

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 3rd 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); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., C. M.G., . (Leader of the House); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (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.; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER and Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C. LL.B.

PRAYERS

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regret that our Chaplain is, I have no doubt, unavoidably absent. May I ask hon. members to join with me in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Hon. members joined His Honour the speaker in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am grateful to hon. members.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I was about to suggest that the Leader of the House should lead us in Prayer.

REQUEST BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I should have informed the Leader of the House about this. I am asking Your Honour's permission to make a public Statement to refute a statement made in the Other Place as to some act of mine.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am sorry I have had no intimation of this matter before. Will the hon. member allow this to stay over until a little later today?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I was asking Your Honour's guidance as to what I should do.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will give me an opportunity, I will assist as best I can.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid there are, again, no Minutes available for confirmation. As usual, I offer my apologies to hon. members.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to Your Honour's attention that there were no Minutes for meetings held in this hon. House since sometime November last year. Your Honour cannot expect hon. members to come here meeting after meeting merely to hear Your Honour say "I tender my apologies for the absence of the Minutes". I think it is for Your Honour to show that you have much more interest in this matter than merely tendering your apologies to members of this House in matters of this sort.

Mr. Speaker, we have not received any Minutes since November. When Minutes come before us, perhaps, 3, 4 or 5 months late, how can hon. members retain what went on in order to be able to correct the Minutes? It is high time that something should be done in a matter of this sort. You have tendered your apologies, but I am not accepting them.

LETTER FROM MR. J. A. CONNELL DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have received a letter from Mr. J. A. Council in which he says

"Your Honour,

I beg, through you, to thank Honourable Members for having appointed me to act as Deputy Clerk of this Honourable House until the 31st March, 1970.

May I assure Honourable Members that I will do my best to render such efficient and conscientious services as, I am sure, my predecessors have rendered.

May I request that Your Honour kindly inform Honourable Members of my appreciation of being appointed to serve this Honourable House.

I have the honour to be, Your Honour, Your respectfully, (Sgd.) J. A. Connell."

I also have to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General the Accounts and Statement for the month of May, 1968.

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I am commanded to lay the Waterworks (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

PETITIONS

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition entitled the Humble Petition of Manco Investments Limited (formerly known as Manning & Co., Limited) in respect of the passing of a Bill authorising the said Manco Investments Limited to re-align parts of the roads near the building known as No.1 Broad Street.

The petition is respectfully worded; it has been advertised in accordance with the Rules, and I humbly request that it be taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the Note to Item 3 of Head 105 - Home Affairs in Part II - Capital of the Approved Estimates 1969-70;

Also a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Newcastle, St. John, for extension of St. Margaret's Mixed School;

Also, on behalf of the Right Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, a Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act, 1969; and a Bill to amend the Cinematograph Censorship Act, 1940, and to say that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 61 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter is ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, before I give notice of this Resolution, I think I have just heard a notice being given by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. I am of the opinion that this Petition was dealt with in this Chamber some time ago.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, it was passed In this Chamber, but the House was prorogued before it could be passed in the Other Place.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I thank the hon. member. On my own behalf I should like to give notice of the following Resolution

A Resolution to approve the expenditure of the sum of \$169, 620 which is shown in the Annexed Estimates, Part I - Current, Port Department.

I should also like to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 47 asked by the hon. junior member for the City is ready.

BILLS

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Exports and Imports (Restriction) Act 1939, and the Miscellaneous Controls Act 1958, and to make new provision for the prohibition or restriction of the exportation and importation of goods, and for the control and regulation of the production of vegetables and the keeping of livestock, and of the prices of goods generally.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill entitled an Act to authorise a re-alignment of parts of the roads and sidewalks forming the boundaries of the buildings known as No. 1 Broad Street.

12.25 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SMITH:

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is the Minister aware that Government pensioners have not yet received any increases on their pensions?
2. Will the Minister at the next meeting of this House state the reason for the delay in paying increased pensions?
3. Does the Minister consider it fair that members of the Civil Service should have received their back pay and higher salaries while these pensioners have to wait and hope for their Increases?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. James has sought and obtained my permission to put his Question later as he says he cannot be here at this hour, and he would prefer that no other hon. member put it for him.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act, 1969, was read a first time.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Cinematograph Film Censorship act, 1940, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, seconded by Hon. c. E. TALMA, a Bill to repeal the Exports and Imports (Restriction) Act, 1939, and the Miscellaneous Controls Act 1958, and to make new provision for the prohibition or restriction of the exportation and importation of goods, and for the control and regulation of the production of vegetables and the keeping of live stock, and of the prices of goods generally, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ST. JOHN, seconded by Mr. SMITH a Bill to authorise a re-alignment of parts of the roads and sidewalks forming the boundaries of the buildings known as No. 1 Broad Street was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER:

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I promised the hon. junior member for St. Peter on the last occasion to give some information on certain questions he asked. He asked about the discoloration of water in certain places, which, I think, is a result of a complaint made by a lady. This lady lives at the end of the line, and apparently if she does not use water often, rust will accumulate and she gets this discoloration, but it does not last for long.

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown asked about a Plan being produced when water mains are being laid. I have here Document No. 89/55 M. P.3004 which reads as follows:-

"Resolved that the House of Assembly approve of the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael."

This was approved by the Legislative Council on the 8th November, 1955, signed by R. D. H. Arundell who was Governor, and the Speaker at the time was Mr. Kenmore N. R. Husbands. It was described as the Book of Reference, Waterworks Department to accompany Plan showing the proposed, extension of the Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael. This Plan was submitted to the Legislature for approval in accordance with sections 12 and 27 of the Waterworks Act, 1895-1. The proposal was to lay a 4" diameter castiron main from the existing main of the Waterworks Department at Cave Hill Public Road and under the Cave Hill Housing Estate.

This was amended; but when it was amended, the Minister who introduced the Resolution at the time probably was of the opinion that the Section about the Plan was amended, and no Plan was submitted. We had to search up a lot of old files, but the last Plan that was laid, as far as can be remembered, was sometime in 1895 which is a long time ago. Anyhow, I think I have put hon. members' minds at ease. There was nothing anybody was trying to get over on anybody else. The area in which the pipes will be laid is Drax Hall Woods.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

If the hon. Minister would give way, dealing with standposts, I want to know what procedure is adopted with overflowing wells, because I notice that in Harts Gap there is one which is taking up the whole road, and I want to know what you are going to do about that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

If I may correct the hon. member, the situation in Harts Gap is not as a result of the standpost. The Waterworks Department cleans all the wells as soon as it is found that they are not drawing off the water; but the Harts Gap problem is one which has existed from time immemorial, and I am trying to rectify it now. I remember as a boy when Harts Gap was a track, when the rain fell the road became flooded, and the water used to run back into St. Matthias Road. The black soldiers who used to live in Hastings at the time tunnelled it through Pavilion Court and out into the sea. If you go at the back of where Mr. Haynes lives, you will see a pipe there which brings the sewage from Pavilion Court. On the top of this sewage pipe is a big tunnel about 8ft high through which water passed. I remember that when I was a kid somebody blocked this tunnel, and the water flowed back into Harts Gap and a lot of animals lost their lives. Since then we have tunnelled St. Matthias Road, closed the well at the corner, and put a drain to bring the water from St. Matthias through Pavilion Court and out into the sea.

Mr. Chairman, Harts Gap is high at both ends, and if anybody went there and cried seriously, it would become flooded. This flooding occurs right in front of Mrs. Linton's residence, and she has been complaining for some time. Before I left for Japan, I gave Instructions as to what should be done. They have taken some levels and have agreed with what I have said, and we are now tackling it. The problem now is that where we intend to put the tunnel there is a Waterworks pipe; so we will have to remove the pipe and put it on the other side of the road, and tunnel right out into Hastings and down to the sea. This will alleviate the problem for the people in the area.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

12.35 p.m.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate on this Resolution dealing with additional mains and standposts, but years ago, I was termed as a stand pipe politician, and I will have to keep up the old tradition although the person who gave me that name is outside looking in and I am inside looking out; so I will remain a standpipe politician. This is for the benefit of the Minister, and I am going to ask him to take these notes and see to it that when recommendations are made to his Ministry for these standpipes in all the parishes - I am not speaking for St. Joseph alone - he must let it be known to the public, if he cannot get through with them, exactly what the hold up is, because for years now pipes

were due to be installed in St. Joseph, and up to now this has not been done.

I am not going to blame the Minister; I want to co-operate with him to get these things done, and I am not trying to make him lose interest in getting the work done. The people who live in Blackman's Tenantry are quite willing to instal water in their homes as well as those from Andrew's Tenantry where an extension is needed. Requests for these had been made to the old Local Government; I do not know if Local Government turned them over to your Ministry, but they have been hanging fire for a long time. There is a place known as Branchbury in St. Joseph and the people from that tenantry made applications many years ago. I do not know where these applications go, but it looks as if you have to apply to the Barbados Marketing Corporation if you want to get water in your homes; because if the Report is sent from the Head of the Department to the Ministry, you still hear nothing about it. The people in Branchbury are quite willing to instal water in their homes, and it is the policy of this Government, I am sure, to encourage people to put water in their homes; but what is the good of the people being told that, and when applications are made, nothing is done? If we can encourage all the people to instal water in their homes, then we can forget some of the communal latrines and baths, because if you have a particular district where everybody had water in his home and had his own toilet facilities, you can then take these things to another district where it is impossible to get water.

There are some districts where it is very difficult to get water installed; but it is the policy of the Government - not mine, although it is a very good policy. This is part of the Throne Speech: "My Government's declared policy is that there should eventually be water and water-borne services in each home". This was included in the Throne Speech, and what is the good of our having the Governor-General telling us this in a Speech from the Throne and when applications are made, they sometimes have to wait for five years?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I do not want to interrupt, Mr. Chairman, but if the hon. member would give way, I would tell him that there is nobody in this f Island who can say that they made an application for water to be installed in their homes where the - main is in close proximity of the house, and that they had to wait two months. As long as there is a main there, they will get the water as quickly as possible, because we put in an average of about 250 connections per month; therefore it will not be exactly correct for the hon. member to say that in the Throne Speech the Governor-General said this and we have not done it. Wherever it is possible we put in mains. I have known in Jamaica where a man had his pipes laid down for three years and up to now he has not got his water; I do not want to make connections unless the people can get the water; so this might be one of the reasons. As soon as we know that we hare enough water in the area, we generally put in mains and make the connections.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I started out by telling the Minister that I am quite willing to co-operate with him to get these things done, and now he is telling us that I probably believe in some uncivilised world or something of the kind. But we are nothing to do with Jamaica; this is a nice little home of ours and he wants it now to be like those places.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, all I brought to the hon. member's attention was an analogy, but I particularly said that I do not want Barbados to be like Jamaica; this is only a comparison.

Mr. SMITH:

Why compare us with Jamaica? they have foolish people out there and we have sense. Every time a Jamaican opens his mouth, you can see what is in it from top to bottom, and all he knows is to take out a knife and do something wrong. Do not put nice little Barbados with Jamaica. This Resolution is asking for additional mains, and the Minister replied by telling me about installations in the homes; but I am talking about additional mains. 12.45 p.m.

Now, these people cannot get the water if the mains are not put down. The places to which I have referred all want the mains. If the members of the public should read his reply to me, they would understand that I was asking for the installation of the services in their homes. He says that I misunderstand him. There is a misunderstanding, but I believe it is on his behalf because I am dealing with mains. I want the mains to go through places where the people can get water. There is a possibility that the Minister may or may not have read the Throne Speech, and, in order to make my statement stronger, I had to refer to the Throne Speech. It says that it is the policy of the Government to encourage it. If we can encourage it, then we can go slow with the latrines and baths. It is better to have water flowing in the home than to make people walk for half-mile in order to get that service. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to check on these places and have things 'fixed-right.'

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Sir, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. senior member for St. Philip first caught my eye.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, having sat here and listened attentively to the various speeches made by members of the Opposition, I would come to the conclusion that the election is around the corner. It is my duty to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister some of the difficulties which the people of my parish must face daily. There are many districts in which we need water, roads and lights. This Resolution deals with the extension of water mains, and I must say that in some districts in my parish people have to travel, in some cases, approximately half-mile in order to get a bucket of water.

Temporary 1-inch galvanised mains were laid by the defunct Council, and residents were told in those days that, in the very near future, the mains would be extended in the areas so that they could have water in their homes. I think the time has come when I should draw the matter to the attention of the Hon. Minister. I am confident, and I feel quite sure, that the Government is doing its utmost to help people in the various parishes, but I could not sit here and allow members of the Opposition to represent their parishes without my saying something about the people in my parish. You have Cottage Vale; Long Bay; Kirtons; Rices; Kirton Bottom; Breieton; Perry Tenantry; Headings; Penny Hole and Rock Hall. All of these people need the amenities of life. The time has come for us to look after the interests not only of parishes represented by members of the Opposition, but to look after our parishes as well.

Sir, it seems to me that when members of the Opposition criticise the Government they are given priority, and I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not say that we should deal with our parishes, too. In St. Philip people are complaining about water; they are complaining about lights, and I would be fooling myself and the Party if I sat here weekly without drawing this matter to their attention. I am hoping that in the very near future the Minister will do his utmost not only to deal with the parishes which the Opposition represent, but also with the parishes which members of the Government represent.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, this speech...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. senior member for the City caught my eye.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for calling on me, but I will give way to the hon. junior member for St. George.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on a different matter from the last speaker. I do not know on which side he is now from what he has said, but I am dealing with the Resolution. The Resolution deals with additional mains and standposts. With regard to standposts, I know of one in St. George where the overflow of water goes on to the road and causes erosion. This has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Communications and Works, but they have not done a satisfactory job there. As has been pointed out by the Minister, it is their duty to have these wells cleaned. This job was done by the Councils, and now that it has been taken over by the Central Government I hope that in Sweet Vale, St. George, where there is a pipe at Butcher's Road - the water overflows from the pipe on to the groundsill of a tenant, and it is very dangerous. They have done something" by way of putting a grid to enable the water to go to a well, but that is not good enough. On a recent visit there, I saw that the water is clogging up the place.

Mr. Chairman, since the Hon. Minister has given us the assurance that it is the Ministry's job to have these sucks and wells cleared, I certainly hope that this will be done. There are several residents in the area; water flows along and, in some cases, stagnates, and mosquitoes are breeding there. 12.55 p.m.

I am asking the Ministry to have this well at Sweet Vale, St. George, cleared so that it can take away the overflow and the health conditions will not be impaired.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the speech made by the hon. senior member for St. Philip is a good speech for the Opposition, because he tells us that the Opposition can get all they want done, and Government members cannot. What the hon. member should do is to get in touch with the Minister responsible for whatever he wants done and put it to him, and I am sure that as a member of the Minister's Party he will be able to get it done much more quickly.

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, I would like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to know that I do not need any advice from him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. SMITH; There axe a lot of people who do not want advice who find themselves in thick trouble. I am trying to help him, but he does not want any advice. If I were the Leader of his Party, I know what I would do with him for the statement he made here today, because he has told the House and the public that you have to be in the Opposition to get something done. He and the others might as well come over to the Opposition if they want something done for their parishes.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, again on a point of order, I cannot understand how the hon. senior member for St. Joseph could have Interpreted my words to mean that only members of the Opposition can have something done. I did not say so. I am saying that it does seem that they are given high priority

Mr. SMITH:

Well, he is trying to dance the "Twist" now, but I know that he said that members of the Opposition can get things done and he wants something done also. Anyway, they will know how to deal with him over there. I can afford to tell this House that the Ministry is very co-operative as far as I am concerned, because I know how to approach them. I am sure that if the member knows how to approach the Ministry, he should excel me, because I am not a member of his Party although everybody is saying so. I know how to approach a lion and I know how to approach a lamb. Both the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary know about the places to which I refer, but it is a question of delay in the office. I would have to agree with the Prime Minister as far as some Civil Servants are concerned. They need some pepping-up to get them to do work. It is not the Minister. It is a question that something was in the Ministry for Branchbury for a long time and the Minister did not know about it. I would not be so unfair as to blame the Minister for these things, because they were hanging fire for a long time, and it is a question of the Minister calling on them now. I call on the Minister now in public, because there is not everything you can do privately. You can talk privately and it finishes there; but I am doing it publicly now because when I go to St. Thomas I can say that I called on the Minister on the floor of the House to bring something down, and he cannot then deny it.

Mr. Chairman, there are matters which I can bring to the attention of the Minister that exist in his own constituency. It is not everything he can see, and it is the duty of everyone of us to see that these things are put right. We should all see that everything is being done for the people whom we represent and not leave everything to the Minister. He should ask to see the files which are there and see how long matters were on them, and find out what is being done to remedy certain complaints.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to support the Resolution, because I have had occasion to work in St. George on behalf of my Party and I have had the opportunity of going into Drax Hall Tenantry. Despite the fact that Government would hold up anything for an area in the City, I feel it is my duty not as a

member for the City, but as a member of this Assembly to support the Resolution for putting water in Drax Hall Tenantry. I was surprised the first time I went there some years ago to see the distance that people had to walk for water. I know that the Regulations before Ministerial status were that the various Councils or Vestries had to recommend, as I had to do within the Municipal area. I challenge any member of this House to say that in the Municipal area you could find one area where there was a water main and I did not insist on putting in a standpipe during my tenure of office. It was the duty of the Vestries and the Councils to make these recommendations to the Government, and the Waterworks carried them out. One of the reasons, I understand, why the last Government did not carry water to Drax Hall was because, as the law stood, you could not run pipes over private land at the time. I will make the confession that I have taken it upon myself to make recommendations knowing they were private lands, and I got pipes laid in private tenancies.

1.05 p.m.

This is an admission which I make; but I therefore support - I think this is one district in Barbados where the people will have to walk more than a mile from down inside Drax Hall Tenantry. I am very happy to see the Government is doing something about it, and I know a few years ago after the knife was thrown into my back, I recommended that they should carry water into Water Hall Tenantry and we were prepared to pay for the pipes, but a hitch was brought about and we were not allowed to do it. On the last occasion when we debated this matter I asked for a plan showing where the mains will be laid and pinpointing where pipes will be put. I understand that in my absence - and I apologise if I am wrong - that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works said that the last plans were brought in here in 1895 or something like that. If that is so, I have never misled the House yet and that is recklessly misleading the House, because it is untrue. I would like the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Clerk of the House or the senior member for St. Joseph to testify, when a member gets up in here and says you should give a plan showing that you are running along this road or along this highway, as to whether the last time one was presented here was 1895. That is misleading; it is absolutely untrue. I cannot see any Minister coming in here and making this statement; if the Permanent Secretary says so, if anybody in the Waterworks Department says it, it is an absolute lie, and a reckless lie.

Ask the member for Christ Church, ask the Leader of the Opposition whether it was done in here. When the member was called upon, he started to feel in his pocket for the plan and it was in the Minister's hand at the time and he did not know that he had a plan drafted by the Engineer. When we say these things I do not want the Minister to think that it is a direct criticism of him; when the Minister comes in here to do his work, the people at the Waterworks and at this Ministry are responsible for giving him up-to-date data to give to this House, and I feel it is my duty to vote for this Resolution; but I still maintain that the Minister ought to be able to show us where these pipes are to be laid. The position is this, that when you come with a Resolution for \$7,000 to run pipes in a certain area and you spend this money putting pipes somewhere else, the Auditor-General can say that he is not passing any vote where the money is being allocated to any place other than what is specified in the Resolution; so this is the whole idea behind it and you must pinpoint where you are running the mains.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, he said that he was not criticising me, but I am not afraid of criticism because I am in public life, and If you are in public life and do not want to be criticised, get out. I read this to the House just now "Resolution No. 89/1955." "RESOLVED that the House of Assembly approve of the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of the Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael". Approved by the Legislative Council on the 8th day of November, 1955, and it was signed for the House of Assembly by K. N. R. HUSBANDS ' and R. D. H. ARUNDELL, Governor, assented to it on the 11th November. "To accompany Plan showing the proposed extension of the Waterworks in the parish of St. Michael. This Plan is submitted to the Legislature for approval in accordance with sections 12 and 27 of the Waterworks Act 18 95-1. The proposal is to lay a 4" diameter cast iron main from the existing main of the Waterworks Department at Cave Hill public road and on to the Cave Hill Housing Estate for a distance of 546 yards and affix thereon seven standpipes and fire hydrants as may be determined by the Fire Officer. The proposed extensions are shown on the Plan submitted on behalf of the Governor-in-Executive Committee by the blue lines, and the standpipes by blue squares marked H&T. The cost of the proposed work is worked out at \$6,200 not Including the cost of suck-wells and platform. (SGD.) W. H. E. GARROD." This Waterworks Act, 1895-1, sections 12 and 27, was amended in 1956.

This is a further comment made by the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department to me; "Following a request for information regarding the need for laying plans in the House of Assembly of proposed water mains in Barbados, I have been able to ascertain the facts as set out below. There is a file in this Department referred to as the Book of Reference and the most recent included in that file is for 1955. A plan was submitted by Mr. W. H. E. Garrod, thethen Chief Engineer, on the 7th September of that year; it was approved by the Legislative Council on the 8th November, 1955 and the Governor gave his assent on the 11th. These submissions were made in accordance with sections 12 and 27 of the Waterworks Act 1895-1. The Book of Reference is decidedly oriented towards the Installation of water mains, and the erection of standpipes with fire hydrants on them. The plans are submitted in accordance with sections 12 and 27 of the Waterworks Act. Under section 27, the Department had to provide, maintain and erect standpipes at such places as the Legislature may determine". This was then. "However, the Waterworks Act was amended in 1956 on the 27th August, 1956. Section 27 was amended by deleting the word "Legislature" - the Minister was then responsible - and substituting the word "Department" therefor, and it then became no longer necessary for these plans to be laid in the House". I said that apparently this act of laying the plans probably was never really amended, but the then Minister probably took it to mean that the whole thing was amended, and as a result they never submitted any more plans. When I did not bring a plan, it was not because I was trying to be impolite to him or to the House, because I can say for the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department that he is one of the most polite gentleman we have in any of the Departments, and he is always willing to co-operate.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I thank the hon. member, but I can only go by the Act which is before me. If the Hon. Minister comes in here and is going to convince this House that there is no necessity for laying plans, and this is section 12 here which says "it shall not be lawful for the Department to proceed in the extension or establishment of any waterworks hereby authorised unless they shall, previous to the commencement thereof, lay before the Legislature....." I am quite willing to bow when I am wrong.

1.15 p.m.

You come in here as a Minister; somebody writes and tells you this is so; why did he not put the Act in your hand? This is not good enough for me.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I was trying to point out to the hon. member that nobody was trying to make him out a liar. The last person to do that is myself, because if I wanted to call him a liar I would go outside and tell him so. I was trying to point out to him that for the longest time this was not done. This was implemented by the Barbados Labour Party, and they did not submit plans. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY They did submit plans.)

Mr. Chairman, I do not have any plan. I told the hon. member where the area is, and he is only wasting time.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

You cannot suggest that I am wasting time. I did not come in here on a wheelborrow; people sent me here.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Did I stowaway?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is trying to make out a case that no plans are submitted. The hon. member comes here and says that an officer at the Waterworks Department, who is the most gentlemanly person in the Service, has told him so-and-so. The Minister has a right to come here and show us the Act. He could not go before the Court like his; it is the duty of the Minister to show us the

Act.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I pointed out to the hon. member that when they had changed the Act regarding the presentation of these matters to the Legislature they no longer submitted plans.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I repeat that they did submit plans.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, he is saying that they submitted plans, and I am saying that, as far as I know, they did not submit plans any longer.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister comes here and says that there is no necessity for submitting plans because the Act has been amended. If he has his Permanent Secretary and the officers in the Waterworks Department, then they should tell him where to find the relevant law.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to allow him to get away with this. The hon. member seems to have some bee in his bonnet as far as the Permanent Secretary in my Ministry is concerned. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY I do not have one of his women.) He may have one of yours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The behaviour of hon. members not addressing the Chair!

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I have already pointed out to hon. members that I am a thick-skinned animal and they can tell me anything, but it is not fair for hon. members to get on the floor of the House and criticise officers in Ministries who cannot reply to them here. If they want to criticise somebody they can criticise me. I am a Minister and they can attack me, but they should not attack officers who cannot reply to the attacks. I said that there is a file in this Department referred to as the "Book of Reference". However, the

Waterworks (Amendment) Act, 1956, on the 22nd August, 1956 amended Section 27. That is what I said.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am dealing with Section 12.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

What I am trying to point out to the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, is that when they amended Section 27, apparently, the Minister who, I believe, was Mr. Cox, took it for granted that Sections 12 and 27 were amended.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, tell him to sit down and let me get through with the Resolution. Do not tell me that I am wrong; you must bring the plans here and comply with the law.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I took it for granted that the Section was amended and that is why I do not have any plan.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member admitting now that he should have had a plan, but he did not get one because of a misunderstanding?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have not said that you were wrong; you can read and I can read.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

No, Mr. Chairman, one hon. member. I have repeatedly asked the hon. member not to waste time.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I object to that; I am not wasting time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have said that Section 27 of the Act was amended and Mr. Cox, the then Minister, apparently took it for granted that.... (ASIDES.) Mr. Chairman, from the time I have been in this House I have never seen a plan produced by the Waterworks Department. I am not saying that it was not done during the hon. members time. I know when they are buying land they would produce a plan. I said that Section 27 was amended and not Section 12.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Therefore it is necessary to produce a plan, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Yes. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member admits that it is necessary to bring a plan. I will vote for the Resolution because it is dealing with Drax Hall. However, although we will vote for this Resolution, this House is wrong in doing it. You must pass laws that can be respected and enforced. If you have a strong Auditor General today.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, the hon. member said that if we had a strong Auditor General'. I do not know what he means. I do not know if he means one that lifts weights, but I will say that Mr. Gittens who was the former Auditor General used to go through these things with a fine-toothed comb. When he was Auditor General I brought things for the Waterworks Department and he passed them.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

When the hon. member brought them here I was not in a fighting mood then. I was not well and the hon. member got away with a lot of murder; but I fight things when I am ready, and I am in a fighting mood now. The hon. member for St. Philip said that elections are around the corner when you hear this, but when I start I will knock them off the platform. However, the hon. member has admitted that I am right. On the next occasion, either amend the Act or bring the plan in here.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see this Resolution with respect to putting water in Drax Hall. I have listened to hon. members who have spoken on the shortage of water in their districts, but there is something I want to bring to the notice of the House. Every member who has spoken has seen that in every district the people are wasting water by watering their gardens, and members refuse to tell them that they are wasting water. I will tell them that they are wasting it. There are no meters, and people open their pipes at night and the water runs until morning wherever there are gardens. Night and day you can see water running on the side of the street and going to the sea, while hon. members know that people are suffering for water and refuse to report it. Water is essential, and whether we are In Government or Opposition and we see water being wasted, we have a right to check on it, because without water no human being can exist. Lots of people axe watering their vegetable gardens without paying for thewater. I heard the hon. member on my right say that in St. Philip there is a shortage of water, but the biggest garden areas in the Island are in St. Philip.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I never sali that we had a shortage of water in St. Philip.

Mr. CORBIN:

Why are the people not getting water? St. Philip has more vegetable gardens than any other place in the Island. Water is running from the ground back to the wells and the poor people are suffering for it. That could not happen in my district. (ASIDES.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Members not addressing the Chair must observe the Rules.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Chairman, the wells need cleaning, and Government should see to it, because the water that we

drink is water that comes from rain water that goes into the wells. I understand that water penetrates the earth and rests on the sea water and we pump that water for our consumption, and any time there is no rain and we do not have sufficient fresh water, sometimes we pump saltwater too. So we have to ask Government to clean the wells so that instead of so much water going back into the sea, it can go in the wells, be purified and we can have it for our consumption. Government should dig more wells in the rural areas where the water can collect for human beings. It is useless for hon. members to make such a racket. They should prevent people from wasting water. If they are afraid to tell the people the truth, they will see the result one of these days, because they will not be able to face the people. We must tell them the truth and warn them against the danger that is to come. We were sent here as watchmen for the people, and if we see some danger, we should warn them against it because their burden will be on our shoulders. If we do not warn them, we will find ourselves in a serious state.

Mr. Chairman, I have very little more to say, but I want to say that it is not two or three times that I have been here and heard the Minister of Communications and Works laughing when he gets up to speak. People are speaking in evil terms against him, and yet he continues to laugh. That reminds me of Lot. When you have a job to do, you should do it with a firm heart, because the more you mock, the less you will get done. When you hit a man, let him feel it. Stand up like a Minister and represent your people and the Government on the whole without fear. I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I think it is my duty, having served in the Ministry of Communications and Works for about a year and a half, to say something on this matter. Even though my term in the Ministry was short-lived, I think the record of work which was done during that fifteen or sixteen months will probably stand for many long years. I was removed because there were too many roads being done in Christ Church, I understand, but I cannot prove it. The fact remains that the present Minister of Communications and Works has actually gone out of his way to study and learn the work, and he understands his portfolio very well - very much unlike one or two other Parliamentary Secretaries of the past. I also want to mention that as far as the production of plans for the laying of water mains is concerned, most of the points raised and long debated by hon. members of the Opposition, and more especially by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, who has been the Leader of the Opposition and has been in here for twenty-four years and upwards, and who is very knowledgeable on these matters as Mayor and so on, are absolutely correct. When the Barbados Labour Party was in office up to 1956, whenever water mains were being laid, plans were submitted here, and everybody had an opportunity to examine them and understand what was being done - the cost etc. - and they could see who would benefit and who would not benefit.

1.35 p.m.

That is the right way; there is only one right way in life, and anything which is not right is definitely

wrong. I want to say this on behalf of the Government, that despite the good work in the past- whether it was Garrod or whoever it was, and all the experts who laid the ground-work, whose work we have before us still which is providing the data and the approach to all these problems - the fact remains that since this Government have been in office we have actually established at least about three or four reservoirs and one is being completed at present. The present Minister himself is responsible for the two new ones which have been recently built - the Rising Sun and the one at Providence. I had a great contribution to make in so far as the one at Lodge Hill is concerned, but there are wells at St. Peter which the hon. member knows about, at St. James, which the hon. member knows about, and there are other improvements which have taken place to provide the whole of St. Philip and the greater part of Christ Church. It is from those wells that the water flows. I am not asking anybody; I am speaking knowledgeably.

We have had to do these things in order to provide water for the built-up areas and the areas which are being developed, whether in St. James, St. Michael, St. Peter, Christ Church or St. Philip, and we have had to do it very quickly because on the West Coast the water situation has been very bad for a long time, and in Boscobelle in particular you can only get water two or three hours a day. I am fully aware of that; but to sit here and just criticise the present Minister and to say he is doing nothing is not true. I would say that we have never laid so many water mains till since the present Minister has been in office. The people of Barbados and the people of the world generally do not normally know of the nonsense that goes on in here, and of the legal or illegal formalities that have to be adopted; what they want is water, and the quicker we can provide the water, I think it is better for all concerned. I agree that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works could have said what he said earlier on the formal procedure for the laying of plans and the Reference Book to which he referred, and that hon. members should have had an opportunity of seeing such a plan. Only if the spirit of co-operation exists, and only if we put our heads together for the benefit of the people of this country can we get things done properly; so do not just sit and criticise. I have been in here long enough to know that that does not get you anywhere; I am not making an electioneering speech, because when the time comes I will speak freely and fearlessly, and shall be returned again.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to speak on this debate, but some words used by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew have got me to my feet. He says, about this water situation in St. Andrew - and he said words to this effect -that to whosoever notice it was brought, there should also have been brought the suggestion or the advice that they should report it. Either the hon. member for St. Andrew brought it to their notice - and he said it was neglected - but either he neglected to bring it to the notice of the Ministry, or the Ministry neglected to take any notice of his bringing it to their notice; one of the two. Either he did it and the Ministry ignored it, or he did not do it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I wonder if hon. members on my left would observe Rule 29(5).

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Which hon. members on your left?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Members shall not read newspapers, books, letters or other documents. Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceed.

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

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the Chair is referring to me, I am looking up the Parliamentary Reports of the House of Commons to learn something about the procedure; perhaps I could recommend the Times to the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is not a point of order.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

If I may be permitted to interrupt, that is a point of order inasmuch as it is saying what order in the House should be. This is by the way, but I think it is the duty of the House to say whether the junior member for St. Andrew constantly brought it to the notice of the Ministry and they did nothing, or whether the junior member for St. Andrew failed in his duty to his constituents to bring it to the notice of the Ministry. We have heard so much blame today, that when accusations like that are made and they are not answered you have to believe that the accusations are true. I do not believe, speaking personally, that the junior member for St. Andrew would bring it to the notice of the Ministry, and possibly something else be deemed a priority over the needs of the people of St. Andrew.

1.45 p.m.

Especially after what the hon. member for St. Philip has said, I would not have missed today far words. About half-hour before coming to the House I had half-dozen people in my office making inquiries about the date of the next election. I thank the hon. member for St. Philip for three things we have learnt today: he told us that election is around the corner.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I said that the speeches which were made by members of the Opposition would give one the impression that elections are around the corner. That is what I said.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, does the hon. member think that we on this side cannot read between the lines? With regard to the two other things, it is as clear as daylight from what the hon. member said that an election is being contemplated in March or April. No. 2, the hon. member for St. Philip obviously is not running and, after the attack made by the hon. member for St. Andrew, he is not running either. There are three things we have learnt today concerning the composition of the next Assembly. (Mr. CRAIG What about the Chairman?) It would be rude if I commented on the hon. Chairman's position.

The question that a Resolution for \$12,400 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1969-70 No. 57

A Resolution for \$39, 754 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, in this year's Estimates the sum of \$2960 is included under Head 15, Item 21, to meet the cost of a Duplicator, a Calculator, an Adding Machine, a Typewriter and two Fans. Now, when these Estimates were being considered, approval of this item was deferred pending investigation into the feasibility of acquiring a Duplicating Machine which was estimated to cost \$3200 as a replacement for a Gestetner Machine which was condemned. Subsequently, at the request of the Director of Statistical Services, the Ministry approved the purchase of a Gestetner Machine. The amount of \$2960 did not include the cost of the machine which, at the time when the Estimates were being prepared, was estimated to cost \$700. The actual cost of the machine is \$925, and an additional sum of \$225 will, therefore, be required.

Secondly, a bill has been received from the L.B.M. Corporation in Trinidad for the supply of Control panels which form part of the equipment supplied by them in August, 1968. For this the amount of \$245.29 is required, broken down as follows:-

The cost of the panels \$224

The cost of shipment by air freight \$21.29.

Now, \$245 plus \$225 makes up the \$470 or \$471 which is required to be supplemented now.

I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Leader of the House is in a position to tell us if part of this money is now being asked for is to be used for repairs for any machine. I have very good reasons for asking this question.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Not as far as I know, Mr. Chairman. I have told the hon. member that the amounts were to cover the difference in cost of the Gestetner Machine which was estimated to cost \$700 and is now costing \$925, and the cost of the Control panels for \$245.29. Those two sums - the additional cost of the Gestetner Machine and the claim from the I.B.M. Corporation - make it \$471.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I want to advise the Leader of the House to inquire whether the difference that is now asked for is an amount to pay for repairs to machines because the bills came in late. Instead of telling the House that, they added the cost of repairs to make it appear as though the new machine is now costing this additional amount. The Minister should investigate this matter.

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

Mr. Chairman, I observe from the Resolution and from what the Leader of the House has been saying that there is a question here of the condemnation of the Duplicator and its subsequent replacement. In any case, Mr. Chairman, the Minister was talking about condemnation.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, it would appear that, as I said before, when the Estimates were being considered, approval of the item was deferred pending investigation into the feasibility of acquiring an A.B. Duplicating Machine estimated to cost \$3,200 as a replacement for a Gestetner Duplicating Machine which had been condemned. I hope this answers the hon. member.

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

Mr. Chairman, it is about the procedure of condemnation that I want to inquire one or two things of the Minister, under Head 16 more specifically. As I understand it, when a piece of Government equipment becomes obsolete, it does not work, or for some reason or other it is thought desirable to be withdrawn, a Board sits on it, condemns it, new equipment is requisitioned for, and if there is not a vote sufficient to pay for it, then the House will have to grant additional funds.

I want to mention Sir, so far as I may within the limits of relevance, the question of a Board to condemn the air-conditioner in the Law Library - since we are dealing with this procedure - which has been out of action since August last year. These Boards that condemn things just do not seem to be working. They have worked to condemn the Duplicator, but they have not worked to condemn the air-conditioner. Many hundreds of valuable books are at risk until the new conditioner is actually installed. The same expeditiousness with which this Resolution has been presented to replace a Duplicator- I did not know Duplicators cost \$3,000. I know that you can buy mechanical ones second-hand for \$200 at Geddes Grant. I hope that is not a special price for the Government but, nevertheless, if procedures can be worked out to get a new Duplicator, then, for goodness'sake, let the very valuable books in the Law Library be protected by an air-conditioning system. I am referring not only to the books in the inner Library, because Mr. Recce's books which are at present air-conditioned are not as valuable as the other books outside. Let us protect all the books.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I give the House and the hon. member the assurance that I will look into this matter personally, because I know that there are valuable books in the Law Library. I will look into the matter as expeditiously as possible. It is not that some of the lawyers are any good anyhow and they ever read these books, but I hate to see a good book destroyed. I hope this satisfies the hon. member.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Minister and members of the House may bear in mind that very seldom does any legal book of any sort cost less than \$15 and many cost a great deal more. When you have a 100 or 200 volumes of Law Reports and each of them costs \$15 or more to replace - and some are irreplaceable - then you will have a good idea of the situation.

I see under Note 3, Head 31, that....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We are now considering Head 31; we are only dealing with Head 15 at the moment. 1.55 p.m.

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

I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman. We will come to that in the fulness of time.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

In view of what the hon. junior member for St. Peter has said, I would like to ask the Leader of the House whether it is a practice by Ministers to consult with the draughtsmen of these Notes as to their accuracy, because it is a serious statement that the hon. junior member for St. Peter has made. Do Ministers come into this House and themselves are unable to say whether the Note is accurate or not?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

In answer to that, I can only tell the hon. member that Ministers generally - and I hope, absolutely-use the information which is provided on the file, and the presumption is that what comes to Cabinet represents an accurate and full account of the matter.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I accept that; but what I am pointing out is that I have been a Minister too, and I am asking whether you sit down sometimes with the draughtsmen and ask how they got that, did they check that and so on. We used to do it when the Barbados Labour Party was in power. I am merely asking how is it that what the hon. member for St. Peter has said could have happened if that had been tone.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, from my limited experience, the draft Addendum comes to the Minister to be approved after the Cabinet Paper has been approved, and the necessary Note made as to the decisions in Cabinet. (A VOICE That is a serious thing.) It is not a serious thing. I am telling you what happens, and if you listen, probably you may get the points. I am merely saying that the Cabinet Paper is presented at the end of it all, which is duly approved by the Minister. After the Cabinet sits and goes into the Paper, then the decision of the Cabinet is duly recorded and is confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet. It is only after that stage has been reached that the draft Addendum is prepared and submitted for the approval of the Minister. The actual Notes which are being appended are done by the Legal Department, but what we give you here is not what the legal Note is. We give you what the Cabinet Paper has and what all the other dealings with the Cabinet Paper produce. I never go by the Note; I always go by the Cabinet Paper and the various Minutes written before.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I thought that when the hon. member got up he was going to confirm what I said, because he was a member of the Barbados Labour Party Government.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now 2 o'clock p.m., and this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m.

On resumptions: Mr. LOWE Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Let the Bell be rung. The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained. QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time, and I understand that the answer has been laid to Question No. 61 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister state how many persons at present employed at Hotels in this Island are holders of work permits?

2. Will the Minister state the names of each work permit holder, the date of issue of each such permit, the Hotel at which the holder of each permit is employed, and the level of employment held by such holder at each Hotel?

3. Is the Minister aware that there are Barbadians resident in this Island competent enough to fill adequately many of the posts which some of the holders of such permits have been recruited to fill?

4. Will the Minister state whether before the issue of a work permit to any such holder he was satisfied from information supplied that advertisements had been placed in the Local Press and other media for applications for such posts and that such advertisements failed to produce suitable candidates in each case?

5. Will the Minister state the policy of Government apropos the issue of work permits to persons engaged in the Hotel Industry?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

"1. There are at present seventy-six holders of work permits in the Island, five of these being hotel owners and four area representatives.

2. A list is available for inspection.

3. No, Sir.

4. Yes, Sir. Before the issue of any such work permit, the applicant is required to submit copies of publication of such advertisements. The employer must further satisfy the Ministry that there are no suitable Barbadian applicants.

5. Hotels are normally required as a condition to the issue of work permits to train nationals to fill positions in respect of which applications have been submitted."

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

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister say exactly what he means by the term "work permit"?

2.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Whatever is customarily understood by the people who have to apply for them, and those whose business it is to give them.

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

Are you aware that there is no such thing in the laws of Barbados as a work permit, but that in good faith an Immigration Officer may permit them to remain in Barbados for a limited time for various purposes, and to tell somebody that he has to apply for a work permit is to tell him something which has no part of the law?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This point is very well taken, and I believe it is now under consideration in the appropriate Ministry.

Mr. CRAIG:

Is the Hon. Minister aware that many non-nationals come into Barbados on vacation and are being engaged in jobs at hotels as receptionists when these jobs on be filled by nationals?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

The answer is that whenever this is discovered it is dealt with in the customary way, and it is not allowed to continue.

Mr. CRAIG:

Would the Minister give the assurance to the Assembly that he would carry out an investigation into this?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes, I will, but there is very little of it now; this used to be a problem a few years ago, but it is not now.

Mr. CRAIG:

Would the Minister go at Colony Club and see that they have English girls working as receptionists for very large salaries who are here on holiday, and that during the summer season they employ girls from Duff's and Skinner's Secretarial School at a very small wage?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I wonder if the hon. member would be so good as to divide up those supplementaries.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the length of the list that has been handed to me by the Leader of the House, I would much prefer that the asking of further supplementaries be deferred until a study can be made of this list.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Will the Minister state whether any different consideration is given to people who marry Barbadian girls for work permits than other applicants?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. member mean that people marry Barbadian girls for work permits?

Mr. ST. JOHN:

What I want to know is whether any different consideration is given for the award of work permits to people who marry Barbadian girls; whether they find it easier or otherwise than ordinary applicants for work permits.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This I do not know, Mr. Speaker. I take it, however, that if the hon. member is referring to Barbadian citizens marrying non-nationals.....

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Yes, Barbadian women citizens marrying non-nationals.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I believe that they are granted greater concessions than non-nationals would be.

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

Would the Minister agree that it is highly desirable that such persons should be granted such concessions?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes; each case will be decided on its merits.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Does the Minister agree that this places the women in this society at a considerable disadvantage in relation to men in this society? The point I am making is that a woman is discriminated against in that her husband has to be subject to a work permit, whereas in the case of a Barbadian male who brings in a foreign wife, his wife is not subject to a work permit.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this here and now that, in so far as the Immigration Act 1952 is concerned, the several policies of Government have not yet been clearly defined and the question of work permits do not as such exist. Hon. members have raised many points which they may wish to have elucidated, but there are cases where people of foreign origin live here and are granted citizenship; in the case of a man he is granted citizenship, but in the case of his wife she is not granted citizenship although they are both foreigners. As far as Barbadian women bringing in foreign husbands go, a lot depends on the contribution which the husbands can make. If he is sitting around and becoming a beachcomber, his case will have to be reviewed. 2.45 p.m.

In the case of a man bringing in his wife, if she can teach French, or make some big contribution educational, social or otherwise, then she is being well received and will be able to work.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The senior member for Christ Church.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

I will give way.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, there is a point which he has overlooked. There is no Queen that can make a man a King, but a King can make a lady a Queen. If a man marries a Queen, he does not become automatically a King. That is why you get the disparity between a woman bringing in her husband and a man bringing in his wife. As you know, Sir, some of these men only marry these women to come in here and do as the hon. member has just said.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, the concept of the Hon. Minister is an antediluvian and mediaeval one. Is the Hon. Minister in favour of perpetuating this shameless system of discrimination between a man and a woman?

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

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that there are a number of cases where Barbadian women are being forced to leave Barbados because of the harassment of their non-Barbadian husbands?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, except for my disagreement with the use of the term "harassment", I would like to say that we are aware of some very difficult cases; most of them are under review, and it is the policy of the Ministry to be as sympathetic as it can under the law. I cannot say anything more than that, because it would be deceiving the House to say that all of them can in each case receive the facility that they want. Each of these cases has to be decided on its merits, and in particularly hard cases the Ministry likes to be able to assist.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to what the Hon. Leader of the House has said. These questions are coming from -

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

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister not consider this rather than have any so-called work-permit procedure applied at all, that non-Barbadian husbands of Barbadian women be advised to apply for residence for 12 months or longer and that the application be dealt with on that basis? Instead of the husbands having to run to the Police everytime he wants a new job, could we not see to it that husbands be granted residence as they could be under the Act, so that they will not have to be tormenting the Ministry and the Police? Once you decide that a man is desirable, you can. let him live here. It is a....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think a speech is coming on. Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS I am sorry, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, it was this precise point I was going to make when I was not allowed to make it. These

questions are being thought of and are emanating from lawyers, some of them Q. C's, etc. I am not a Q. C., and I am not even a lawyer, but the fact remains that I have been legally trained. What they are failing to comprehend and understand is simply that when a foreigner marries a Barbadian woman, her nationality automatically changes to that of her husband's.

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

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is just not true.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order; it may be a point of law, whether it is good or bad.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The law is not bad; it is British law. (ASIDES.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Now, this can be threshed out in the Law Courts and not in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in the case of a Barbadian woman who marries a foreigner, she adopts and becomes a national of that country. That is good British law. (ASIDES.) We are not talking about International law. We know all about that, too, but we have not got there yet. The second point is that in the case of a man who marries a lady -he is no Barbadian as such and he is not entitled to any concessions as such, and he fails under the heading of his wife who formerly was a Barbadian. If she is allowed to come in on the grounds that she is accepted because she has a contribution to make - Barbadian nationals are accepted even after marriage which all of you are persisting on and which is bad law - the fact remains that if he is a beachcomber or has just come here to run his night club and has nothing useful to contribute, they look at him searchingly and if he continues and persists to be a nuisance as many of them are, then the wife finds herself being chased out along with him, and that is nothing wrong in the law as far as our country is concerned.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal with No. 4 of this Question. Is the Minister aware that nationals are being paid less than non-nationals? I cite the case of Charlie Mountford playing the piano at the Hilton Hotel who has been paid a greater amount of money than what is paid to Howard Roberts.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I deem that not to be a supplementary.

Mr. CRAIG:

It is a supplementary, Sir. Mr. SPEAKER The decision is mine.

Mr. CRAIG:

I have to abide by your decision, but it is a supplementary.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a further supplementary to the Question, if I may amplify the question asked by the senior member for Christ Church, can the Minister of Health give any justification in logic for treating the beachcomber husband of a Barbadian worse than you treat the prostitute wife of a Barbadian? If a Barbadian's wife becomes a prostitute, you cannot send her any where.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

You can have fun.

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

Beachcombers can give you fun, too. Will the Minister say whether there is any justification in logic for it? Is it not sex discrimination?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I can answer most of these questions if I care to. I am not speaking of the immoral ones down St. James. They can be left alone for now. (Mr. CRAIG Sir, did I hear St. James?) I am referring to the husbands of these Barbadian women and the things which exist down St. James of which we are fully aware. I refer to the luxury hotels, and not the people the hon. senior member for St. James represents. I do not think the hon. member represents them, and I do not think they can vote. We are not dealing with the immoral sexo - or homo-maniacs or whatever it is. They have not been left out, but we have not got to them yet. If you want to deal with them, then I can deal with them.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that if a Barbadian woman marries a man of that calibre who is immoral and useless, who has no contribution whatever to make to this country, after he is found out by the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Immigration Department he is dealt with accordingly. (ASIDES.) We all know that after four years - my stepdaughter, for example, who is married to an American, will become an American automatically after four years. (ASIDES.) She has to retain one status and one nationality. At present she is a Barbadian. You all had better go back and read some law.

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

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Will the Minister like to tell me what doctrine of law states that we are anything to do with the American law of nationality? What are we to do with the American law of nationality? 2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is most extraordinary. On a point of order, a supplementary question is raised before the Hon. Minister has completed his reply!

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I must say I feel sad to hear the Minister say something about 'homos' is St. James. You are a resident of St. James and I really disagree with the Hon. Minister's accusation. I represent St. James and I do not feel happy to hear such an accusation made.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the question?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member got up to challenge the word "homo as used by the hon. junior member for Christ Church, I can only assume that the hon. member was talking about "homo sapiens"!

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Will the Minister consider it as a recommendation to the policy to permit the husbands of Barbadian girls residence in Barbados, including the right to work, as long as, (1) they are living together with their wives, and (2) so long as their moral and social habits are approved? I believe that you will find that this

is the policy in Canada and the United States of America.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I will draw this to the attention of the appropriate Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I will say, Sir, that homosexuality has been legalised in England.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to enquire how many of these hotels have actually sent away Barbadians to be trained for the jobs that are now being held by these 76 people who are non-nationals.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I believe that information, so far as we have it, is contained on the fly leaf of the list I passed around in respect of two of them. We have not got any more up-to-date Information.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Am I to understand from the Minister that although 76 work permits have been granted to hotels, only ten people have been sent away for training for these jobs? Will the Minister look into the possibility of stopping the issue of work permits to these hotels unless they train nationals?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, are completely at one in this, and perhaps, though not in this issue, some of the complaints about the stringency of the Ministry of Home Affairs in these matters spring from the fact that the Ministry has been insisting on the training of local people. We are not as easy on this matter as might appear.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister state whether the Government would take into consideration the possibility of sending away people not only to train for the lower jobs but at management level? When I see that Paradise Beach has one work permit, that readily brings to mind that that one work permit is for the Manager. Has Paradise Beach sent away anybody to train as Manager when he leaves?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that Question No. 2 has only been answered in part?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I am aware of this, but the hon. member would appreciate that this is a tremendous amount of information, and it could not all be set out in this way except in a very laborious manner, but I have been told to inform the House that the full list is available at the Ministry of Home Affairs and can be had there.

Mr. HINDS:

Am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that if a member of this House asks for information, he must be told that he can walk to the Ministry of Home Affairs and get the information he wants there?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, it is not quite like that. The hon. member must understand that some information - not all - perhaps not more than one-tenth of what Government deals with - is classified, and the hon. member as a member of Parliament is entitled to see this list. He may see it there, but it cannot be brought to the House. The hon. member will understand.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the name of the 76 persons who hold work permits cannot be made known to this House?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes, but you can see them at the Ministry.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, if I may throw some light on this matter, Standing Order No. 12 says "(a) a question shall not include the names of persons or statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible;

(b) a question shall not contain statements which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate;

(c) a question shall not contain arguments, inference, opinions, imputations, epithets, or tendentious, ironical or offensive expressions."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, kindly stop the Minister. He is talking nonsense. He reads what he does not understand.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The only place you would become Speaker is down at the "Truth".

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister got up to read Standing Order No. 12 which tells us that a question shall not include the names of persons.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member put it by way of supplementary question.

Mr. HINDS:

Would the Leader of the House tell the Minister what name is included in the Question? It does not say that an answer cannot include names. People read and do not understand and they are Ministers.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to find out something from the Minister, but I must put this by way of

making a statement and then asking the question. On this list there are, I believe, two hotels - either Colony Club or Coral Reef, and Discovery Bay - that are owned and operated by the same people. I should like to find out from the Minister why three work permits were granted to Discovery Bay, at management level when Coral Reef or Colony Club existed for so long and did not train three people to take over management at Discovery Bay when it was opened.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer to that particular Question, but I would like to draw the hon. member's attention not only to the substance of my Reply, but my answer to a supplementary. I said a few minutes ago that this is a matter about which we are very concerned, and we apply the strictest possible rules to these matters and do not allow these people to have work permits until they can give satisfactory assurances that they are taking steps to train nationals. Whether an individual hotel is not training somebody or will train somebody I do not know. I am only saying that the Ministry of Home Affairs almost never gives permission until it has that assurance which satisfies it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister state, therefore, how it is possible for Coral Reef to have work permits for three people, and Discovery Bay which is owned by the same person and was opened two or three years ago can get three people, all of whom I know for a fact are under 30 years of age and are drawing very large salaries the re, when Coral Reef for the entire 1960s did not train one person in hotel management? 3.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

It could well be, Mr. Speaker, that in giving the permission for these three, the Minister made it quite clear that it would be for the shortest possible time and that it would have certain other conditions.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister agree that the number of persons who are being trained as set out here does not include those being trained by either the Coral Reef Club or Discovery Bay to take over the management? Would the Minister state that he does not know the policy with regard to the granting of work permits, or that the Government has no policy on work permits?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I could not say that, because that policy was stated in (4) and (5) of the original Reply.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Following on from that, would the Minister be in a position to state how many of the hotels listed here are actually training people?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

The hon. member probably has a point there if he were to insist that there should be more follow-up investigation of these matters, but to say that we do not know what we are doing or that we do not apply conditions - it is just not true.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have in his possession a list of advertisements run by the Sandy Lane Hotel before application was made for the supply of work permits by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

No, Sir, I do not.

Mr. HINDS:

Have you got any of these advertisements that were run by any of these people?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

No.

Mr. HINDS:

Do you think it would be in the interest of the Minister to arm you with some of these advertisements to bring to the House today?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I scarcely think so because up to now the hon. member has not asked me any questions about these advertisements.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware that of the 76 persons who are supposed to be holding work permits, there has been no information coming from him as to the level of employment held by any of these people?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

It is a perfectly valid point, and I would have amplified my Reply to a previous supplementary, if we had not been interrupted, by saying that that information is part of what is available to the hon. member; but it is classified Ministry of Home Affairs information and the hon. member may exercise his right as a member of Parliament to see it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Is the Minister stating that this is confidential information?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I said 'classified'; therefore it is available for inspection by members of

Parliament.

Mr. HINDS:

Is it classified as secret or top secret information?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Neither.

Mr. HINDS:

Since it is not secret, Mr. Speaker, why is it that the Minister cannot present it to this Hon. House?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member need not get so hot about this; I am telling the hon. member that it is

not thought in the public interest for this information to be given as most other information is given, but that the hon. member may exercise quite freely his right as a member of Parliament and ask to see this information and he will be shown.

Mr. HINDS:

Can a member of this House seek this information at the Ministry of Home Affairs and make use of it publicly?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This would be a matter for the conditions under which he sees it. I said that the list is available to the hon. member in right of his being a member of Parliament, and I mean this.

Mr. HINDS:

Is there any regulation which prohibits the using of classified information in public?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Surely the Official Secrets Act would do this.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I understood from the Minister that the information is not classified as secret, nor is it classified as top secret; so how could it come under the Official Secrets Act?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, may it not be confidential? I answered the hon. member as he asked the question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 47 standing in the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister -

Is the Minister aware that the roads running through Woodside Tenantry, Dunlow Lane, Bay Street, Bridgetown are well-nigh impassible after heavy rainfall and are generally in a very bad state of disrepair?

2. Will the Minister take such action as may be necessary to enforce the repair of the roads in the said tenantry?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the replies are as follows

(1) Yes, Sir.

(2) The roads are privately owned and are not maintained by Government. Further consideration will be given to the improvement of these roads in the 1970-71 private tenantry roads programme.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is the end of Question Time for this afternoon.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have given the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition, under Standing Order 17 permission to make a personal Statement.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I thank Your Honour for this permission, Sir. I must apologise to the Hon. Leader of the House for not

having spoken to him earlier; as a matter of fact, he spoke to me before the House began when I had just received the document which I have in my hand and had not yet read through. The position is this; statements appear in the Advocate newspaper quoting a debate in the Senate saying that the Leader of the Opposition had been informed of a debate which was going to take place as regards the Senate not claiming the right to have Money Resolutions sent to them. 3.15 p.m.

The hon. Senator, Mr. Mapp, who is one of the Opposition's representatives in the Senate, differed strongly from that stand, and to my amazement I read in the Advocate that the Minister of Home Affairs in the Upper House said that the Leader of the Opposition had been notified and had agreed. I was reading it then in the Advocate for the first time. What shocked me then was the fact that one would have thought that a matter of that sort would have been the views of the Opposition, and not merely the views of the Leader of the Opposition. I received no information from them, nor would I even now, without some research - my memory inclines me to think of the reverse. I would not be prepared now to say, without some research, that I would agree with not sending Money Resolutions to the Upper House. Anybody who have studied Constitutional History - any schoolboy will know that.

Mr. Speaker, I remember distinctly, although . I was only twelve years old, the strong points in the House of Commons and the House of Lords Debates in England; therefore, I would not be prepared to say that I would agree to that. I would be inclined the other way. Money Resolutions should go to the Upper House for debate, because the democratic procedure or process should go on. According to the words spoken about the House of Lords and the House of Commons on Money Resolutions, the word "immemorial" is used. I think that under the Act of 1670 or 1650 regarding Resolutions of the House of Commons, the Act does say that the right to vote money is the sole right of the House of Commons.

Now, I am saying this for this reason. When I read the statement, I said: "What do my colleagues in the Opposition think of me to give an approval to the Minister in the Upper House without any discussion with them or without their approval?" I have reason to believe that it was drawn to the attention of the Advocate that it was a mistake, and I thought that they would have corrected it. I have looked every morning since then; I have seen no correction, and I came in here prepared to draft a letter to be sent to the Advocate this afternoon.

I was met at the foot of the steps by a policeman who handed me a document, and it is only fair to the Leader of the House to read his letter which is attached to this document. This document was dated the 27th January coming from the Office of the Minister of State for Caribbean and Latin American Affairs. I am sorry, Sir; that is the letter. This letter comes from the Office of the Minister of State and is signed by the Leader of the House who says:

"...it has been the custom and practice for Money Resolutions to be sent to the Senate (formerly Legislative Council) for its concurrence and to the Governor (now Governor-General).....

The question has now arisen whether this is constitutionally necessary in view of Chapter IX (Finance) of the Barbados Constitution and the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1964.

I submit herewith a copy of an opinion given to the Government on this matter by the Attorney General.

Government proposes in the future to follow the constitutional provisions and to discontinue the practice of inviting the Senate to concur in such Resolutions. I am advised that this is the practice in the United Kingdom, and in the Commonwealth Caribbean countries, whose constitutional provisions on such matters are similar to our own."

As I have said, this letter was signed by the Leader of the House. This letter reached me about three minutes to twelve today, and it was handed to me by a policeman downstairs. Attached to it is a letter dated today's date, signed by the Leader of the House, and I believe he was attempting to correct the error It states:

"Dear Sir Grantley,

Enclosed is a letter dated 27th January, 1970, addressed to you, which I signed last Tuesday but which, because of an unfortunate oversight, was not despatched to you at the time. I had told my colleague in the Senate that I had signed the letter and, neither of us having any cause to believe that it had not been despatched in the normal way, he stated in the Senate on Thursday 29th that you had been informed of the subject matter of my letter.

Please accept my apologies for the oversight.'

This is one of the things I was to ask him about today. I wanted to know whether they checked up on these things. It seems to me remarkable that this should have happened. What I want strongly to object to - it is not only a question of an oversight and they thought that I had been informed - is that I had agreed. It does not matter what was the Attorney General's opinion; it does not matter if Jamaica does it; it does not matter if Great Britain today does it; the language used here is so strong throughout the English Constitution and the debates in the House of Commons and House of Lords about passing it up to the House of Lords - the language is so strong that I will have to go back to my books again before I would give a considered opinion, and I would have to see why Great Britain changed, if they did change it.

I do want to make a personal explanation lest the public get an opinion, on reading the Advocate, that, after I, as Leader of the Opposition and Leader of this Party, had given an opinion, Senator Mapp got up in the Upper House and tore it to pieces, as if there was some disagreement between us. It has not been sent to us up to now, and it has not been debated; so it is fair to the whole House for me to make this explanation and let the public know that there is no difference of opinion on a matter that has not yet come to this House for discussion. I do not want to criticise the Other Place, but in a matter of this sort there should have been a Joint Committee of the two Houses appointed to discuss the matter before either House dealt with it.

I thank Your Honour very much for your indulgence, because I have spoken at some length on the matter. I accept the Hon. Leader of the House's apologies.

Mr. SPEAKER:

As is well known there will be no debate.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a personal explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House has asked to be allowed to make a personal explanation. I have given him permission to do so, but there can be no debate on this matter at this stage.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am not a member of the Leader of the Opposition's Party. I am entitled, with your

permission, to speak on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not under Standing Order 17.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that I am not a member of the Leader of the Opposition's Party. Having seen this in the Press, am I not entitled to express my views?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No. There is no reference to what appeared in the Press about the hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I bow to Your Honour's ruling. 3.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would be very grateful if the hon. Minister would give this House the assurance that he will extend Private Members' Business in as much as he is going to make a reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That does not arise.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I will not detain the House. I should just like to say quite briefly that I am not proposing to say anything upon the merits of the question under dispute. That, I believe, could be more appropriately dealt with at another level or in another setting. I should just like to say that I was instructed by the Cabinet to address certain correspondence to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. A letter the terms of which he has read as well as a copy of a legal opinion submitted by the Attorney General to the Cabinet were both prepared for my signature to be despatched to him. I signed the letter last Tuesday in the House and by an oversight, because I left for Antigua on the next evening, my boxes had not been cleared by my secretary, and she did not discover the file until after I had returned. I have therefore sent the original letter with a letter of explanation to the hon. member indicating the reason

why a letter of a date five days ago should only have reached him today. I have explained to him why it was and I have said that the oversight is of course regretted. I just wanted to make my position clear.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Personal explanations completed. I had intimated that certain hon. members who unfortunately were not here at the normal time for giving notice of Questions may now put the Questions.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, could the Leader of the House not be asked how it is that in the Other Places it was announced that the Leader of the Opposition had agreed?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That cannot arise now in any shape or form.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to set up a Commission of Enquiry to examine and make recommendations with respect to the recent increase in the cost of soft aerated beverages.

Mr. CRAIG:

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

WHEREAS the cost of living has been increasing steadily over the past five years;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to implement legislation having for its object, commensurate increases in pensions for all ex-public officers, ex-public employees, and all who are entitled to pensions from the Public Treasury.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am rising to ask a Ruling from Your Honour. I just want to know whether a Question which was tabled today which is the same subject matter, if I understand the hon. member correctly, as a Resolution now tabled and given notice of by the hon. senior member for St. James can both stand. I am not pre-judging the issue; I wish Your Honour to guide the House on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will give the matter my consideration.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, may I draw to the attention of the Leader of the House....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That will not arise. I am giving the matter consideration. I have the good fortune to be flanked by the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter had certain notices, but through some delays for which he is not accountable, they were not ready at the appropriate time. Would the hon. member care to put them now?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. HINDS:

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

WHEREAS there are several working mothers in Speightstown, St. Peter and suburban areas whose opportunity to earn a livelihood is handicapped by their having to remain at home and attend their little children; as well as there are some mothers who run the risk of leaving children unprotected whilst they go out to earn bread and milk and other nourishment for said children;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urges upon Government the necessity to establish a Day Nursery at Speightstown for the benefit of those mothers in need of such a service.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of this Resolution, also:-

WHEREAS the harvesting of the Island's cane crop is of such importance that it should not be hampered by any other activity whatsoever;

AND WHEREAS in some parishes the Road Works programmes of the Ministry of Communication & Works have become a paid hobby rather than a productive occupation, especially so in some areas in St. John, St. George and St. Philip and to a lesser extent in some of the Northern parishes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urges upon Government the urgency in taking all possible steps to ensure that no political considerations or favours are employed to lure workers into the "easy-go" Communication and Works programmes to the detriment of the harvesting of the Island's cane-crop which means so much to so many.

QUESTION

Mr. HINDS:

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is Government aware that several persons applying at the Registration Office, Bridgetown for copies of Birth and Baptismal Certificates are put to much inconvenience through the inability of Staff who make the searches and prepare copies of documents to decipher hieroglyphics?

2. Will Government give some consideration to the plight of those many persons requiring such a service and take steps to staff the Registration Office with persons who can bring to bear upon deciphering what is to be copied, an experience which is now sadly lacking and is causing several persons to have affidavits sworn to, so as to be able to have their several businesses executed?

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are Questions which, I am reminded, were on the Notice Paper for last Tuesday, but the hon. senior member for St. James was not present at the appropriate time. I gather he is seeking leave now to put them. Leave is granted.

Mr. CRAIG:

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is the Minister aware that the Statutory Register referred to in Section 17 (3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1965 is frequently unavailable for public inspection as required by the provisions of Section 17 (4) of the said Act?

2. Is the Minister aware that the same Statutory Register does not contain the information prescribed with respect to applications for planning permission, including the manner in which such applications have been dealt with in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Bridgetown and West South Coast Area) Interim Control Order 1965 Section 6?

3. Is the Minister aware that applications are being referred to him other than in accordance with the specific provisions of Section 18 of the Town and Country Planning Act, and that such reference is often

the cause of inexplicable delays in the processing of planning applications?

3.35 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware that planning applications referred to the Chief Agricultural Officer as required by Section 6 (1) (e) and Section 6 (2), are delayed for long periods because only one Extension. Officer is delegated to re port on all such applications which are referred to the Chief Agricultural Officer?

2. Will the Minister take the appropriate action to ensure that applications are referred to him only in strict accordance with the provisions of the Act (Town and Country Planning Act 1965) Section 18, to ensure that an up-to-date and complete Statutory Register is kept by the Town and Country Planning Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 (3) and (4) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1965?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Will the Minister name the members of the Planning Advisory Committee provided for in Section 4 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1965?

If such a Committee has not been appointed, will the Minister say why not?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

We now proceed to deal with No. 1. That Order is in the name of the hon. member for St. James and it is to resume debate on a Resolution re increase in weekly minimum wage payable to agricultural workers by at least \$5.00. When this matter was most recently discussed, the hon. senior member for St.

James was engaged in exercising his right of final reply; that hon. member may now continue.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, at our last sitting this House was treated to a classic example of cheers and applause from the other side when my colleague made a speech. I hope this evening that the same colleagues on the other side would show as great an enthusiasm as they did last Tuesday evening when the junior member for St. James made what I consider a very brilliant speech. I am not seeking, however, to gain Government's applause; I am not seeking to gain the fancies of Government; I am not seeking to gain any political favour; neither am I using this Resolution as a form of political gimmick such as the big Trade Union boss of this country, only a couple of days ago in his Press release, claimed that the Resolution which is now before Parliament was a political gimmick. I say that is really untrue because that hon. gentleman was not before Parliament, and I consider him a political gimmick; so I am not using this Resolution as a political gimmick.

I am seeking to ask my colleagues on both sides of the House to look carefully into the existence of their fellow men; I am seeking this afternoon to encourage members on both sides of the House to give this Resolution their support because the agricultural worker is in dire need. His plight today, his own standard of living is no better than it was 10 or 15 years ago. I was in company last night with a very dear friend of long standing for almost two hours. On this side of the House we know that dear friend very, very well. Today he is no longer on this side; he is on the other side; however, he is my dear friend, and it was, I thought, one of the most reckless statements ever made by a man I considered a dear friend and a responsible citizen who served this country on one occasion and is seeking to serve it again, when he said to me that had he been a worker he would never like to see the cost of living reduced because it would reduce the workers' standard of living; he challenged me that he is going to make a statement of that nature on a public platform. I ask God to give me health and strength to hear him make a speech of this nature; I would throw a stone in his mouth, and he is a dear friend. I, Lionel Seymour Craig, would hit him in his mouth with a stone.

Can you imagine that a man, who sprang from among these people and today considers himself a mini-millionaire, can sit back and say that he would never like to see the cost of living reduced, had he been a worker? It is the most unreasonable thing I have ever heard said by a single living creature, when countries all over the world are spending billions of dollars to reduce the cost of living and in my own town the agricultural worker remains the same place he was many years ago, I was a bit worried this evening when the Hon. Minister of Labour and Housing was not in his seat. I was concerned for this reason, that he knew and he had in the back of his mind that I told him that his reply caught me unawares last Tuesday and therefore, today I shall come equipped for him.

The average income of an agricultural worker in this country, on whose shoulders the economy of this

country rested for many years, is approximately \$1,024 per annum. 3.45 p.m.

I challenge the same Hon. Minister of Labour to go into the cane fields and cut the cane for \$1,024 per annum when he himself was about to resign when Government did not give him a pension at the age of 40. These people must work in the rain, to

the sun, and cook with mud and with a coal pot. They cannot buy an egg or vegetables to eat. But the hon. Minister can sit on his fat salary, and he has the audacity to come into this Assembly and agree to a Resolution whereby Civil Servants must have a housing allowance of approximately \$200 per month to live in his own house! The agricultural worker, who supports the economy of this country, can only get \$1,024 per annum! Vote against this!

I do not have a seat put down in here, but I am going to fight for one because I am a Socialist at heart. I challenge the hon. Minister of Labour to go to Orange Hill which he has been frequenting in the past few months; every minute you can look around and see him passing through Orange Hill. Politics have some strange bed-fellows. You come here and try to reduce me by saying that I am a political fledgling. When the blows start falling on your shoulders, I will be part and parcel of it. There will not be enough tents to cover you. I am going to do that whether my Party supports me or not. Vote against it!

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member continue to address the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, have I ever failed to address the Chair?

Mr. SPEAKER:

When the hon. member said "you", it did not appear that he was addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG:

You must not take notice when I say "you", because I would not address you as "you"; I would address you as "Sir", though some of us do not think you are worth it. To me it was the most amazing speech when I heard the hon. Minister of Labour showering blessings upon the Leader of the Opposition

and saying that he was the Father of the Labour Movement. Quite recently the Labour Union celebrated their 25th Anniversary, but they did not invite the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the same Father of the Labour Movement. His old colleague, the Senator and Trade Union Boss, did not invite him to attend the celebrations. His picture was thrown through the window. The same person whom I heard was an I.L.O. expert said that I would be defeating the purpose of Trade Union bargaining.

I will tell the Hon. Minister that it would be a good idea if he were to widen the scope of the bargaining; it would be good if you would take a first lead. You may say that other countries have not done it, but Barbados can take the lead. Let Government sit down as an impartial body, and do not wait to come in with a meagre \$13.44 a week. The Barbados Bottling Co., Ltd., the Barbados Beverages Ltd., and so on have carried the price of their drinks up to 14 a bottle. Imagine a child going to school with 25. If the child have no bottle, then 6 will have to be deposited on the bottle. What can the child buy with 5? You are not a Socialist Government. That is why I am not seeking to gain any political favour; neither am I using this Resolution as a form of political gimmick such as the big Trade Union boss of this country, only a couple of days ago in his Press release, claimed that the Resolution which is now before Parliament was a political gimmick. I say that is really untrue because that hon. gentleman was not before Parliament, and I consider him a political gimmick; so I am not using this Resolution as a political gimmick.

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Sir, we cannot support those people over there. If God gives me strength and health, I sincerely hope that I will be part and parcel of them to see them burnt at the stake politically, economically and socially like Joan of Arc. I challenge the other side, at any time, to produce a project of the magnitude of the Deep Water Harbour, the Hospital, or Seawell Airport. That is where your millions are coming from today. We set the stage, but we never had the opportunity to implement our schemes as we should have. Do you know why? The Leader of the Opposition says that our memories are very short. These are the things that people must face.

Do you know why the Leader of the House was recommended for the C.M.G.? He should never have had the C.M.G.; he should have been knighted. He is a shrewd, clever Minister and politician. The Minister of Labour represents an agricultural district, and he is saying that before Government can take a stand both sides must have a dispute. The Government remains supreme. I say that the Minister should be jailed for the speech he has made. I want to congratulate the Hon. Leader of the House for his very, very clever way in handling the matter.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way, I thank him for the congratulations but not for the reason, because the reason is not as he has stated it. I allowed the Minister, who is normally responsible for these matters, to reply on behalf of the Government. If this is any consolation to the hon. member, I would like to tell him now that negotiations are going on between the Barbados Workers Union and the Sugar Producers Federation, and the workers are going to get much more than what the hon. member is detaining the House asking for.

Mr. CRAIG:

It may be that they have started negotiations after my Resolution came in.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

That is not true I

Mr. CRAIG:

I challenge you that after I Introduced the Old Age Pensioners Resolution... (ASIDES)

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

I shall not give way unless Mr. Speaker so suggests. (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Has the hon. member risen to a point of order?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is imputing a bad motive to myself personally and to the Government collectively, and is in breach of Standing Orders. The facts are as follows long before the Throne Speech, the Government had hinted in here that it was considering increasing the old age pensions. It was put in the Throne Speech.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

On a point of order. Will the hon. member tell us what Standing Order he is speaking on?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I am not speaking now.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have a very deep respect for the Leader of the House, and I would hate to lose that respect. I am a bit concerned as to whether or not I am going to lose it this afternoon. However, let me give him a second chance, like a child that was once burnt. 3.55 p.m.

Every time a Resolution is brought before this House to put the Government on the spot, members of the Government ask to postpone it. I blame my colleagues for this. This is a free-for-all this evening. I blame my colleagues for allowing the Government to put them in the position of voting for a postponement on this Resolution and I will tell you why. Politics is a dangerous game, and our job is to trick the Government in order to get power as they tricked us; so if a Resolution to provide \$5 a week more for agricultural workers is political trickery, I want to be part and parcel of that trick. I do not want to be part and parcel of Sunset Crest, Highclere Park or South Ridge; I want to part and parcel of the masses. I have, as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would say, a little nay-nay business in Pilgrim Road, Christ Church, and I told Ju-C, Coke and Bim never to cross my doors again with drinks. I have asked Martineau and Crown Minerals to bring drinks, and people either have to buy them or go.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should never have made a speech against this Resolution. He should have been outside having a drink and when I come out he should say: "Craig, let us do our thing". He should never have allowed the recipient of the C.M.G. to put him in that trap as a representative of an agricultural area. You say that I have no political wisdom and I am politically inexperienced. If it were so, I would have gone through the door long ago, and nobody would hear me. The hon. member is a Pope, and he gets up defending the Government in not giving agricultural workers an additional \$5 a week. You will get more lashes.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, my back is broad and I can take lashes,

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order. The hon. member said that I got up here and refused to give agricultural workers an increase of \$5 a week. I want to make it abundantly clear that I attacked the principle of the hon. member calling on this Chamber to take action against collective bargaining, and I started my address by saying that my Party colleagues and I are in favour of seeing agricultural workers get more, but we are opposed to the method by which the hon. member would like to see them get more. I pointed out that while we were discussing this Resolution, the Union and the Sugar Producers Federation were bargaining for increased wages for agricultural workers. I further pointed out that we may get here and unilaterally decide to an increase for agricultural workers of \$5 a week, but the Union in their collective bargaining with the Sugar Producers Federation might get more, and I understand they are getting more,

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order. That is a point of elucidation which was duly made.

Mr. CRAIG:

I should like to ask the Hon. Minister on what date the Union and the Sugar Producers Federation started to bargain for increased pay, and I will sit down. Since he is a Pope, let him give me the date. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member should be addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG:

If you were not my friend, I would make you jump through the window this evening.

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

Does the hon. senior member for St. Andrew want to make both the speeches?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, this country is going to nought. Who bowled the first ball? This Resolution was given

notice of on 4th November, 1969. If the Union and the Sugar Producers Federation started on 3rd November, I will bow and withdraw the Resolution. If the hon. member can give documentary evidence as to when the negotiations started, I will withdraw and call myself a political puppet. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS Is the date important?) The date is important because I would not then give this House trouble to vote. Let me explain something to the hon. member. Before I was a member of the Barbados Labour Party, I was a heckler for the D.L.P.; so heckling is no big thing with me. I want the date and documentary evidence.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order..

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister to give me the date and documentary evidence.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The hon. member is asking me to give him documentary evidence. I am prepared to give him the date that the Barbados Workers' Union wrote the Sugar Producers Federation advising that they wanted to start negotiations on behalf of the agricultural workers, and he will have to withdraw the Resolution because it was long before he introduced the Resolution in here. We can close the debate now and I will get the documentary evidence that he asks for; but he has to give me time to get that evidence. I am in a position to tell him that negotiations started long before the Resolution was introduced.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, to save the Hon. Minister any embarrassment, I will make one point The Sugar Producers Federation wrote the Barbados Workers' Union, and not the other way around.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I told the hon. member that I am prepared to produce the documentary evidence, but he will have to postpone further consideration of the Resolution at this stage.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I accept the Minister's challenge. I will ask for a postponement on condition that I have the right to continue my reply. I am going to await the Minister bringing documentary evidence that the Union and the Sugar Producers Federation started negotiations before 4th November.

I therefore beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that No. 16 be the next Item.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

That Order is in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House and is to move the adoption of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the salaries and emoluments of the Members and Officers of the House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Report be now adopted.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

There is one point which arises from this Report. I do not think that it adequately reflects the state of affairs of the Committee in that I think that a proper Report would state the number of times the Committee met and the members who were present. I was appointed to serve on that Committee, but I was not in the Island when it was appointed, nor was I in the Island when it sat.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

The members of the Committee participating in this meeting were Mr. Speaker in the Chair, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy and the hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I will accept that amendment, but I was only drawing it to the attention of the House because I was not there.

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

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, may I proceed with my Resolution? I am going to ask leave of the Hon. Chamber that the Resolution standing in my name which has come off recently be reinstated or reinserted on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no objection, it will reappear next week.

Mr. SMITH; Mr. Speaker, "Whereas it is necessary for persons employed in the repair of motor vehicles to drive vehicles under repair on roads of the Island in order to test same;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to bring down legislation to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act so as to allow persons engaged in the repair of motor vehicles, or their employees so engaged, to drive same on the public roads with the permission of the competent

authority whether these said vehicles be private vehicles or public transport vehicles."

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and it is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relating to the spending of money on a suitable building near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the purpose of housing all the persons who were formerly inmates in the Almshouses in the parishes of St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. James, St. John and St. George. When this matter was last being discussed, the hon. junior member for Christ Church moved - and it was seconded by the Hon. Leader of the House - that this matter be postponed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I have given the hon. member for St. Joseph the assurance that we were looking into that matter, and we are not yet able at this moment to communicate to the House what we can do about it, and if he would mind resting it, I would be glad. I would hope to be able to say something about it next week.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I think this was sent to a Select Committee and I do not think the Select Committee has reported as yet. 4.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This is within my knowledge, and I would like to appeal to hon. members of that Select Committee, as their work is hardly controversial, to make a real effort to deal with it. The members are

The hon. senior member for St. Peter; The hon. junior member for Christ Church; The hon. senior member for Christ Church; The hon. senior member for St. Joseph and The hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I will ask the Clerk to summon a meeting. We have a quorum of that Committee here, and we can deal with the matter after the House adjourns.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking you to appeal to hon. members, when they are sitting on Committees, to make it a point to attend the meetings. With regard to this particular Committee, for about three consecutive meetings nobody attended. It is a waste of time for me to leave my business to come here only to find that nobody is attending the meeting. I have instructed the Messenger to ring me as soon as there is a quo rum present, and I will come down.

Mr. Speaker, time will soon be running out, and I am asking leave for Order No. 8 standing in my name to be taken as the next Order of the Day. The time will soon run out on this matter. It was laid here since November, and I am asking that leave be granted to do it now.

RESOLUTION re LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is that Order No. 8 be the next Order of the Day. If there is no objection, leave is granted to the hon. member to proceed with Order No. 8 standing in his name, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution requesting Government to introduce legislation having as its object the control of life insurance companies.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of life insurance companies springing up day after day, and there are a lot of agents driving all through the country actually snatching the people's money out of their hands. I would say "pinching" it. I do not know what is the procedure in this country before a man can establish himself as a life insurance agent or as a firm, but there are people going from house to house, just as the Indians are going around selling people goods. Nowadays you can meet more life insurance agents driving about than Indians. When the Indians leave they will leave clothing or a piece of furniture behind with the people, but when the life insurance agents leave, they will leave with money. When the time comes for them to pay out the claims, then the poor people have a lot of trouble and there is a lot of red tape before they can receive the little pittance that has to be paid to them.

There is one case in point that I know of, Sir. I call this high-class robbery. I may call the name of the

Insurance Company before I am finished. I am referring to an old agricultural worker, and when it comes to these poor people you are walking up my street. I will bend over backwards to represent agricultural workers who cannot help themselves. This woman was paying up her policy, and then she ceased to pay her premiums for a little time due to financial difficulties. At the beginning of the crop season - this is the only time when these poor people can hold a dollar - she made herself right by paying up her arrears. Eventually she took ill and died. The Insurance Company gave all sorts of trouble to the parents of that woman. They drove up and down; the Solicitor took out Letters of Administration, and then they were told that the money had to remain until the oldest daughter of the deceased came to age. When the daughter came to age, the Insurance Company called on her to go through the same process again. They wanted her to get a certificate from the Doctor to prove what her mother really died from and whether she was suffering from that complaint when she re-joined the Insurance Company. Now, this is high-class robbery. They do not want to pay the daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I have already said that the lady failed to pay her premiums for a short time and then she made herself right. They received her money, and it was then that they should have had the woman examined. I am not a lawyer, but I am not going to let a lawyer throw me down. I feel that I am as good as some of them. They should have had the woman examined before they took her money. After several years have gone by, they take up the big stick. It is impossible for a Doctor to say now that this woman was suffering from the complaint from which she died six or eight months ago. This is an Insurance Company over Barnes' Building. These people should be made to pay out the claims or be locked up. I told the man that he should be locked up. 4.25 p.m.

After all, there should be some provision in the law to make these people pay out, because they re-admitted this woman before having her examined. If the woman was still alive today they would be drawing the money, but after everything has been done - and I carried the people to Browne and Husbands, Solicitors - and Letters of Administrations have been taken out and the O.K. has been given by the Judge, the Insurance Company would not pay. They want to know if the lady was suffering from the same complaint when she was re-admitted. I do not know how many more have suffered this fate, but I think it is time that we as representatives of the people should take this matter in our hands and make a thorough investigation. I do not want to prolong the debate as I would like to have the Resolution passed. I do not think hon. members would object to it.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re SUGAR WORKERS PROVIDENT FUND, 1968

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 11 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I think hon. members are acquainted with this, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now 4.30 p.m. and time to resume Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, we do not propose to resume. Several hon. members have engagements for the rest of

the evening which they would like to fulfil. This being the case, I do not propose to continue with Government Business, but to take the adjournment now. But, in as much as we have had two light Tuesdays as far as Government Business is concerned, I would like to warn hon. members beforehand that we are going to have a late sitting next Tuesday to get through some of this backlog.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 10th February, 1970, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

4.36 p.m.