He is like an old colleague of mine who takes you up the garden path, tells you that there are no dogs up there or that they would not bite, and when you get half way he turns back. (Mr. SMITH: Eat up!) "Eat up" says my

former colleague, a member of the Two-

Sons Party. You are Teneriffe to Sam Lords coastline. Do you think then giving it away for a joke? because they are hungry.

Sir, I promised my colleagues ish this Re solution this afternoon so th tinue with other business. I am Government to vote for this even if the

The question that the Resolution do now put and resolved in the negative, the House as follows:-

NOES:
Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mr. LOWE; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. CORBIN; and Mr. HOPPIN - 7.

AYES:
Mr. SMITH; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY and Mr. ST. JOHN - 5.

Ma ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. ST. JOHN:
I beg to second that.

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

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, BARBADOS CONFERENCE (INCORPORATION) ACT, 1959

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the hon. senior member for Bridge town.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. and learned member for Bridgetown is asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member to move the third reading of a Bill to incorporate the Moravian Church, Barbados Conference.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee be now adopted.

Mr. ST. JOHN:
I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. St. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker; In view of the passage of this Bill, I now have the honour to thank hon. members for their service on this Committee and to discharge them with gratitude of the House.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the next Order of the Bay.

Mr. St. JOHN:
I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re INCREASED IN COST OF AERATED BEVERAGES

Mr. SPEAKER:
Order No. 2 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown. When debate on this Resolution was adjourned, after the hon. member had moved the passing and it had been duly seconded, the Hon. Leader of the House moved, seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, that further consideration be postponed. The Hon. Leader of the House may now resume if he thinks fit. 3.15 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Speaker, at the time when the Government saw fit to come in with a Price Control Bill dealing with all commodities, it is peculiar that the hon. junior member for the City should at the same time ask for an enquiry into the price of aerated drinks. As Minister of Trade I would like to state certain facts, and I am quite satisfied that the increases made in the wholesale department by the manufacturers of these aerated drinks have been in no way out of order; as a matter of fact, there has been no material increase by any of these companies since 1955. In 1962 there was a very small increase and that increase was due to consumption tax; but if one could bear in mind the increased costs due to devaluation, trucks and wages - there have been four wage increases since 1955 - 1 have investigated this myself - and I do not think that the increase made by the manufacturers have been exorbitant. I would think that it is a small amount and people have got to accept changes, 'and some of us have got to go back to using mauby, ginger beer and other beverages. The present price of soft drinks is $1.90 per case, tax inclusive, which is an increase of 50#. The manufacturers suggested the price of 12 cents per bottle or 98 cents per case profit. Small drinks used to cost $1.40 per case of 24 bottles and that included a tax of 20 cents per case, and drinks used to be retailed at 9 and 10 cents in some cases and at 11 and .12 in others. I do not think that any one can say that the increase is an exorbitant one when we look at the increased cost of sugar and at devaluation; as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I cannot myself possibly understand how they have not made increases prior to this, but they explained to me that it was strictly due to the volume, the amount, the demand, for the kind of sweet drinks they make, and that this last increase requested for the workers by the Barbados Workers' Union, the cost of machinery, trucks, essences and so on, together with the increased cost of sugar and the price of bottles due to devaluation ought to be taken into account. Equally as well, what has created a burden is back pay they had to pay the workers; so in truth

and in fact I think they have a very good case, and I think if other people in enterprises with their increases were as considerate as these people were, we would not have much trouble. I say this by going in to all the figures, the amount of years that they have withstood the increase without adding - I am not making out any case for them; I am just stating facts at Minister of Trade and what I consider as honest and fair. If I find anything exorbitant, then I will have no alternative than to use the Bill which we are dealing With to put them in their places.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for the postponement.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am in somewhat of a difficulty because my file has not been properly prepared.

Mr. St. JOHN:
That means that you cannot rule me out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Not necessarily. Mr. St. JOHN As I was saying....

Mr. SPEAKER:
As to principle.....

Mr. St. JOHN:
Will you rule?

Mr. SPEAKER:
I rule the motion for postponement was carried; the matter was postponed.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
The motion was not even put; time expired.

Mr. SPEAKER:
If the hon. member would give way, I will find the Clerk.

Mr. St. JOHN:
In the meantime may I continue?

Mr. SPEAKER:
No, I will say that if five minutes is lost I will ask the Hon. Leader of the House to agree that that five minutes be restored. 3.25 p.m.

The hon. member is entitled to speak on the motion.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Now, Mr. Speaker, we are very disappointed in the hon. Minister's reply, because the point that we raised on this side - the points raised in particular by the mover of the Resolution included the point that any investigation that took place should reveal what is the existing rate of return which these companies enjoy upon the capital employed. The hon. Minister tells us that the companies assured him, and he is satisfied (1) that wages have gone up four times, and that there have been four wage increases; (2) the cost of essences; and (3) since devaluation the price of sugar has gone up; but he has not told us what increase in sales has taken place in that period of time. He knows that one of the greatest.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned to the hon. senior member for Christ; Church that they have been able to absorb their losses for a long period of time since 1956 due to the volume, which must have meant increased sales. The sales had increased to such on extent that this was a means of absorbing it, but due to the last increases in wages and having to pay backpay, the backpay is one of the main reasons for putting them in difficulties. The backpay goes back to 1968.

Mr. St. JOHN; Mr. Speaker, is the hon. Minister telling me than an industry which is losing money is going to concede backpay to the Union? The truth of the matter is that you cannot have losses that you can absorb in that manner. What you really mean is that they have enough revenue to cover the

increased cost. In this case this is what an investigation by the hon. Minister should have revealed: it should have revealed that as a result of the intervention of a third producer into the market it has distorted the position in the market. The vicious point is that all three of the producers have got together and are selling under the terms of monopoly conditions.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must realise that this is one of the reasons why we are now bringing this Act into force. As Minister of Trade I have no authority under the present law to call for their books and examine them. That is one of the reasons why we have brought this Bill here. After this Bill is passed we will be in a position to go into an enquiry and ask for books, documents and so on.

Mr. St. JOHN:

If that is so, then I do not quite understand the hon. Minister, be cause he seems to be saying that one of the reasons for the present Bill which we are dealing with today was to prevent a situation such as has arisen in this case. On the other hand, the hon. Minister says that he has done an investigation through his Ministry and is satisfied -as a matter of fact, he compliments them and says that they are reasonable. Is it not indiscreet, in view of the fact that you have this Bill before the House, with your undoubted majority and your certain knowledge that you can get this Bill passed, not to come back to the House and say that the hon. Minister cannot make a statement, but he feels that, when the new Bill is passed, this is an industry which will forthwith be investigated?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Sir, that is exactly what I said. I said that as soon as this Bill comes into force it will give us the power and authority to do certain things, and if an investigation is needed we can go into it.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, maybe I have a little defect in hearing. Is the hon. Minister saying that when the new Bill is passed they will investigate the soft drinks industry?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I have said.to investigate that or any other commodity that requires investigation, and that is why we are here with the Bill for this specific reason.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that there is inconsistency in the attitude. What we are dealing with is a Resolution in connection with soft drinks; so do not tell me about anything else. Is the hon. Minister saying that on the passing of this

Price Control Bill, they will investigate the soft drinks industry?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

If need be, certainly.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Does the Minister feel that he should investigate it?

Mr. Speaker, there is no answer; it is only a specious excuse. The hon. Minister knows that they have agreed with Sam Ashby that he can have an increase in order to bail him out.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member speaks about on agreement with somebody. I am the Minister of Trade, and the one thing I had any agreement with when I entered this Chamber was in shipping. I got rid of that long ago, and I now have absolutely no interest in anything and I hold no brief for anybody. In my capacity I can investigate anything that needs investigating without dread or fear of anybody.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, as the introducer of this Resolution says, in the absence of a statement by the Minister that he feels a thorough investigation into the soft drinks industry should take place, we must press this Resolution to a vote. 1 said last week that the Government would not do anything in relation to this; that the Government's method of getting around the unreasonable increase of 27 1/2 per cent-(Asides.) Sir, when we talk about trucks, you will find that Coca Cola has trucks; Bim has trucks, and Bottlers has trucks. If you look at the industry as a whole you will see that the industry is over-capitalised in relation to the small market we have in Barbados, and you are going to endorse the inefficiency therefor. If they buy 25 more trucks and put them on the same route to do the same service, and if you had two manufacturers you would need fewer trucks, how can you say that you are satisfied with the increased cost?

Mr. Speaker, the basic position of the soft drinks industry in Barbados is that you will never get the true figures. What about the figures advertised? It is well known that as a result of the competition that took place since Bim Beverages, a company promoted with a false impression as to the market in Barbados, came on the scene, certain things happened. It is a company which is inducing people to invest money in an industry which is over-saturated already. That is the position; so, having come into the industry, instead of the other companies being able to satisfy the market, you had a third person in the field so that, when the costs rose, no increase in volume could arise and, therefore, they must now get 27 1/2 per cent increase. The Government has endorsed it, and we know it would have been Government's policy to do so.

Mr. Speaker, we have a statement from the Minister responsible for Trade that he compliments the sweet drinks people on raising the prices so little. If that is your policy, then we will deal with that in another place. The investigation that has been carried out by the Ministry is definitely not a thorough investigation.

Hon. G. G. FEROUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that I would not carry out any thorough investigation unless I was able to inspect the books and went into the matter. I do not have the authority at the moment to inspect the books. This is one of the reasons why I want this Bill passed. I can-not carry out a thorough investigation until I go into the cost, capital investment, and so on, and I do not have the authority to do it. I said that on the surface it seemed reasonable. I do not have any brief for the people. If the members on the other side axe holding a brief for anybody, then I have none.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Point made.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, his proper position is that in view of the fact that the Ministry does not have sufficient or adequate powers to carry out a thorough investigation, and in view of the fact that we are now arming ourselves with this power, the Government feels that this matter should be investigated after the Price Control Bill, as amended, is passed. 3.35 p.m.

What the hon. member says is 'maybe'. He does not give a commitment that it should be so, and that is what we want - a commitment that Government will investigate this.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. junior member for Bridgetown had brought this Resolution asking for that amendment, I would accept the amendment and we would be prepared after this Bill is passed to carry out an investigation through the Price Control Bill.

Mr. St. JOHN:

But in the meantime, are you not going to use your powers of exhortation to tell them to stop the price increase until the Bill is passed? Do you mean you will let them go ahead and do it?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for Christ Church knows that I have no authority at present to do that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The hon. member has made his point. He says he has no authority to do it, but there is nothing in the world to prevent the Minister from making a statement to the public of Barbados that the Ministry feels there should be no price increase until the Price Control Act has been passed and an investigation has taken place. He has the power to make that statement and we will then know what is the position, that in spite of the exhortation of the Ministry the industry has decided that they will go ahead and do it, and we will know exactly how to deal with them in future. The hon. Minister has disclosed his hand too early. He has said that he feels they are entitled to the increase. It is true he has qualified it now and said 'on the surface', but the proper attitude is to say that you cannot determine whether they are entitled to on increase until all the information is available, and you do not have the power at the present moment to command the information - and give us the commitment too.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further considera-tion of this matter be postponed to give the Govern-ment on opportunity to get the machinery in order. Let them arm themselves with the power and we will see whether they will refer the soft drinks industry, having regard to the sentiments of the House, to the new Price Control Commission. Let it stay on the Order Paper.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to second the motion moved by the hon. senior member for Christ Church that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed. We on this side are as concerned about

the rising cost of living as hon. members on the other side or even more so. The position is, as the Hon. Minister for Trade quite rightly said, the workers in industry are asking for higher wages, and this is so island-wide. The minute i the Government has revised its salary structure, every other worker in the country is entitled to an increase in wages, and we are prepared to see - I am talking from the angle of Minister of Labour -that the average worker in industry gets a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. All of us have to go to the supermarket, the bakery, the fish market, the butcher and the Swan Street store; we have to pay the same 75 cents per pound for dolphin and the same price for goods and services; so if salaries and wages in one industry are increased - I am dealing with the industry of Government - we expect an over-all increase for all categories of workers throughout the Jsland. This is why we are very serious about the Minimum Wage legislation.

Only this morning I had discussions with the Attorney General as to the terms of reference for the appointment of the Committee, I and in a few days' time that Committee will be appointed to go into the ramifications of implementing the national Minimum Wage Bill in this country, because we are satisfied that wages and salaries are low, and therefore there have got to be increases commensurate with the increasing cost of living. This is accepted by us. Now we also accept the fact that if you are carrying on an industry and your expenses are increasing, we expect the commodities to increase, but we do not want the price of commodities to be increased out of proportion with the increased wages. I cannot stay here and say I am satisfied that the increases on soft drinks are justified. I am not saying that an increase of 27 per cent is justified; but what I am saying is that after thorough investigations have been carried out, and after inspection of the books of these companies has been done and the increase is justified, I would be the first person to get up and say that they cannot do any better, because we expect a man, if he invests his money, to have a reasonable return; we expect him to be able to pay his employees a respectable salary or wage, and he can only do this from an increased turnover, volume of business and receipts from his business.

I agree therefore to the postponement of this Resolution pending the implementation of the Bill which is now before this Chamber so that we can have proper investigations. Right now the Minister of Trade in powerless in respect of demanding information from the industry. The only way this information can be demanded is through a Commission of

Enquiry, and to establish a Commission of Enquiry is an expensive exercise. If we can get around this by the implementation of legislation such as the one we have before the House today, I think this is the solution to a very serious problem. It is true that wages and salaries have increased in the Government service by an average of between 25 and 30 per cent. I do not think the average Government worker has got an increase of less than 25 per cent. (Mr. St. JOHN: And the cost of living has gone up 100 per cent.) I cannot agree with the hon. member. What I am prepared to say is that we have seen over the years a soaring increase in the cost of living. In 1968 it was contended even in this Chamber that the cost of living has increased something like 17 per cent as a result of devaluation of the pound; so if the hon. member is now contending that the cost of living has increased 100 per cent, he is trying to point out

that between 1968 and now the cost of living has increased 83 per cent, and I cannot agree with him. That is sheer, utter, unadulterated nonsense.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, people talk about cost of living; I agree that the cost of living has increased, but standards have increased. Nobody today is burning cow dung as was done twenty years ago in the Labour Party time; nobody is digging up rotten cane to burn; the average householder wants natural gas or pro-gas. Nobody is working the old coalpot today; you have people with hot plates; the buck pot days are gone. Nobody is cutting khus-khus grass and stuffing a bed today; everyone wants Dunlopillo mattresses. Even if people are cutting khus-khus grass and putting in their beds, that is only done in St. Peter, certainly not in St. Andrew.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it shows plainly that the hon. member is out of touch with the people of St. Andrew; they are still relatively poor.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I do not think there is any representative in this House of Assembly who goes to his people more often than your humble servant; I go to my constituency a minimum of four times a week, and if you doubt me, go and ask the people of St. Andrew. This did not begin yesterday; this was happening now for years; the name of Joy Edwards is a password now for the people of St. Andrew; so I know the plight of these people. I know of the days when my grandmother was digging up cow dung and burning it in the some St. Andrew, and I know that people like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph can appreciate this situation, and can appreciate the change which has taken place in this country over a short period of years.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Let him be specific and tell us what he is referring to.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. senior mem-ber for Christ Church risen?

Mr. St. JOHN:

I have already spoken. Sir. Mr. SPEAKER On a point of order?

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, the answer is obviously since 1961.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, I would like to know if the Minister has any recollection that he said in this House not so long ago that I people were still living in this country in houses in i which when the moon was shining they did not have to turn on electricity because the houses were in such a bad condition.

Mr. SPEAKER:
That is no point of order; do not let us be irrelevant.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
The point is that nobody in those houses should burn rotten cane today.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I wonder if some hon. members would like to re-read Standing Order 29.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, this is a classic example of a representative being out of touch with his constituents; the hon. member knows quite rightly that what I have said is true. Is he telling me that this does not happen in the City? That you do not have houses in the City with a mammoth amount of holes in them, houses that need repair? If the hon. member is telling me this, I will issue instructions to the Housing Authority to stop the repairs we are doing now, free of cost, for these people.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is straying; he is paying too much attention to invalid points of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am not straying; I am talking gene rally of the increase in the standard of living which obviously means an increase in the cost of living. In the very City, only last week I put the stamp of approval on spending some of the $20,000 which we had voted here just a few months ago. I have also put the stomp of approval to do some in St. Peter. After carrying out investigations as to the need of these people, this amount will be increased in the next Estimates.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, on a point of order, I do not know if I misunderstood the Hon. Minister; did he say $20 million or $20,000?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I said $20,000 because that is only the pioneer to what is to come.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, would the Minister say that the will come back here and ask us to divert the money we voted to buy the house in Washington to help the people in Chapman's Lane and St. Peter?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

We do not have to do that; when we want more money to spend on the poor people's houses we will come and ask him to give more of his taxes to do this.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Hon. members not speaking will please observe Standing Order 29.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In July we came here and asked this Chamber for a capital grant, from which grant we have allocated $20,000 for the repairs of houses for these people.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, will the Minister tell us how much money it is going to cost this country to pay Civil Servants a housing allowance?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order; certainly the hon. and learned member will find it easier to distinguish between a valid and an invalid point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it may be relevant for me to state at this stage.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member not deal with invalid points of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Yes, but I am talking about the standard of living of the poor people of this country who are living in sub-standard housing conditions and whose houses the taxes of the same Civil Servants are used to repair.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, are we understanding the Minister correctly that he is saying that the old houses of the poor people are being taxed to pay the Civil Servants? Is that what the Minister said?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. junior member for St. Peter got a prize sometime.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
Let the hon. member proceed on the matter of the debate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, you cannot tell me what I can debate.

Mr. CRAIG:
Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Let the hon. member proceed. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. Minister says that you cannot tell him what to say, but I know that the people in St. Andrew can tell him what to do.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS? Mr. Speaker the people in St. Andrew have given me a mandate to, speak for them here on two occasions, and if and when I go back to them I shall be returned. The operative word is "shall". I read some time ago that the hon. Junior member for St. Peter got a prize for doing a dance called the " Twist". He is now trying to show his expertise in twisting things, because he is trying to twist what I have said. I said that the money is being used to repair the houses of the poor, old people of this country. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am afraid that I will have to.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, let us get on with the debate. The point I made earlier is that the very Civil Servants who have got increases -it is to be remembered that these house allowances are taxable.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order. Will the hon. Minister be able to state how many houses they are going to repair with the $20,000 at their disposal?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

As many as that can do, and more.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid I will have to reread, for the benefit of certain hon. members, Standing Order No. 29 (6). Will hon. members please be fair to each other? When their turn comes, they expect to be fairly treated, the Standing Order states

"While a Member" is speaking, all other Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones, and shall riot make unseemly interruptions."

The operative phrase is: "all other hon. Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones." It is fair to the hon. member who is speaking that others should not do other either be silent or confer in undertones, or they need not be physically present, if they do not like what is being said. Let the hon. member proceed and con-fine himself to the subject matter before the House.

Hon. A. DaC EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, there is a weakness on the other side. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:
May I implore the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown to restrain himself?

Hon. Dac. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, the weakness is this invariably member on this side is speaking and making salient points it leads to a barrage of beckling from the other wide. I have got accustomed to this beckling and regard less of how much I am heckled in here, it will not stop me from saying what I have to I say today. (Asides.)

Hon. A. DaC EDWARDS:
Are you hecking, too?

Do you see what I am saying, Sir?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:
On a point of order, . Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. member denying that he has had the honour of being heckled at his own Constituency Branch meeting?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Nothing could be farther from a point of order than that. Let the hon. member proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, this is a feebly attempt at humour. How would the hon. member know that? We do not admit people from the other side into our Branch meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member must not talk about any Branch meeting - that was a fraudulent point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the increased cost of living is discussed at every Branch meeting of the Democratic Labour Party. I am saying that the increased standard of living, which the Democratic Labour Party has brought to this country, is discussed at every Branch meeting. (Asides.) I am not saying that the cost of living is not, perhaps, high. I would be an idiot to come here and say it is not high. I would like to ask hon. members on the other side whether they would like to live under the conditions that exist today or under the conditions that existed 20 years ago. (Asides.) Some of us want to carry back the hands of the clock rather than to push them forward.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, when you have a Minister addressing this Honourable House, talking about the cost of living, and saying that it is, perhaps, high, are we to understand that there are Ministers on that side who do not know that the cost of living is high?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, let them continue with heckling, but they will not move me from my point. The point I am making is that if we look at the development of this country over the past few years, since 1961, you will find that there is a tremendous upsurge in the standard of living. The people look forward to eating better things; drinking better things; and sleeping on better mattresses. (Asides.)) As I said, I am surprisedto hear that this is not the situation in St. Peter, but I know that is the position in St. Andrew. My constituents look up; they have high minds; they want something better to eat than they were eating yesterday; they want something better to drink; they are not going to Goat Hill cutting bush to put under a pot, but they are using either kerosene .... (Asides.) i

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I remind hon. members of Standing Order No. 29.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the hon. Minister would look around at his other colleagues and see how they .are bowing their heads.

Mr. SPEAKER:

ITiat is no point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. How strange it is that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew doe snot object to the remarks made by the junior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. SPEAKER:

He, presumably, knew that if he rose there would be no point of order at all.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, is in a position to corroborate everything I have said here in respect of the people in St. Andrew. He knows that the standard of the people in St. Andrew has increased; he knows that they are not burning cow dung as they were burning it 20 years ago; he knows that even as recently as last year both he and I made representation to the Natural Gas Corporation in order that the people at Hillaby may get natural gas.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I can say that the junior member for St. Andrew would know is that since the senior member for St. Andrew came to St. Andrew he has been the Saviour for St. Andrew and the junior member was...

Mr. SPEAKER:

That could never, by any stretch of the most horrible imagination, be regarded other than a fraudulent point of order. 4.05 p.m.

Hon. A. DuC. EDWARDS:

That is complimentary to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew because it means that he has a lot of energy, and the junior member can depend on the strength of the senior member as he did in 1961 when he reached the peak of the hill and said that the senior member was ahead because he had the youth and energy.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, would the Hon. Minister say that $1,020 per year for an agricultural worker can give Mm a better standard of living?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order, and I counsel the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that when the Chair says it is no point of order, he should continue with the debate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In 1961 the same agricultural workerwas receiving $510 per year.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

On a point of order, I correct the hon. member; it was $850 a year.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In 1961 the agricultural worker was working for $500 a year.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, it is a very simple calculation. $1,020 divided by two is $510.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, they are tired of heckling; so they have got to run, but I will say what I have to say. The boy stood on the burning deck whence all but he had fled' Mr. Speaker, let us get back to a serious note in this debate.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would welcome that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I could not be serious with all this heckling. (Mr. SPEAKER Ignore it.) Mr. Speaker, let us, for example, take those people that I mentioned in the Hillaby district who instead of cutting briar and wood in the hills are now paying for natural gas. This has increased their standards of living, because the minute they bring natural gas into their homes, they have to go to the expense of purchasing a gas stove and the type of kitchen utensils that go hond-in-hand with it. The people who cannot get natural gas are using progas, and those who do not use progas are using kerosene; so it costs them more to cook. Let us take the programme of the Democratic Labour Party, now running this country, of electrifying the Island as rapidly as possible. Let us take the fact that people who ten years ago were living in dark alleys . ...

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister was present not long ago when we asked the Minister of Trade about Government assisting the Barbados Light Power with expediting their rural programme for lighting.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order. But let me just remind the hon. Minister that we are still on the Resolution in respect of the increase in soft aerated beverages.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Yes, and all this is relevant when we think of the increased cost of living, and I am trying to explain that the increased cost of living.....

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister now suggesting ....

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order. Is the Minister now telling us that the increase on soft drinks is in order?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, only someone who was sleeping when I began my address could have the gall and gumption to get up and ask a question like that when I said in my opening remarks that I could not say at this stage whether or not the increase was justified. I want to say that if all industry in this Island has not yet been called upon to pay increased wages and salaries, they will be called upon in a short while, because all workers must have on increase in their wages or salaries to measure up with the increase in the cost of living occasioned by the increase in the standard of living of the people. I am trying to more my points and they are trying to push me off, but every time they get up I am going to sit, get back up and talk, and do my own thing this afternoon. I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that this Government of the Dems have seen to it that there has been a great expansion of the lighting programme Island-wide. We made it possible for people in districts to have electricity attached to their homes by carrying electricity to almost every school in the country, and the people who live along the routes where you had to carry the electricity to the schools ; are in a position to have electricity there.

Now if you were burning a kerosene lamp prior to the implementation of this scheme by the D.L.P., it was more economical. Today lighting in the country and in the homes of people has increased, and this obviously must lead to on increase in the cost I of living, and at the same time it bears out the point I am trying to make that the standard of living of these people has increased.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, can the Minister who is posing as an expert in lighting tell me to what extent lighting has increased in the parish of St. Peter?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

You are finding a very good way to protect the Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not interested in protecting the Minister any more than any other member. I am interested in preserving the Standing Orders.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

If the hon. junior member for St. Peter is willing to stand on the floor of this Chamber and state that the standard of lighting has not increased and that more people in St. Peter today have electricity carried to their homes than was the case in 1961, then I say that he does not go to his constituency, he is out of touch with the people of his constituency and he himself doe snot know that recently electricity was attached in Boscobelle.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I was instrumental in having the lighting which the hon. member is now praising done in Boscobelle. I worked day and night to have it extended to them; so he would not have to tell me when Boscobelle got or when people in any district in St. Peter got.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Anybody can get up in here and sing his own praises.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The other was no point of order, and there is no such thing as a point of illuminating. 4.15 pan.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party carried light in St. Peter to the school at Indian Ground, and this has assisted the people at Indian Ground to have light in their homes.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the motion before the House is a motion to postpone further consideration of the Resolution which seeks to ask for a Commission of Enquiry into the soft drinks

industry. I submit that this discussion on electricity is irrelevant and I ask your Honour to rule.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This motion was seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, but the hon. seniormember for St. Andrew has apparently fallen into certain traps when other hon. members rose on invalid points of order.

Hon. A. Dac. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I have not fallen into any trap; I have pointed out that the increase in the price of soft drinks has sprung from an increase in the cost of living, and the increase in the cost of living has sprung from an increase in the standard of living and from the fact that the wages demanded by workers in an industry have increased, and I have tried to point out.....

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, am I to understand from the Hon. Minister that whenever there is a wage increase, there is also an increase in the cost of living?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I will ignore some of the points of interruption, worthless though they may be. (Asides.) When the Standing Orders of this Chamber are observed, I will then continue to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Standing Order 29(6); only one member is addressing the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS;Mr. Speaker, I was saying that in dealing with the cost of living we have got to deal with all aspects of it, and I said that what has added to the cost of living is the improvement that the Democratic Labour Party has brought to the people of this country, and also the fact that the Democratic Labour Party has seen to it that the people in St. Peter....

Mr. CRAIG:

Am I to understand that the Minister is saying that the Democratic Labour Party is improving the cost of living or the standard of living?

Mr. SPEAKER:

It can never be a point of order for an hon. member to say "am I to understand".

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, in the context of my argument, the Democratic Labour Party has been responsible for increasing the standard of living for the people, even when they were carrying electricity to Indian Ground and Boscobelle, St. Peter, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter has contended that this was not done by the Democratic Labour Party. When the Democratic Labour Party saw that electricity was carried to Boscobelle or to Indian Ground the hon. member was not in here.

Mr. SMITH:

On a point of order. Sir, I under-stand that the motion before the House is one for the postponement of this Resolution and that the hon. member seconded that motion. I would have thought that the member should have been confined to giving his reasons for the postponement and nothing else; that is what I would do if I were in the Chair; but electricity and all kinds of things axe coming into this debate and you axe keeping your eyes on the clock, so that at 4.30 you will declare Private Members' Business closed and nothing will be done. The hon. member should be confined to the motion and not be allowed to stray all over the place; this is a first class way of keeping Private Members' Business out of the picture.

Mr. SPEAKER:

And I am afraid that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has also gone all over the place after making his point of order. Let me say this; the hon. member seconded the motion for further consideration, but that in my view did not debar him from speaking on the substantive motion, he not having spoken on it before. It, however, does not entitle him to speak on other than the substantive motion - the recently increased costs of soft aerated drinks - and that this should be postponed for further consideration.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking on the motion that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Nobody in the world can tell me that I cannot stand up here on the floor of this Chamber and say why I feel that it ought to be postponed, and they cannot tell me what words I should use to say why I feel that further consideration should be postponed. Nobody can tell me that I must confine my remarks to soft drinks because I am speaking on the postponement of the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Speaker, he is only insulting the high office of your Chair, if he says that.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am more than grateful to the hon. senior member for St. James for his support of the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, if I feel that because the Democratic Labour Party has carried electricity to the people of this country this Resolution can be postponed, I can get up in this Chamber and say so. I was elected by the people and it is my democratic right and privilege to come here and speak, and speak fearlessly on any motion before the Chamber. there is a motion before the Chamber dealing with the postponement of a Resolution and I am speaking on that motion, not on the substantive motion.

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, why does the Minister not bring in here the documentary evidence he said he would bring on my Resolution?

Mr. SPEAKER:
That is no point of order, as I am sure the hon. member realises. If an hon. member realises he has not risen on a point of order, in fairness to himself and even in greater fairness to Ms colleagues he should not rise; it is a long time since I have heard a point of order today.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, in my argument as to why any further consideration should be postponed, I was dealing with the standard of living which the Democratic Labour Party brought to this country. I was dealing with the fact that people in this country must stop sleeping on khus-khus beds and that the Democratic Labour Party has encouraged industries to come here that people can get mattresses to sleep on. The worst mattress costs considerably more than a bundle or two of khus-khus grass that the people were accustomed to 10 or 15 years ago, and therefore this must add to the cost of living. (Asides) The people

in this country are not interested in being kept warm by khus-khus grass; they prefer to be kept warm by Dunlopillo; the average householder today is interested in having his own means of transportation; even if it means going up to Tweedside Road on Sunday mornings to have it fixed. Instead of getting on a bus to be squeezed up and pushed around, we prefer to have our own cars and our own motor cycles and that sort of thing. 4.25 p.m.

Every time he gets into that car it means, at least, a gallon of gasolene; therefore, even the purchase of that gallon of gasolene increases the cost of living of the individual person who is using his own motor car. We car hardly walk the streets; we have almost as many motor cars and bicycles in Barbados today as we have people, and we cannot walk the streets as fearlessly as we have done in the past.

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is the Hon. Minister saying that the soft drinks should be increased?

Mr. SPEAKER:
No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, I sympathise with the hon. senior member for St. James, because my argument is above him; he cannot understand it. I have already said that I am not speaking on the Resolution; I am speaking on the postponement, and, nobody can tell me the argument which I should adduce in order to justify the postponement of the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG:
You might as well swipe out your hand now, because you are seeing daylight.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Speaker, I will swipe out my hand and nobody on the other side can stop me, and they will have a very tough battle to remove me. I have joined with the Democratic Labour Party in improving the standard of living of the people in this country, and I will see to it that there is nonsense in not looking at a Resolution like this and paying due consideration to....

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, jam I to understand that the senior member for St. Andrew is....

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am afraid that the time for Private Members' Business has now expired.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for a quarter of an hour.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:
I beg to second that.

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

On resumption:

MISCELLANEOUS CONTROLS ACT, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER:
When Government Business was suspended earlier in the day, the hon. and learned member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, we view this Miscellaneous Prices Control Act and this Bill to establish a Prices Commission as only one piece of a series of legislation which is necessary, if a general attack is to be made by any Government in power upon the cost of living of this country. I should like to have an explanation from the Government as to why they have not seen fit to publish a Report on the distributive mark-up in this country which was made by, I think, Professor Smith of Oxford University out of an enquiry at the request of the Government. That Report has never seen the light of day. I understand that the merchants are claiming that this Report shows quite clearly that their mark-ups are not unreasonable. I think it was a prelude to public discussion and public information on what is involved in exercising these powers we are now asking to be put into law, and the publication of that Report would be very helpful. It has never been published on the floor of this House. It is one of a series of a number of Reports.

The senior member for St. Thomas dealt with the problem which has arisen in this country as a result of the large import bill. Some of these imports, no doubt, are for capital expenditure and capital goods. To the extent that there are for capital goods, they will in future contribute to the creation of more income. What I am particularly disturbed about, and what other Governments in the Caribbean are disturbed about, is that the larger part of the import bill is spent on things which could have been produced in Barbados.

Sir, we have repeatedly said on the floor of this House that, just as the Government found it necessary in order to introduce risk capital into industrial development and to enter the tourist industry, to enact incentives, we feel that incentive shave to be given in certain agricultural industries such as the growing of vegetables. Now, Sunfarms Limited has been granted incentives; but there are aj number of small farmers in this country who produce vegetables and who would love incentives, and there is no incentive legislation for the agricultural industry as a whole. The time has come now where Government should seriously investigate whether we have not reached the stage where for every class of hotel development you should have incentives. This really needs investigation. The industry has advanced to such a stage that there is no risk involved in it now. As a matter of fact, the whole industry wants a complete investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the prices charged to visitors from abroad by the hotels will be one of the first things that will be investigated. You cannot convince me yet that there is not something funny going around, because, , when I look at the wage structure in the hotel industry, I find that some of the hotels cost $80 or $105 a day. Even on the South Coast, where charges have gone up tremendously, they are only paying a basic wage of $27 to $30 a week. The barmen and so on will get $40 a week. The workers are convinced in their minds that the 10 percent money is being pinched by the management not only on the West Coast, but on the South Coast, too. A proportion of the 10 per cent money is being deducted to cover charges for breakage and so on. One of the hotels on the South Coast has had the audacity lately to deduct a part of the 10 per cent, because the Manager said that he has a restaurant going and it is losing money. Must the workers subsidise it?

4.55 p.m.

I am going to bring down a Bill and defy the Government to vote against it in which the Trade Union or the workers' representative is entitled weekly to see the gross billings of the hotels so that Barbadians can calculate. All you have to do is to divide it by ten. They are entitled to ten percent of the gross billings, and the law should say that at the end of every week the workers' representative should be entitled to see all the accounting machines, bills or whatever system is used, certified by the management, so that the Union would be able to gee whether e workers are getting the ten per cent. You hear people saying persistently that the standard of service is going down and that there is sullenness among the workers. If the workers feel they are being robbed of part of their legitimate earnings, you must get sullenness. One of the easiest ways of preventing sullenness and discontent is to have a satisfied and contented staff, and in these days of the high cost of living, an industry which is bragging that it has a capitalisation of $60 million invested with a ten year write-off period can still only pay workers $27 a week basic wages, and the women get less! I have seen people construct apartment buildings for $600,000 or $700,000 and sell them for $1 3/4 million in the space of two years. That is what is going on in Barbados. There are many instances in which the Hoteliers Act is used not for the purpose of creating apartment buildings which the people intend to operate, but as a means of getting speculative capital invested, and the tragedy of all this is that although we have repeatedly pointed out on the floor of this House that it is the income tax payers and the consumers who have to pay for the subsidy that is given to the hotel industry, these people get away scot-free without paying a Capital Gains Tax. I cannot under stand for the life of me the taxation policy of the Government. What are .they afraid of?

Mr. Speaker, the Americans who come here are accuitomed in their load to paying a Capital Gains Tax at a rate of somewhere in the vicinity of 25 per cent; but we in this country have absolutely no courage to do exactly the same thing, and the income tax payers in this country have to swear day in and day out with income tax rates, and the captains of the capital axe allowed to take advantage of our incentive legislation and sell out. Do you know that Eastry House has been sold out after the tax period? Sandy Lane was sold out and Accra was sold out. Everyone of them was sold out with no Capital Gains Tax paid. This is so fantastic, Mr. Speaker, that it is going to lead to trouble in this country because Barbadians axe not fools. How is it that an industry with capital invested in it can in a short space of time double and cannot afford to pay a basic wage of more than $27 a week? Something must be wrong. There is real madness around here. The whole structure of the industry wants investigating.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come, in conjunction with this Bill, to have what is known as a Truth-in-Lending Bill. The object of a Truth-in-Lending Bill is to make sure that the interest rate that you pay for goods on hire-purchase or credit-charge or credit-sale that the purchaser has to pay is shown. You break it down in an easy table be cause when he says that he is paying 9% interest per year, in truth and in fact it is 18% per year because the interest is added on as part of the loan at the beginning, and when you pay

back the monthly instalments, you are paying back part of the capital, but you still have to pay the whole interest on it for twelve months. All over the progressive countries in the world they are insisting on this, because it helps to prevent people from extending themselves beyond their real creditworthy ness. If you have imports coming in here greater than your visible exports, it means either that you are financing capital expenditure or you are living beyond your means, because you are getting your bank credit for the purpose of financing your future debt in the form of hire-purchase or credit-sales, and you are going to mortgage your future income on that. That is exactly what is happening in Barbados.

I am sorry the Minister of Labour has gone, because none of this analysis has been done; you only see passing reference to this and to that.

Thirdly, Sir, and most important of all, this Government has consistently denied to the Ministry of Trade and Industry adequate staffing. When you look at the staff structure of the Ministry of Trade and its responsibility, there is no person in there who can devote himself whole-time to the tourist industry and all its ramifications. You must take it from the Tourist Board, and the Tourist Board has no interest of Barbados at heart; it has the interest of the people of the Tourist Board at heart. We want an expert within the Ministry of Tourism at Ministerial level so that the Minister can be aware of the ramifications on everything. The Tourist Board is only there to promote the interest of individual hoteliers and individual people who own hotels. We go further and say that we cannot expect that the Tourist Board is going to invite Government to pass regnilttioni dealing with questions such as the 10% or matters of that kind. The Trade Union cannot act effectively in this field because with our high rate of unemployment it is possible for employers to hire non-Union labour. The Union has not got effective control at all, and in any event the Union has to barter for a national wage scale in the industry, and the people on the St. James coast feel that it is a completely different industry from the South Coast; so there will always be dissatisfaction. The Union has no real hold over its mem-bers, because these people will tell the workers not to mind what the Union has agreed to; this is what they are telling them. This is the area where the Government has to intervene, because what the people in this country do not realise is that Barbados has a lot of competitors in this tourist field; and unless we look into our costs and exercise control over this industry we will find ourselves in trouble. This industry was not built up for the benefit of the pockets of hoteliers who come into it; it was built up as a long-term measure to help relieve unemployment and contribute to the increasing standard of living in this country. Government has a greater interest in this country than any nincompoop hotelier who comes here and invests his money, and we are the protectors of it. He may think that, because he has $2 million or $3 million invested in it, he has a greater interest. He may have a greater interest in seeing this $2 million or $3 million protected, but we have a greater interest in seeing that the employment of 4,000 or 5,000 people and the income they would get out of it is preserved for Barbados, irrespective of who owns the hotel industry. So without this attitude being adopted in the administration of this Bill towards these measures of which we have spoken, the Bill will do nothing to prevent the situation which is admitted by all sides is in existence in Barbados today; namely, the ever-recurring increase in the cost of living. It is by these measures that you will control it, and not by the talk by the Prime Minister when he says we will have inflation and we cannot do anything about it. 5.05 p.m.

It is weakness to say that you cannot do anything about it; what is better is to try your best first and then you can say that despite the efforts you made there are factors which you cannot control. There are many factors here which you can control. This is the only country in the world in which people will give you money to borrow money at Christmas time; all the firms advertise these big offers; if you buy a refrigerator which is worth $1, 100 they will give you three folding chairs or that kind of thing free, which is encouraging people to live far and beyond their income. All the other countries have to decide that there is a percentage which every person must pay down, but it is ridiculous to encourage people to borrow money at 16% and 18% interest. These are important measures; work it back for yourself. It sets out exactly in the Schedule what is the true rate of interest, because the rate of interest is being calculated at fantastic rates.

You should staff the Ministry of Trade with proper people. It is impossible for your Permanent Secretary to do it alone; you cannot rely on your Economic Planning Unit, and until you staff your Ministry adequately anything can happen in this country.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have sat here and listened carefully to all the speakers on the other side, and from the discussions there has been a lot that is of great value, and the speakers can be commended for drawing them to the attention of the Government. On the other hand, there have been some comments made which have just been positively with an Opposition feeling that they must oppose something, but not really to make any contribution. On the whole, the debate has been very interesting.

The hon. junior member for the City was the first member who spoke, and he was ridiculing the Government for leaving this three-tiered system where there is an importer, a wholesaler and a retailer; equally as well he commented that the Government should take some steps to prevent firms from amalgamating. Mr. Speaker, I think, when the people of Barbados can sit down and see large firms alamga-mate for no other reason than for their mere existence, that they themselves should get together and amalgamate and see how much more easy it is to cope with the situation. We have the Ministry of Cooperatives, and we have been trying]to foster co-operative movements in this Island; but unfortunately we have people in this community who feel that if one person has two dollars more than the other, and he has to put his dollars with the other person's, that other person's money will carry his money away. Until people can realise that unity is strength, they will always find it hard to survive. Take a look at the supermarkets; day by day more and more supermarkets are being built, and it is becoming worse and worse for small shops to exist in this country; the only salvation in this field is for people in this category to get together. We have got DaCosta and Musson coming together, Wilkinson Challenor and Mannings, because they have realised the need for this. It also means less staffing, less building, and the amalgamation means more to them financially than cutting against each other. All this is a very good thing. We have the Co-operative Societies; we have done everything to try to get them to come together;

the only thing that can reduce this three-tiered system is a heavy Consumers Society where they themselves will be the consumers, and even if mark-ups were high, the profits would be their own and would be devolving within their own field. But, unfortunately, although you have all the encouragement in the Co-operative Movement, and the Government with its assistance, the people are not so easily interested. I suppose after a number of years they will realise that they have to get together; this things starts from the top, and some good morning they will open their eyes and realise that if the financial geniuses realise that they have got to come together, they themselves will have to get together, and some good day I hope they will realise the necessity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this is a democratic society, and I cannot see how Government can be interfering with the people's business. The hon. member has spoken as a lawyer and he may know more about company law than I would ever dream to know, but I cannot see a Government putting its hands into the amalgamation of private companies. United we stand, and divided we fall; if the poor classes keep themselves dividedf this is their own downfall, and I think the time has come when they have to realise that, they must come together if they have to exist. Lots of persons in this country do not realise that there are certain commodities which are actually controlled, and my Ministry will always try to keep a sharp eye on which is considered a fair and reasonable mark-up; that is the only solution. There are a few commodities - and I will call a few of these which are actually controlled, and how mark-ups go and what these mark-ups are based on - things like corned beef; 1 do not want to go through all of them; most of these commodities, with the exception of commodities which are more highly perishable like onions and tomatoes, give to the importer 3% profit, to the wholesaler 8%, and to the retailer 12%. As stated by one hon. member on the other side - I think it was the senior member for St. James - when all these mark-ups are considered, when the importer adds his 3% to the wholesaler's price, then the wholesaler adds his 8% to the retailer, the retailer then passes on his 12% to the consumer. 5.15 p.m.

With some of these commodities, there is no shop that could really exist if it had to carry these commodities alone; it would be practically impossible, with the overhead charges, if they had to give their full weights and use Avoirdupois rather than Troy weight for their existence with some of the commodities in some of the smaller fields. There are things controlled such as corned beef at 3%, 8% and 12%. Now, chicken parts which are more perishable are imported and the import price remains the same as the wholesale price because most of them indulge in selling wholesale, and 20% goes to the retailer of chicken parts. You get corn meat at 3%, 8% and 12%. Salted fish to the wholesaler - no imported price is given on that, the wholesaler 8% and 12%. There are certain commodities like gasolene, lard, margarine, meat (fresh and frozen). Evaporated Milk - the wholesaler at 48 a case, and the retailer at 96.

We have such commodities as edible oil, kerosene oil, Irish Potatoes - 1 to the wholesaler, and 2 per pound over cost to the retailer. This is a higher margin of profit, because commodities like onions and potatoes are highly perishable, and if you do not dispose of them by a certain period they will deteriorate and you will lose them. Rice is subsidised by the Government. No shop-keeper can tell you that he could

exist and keep his doors open to sell these commodities alone on these mark-ups. The Ministry of Trade only has control over such commodities as biscuits, cheese, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, with this Bill we will be able to take action. The hon. member spoke about parts for engines and so on. We will now have a fair chance of coining in to see what is happening. We expect any man investing his money to get reasonable returns from it instead of fleecing the Government. With this Bill we will have proper control over everything. The more luxurious stuff we have never worried with. We believe in looking into the every-day commodities that the poor people have to buy. If people want to go to hotels and pay high prices for things that they can buy outside, it is a matter for them. I feel that the public in general should be protected, and that is one of the reasons why we have introduced the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure hon. members on the other side that I have listened attentively to what they have said. The hon. senior member for Christ Church has mentioned something about the Ministry. I am no economist. My staff just had one but, unfortunately, two or three weeks after you get an officer in a Department, he has to go on another course. This is the sort of thing that the Ministry must put up with. The Permanent Secretary has to attend meetings of all of the organisations, and more time is spent on that than in the office. I have no apologies to make for that. It is not my fault; I can only say what I want, and the Public Service Commission will send somebody.

I just had a gentleman in my Ministry by the name of Mr. Reid, an efficient officer, and within three weeks after he was in the office he went on another course again. I do not want to deny the rights of a Civil Servant to get as far as he can. He must make use of his rights and privileges, but the office is dislocated all the time because of the fact that you do not have people who know the ground work. Fortunately, in the Price Control Office most of the officers there have spent years in the office and are acquainted with everything. However, the change-over every now and again dislocates things in the office.

My idea of a change is that it should mean promotion and money. I feel that a man should be promoted financially in his job where he knows everything that is going on instead of sending him to another Department to do something else to get more money. We suffer from this too often, Mr. Speaker. Two sides suffer: the officer who leaves his Department has to get accustomed to his new job, and the one who comes to the Department has to get accus-tomes to his new job. We have absolutely no control over this matter as Ministers. We can just say what we want, and we have to wait until we get it. We have to wait on the Public Service Commission, but the Ministers get all the blame all the time when things are not properly done.

Mr. Speaker, I could go to my Ministry any morning and find a new Secretary there without any reference to me. You do not know what is going on; you just walk in and find somebody else in the Ministry. If the Government had ships in the Public Service, a captain would go in one morning and find that he had to go to sea with a new crew.

Now, the hon. senior member for Christ Church commented on the fishing industry. The United Nations are quite familiar with this, In every country you have an in-shore fishery and on off-shore fishery, In most countries where you have a continental shelf or riven - it is either a country that is fed by its fish in the sea, or a series of currents are being fed through the rivers. If you look at the world's fishing grounds, you will find that they axe either at the mouth of very extensive rivers, or at the conjunction of currents as in the Amazon where you have all the fishing grounds.

You will also find fishing grounds along the whole coast from Trinidad to Guyana where you have rivers like the Wiani, Demerara, Essequibo, Berbice, Cor-entyne and various other rivers stretching along the coast up to French Guiana. Now, you go to the Gulf of Mexico where you get rivers like the Mississippi. Some of these rivers either feed into the sea where you get a good supply of fish, or where you get a cross-section of currents coming along the southern part of South America and converging on Peru where you get extensive currents and a lot of fish or, say, the Grand Banks of Newfoundland with a branch of the Gulf Stream coming down with a cold current from Labrador, and the convergence of these cold and warm currents where your icebergs melt and leave fish food and deposits. 5.25 p.m.

Barbados has no rivers. We have no continental shelf of any distance, and we are dependent in most instances to pelagic fish, fish that accumulate in the ocean wherever the currents bring them. In some years the currents might pass Barbados and reduce their speed at a time when they are within a short distance of the Island, but you must remember that boats can only go out from day to day. They cannot venture further because if you are bringing in fresh fish your boats would be too small to convert to carry out ice and stay out for long periods. Besides, you need more trained and experienced men in this field. I myself, Mr. Speaker, have spent many years of my life in competitive fishing. I have fished in this country commercially for a living from 1929 to 1943, and I can afford to say that people would have to do a lot of training in our schools. What has happened unfortunately is that a stain has been put on this type of profession, and to be a fisherman was a disgrace. It was no disgrace to me because I made an honest living out of it, and if tomorrow I had to go back, I would do so with the same pride and dignity with which I went into it in 1929. I look at it as an honourable profession where a man does not have to beg, and it is a field where there is a great demand.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in looking for fields and professions where there is no competition, and if people did this they could demand a better pay than if they got into a congested field. A child who has a

knowledge of mathematics should not feel that he should not be a carpenter or a mason, because he would be a better carpenter or mason. There is room in every possible field at the top, but the professional snobbery that exists in this country will have to be broken down completely to offer the inducement in schools for children to take up these fields. I have travelled extensively and have found that, the smaller the country is, the more this type of attitude exists. There if a feeling that if somebody is a doctor or a lawyer, he 10 a little higher than somebody else. Or if he is an engineer, then he is a little better than a carpenter or a mason; but the money we spend is the same money. I am accustomed to seeing a lot of people hanging around Harrisons with a dirty piece of string around their necks for a tie just waiting to punch somebody and beg them for something rather than go and put on a suit of overalls and do something. People look down on someone as an engineer because he is wearing a suit of overalls, but when they meet in some place, the man wearing the overalls has more money in his pocket than the man with the tie. This is the type of thing that society will have to break down if this country must prosper, and youth must enter these fields. Because a boy has a secondary education he feels he cannot be a mason; but he can be a boss mason who can calculate, with his knowledge of mathematics, by inspection rather than by guessing. Those are the things that are required in this country if we are to get people really pulling their weight and disregarding professions. With a better educational system. I feel it is going to be like what 1 saw in this country already with lawyers. Everybody thinks he should be a lawyer or doctor. I have two sons and I have thrown them into fields where it is not congested, and where any day they can tell any man a piece of their mind and go if they have to. There are seven seas and five oceans, and if any day one of them has to tell somebody that he cannot get on with him, he can tell him so because he knows he cannot be replaced so easily. If children look for fields that are not congested and where there is a demand, they can demand a proper salary and live better; but in congested fields, as soon as they grumble, there is somebody to take their job.

I was saying with regard to fishing, Mr. Speaker, that the United Nations is down here and the shrimp people are here, but there has been very little progress in the field of fishing island-wide. There are some people whom I have recommended to the United Nations Deep Sea Fishing Programme and they are proud of some of them and know that they can make a hand of them. Besides that, Mr. Speaker, navigation has been reduced to the minimum. It is not what it used to be in 1929 when I went on a ship's deck and had to work about! fourteen lines of logarithms to seven and eight places, sequence and co-sequence and co-sines. Today there are calculated tables. For many years when I went around the Barbados waterfront, people tried to make it impossible, and the old English system that was adopted in the field made it difficult for a beginner to find a source at which to start to learn anything, because you had to be a graduate of Cambridge or Oxford to be able to follow instructions. All those principles have been broken down. At that time you had the Hassells, the Levlocks, the Averys and the Barons, all traditionally from Saba and of a completely different complexion. When I went into the field, the first thing I heard was whom you should not teach because they would compete against you. I always felt that if I had to resort to somebody for aid, it should be people competing in my own field. I told my children that if any day they have to compete with me in the field they should do so, and that they can only beat me when I am ready to resign because I have the old and the new method, and as long as I am interested in it I would know all the new methods they knew plus the old ones that they did not know. If a boy in school realised that any profession in which he works for an honest living is a high and honourable profession, then we could get somewhere in those fields where snobbery has kept them down. It was felt that if a person is a fisherman, then he is no boy. The whole policy of fishing today has

proved to be scientific; it is no longer a profession of just a hard case without any brains, because this is what people have believed for many years. As soon as you had a son and he was not/ too bright, you sent him into fishing or the Ministry. Those were the two fields for ignorant people,

The hon. member mentioned something about this Government being ashamed, but there is absolutely nothing for this Government to be ashamed about. I can go back to the 1950s when every year we were losing at least 12 or 13 fishermen, and in 1951 when we had bad weather in this Island and over 40 boats were lost, I personally asked the Fisheries Officer to consider that the type of boat that was built in this country was not designed for offshore fishing, and I built a boat - the first of its kind-and sailed it down to St. Vincent and back with two fishermen to show its safety. Since then I have seen several make the demonstration. There was a changeover to engines. I was not then in the Government; I was ploughing the seas and had enough consideration for mankind like myself to contribute what I thought would have been beneficial to the people. Today the hon. member talked about the Marketing Corporation, the Agricultural Development Corporation and Government going into the field and not leaving private enterprise alone to do it. I make no apologies for saying that the worst possible thing Government can ever get their hands in would be marine work with offshore fishing. Any time Government puts its hands in any business and succeeds, private enterprise would be millionaires out of it in a short space of time.

When the hon. member talks about the Marketing Corporation and various statutory bodies, I must point out that people with ability in most of these bodies are employed in their own business, and you have to take the best you can get and this is why Government is handicapped. Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have much more to say on this. Hon. members on the other side have contributed considerably to this Bill on things like the Capital Gains Tax mentioned by the hon. senior member for Christ Church to which I have paid strict attention, and I think the Leader of the House has made some notes to which we will give consideration.

5.35 p.m.

I would like to assure hon. members on the other side that as long as I am Minister of Trade I Will try to keep the cost of living down as much as I can. You have to watch very carefully that in some instances you do not deprive your people of anything which they should have just because you have to pay higher prices for them; we intend to keep prices as low as possible. I would like to say something; that is that the only thing the Government has to look a is the Invoices that we get for the goods which an imported. In some instances one thing appears or the Invoice and then when we check the goods we see something quite different or in greater proportion, and we will have to pay a lot more attention to some of these commodities that come into the country to make sure that we get what is on the invoice. If we have to carry out this action we will have to be in closer collaboration with our Missions overseas;] know that in many instances we have had goods coming from Canada, and my Ministry had to get in touch with our High Commissioner in Canada and ask him to check on these goods which were being shipped to us. These firms can put anything on an invoice, put their official stamp on it, get the

documents approved by their Council and then ship the goods to us, and we are very lucky if we can have some check made to make sure that what is stated on the invoice is in truth and in fact what we will receive.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered all the questions put to me.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:
I will draw to the attention of the Hon. Leader of the House the present absence of the Chairman of Committees.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. George be appointed to act as Chairman during the absence of the Chairman of Committees.

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

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
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 and the House went into Committee, Mr. HOPP1N in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 were called and passed. Clause 8 was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:
Mr. Acting Chairman, I think many people will agree that the recent Telephone Company hearing, among the other numerous useful purposes it has served, also served the purpose of encouraging the public to participate in decisions such as those taken on that occasion, and for that purpose I will ask the Minister to give on assurance that the Commission will be empowered to have public hearings in certain of these matters, and that persons who make complaints under Clause 7 will be allowed to be represented by Counsel at a hearing under Clause8 in exactly the same way as Council can represent persons in Public Utility hearings. Clause 8 (2) says that

(2) A person upon whom a notice under subsection (1) is served shall -

(a) be bound to comply with the notice;

(b) be entitled, when appearing before the Commission, to the same rights and privileges as a witness enjoys before a court of law;

(c) in the discretion of the Commission, be paid such remuneration as may be prescribed for witnesses by rules made under section 43 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1956. 5.45 p.m.

After all Clause 8 (2) says that witnesses are bound to attend and that they are entitled to the same rights and privileges as a witness enjoys before the Supreme Court, and that they would be paid such remuneration as may be prescribed if they were witnesses in the Supreme Court. This suggests very strongly that the draftsmen are envisaging a public hearing under Supreme Court conditions or, at least, under tribunal conditions. We would welcome hearing from the Minister that, at least, a party is going to be allowed to be represented by Counsel before he is punished under subsection (3).

For example, where without reasonable excuse he fails to do anything required of him, at least, he should be entitled to have a lawyer to say that his excuse is reasonable. "Wilfully alters, suppresses or destroys any document which he is required to produce", ...he should really be allowed to have a lawyer to say that he is not required to produce the document, or whatever the case maybe. One can presume that if he tells lies under paragraph (c), that he would have a lawyer to defend him under the said paragraph. Certainly, I think the public would have a lot more confidence in this Commission, if the Commissioners had to appear in public for the hearings of substance.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I will give the hon. member that assurance. He should remember that even under the Town Planning Act in the case of appeals the people are entitled to bring their own lawyers.

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

Mr. Speaker, that is actually written into the Town Planning Regulations.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, in a matter like this the parties would need legal assistance. This is not the type of thing that people would deal with without Counsel to represent them unless they could not afford the Counsel.

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

Mr. Speaker, all I am hoping is that the fact that they do not specifically state the a complainant is entitled to legal represen-tation ii not going to allow the Commissioner to say; "I do not know if you are entitled to a, lawyer because the Act does not say so." The Town Planning Act says you are entitled to a lawyer; the Civil Service Act says you are entitled to be represeated by Barriiter, Solicitor or friend.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, this is a legal investigation as such, and when you read sub-paragraph (5) it states

"No prosecution for on offence under subsection (3) shall be commenced except by the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions."

It is a legal matter. This is a free country, and anyone who is going into on investigation like this unless he is properly briefed, unless he is conversant with the law courts, he must of necessity seek the advice of a lawyer and be represented. If he fails to do so, he is throwing away his own rights. He is entitled to be represented by a lawyer; he is entitled to be advised by a solicitor, and it is in his own interest to be represented. It is not stated here explicitly, but by implication it is all here.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, while I am glad to hear it, I must advise both hon. Ministers that their remarks will be taken note of and will be quoted to the Commission should the Commission ever refuse such representation because it is not in the Act.

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

Clauses 9 to 17 inclusive were called and passed. Clause 18 was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman I beg to move that Clause 18 stand part.

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

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I should be very glad, and I hope the Minister will give me the assurance that he will do away with my perennial subject of complaint. He has said already in this House that Japan, is, indeed,

in error in the famous Stop List. That Stop List was revoked, and Japan was again included at the end of the year. I ask him to give consideration to the argument that a Stop List is inappropriate to an Independent country right now. Stop I Rhodesia and South Africa, but do not make work un-necessary for the Ministry to issue a licence for $10 million for Japanese imports in a year. This is only making more work for Civil Servants. You must never forget this, Sir. Every single licence that a businessman wants badly enough, there are certain pressures he may be prepared to employ to get it. The fewer licences, the better.

Sir, restrict imports to those goods where you have a need, either by legal or International Agreement, or by reason of local production, to stop goods from coming here. I make a plea to the Minister to consider this point.

The question that Clause 18 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Clause 19 was called and passed. The Schedule was called and passed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Acting CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

5.55 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALAM:

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 Suply, Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1969-70 No. 62

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, when we reported progress on this Resolution, some hon. member was making his contribution to the debate. I do not remember who it was, but before we resume I just want to draw the Committee's attention to a certain matter. There are two corrections I have to make, one in connection with the figure of employment given for Koves extension, and the other in respect of the St. Lucy Manufacturing Company. You will remember that in respect of the latter the hon. junior member for St. Peter was contending with me that the figure of 200 personnel employed was not an accurate figure, and the hon. member said there were 126, as far as he knew. I am afraid the hon. member is wrong again. The actual figure is 125 rising.....(Laughter.)

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member speaking for Government said the figure was 200 and a member of the Opposition challenged the Minister and told him he was wrong and the number was 126, and now the Minister is attempting to tell a member on this side that the figure is 125 according to him.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

The hon. member did not let me finish. The fact is that their numbers quite frequently go up to 200 at rush and peak periods, but the basic roll is 125. Now in respect of the figure given for the Koves Factory, I had said that at present the Company employs 260; the figure there should be 330.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The only point on that is that the Accounts were circulated, but in the Report of the Board subsequently, note 4 is very interesting because it says "From December, 1968, the Board took over the administration of the finance of the Hilton Project. These statements do not, however, show details of expenditure on this Project."

When we go to the 1967 Report it says "The Board continued to be responsible for expenditure incurred in connection with the Barbados Hilton Hotel which was opened in November, 1966."

If you continue to be responsible for something, it is positively clear that you were responsible for it for a period previously, but the 1969 Report says "from December, 1968". I would like the Leader of the House to tell us how much money the Hilton cost in truth and in fact. The Prime Minister told us $10 million at one stage and at another stage $13 million. We know it cost some money, but what we want to make sure of is that the Island as a whole profits from the experience we had in dealing with the Hilton Hotel, and in future when we have large projects we must do what we did not do with the Hilton, and that is the relevance of it, because the money has already gone into bank accounts abroad. They will not keep it here. If the contractors made the profits, they have already gone into their bank accounts. If the architects made a profit, it has already gone into their bank account. We must learn from previous experience.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to delay this unnecessarily, but it is seldom that I want to be inquisitive. On this Hilton business, I would like to ask the hon. member whether it is a fact that Wason built the whole foundation for nearly $300,000 and when the contractors came they dug it up and said they did not want it. Were you away when the Cabinet discussed it? This is a question of litigation now. Did you know this is in Court now? 6.05 p.m.

I do not like to make statement sin here that are not statements of fact. Do you know anything at all about it? Do you know if Mr. Wason went ahead and built the foundation for the Hilton Hotel, and when the contractors came they took up the whole foundation and would not build on it?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

That is not within my knowledge; I know nothing at all about it. May I just say this in answer to the

hon. senior member for Christ Church? As hon. members have observed, at their request I made an effort to present the Accounts of the Development Board for the year 1968 - 69 because I realised myself that the ones which I had laid two weeks before were not the most recent, and I had to more on effort to get those before the House when-I did, For that reason, and for that reason alone, the Report which should normally accompany the presentation of the Accounts could not be got ready, but I will promise the House that as soon as it goes before Cabinet it will be brought before the House because that, in any case, is what the law required. In respect of questions on the Hilton, I would respectfully suggest to hon. members that they choose some opportunity to raise these questions either in the course of a general debate so that they can get the answers - and if the hon. member says that it was done already and he is not satisfied, he may do it again; but I am not in a position to answer any questions on the Hilton now because I could not anticipate that definitive questions on the Hilton would form part of the debate of this Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, to bring the Hon. Minister up to date, I brought a Question some time ago about the final accounts of the Hilton Hotel, and the answer that the Prime Minister gave us was that the Hilton cost somewhere in the vicinity of $10 million.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Will the hon. member make a motion to debate this? I do not think there is any reason for anybody to be cagey about this; the cost of construction of a project like this would be a matter of fact. It is amazing, Mr. Chairman, that in debates of this kind, all that we on this side can hear is accusations made against individual people, whether public officers or not. I have no means of knowing whether or not all of these accusations are true, and I would suggest to hon. members that these matters, when raised in this way, should show that they can take steps to verify all the charges that they make. In most cases I hear the accusations for the first time in here; I never hear them outside.

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

Mr. Chairman, is the Leader of the House saying that he has never heard outside that the Hilton Hotel cost too much, or that people must have carried away money from the Hilton? Is the Leader of the House suggesting, and is he going to look at hon. members and say that he is hearing for the first time that the public are uneasy about the mammoth cost of the Hilton Hotel? Are we to be told that the Hilton cost $13 million and say nothing about it? Is he satisfied that all the money spent at the Hilton went in bricks and mortar? Is he satisfied that every penny was honestly, wisely and decently spent? Some empty rooms at the Hilton cost more than fully equipped hospital rooms, and the site cost seven times as much to prepare as a building with a lesser square footage would cost to build. And he is going to say that the first time he hears this is in this Chamber!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I still maintain what I have said. After all, it is in the nature of Party politics for the Opposition Parties to hear more than the Government Parties would. When I was in the Opposition, very frequently information was given to me which I raised on the floor of the House, and individual Ministers, according to what the grumble was, very often sold that the hon. member had mentioned this subject, but it was not within the knowledge of the Government, or of the Minister, that that information happened to be ture. You cannot disapprove when a Minister says that He is not personally aware of the charge you are making, or that he is in fact not so aware.

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

Is the hon. member saying, in other words, that a Minister has a licence to tell lies because we cannot prove he is wrong? Did he as a man get up and say that he has never heard, except from members from this side, that the Hilton Hotel cost too much? I challenge him to get up and say it and expect anybody to believe it. In other words, he is challenging us to prove that he is a liar. The hon. Minister should be very careful; the hon. Leader of the House has not got a reputation for truth, Sir. The question of the cost of the Hilton Hotel was discussed at Cabinet; that has been said here in the House when the Prime Minister was taking a turn in the contractors who wanted an extra $1.2 million. Does he not read the Advocate Newspaper? I do not want to hear from the Leader of the House; he should behave himself when he is dealing with hon. members.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I think the Government has too off-handish an attitude in dealing with things pertaining to the industrial development of this country. This is the second occasion on which this Resolution has come before this House, and I am not surprised that the Leader of the House knows nothing about this for various reasons; above all, it is not his Ministry, and he does not even know much about that. 6.15 p.m.

It is not right to the taxpayers of this country that the Prime Minister, who is the Minister of Finance and who is responsible for this Resolution, does not see fit to come to the House of Assembly to answer questions put by the Opposition. One cannot help commenting on the attitude of the Prime Minister to this House of Assembly. What is the attitude? Last week the Prime Minister walked in, spent five minutes to make a Statement, and walked back out. On Friday he came in here accompanied by a reporter from the Advocate , made a Statement, spent a few minute sand went back out.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Sir, the answer is simple. If the Prime Minister comes in, he will probably allow that side to bait Mm. I would not get any work done, and when the dust has settled I would still not have Government's Business done. You can abuse me as much as you like; when you are finished all of this will be passed.

It is alright with me; I do not have to get into any wrangle about what members opposite , think about me. They may talk, express their minds, and then we will pass it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Do I understand the Leader of the House to say that when the Prime Minister comes into the House he cannot get through with Government's work?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR; You do not let him get through with Government's work, but you cannot stop me.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the Prime Minister is no longer fit to carry on the job of Prime Minister, and he should resign.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY rose.. Hon. J. C. TUDOR rose..

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. senior member for the City addressing the Chair?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

No.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will the junior member for the City please continue?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the Prime Minister has been in this House three times for the year. He has not taken part in one single debate. This is an important matter. You cannot expect members of the Opposition to come in here week after week asking questions about finance, and for Ministers to get and give us a lot of light-hearted answers. We are told "We do not know about this; we have to check, " and so on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
May I remind the hon. member that we are discussing industrial estates?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Yes, Sir. I am dealing with the Minister of Finance. I want to find out certain things from the Minister of Finance. I would like to know - (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Standing Order 29(6), please keep in mind.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister of Finance has said that he prefers to go into a whorehouse than to come into the House of Assembly. (Asides.) I am saying that the Government Busisness would be dealt with very much mo re easily if the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance would come to the House and answer questions put by the Opposition. I would like to find out if a contract was signed for the Hilton Hotel, and what was the original cost in the contract. If the Leader of the House would tell us that information, then I would withdraw what I have said about the Prime Minister. Let the Leader of the House get up and tell us what is the final figure.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wishes to give notice of wanting that kind of information, we will do our best to provide it. We are not here discussing the Hilton as Hilton, and the hon. member knows this.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, you are now hearing that if I want that information I must give notice of the matter. That is a lot of nonsense. We are discussing industrial estates, and the members of the Opposition art taking about the Barbodos Development Board. In this Report you have two conflicting statements referred to by the senior member for Christ Church, Now, we are hearing that if you want this information, we can give you. If the Prime Minister were in his seat, and he had any sort of control or knowledge of his Ministry, he would be able to give us these figures. We are not begging for anything. This is not Government by secrecy. This is no secret between Sam Ashby and the Prime Minister. This is the taxpayers' money.

Sir, I should like to find out from the Leader of, the House, if he is capable of handling the matter, this question. In the past, the Reports and the Financial Statements of the Development Board listed those arrears that were outstanding - the people who owed money and also the people to whom land was leased who owed arrears of rent. I see here Note 3 to the Notes to the Financial Statement:

"According to the records of the Board, arrears on repayments of Development loans at 31st March, 1969, amounted to $33,045.20 and arrears on lease/purchase payments amounted to $43, 224.74.'

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is asking for money to build factories to be leased to industrialists, and I should like to find out from the Government the reason for this sum of $43, 224.74 being outstanding. I should also like to know the list of the persons who owe this money. I do not think that we can sit and vote money on this matter when we find that $75,000 is still outstanding. Can the Minister give us this information? Sir, I should like a list of the persons who owe the $33,000 to the Development Board as well as the list of those for the arrears and the repayment of the Development loans; secondly, the list of persons who are in arrears on the lease/purchase payments which amount to $43, 224.74. 6.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have been reading quite recently of the happenings in the Bahamas and other islands, and I would like to know what means the Development Board through Government has for inquiring into persons who make application to enjoy this incentive legislation for industrial development. Have they discovered how many of the people in Barbados enjoying this incentive legislation have been kicked out of other countries, and how many, if any, were sent to prison in the United States of America? What means has the Government got of making inquiries before these people are accepted? Is it a fact that in some of the other Commonwealth West Indian Islands some were refused or kicked out after starting? I am not worried about the Hilton because I think it is well known what has happened, and what I said at first is a fact. The Minister has not said that it is not a fact. I asked him if he knew it, but there is a saying in America that the Cabots talk to the Lodges, the Lodges talk to the Peabodys, and the Peabodys talk to God. You cannot hide anything from me. Apparently the workers talk to Mr.Wason, Mr. Wason talks to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister is God; therefore the House must not know certain things, There is great dissatisfaction because Mr. Wason has been placed in a position in which he has not got to explain some things to the Minister of Communications and Works. Now you are going to put Mr. Wason, I understand, to do $19 million or $20 million in work, and I do not think it is right. If you have a Minister of Communications and Works, he should know all about what is going on.

Mr. Chairman, you will see in the newspaper an application for somebody to make galvanised iron locally, and anybody who wants to object can do so; but that is only for somebody who wants to object

on the grounds that the item is being done properly here. I wish that was done when you allowed the third Sweet Drink factory to be put up, knowing that the supply by two was good enough for Barbados, and that a third Sweet Drink factory would cause the price of drinks to go up as there would not be enough profit for two. You did not see any advertisements in this case. There was collaboration with Ashby and the hierarchy as the front man for Charles of Trinidad which prevented this from being done, but poor people must now pay more without a proper investigation. I would like the Minister to give me the information for which I asked.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I am answering the last question first. My information is that we get a report on the background of prospective investors. I cannot say with what accuracy these reports are always drawn up, but it is the function of the Board and our representative sin those countries from which these people are coming to supply the Board with the best and most up-to-date information on all the characters who apply. I do not know how many or if any have been to gaol in the United States; but we try to find out as much as we can. There was a question asked by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown. In the Report which will be brought into the House and which ought to have been attached to the Statement of Accounts, there will be a Schedule attached giving a breakdown of outstanding loans. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY Give me the information now.) It has not been laid in the House. I hurried to give hon. members the Accounts because they had asked for them. We had only just got them, but we have not yet received the Report which accompanies the Accounts; when we receive this, it will be laid before the House. In that Report there will be a Schedule describing all the outstanding loans.

In respect to the other point which he raised on Note 3, my information is that factories are leased with the option to purchase within fifteen years, and during that period the cost of the factory is divided by fifteen, and a yearly rent is paid. Information on this will also appear in the Schedule to the Report. I cannot do anything more for hon. members at this stage.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand this attitude of a Government Minister coming here and saying that he got the Report for us. We are not begging Government any favours. This audited Report by Touche, Ross, Bovell and Skeete is dated 5th October, 1969, and Note 3 states that according to the records of the Board, arrears on the payments of Development loans at 31st March, 1969, amounted to $33,000 etc. 1 would like to know at this stage, since we are being asked to vote money to build more factories, how we can honestly sit down here and vote money when we have voted money already and it has not been collected by the Board. 6.35 p.m.

This is a very scandalous situation; you just cannot come asking us to vote more money all the time when you are not collecting the money which is in arrear. I have no doubt the Minister has the

information in his hand. Sir, I do not understand this; I looked at the Statement of Assets and Liabilities which is all part and parcel of the audited Report, and I do not think that we should sit back and wait till we get a Financial Statement. How am I to sit down and accept from the Minister that the Report for 1968-69 will contain the information we are asking for when it is not recorded in the Report for 1967-68? That is why the Minister of Finance should be in here doing his work; if he is too tired to work, let him resign. The Leader of the House read out a long list of people who are at present in many jobs, and a list of more factories which will be built or extended where it is hoped to employ many more, and we did not have to wait for that information; but we have to wait for the Report for 1968-69. We do not have to wait for the Report to know how many new jobs were established within the last year, but we now have to wait for the Report because it is information which would embarrass the Government!

Sir, I will ask the Minister again; I would like to get a list of these things. We cannot from year to year sit down and vote money when the Development Board is not collecting the money from the borrowers. There is $75,000 outstanding; last year you had $199,000 outstanding; for the period 1967-68 there was $195,000 in arrears. This is only a means of the Government hiding up for their irresponsible behaviour. Mr. Peter Morgan's hotel was burned down, and he still owes money to the Development Board for this hotel; you cannot continue to fool the people all the time.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1969-70, No. 64 Hon. C. E. TALMA:

As the Addendum sets out

The Government proposes to make a grant of $10, 150 to the Barbados Olympic Association in order to enable the Association to send a team of 29 persons to participate in the Eleventh Central American and Caribbean Games in Panama from 26th February to 14th March, 1970. The balance remaining in the appropriate vote is $6, 186 and this resolution seeks to provide additional funds to make the grant.

The position is that we have made a special grant, only $15,000, for these special events, and we have spent all to the sum of $6, 186, as I have just mentioned, We have received two applications for assistance - one from the Barbados Olympic Association to send this team of 29 athletes, comprising 6 cyclists; shooting - 6; water polo - 12; weight-lifting - 5; they have also asked us to send footballers, but the standard of football is such that we did not feel it was justifiable to send a football team. 6.45 p.m.

The application for sending 20 footballers was not approved, but the others were approved. The other application dealt with sending a team from the Barbados Netball Association to Jamaica, and they asked for $8, 438 in order to send this team to Jamaica towards the end of the year or early next year. They needed some money for registration right away. In going into the matter, we felt that the Netball Team should not be assisted at this stage although we have the interest of the Netball Team at heart. The expenditure was a fairly substantial sum. A deposit of $1, 440 would have to be paid by the 31st January of this year.

The position is that we felt Barbados should be represented at these Games. We stand a fair chance in cycling; we have one or two good cyclists, still. In water polo we have a good chance; in weight lifting we have won one or two Bronze Medals in the past. The fact remains that as long as Barbados is represented and we can win one or two of the events and some sort of prize, then it may be a good means of advertising Barbados, provided we do not do too badly. In the case of the Netball Team, we do not think that we would live up to expectations, and in the case of the Football team, that is out for the time being.

I beg to move that this Resolution for $4,000 do now pass.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, while 1 support the Government in any attempt to aid sport in Barbados, I think the time has come when there is need for a radical approach or re-thinking towards sports in general in this country. It is no use just appointing a few people in the Social Welfare Department and calling them coaches or Sports Officers to perform the duties of coaches, and allow these people to go from time to time every evening every week from school to school and really hope that we are going to develop children to any standard of sportsmanship in this country.

Mr. Chairman, there must be more organised tours, decentralised. Every sports event should not take place in Bridgetown, but you need to develop the talents of the young men and young women all over the country. I am sorry the Minister of Labour is not here. I should like to see the Belleplaine Social Centre developed as a mini-Stadium in the North. I do not mean just having a pasture with people to play cricket on it with two rocks. I think if we are going to pay Government Officers, we should pay them to do a proper Job. There should be proper coaching, proper equipment and properly organised sports.

Sir, I do not know why the Prime Minister saw fit to develop what must be considered a mini-Stadium in St. John. I am in favour with the Stadium at Gall Hill, but you must not only get a pasture and tell people: "It is yours; go and play on it", and expect to develop sportsmen in this country. Outside of cricket, there is football to a lesser extent. The average boy In this country has little opportunity of playing games such as water polo and hockey. I happen to be the President of the Basketball Association. First-class basketball is played at night. You can imagine the position of a boy in St. Lucy, Belleplaine, St. Joseph or St. John who would like to play first-class basketball, but because of our transportation system he cannot do so. Therefore, what is needed is to have your Sports Officers organise proper games throughout the country.

One has only to look at the contribution made by the Barbados Cricket League in this country. It is not only the Barbados Cricket Association that has made any contribution to cricket in this country. I think, if anything, the contribution made by the Barbados Cricket League in recent years is a much greater contribution. I need not elaborate on the number of players who came from the ranks of the Barbados Cricket League. I feel that the Government should decentralise some of the sports events.

Let us take lawn tennis. Barbados can never hope to develop as a lawn tennis nation, because lawn tennis in this country is still a class sport. Despite the statements by certain Government Ministers that Government is taking over the Garrison Courts, no bare-foot black boy can go and play lawn tennis on the Garrison Courts.

Everybody must be given a chance to play lawn tennis, hockey and water polo. If you want to see class in sport, just look at the age group and see the type of people who are going in for the swimming competitions. You will see that only those people who live along the coast line, who can afford to drive to North Point and pay money to use the swimming pool three or four times a week, are going in for that type of swimming. Let us make no mistake about that. A man may be able to swim very strongly in the sea, but if he is put into a swimming pool he may not perform as well. One of the essential things in swimming in a swimming pool is the way you turn. You have to be properly trained for this type of swimming. Therefore, only the boys who can afford to drive to North Point three or four times a week and pay to use the swimming pool can develop that type of swimming to a high standard.

Mr. Chairman, I think the Government should consider building some swimming pools for the poor people. It is not only the responsibility of the Government, but the responsibility of the big firms such as the Sugar Producers Association, the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company and so on who should assist in providing these things for the people.

6.55 p.m.

However, they seem to have the idea that all they need do is to take up $35 and buy a cup and present it to somebody and that is their contribution to sport in this country. In Trinidad, for instance, the West Indian Tobacco Company are the people paying for Wes Hall to coach Trinidad cricket. Look at Texaco and the various organisations in Trinidad and see that they are making a financial contribution to sport. A lot of plantations in the country with land which they are not using could donate some of it to the young people of this country in order that they can develop their prowess. Sir, I will not say anymore at this stage.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I would say that the greatest contributor to liming, jay-walking and gambling among young people that has taken place in the last eight years has been made by the Government in power in Barbados. If you take the metropolitan area and the area of Christ Church in which there is probably over 50 percent of the population of Barbados and use any elementary statistics at all about the amount of playing fields per head of population that you have, you will see that Barbados is grossly lacking in playing field space and in sporting facilities for the population. We always knew on this side that one of the effects was that when Independence came and you had to pay the full cost of overseas representation, it was going to drain off the money available for promotion of healthy activity among the young people of this country. We can spend $195,000 to buy a house for a High Commission in London, and cannot spend $195,000 in eight years in acquiring land to provide playing field space in Barbados! The Minister has the facts available and he cannot contradict me on that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I would not allow the hon. member to get away with that. Gall Hill, Christ Church, which we have not yet secured possession of, although normally speaking as soon as notices are served under the Land Acquisition Act we can take possession, costs $50,000. That is only one. The hon. member is in possession of the facts and should be the last person to talk like this. We went together to St. Patricks along with the Sports Officer and acquired 7 1/2 acres from Mr. W. T. Watson's estate, Lowthers, and the price, I think, is around $3,500. Anyhow, it means that when you put down the pavilion there and a Community Centre, you can call that another $50,000, making a total of $100,000. Let us move now to Farmers in St. Thomas/St. Andrew where we are acquiring about 8 acres of land and we have to pay a reasonable price, and with their pavilion you can call that another $50,000. We move to Holy Innocents, St. Thomas, where we are acquiring land near the Cemetery, and that will be another $50,000; so what is the hon. member thinking about?

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER; It is now 7p.m. o'clock, and this sitting now stands suspended until 7.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:
When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
When the sitting was suspended, the hon. senior member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, $195,000, the purchase of one house, seems to be the limit over the course of eight years which Government feels is necessary to be devoted to the provision of playing fields in Barbados, but people are seriously concerned about the slow rate of progress in the provision of these facilities. Another problem we have is that there is land available within the ownership of Government, particularly in my constituency, at which facilities could be provided for young women to engage in some form of physical recreation. It does not take a large area of land to lay out a netball court or a tennis court. At Scarborough in Christ Church, there is an area on the seashore which could be laid out in the form of a netball court cum basket ball and tennis court which would be of a large benefit to a large number of people. In addition to all this, what we are having here is a lack of proper overall planning by the Government, because more and more sub-divisions are being allowed, and there does not seem to be any idea by Government as to what they are going to require as the minimum amount of playing field space per hundred or thousand of population. What has happened is that developers after developers are going to cut up land and make no provision other than roads, water and a little electricity, with no thought at all as to what the children of the people who owned these houses are going to do for

recreation spaces; so you are going to have a hoard of humanity bunched together in lots, with no outlets for the physical energy of the young people. What are they going to i do? They are going to play alongside the streets, creating a danger not only to the drivers but to themselves. We call on Government to set out certain norms which they feel should be the guidelines for future development of play ing field space in this country.

I have perused the Development Plan and I do not see anything at all in/it, and there is only a haphazard Resolution every now and again to acquire a specific area of land after the representatives of the area have pressured them. You have one Net-ball Coach. There are more young women than young men in this country, If you feel in your mind that the young women do not deserve to have any considera-tion, you will feel that one Netball Coach can coach 50 , per cent or more of the young people in this country, You will feel that a little Community Netball League confining itself to a small area in St. Michael is sufficient, Imagine playing on the Esplanade, The Minister of Labour prides himself about how, when he was Minister of Community Development, he had this Netball League playing on the Esplanade with the ball going into the sea every minute of the day, or on the Garrison, with nothing happening in other areas. It is about time you use a convenient division.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member intimated that the only thing that was done was to have a netball team at the Esplanade. The hon. member . must know that the Netball League which comprises of people from Belleplaine, St. Joseph, Orange Hill, St. Philip and other places started not under the Barbados Labour Party, but during the time your humble servant was Minister of Community Development, and we have found good girls as a result of the establishment of this League. 7.55 p.m.

I may mention that Belleplaine won the cup on several occasions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would just like to correct the Minister. There is no truth in that statement. It is the Police Boys' Club and the Police Girls' Club under Colonel Michel in who were responsible for the girls playing on the Esplanade.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
The point I am trying to make is that the first time they had an organised netball team was under me.

Mr. St. JOHN:
I have no doubt about that; we know that the Minister likes the young girls from the country to come into town, but the point I am making is that in other areas of large populations, not only in Christ Church, but in St. James, St. Peter and other parishes, you cannot expect people to come into town for a competition; how will they get back home?

Hon. A..DaC. EDWARDS:
On a point of order, these competitions are not only held in St. Michael or in the metropolitan areas; they are held all over the island. People from St. Michael go to St. Andrew to compete for the cup; they go to St. Philip and to other areas. This was something initiated by the Sports Department, and I repeat now, in my time.

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order. This is something originated by the Sports Department for which the Barbados Labour Party, at that time the Government, was responsible; they were responsible for forming a Sports Department in the country.

Hon. A, DaC, EDWARDS; Yes, one Sports Of-ficer and a Cricket Coach who was out of the Island all the time, What could they do? Not only that, the Sports Officer was underpaid; $200 a month.

Mr. St. JOHN:
Since this hon. Minister has been transferred, I would like to tell him how many Net-ball Coaches there are in Christ Church now.

Mr. CRAIG:
The hon. Minister saidthat they had one Sports Officer and one Cricket Coach.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order,

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am trying to get at the principle, and it must be conceded that we are not providing sufficient playing fields and sporting facilities in the areas where large masses of population live, and it would be folly to think that you can have these competitions without providing the necessary facilities. On Thornbury Hill, on the way to Seawell, the young men have commandeered a piece of land, a good ground, and they are playing football; they have two goal posts, no cross bar and no football. If you had a census taken of the playing fields that people in fact use, you will have an idea of the way in which the Government can help them, perhaps by the provision of elementary equipment, because in some areas there are well-known playing areas they can use. In Silver Sands there was a well-known playing area which has now been taken up by the build-ingof the St. Christopher's School. I have had great difficulty with the Sports Department in getting areas allocated at the Garrison at some times, although the Garrison belongs to 'he Government, and these were occasions on which no races were being run; but they confine themselves to a great degree in doing some elementary work and there is a tug of war up there. As a matter of fact, there is a tug of war right through the Civil Service. That seems to be the law of the Civil Service. In Dover there is a net-ball team there, but they do not play on Dover pasture because it is unsuitable for a proper cricket field; it is a place where you can make a nice park for old people; but if the Government would do the same thing they did in St. John, the people can be encouraged to plant the grass perhaps, and do a community project in relation to it. What I want to emphasise is that the Government should provide more playing fields, and these are more important than dividing up the land for other purposes, even if one purpose is an agricultural one because you cannot have masses of people living together without providing playing facilities for them.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has tried to draw me out to say that I pontificated on the question of the provision of sporting facilities for the people of this country. The hon. member knows quite well that I am a strong advocate of this; he also knows that what he is saying is not strictly correct. When he is attacking the Government for not providing these facilities, the hon. member only has got to look back just a couple of years ago and see the importance that the Government has attached to providing such facilities The hon. member said that we did not spend $195,000 in our time for the provision of playing fields; he knows this not to be true, because he knows that even one of the playing fields has cost the Govern-ment to dateover $100,000 -14 acres at Blenheim which is.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Members not addressing the Chair!

Hon. A, DaC. EDWARDS:

The hon. member is always say ing that the people from the City have good playing fields, and I

contend that the only place in the City that is available for a playing field is in the air; therefore the people would have to go out of the City which is a very small area, and that is why we are providing such a large playing field and two football fields at Blenheim.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Members not addressing the Chair, please!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Two pavilions are provided up there; even Blenheim alone gives the lie to what the hon. member has tried to fool this Chamber with, that the Government in its eight years have not spent $195,000 on playing fields, not to mention the recent acquisition of land all over this island. Not only that; provision has been made for extension of this type of programme in the Development Plan. 8.00 p.m.

Inasmuch as the hon. member called on me to draw me out, I want him to understand that the Government is more anxious about the expansion of these facilities than he is. If he wants to give a little publicity to what has been happening in Christ Church - not through him, but through his colleague, the Minister for Community Development - he can do so. If he wants to advertise the fact that Christ Church is getting two playing fields, he can say so; but he cannot claim any credit for getting them. He could get up here and preach like Peter and pray like Paul; if the Minister was not interested in doing it, then it never could be done.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the hon. Minister who has just sat down. He held the portfolio for a long time and he is fully aware of what has happened. Every time anything comes in here about sports, you get a lot of criticism. I want to give you a run-down of things. We have the National Stadium and we have never had a Stadium before. There is Blenheim where we have 12 acres of land bought for $120,000. A lot of money has been spent there in levelling the field and providing a pavilion, etc. It is now in use, and it is in St. Michael. We have the Gall Hill Playing Field in St. John.That is about ten or twelve acres, and the cost is about $120,000. The building alone cost about $30,000. We have acquired land, as you will notice, because the Land Acquisition (Compulsory) Orders came here. We have land at Holy Innocents, St. Thomas, at Farmers Plantation, St. Andrew, at Gall Hill, Christ Church, and Lowthers land is being negotiated now, The hon. senior member for Christ Church is fully aware of that because we went there together, and he actually selected the site, He is fully aware of that, and he deserves some credit as far as that one is concerned.

Now, we are acquiring one in Orange Hill on the insistence of the hon. senior member for St. James

and the Minister of National Insurance and Housing etc. Negotiations are about to be started. When the Resolution comes through dealing with St. Peter, whether it comes from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture or whatever Resolution is moved, provided a suitable site is found, the matter will be dealt with. I am looking forward to seeing St. Peter get two -

one in Boscobelle and one in Speightstown - to be used by people in the thickly built-up areas. There are Resolutions before the House right now dealing with St. Peter, and when those Resolutions are passed they will be dealt with as expeditiously as the others. We are not holding up anything. These are matters negotiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs who is in charge of the money and land, and the Crown Solicitor. We have done everything to push things all along, but we cannot push any faster.

You will be surprised to know that as far as communal baths and playing fields are concerned, I have given specific instructions in my Ministry that every two weeks there will be a meeting on Wednesday, and the officers should report to me ' verbatim on each playing field and how far they have got with it. To suggest that I am sleeping on this job is not correct. We have got 6 playing fields, and the whole of the Garrison which is now prepared and under the control of the Sports Department. The whole Garrison Savannah will soon be used as playing fields. We have the junior Football Club playing on mornings. I have gone there on two occasions, presented things, and so on.

As I have told you, I will see that St. Peter and St. James are given their due consideration. It is a question of selecting the sites, and if the Resolutions are passed here we will move on them and have things done. Acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act is the quickest way to get things done.

As far ;as basketball and netball are concerned, I have given instructions that whenever we are erec - ting a communal bathroom and latrine, we will cement an area nearby so that the boys and girls will have somewhere central to play.

Now, criticism was levelled at the Sports Department, but the Sports Department has just been expanded and strengthened. We recently had a Resolution h re dealing with that, and members who are sitting here at the moment are acquainted with what I am saying. I am sure that hon. members are fully apprised of what has been taking place. The Sports Department has been strengthened recently, and there was an increase in staff, salaries have been regraded, and officers have been placed in their right places. As far as internal wrangling is concerned, I cannot get mixed up in that. That does not fall within my province. It is for the Public Service Commission and the Establishments Department to deal with personnel matters. I do not see any files about wrangling.

We have the Tennis Hard Court at the Harbour. An hon. member said that the rank and file are de-nied an apportunity of playing tennis. That may be so to some extent, but they do have a Hard Tennis Court at the Harbour. If you can behave yourself and pay $1.00 an hour, you can go there and play tennis.

An hon. member spoke of swimming and said that people had to go all the way down to St. Lucy to use the swimming pool. Hon. members are fully aware that the Government is constructing a swimming pool just below the Ministry of Trade and Tour ism, below the Eye Hospital adjoining the jetty. The jetty is to be repaired shortly. We have voted money in here recently to repair it, because it was badly constructed in the first instance, When the jetty is properly construeted and the pipeline 'to take out the sewage goes right out, with the improvements we have made, the pool, I understand, will be fit for purposes of that sort. (Asides) That is my instruction, and I am telling you what I have been told. That will be a Government swimming pool in a central position. 8.10 p.m.

The hon. member, I suppose, wants to hear me speak about Christ Church. I know that if we get two more -one at Gall Hill Housing area and another at St. Patricks - we cannot expect to hog up the whole situation. We cannot expect, because we represent Christ Church and because I am Minister of Community Development, that only Christ Church should have playing fields, because it is the whole of Barbados we have to think of, and not only Christ Church. I feel that even if we have another one at Sargeants Village and two others, and we get a pavilion at Dover.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

It is a waste of money to put a pavilion at Dover, because you cannot hit a hit now. Since the road at Dover has been expanded and you have put in a Barber Green road, you have cut down on the playing field space, and there is a lot of trouble there when cricket is being played, because when you hit the ball it goes over in people's yard. You have to resite it just around the corner on a piece of Graeme Hall land. The Government owns it, and this is an area of sandy soil just by the road under the hill. If you try to grow canes there, you will see for; the first time in your life that they are white. You should mark that off and develop it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member also mentioned Scarborough. Scarborough comes within the Re-development Plan for Oistin, and there are certain proposals which have been more or less accepted, and the site is one chosen for the erection of a Police Court and a bungalow for the Police Sargeant and quarters for the policemen and other things in that area. It may be possible still to have a hard court there, because it is a fair amount of land and it is a very central site. I have made a special note and we will put a hard court and tennis court and so on. I think that is a very good suggestion. The hon. member cannot sit, down and

say that Government has done nothing, or that they spent less than $195,000 when the playing field at Gall Hill with the pavilion at St. John cost about $120,000 to $150,000. We have spent a lot of money In the levelling and building up of that field. At Blenheim the purchase price of the land is $120,000, plus another $50,000 or $60,000 for the pavilion, and God knows how much for levelling that off. All this has been done over the last two or three years; so to suggest that nothing has been done is incorrect. Probably there has not been enough done, but it is not true to say that nothing has been done, because we are moving a little quicker than before since we have a bigger staff, and there are Secretaries in the Ministries to deal with these matters. At one time we did not have any, but now that we have, I have one of the officers dealing exclusively with these matters and reporting to me every two weeks at the latest. I made it every week, but found that two weeks were good enough, so that when I go to the Central Planning Unit I would have all the information at my fingertips, and whenever I come here I will be able to tell you how far we have got in these various Departments. It is left for the respective members to move Resolutions, get them through, help in selecting sites and let us see that the young people of the country are properly served. It is not that the Government is against giving them all these things. We have enough money for Rural Amenities, and we want to see that that money is beneficially spent for the lasting advancement of the youth of the country.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, whenever I hear the hon. Minister of Community Development address this Committee or the House, one is inclined to sit down and listen to him and extend a degree of sympathy. It is regrettable, however, that politics is such a rough game, and what made it a little worse, Mr. Chairman, was to hear the political Jimmy Ellis on the other side get up defending another Ministry. He defended one this afternoon, he has just defended another one, and some time last week, he was defending the Minister of Trade. One heard a lot of noise, Mr. Chairman, of how much was spent, but when you look in the Estimates you will see that the statutory vote is $41, 310 and the other expenditure is $17,090.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I am not quite clear what the hon. member is referring to. Is he dealing with playing fields?

Mr. CRAIG:

I am dealing with the Resolution which is before the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

As far as the Resolution before the House is concerned, there is a lump vote of $15,000 called Special Events for assisting recognised associations and organisations, and we give out that money as the applications come in, We have almost spent that money, and it is for that reason that we have come back

for $4,000 to make up the $10,000 which we want to grant the Olympic Association; but so far as the acquisition of land for playing fields is concemed, that comes under the Rural Amenities Board, which is a different thing altogether. I do not think you will see that in the Estimates. That is part of the Labour Welfare Fund, When the canes are burnt down all over the Island, we get less money in that Fund and we build less houses and everything goes wrong, and then the Government gets blamed.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I do not know why I am so friendly with the Minister. I will have to close my eyes and swipe out my hand. The Resolution I am dealing with is for $4,000 to send athletes to the Central American Games, and what I am saying is that if you look at the administration, you will see under Statutory Expenditure that all that you voted was $59,000. I see the Minister is in agreement now. Do you think I am walking about picking up nuts and do not know what I am talking about?

The point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that you can only spend that amount of money on the administration to provide young people of this country with the necessary equipment and persons to coach them, and I am saying that this is not enough, and that is why the associations must come cap in hand at the eleventh hour to get money from the Government for the purpose of going abroad. Let the Minister deny that the Football Association had to cancel the team which they were sending to the North American Games. Although you have a Coach down here, Barbados footballers are not exposed to international competition. You have a man here called Graham Adams.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, we have a very good Football Coach at present and we are trying to improve the standard of the game, but we do not feel that the present set of footballers who represent Barbados is sufficiently up to standard, and we do not want to be disgraced. As far as the young ones are concerned, those who are thirteen, fourteen and fifteen years of age are showing great promise, and in time we will have a good football team trained and coached by the same Mr. Adams who is doing an excellent job, and we are thinking of getting another one in order to cover the schools more thoroughly. 8.20 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister is stating that the reason why they cannot send abroad a football team is because they are not up to scratch, but they sent out a basket ball team and the most they got was 37 points. The West Indies Cricket team went to Australia.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, we do not want to be humiliated.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I think it would be better for the Minister if he does not tackle this subject.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I have the right to because the hon. member is suffering from a delusion and I happened to represent Harris ion College in football and other games of sport, and was decorated by the Royal Humane Society; can he measure up along those lines?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I know of a man who was the greatest authority on cricket and never held a cricket bat; I say no more on that. What I am dealing with here is that you cannot set out to spend money without getting results. When you spend money, the only way you can get results is by exposing your athletes to competition, and this has been the problem with Government and all the Associations, that whenever they want to go abroad Government must pussy-foot about getting the funds. The Barbados Table Tennis Association had to struggle, and yet whenever you are finished you can hear now you have a star In the making called Robert ; Earl, He had no Coach; the Basketball Association - no Coach; the Netball Association, thousands of young girls - one Coach; but in the Cricket division you have Griffith and Nurse, you have Robinson as Official Football Coach, you have Williams as the Sports Of fleer, and you have Jim Wedderburn as the Athletic Coach - one Athletic Coach to coach more than 20,000 young girls and boys. I have had the experience of organising sports in St. James; I went to the Sports Officer to buy equipment and I was told to go and ask Harrison College or Police for old equipment. All of them up there are fighting a tug of war - Wedderburn versus Williams. The point I am making is that Government should be providing i playing fields for the people, but you are not pro-viding the necessary people to train the youth of the country. I heard the Prime Minister say that people can play on the Garrision, but they do not go up there because it is not prepared for them and they would have to pay $1.00 an hour to play down at the hard courts.

I have young boys in St. James, and the Minister is aware of this because I took him there. Outside of St. Michael and Christ Church, there is no other parish in Barbados with organised lawn tennis? such as in St. James. I have to go down at the hard courts and beg for an old racket; then you are going to come and say you are asking for X dollars for the purpose of providing funds for these athletes. I would like the Minister to take into consideration that it is necessary to provide the material for them to work with. You have Miss Aileen Moore there, Jim Wedderburn versus Foffie Williams and O. M. Robinson, you have Steve Mascoll; we had to come in here and beg them to second Lorenzo Best to the Sports Department. You brought down Steve Mascoll, a Peace Corps Volunteer, and then you shouted about bringing down Graham Adams; but the Football Association is responsible for Adams coming down here, and the Stadium up there is going to cost the Government of this country thousands of dollars. I

wonder if the Minister could tell us when they are planning to open the Stadium; the Jaycees gave Government part of the money and told the Government to find the other part, and for almost three or four years now you have been fighting to get the Stadium opened. Thousands of dollars you can spend in this way, and when people make applications you cannot set out to bring them here, appoint them as Coaches in the various Departments, and then do not get the equipment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER re-turned the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:
To me the Chairman has reported progress, but can hon. members assure me whether or not this matter is deemed to be controversial?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:
No, it is not controversial; it would pass.

Mr. SPEAKER:
In that event, you may continue.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair,

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

8.30 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and the postponement of two, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business. In accordance with an undertaking which I gave to hon. members opposite, the Resolution which, I believe, is on the Private Members' Agenda in respect of the Development Plan, will be debated next Tuesday. However, hon. members on the other side, I think, will realise that the debate on a Private Member's Motion will take up not only their own time, but a considerable portion of Government's time. I have already agreed with them that when we finish on Tuesday, after a certain time, we will go on again on Wednesday on the Development Plan debate.

Sir, this side proposes to introduce an amendment to the motion at the appropriate stage, I am, therefore, suggesting to them that we should come out early on Tuesday morning in order to be able to continue work on Government Business, so that when we start it half-past two we would have had almost all of this behind us and completed. I think it is only fair, because they are going to use a lot of our time on that debate, and I think we ought to come out a bit earlier and get some of our work done, I do not know if this is acceptable to the other side, but I am suggesting ten o'clock. (An Hon. MEMBER: Twelve.) If the hon. member is saying "Twelve", then in fairness to us he cannot expect that at half-past four we should continue in Private Members' Time. I am perfectly willing to surrender as much of our time on Tuesday as It would take to get some distance in that debate and to continue on Wednesday. You cannot have it in the bottle and in the jug all at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, we must have a clear understanding. Come out at ten o'clock, and let us work on Government Business. We start after lunch on the Development Plan debate; we continue on Tuesday and then again on Wednesday afternoon. (Asides) We can continue at half-past two. If necessary I will move the suspension of Standing Orders. (Asides). We will resume at four o'clock on Wednesday. I believe it would be more convenient for the Presiding Officers, if we were to come back at four o'clock on Wednesday.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I can entirely confirm what the hon. Leader of the House has said. I certainly would not be available at that time.

Mr. HINDS:
Do you think that ten o'clock on Tuesday is convenient for the Presiding Officer?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
I think it is all right.

Mr. SPEAKER:
It maybe that my hon. and learned friend, His Honour the Deputy Speaker, has intimated to the hon. Leader of the House in respect of ten o'clock on Tuesday, but I am unprepared for that.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 24th February, 1970, at ten o'clock in the morning.

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.

8.38 p.m.