

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th January, 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. E. ST. A. HOLDER, 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); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have with regret to inform the House that last Tuesday's Minutes are not yet ready for confirmation.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following -

The National Assistance (Amendment) Regulations, 1969.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise receipts for the eight months ended 30th November, 1969.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise receipts for the nine months ended 31st December, 1969.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following-

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. LOWE:

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$12,400 at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1969-70, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1969-70, No. 56, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following -

A Resolution to place the sum of \$39, 754 at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1969-70, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1969-70, No. 57, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$79, 795 at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1969-70, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1969-70, No. 58, which form the

Schedule to the Resolution.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

A Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 64 asked by the hon. Junior member for St. John is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 62, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Michael, is ready.

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 52, asked by the hon. junior member for St. George, is ready.

QUESTIONS

Mr. HOLDER:

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

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Is the Minister aware that there is no water supply in the village known as Well Hill, St. James?
2. Will the Minister cause a Water Main to be laid in the said village for the use of its inhabitants?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER:

There appears on my Notice Paper a Resolution in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James who has requested, as he will be late today, that I give permission for him to give notice of it after the luncheon recess. I have assured him that I will.

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present first on behalf of Your Honour as Chairman the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1956.

The Report reads, Sir, as follows:-

The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1956, have the honour to present the following Report: -

1. The Committee met on three occasions.

2. The Committee recommend the passing of the Bill in its present form.

Theodore Brancker, Chairman.

I have also the honour to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to incorporate the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

This Report, Sir, reads as follows:-

The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to Incorporate the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church have the honour to present the following Report:-

1. The Committee met on one occasion.

2. The Committee recommend the passing of the Bill in its present form.

Cameron Tudor, Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, while we are on this, perhaps Your Honour, in addition to discharging the members of these two Committees, might also wish to discharge the Committee which met to consider the Bill to amend the Barbados Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, 1959. That Report has already been presented and the amendment enacted.

Also, the Committee which met and reported on the resignation of Mr. H. Lisle Thomas, Deputy Clerk and which presented its Report on 3rd December, 1969.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am grateful to the hon. Leader of the House for drawing my attention to that, and I now have the honour to discharge the members of each of those several Committees and to tender them my thanks for the services they rendered thereon.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. .A, DaC, EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. J. C.. TUDOR, a Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Art, 1966, was read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF Mr. JOHN CONNELL TO ACT AS DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. John Connell, Barrister-at-law, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk until 31st March this year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 1 stands in the name of the hon. Leader of the House and it is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island. 12.25 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1969-70 No. 55

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum sets out, the proposed additional grant to the Barbados Registered Nurses Association will enable the Association to pay salaries to the Nurses engaged in its District Nursing Service which are appropriate to their qualifications and experience, and to engage two additional Nurses to assist in meeting the demand for its service.

The position is that salaries have been recently revised and we must see that the Nurses who render very useful service to the country, especially in this District Service, should be considered and given the full attention and the full benefits to which they are entitled, and they must be protected in as many ways as others by way of pension rights etc. The Committee submitted an application to Government for an increase of salaries of \$12,000 with effect from the current year, and the increase is requested because the Committee considers that its two most Senior Nurses should be paid at the maximum salary of \$3,420 per annum applicable to Staff Nurses employed by Government. Both are qualified Nurses with over 25 years' service in the District Nursing Service, and in an effort to extend the area covered by their services the Committee also proposes to employ an additional Staff Nurse and one Practical Nurse so

that in future, as the result of these recommendations, the expenditure so far as salaries are concerned is estimated at \$12,000 per annum arrived at as follows:

Two Nurses at the maximum of \$3,420 per annum \$6,840

Two Nurses at the maximum of \$2,340 per annum \$4,680

One Practical Nurse at \$1,380 per annum \$1,380

\$12,900

Mr. HINDS:

Just one point, Mr. Chairman, are you going to have two Staff Nurses?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Yes. The position is that we will retain the two Staff Nurses and employ two others. I would like to mention to the Committee that exclusive of the Government grant of \$400 per annum, from the Interim Commissioner for Local Government, the District Nursing Service Committee's income for 1969-70 was budgeted at \$1, 925. This was to be the total collections from raffles, cake and jumble sales and donations, so that the District Nursing Service has helped itself in trying to raise as much funds as it can, and it is a service which, in my opinion, should be extended further. I think that Nurses here deserve every dollar they get, and they should have more assistance as far as transportation goes and should be given every facility, I hardly think there is any member here who will grudge the Nurses getting money for a change; so, subject to whatever opposition may be given, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we are to consider here today a Resolution which is based to a very considerable extent on something that is very much lacking in our community life today - that is, a voluntary spirit

You will find that the Barbados Registered Nurses Association is a body that has done very considerable work in our community from its humble beginning, and I think it deserves much more by way of praise, by way of encouragement, and by way of finance than we are being asked to give here by this Resolution. But one other thing springs to my mind, and it is that it is about time that Government survey the work of this organisation. We ought to be told by the Minister what parishes of this Island benefit from the work of the Barbados Registered Nurses Association, and the Minister ought to be in a position to offer an explanation as to why in its long years of existence the work has not spread island-wide. What have been the hindrances or the causes which prevented this work from being more widely spread?

We are going to grant a sum of money today from the public purse. Nobody wants to deny the Association this; my argument, on the contrary, is that if Government were to examine the possibilities from what the Association has done in the past and what it can do in the future by way of helping those sick people who are themselves unable to get to Hospital or to some other institution to receive the type of care that this Association offers, you will find that Government might, through this organisation bring about a unit to relieve some of the work that is now being thrust upon our District Hospitals which are only institutions in name. It is about time that Government bring into focus its entire Health Service, and not merely come here from time to time to make enabling grants or whatever one might choose to call them to pay travelling allowances or to bring the salaries of District Nurses in line with those employed by the Government Service.

We would like to see, not that the Barbados Nurses Association should fall completely under the bewitching hands of the present Government - we would never welcome that - we would like to see it function in its own right as at present, with its own Committee system; but we would like Government to assist the Association because the Committee feels that they are asking for much more than they would like to ask. 12.35 p.m.

As the Minister rightly said, here is a body of people who have been holding functions, organising socials, raffles, bingo and so on in order to raise money so that they will not have to ask Parliament for any assistance. It must be remembered, Sir, that the work of this Association is work of considerable importance in this community. It is the work of caring for the sick, and Government should take into consideration the fact that, since this Association has done so much on its own to keep alive until today, the Government should throw their arms wide open to give the Association as much assistance as possible. The Association should be properly staffed in order to cover the entire Island.

Sir, you must remember that the Association functions in a few parishes, and it renders only part of the services that these parishes need. Let us think in terms of the other parishes that are crying out in equal terms for assistance, and agree that the staff should be increased in order to take care of all the parishes.

We are asking Government today to do much more than they have ever done for the Barbados Registered Nurses Association. We are basing this on the fact that the Association has done so much on its own, so to speak, rather than coming to Parliament for assistance. We are asking Government to help the Barbados Registered Nurses Association to expand so that it will be able to attend to sick people throughout the entire Island.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the points raised by the hon. member who has just sat down, the hon. junior member for St. Peter, were all well taken. In answer to one of the queries raised by him, I will further elaborate that the District Nursing Service of the Nurses Association was started nearly thirty years ago under the direction of Miss Eunice Gibson, M.B.E. as we all know. The service is now managed by a Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Grace Jordan, but Miss Gibson continues to serve as a Supervisor. This service operates in the parishes of St. Michael, Christ Church, St. George, St. Thomas and, occasionally, St. James. Nurses travel by bus, etc. If the hon. member feels that the service should be extended, and I believe he is correct, then it will be necessary for them to have their own independent means of transportation. If you are going to extend the service, then you must have the necessary transportation.

Sir, I think the Government will view that suggestion very generously and sympathetically. If the turning point has come at this stage, it is for the voluntary organisation to say so. If they say so, they will get further financial assistance. There is no need for me to elaborate on that any further. If the whole Island is to be covered at this stage, I am sure that it will meet with the blessing of the Chief Medical Officer, my Officers of Health, and the Ministry and the Cabinet will concur. The money will be made available, and the service will be extended not only to five parishes as at present, but to the other parishes. If the Association is geared to cover the entire Island, it should say so. This Government does not want to take over a voluntary organisation. There is no Communism in this country yet, or at all. I am glad to see that only one member of the Opposition made the point, and decided that the point will be taken; there solution can go through; the salaries will be increased, and the Nurses will be given their pension rights, etc.

In so far as the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board is concerned, I think that speaks for itself. It is a question more of transportation than anything else. It is a question of providing the necessary transportation for the members of the Board and the people who are working there. The Chairman of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board receives an honorarium. His members are paid only so much per meeting and their travelling has to be provided. That has been the practice all along and it will always be the practice. All the members of the Board should be given a travelling allowance at least, and so much per meeting. The members of the staff should be given their travelling allowances, etc. I do not like to waste time on matters that are well known and appreciated by everybody.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister ought to have seen in the Addendum that paragraph 2 states

"The amount is required to meet the following travelling allowances for members and staff of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board with effect from 1st September, 1969, to the end of the financial year.

(a) a commuted travelling allowance to Junior Supervisors of the Sanitation Division at the rate of \$55.00 a month instead of \$45.00 a month.

That is one point, and I will go back to that later. I will continue to read.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is no point. I said that the Addendum sets it out and everybody in here can read.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is because the Addendum sets it out so well that I have to read it now for the benefit of the Minister and not other members. You will see that at Clause (b) the Addendum speaks of "commuted allowances", and at Clause (a) it refers to "commuted travelling allowances". Can the Minister explain whether Clause (b) refers to travelling allowances as well? 12.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is...

Mr. HINDS:

No, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is willing to explain. The Addendum makes reference to travelling allowance, but I am drawing to the Minister's attention that paragraph (b) does not make reference to travelling allowances; it only makes reference to commuted allowances. I have my own information, and

I am proving to the Minister that the Addendum which he is saying sets out so clearly what is intended is wrong and definitely misleading, and I want to see if the Minister has been briefed as well as we on this side of the House have been on this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is trying to see if I have done my homework. I always do it, and I give it to him in detail. The grant to the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board for the period September 1969 to March 1970 was provided by Supplementary Resolution No. 51/1969, under Head 41 - Ministry of Health and Community Development, Item 230. The detailed Estimates relating to the grant voted for travelling are as follows Headquarters Staff - \$1, 330; Sanitation Staff - \$7,000. However, Sir, inadvertently no provision was made for the staff serving in the Cemeteries division. Furthermore, the Board has pointed out that the commuted travelling allowance of \$45 a month approved for the Junior Supervisors in the Sanitation division is \$10 a month less than the allowance formerly paid by the Councils to these officers. Accordingly the Board has recommended restoration of the allowance of \$55 a month to the Junior Supervisors. Therefore the Superintendent will receive \$600 per annum, and the two officers each \$480 per annum. The Board has recommended restoration of the allowance of \$55 a month to the Junior Supervisors and the approval of the following allowances for the staff of the Cemeteries division Superintendent \$600 per annum, and the two officers \$480 per annum each.

Mr. Chairman, the amounts now required to implement with effect from 1st September, 1969, the foregoing recommendations from the conclusion of the decision made by the Cabinet with reference to the above matter are as follows: revised commuted allowance to Junior Supervisors, Sanitation division - \$1,470 and commuted allowance to three officers of the Cemeteries division -\$910; commuted allowance to twelve members of the Board at \$50 a month each - \$4,200, making a total of \$6,580. The hon. member wanted to know what the commuted allowance was. It seems to be a special allowance given to the Superintendent, as I said just now.

Again I repeat - because apparently unless you say something six times nobody understands or worries to accept - inadvertently no provision was made for staff serving the Cemeteries division. Furthermore, the Board has pointed out that the commuted travelling allowance of \$45 a month to the Junior Supervisors in the Sanitation division is \$10 a month less than the allowance formerly paid by the Councils to these officers, and we are here merely trying to regularise travelling and other allowances which were paid by the Councils to make sure that they stand to lose nothing.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Minister wants to agree with us on this side of the House that when arrangements were made for the handing over from the Interim Government system to the Central Government - I do not want to say through hasty legislation, but it so happened that no provision was

made for the Superintendent of the Westbury Cemetery nor his Clerks. It was also discovered, Mr. Chairman, that other officers in the change-over found themselves to be receiving \$45 a month when previously they had been receiving \$55 a month; so this money that is now being sought is really to make up by way of \$10 per month for those persons. Now we happen to be fortunate, Mr. Chairman, in respect of the Superintendent of Cemeteries because that officer happened to be out of the Island at the time on long leave, and apparently there was no necessary hunt, about for money to pay him as readily as somebody who happened to be on the spot, but those things needed some sort of adjustment. We are willing to accommodate the Minister by making these necessary adjustments, but we would like to advise the Minister that in future when matters of this magnitude are to be dealt with, he of himself ought to be given time with which to familiarise himself; and if he needs time, how much more should he not think to give time to the Opposition to be able to assist him when he comes with these Bills before the House?

What we want to deal with specifically is this: you will find that a travelling allowance of \$50 a month is to be paid to each member of the Board. I am a member of Parliament and I have a whole constituency to visit. Other members like myself have constituencies to visit. For attending one - or maybe two meetings a month you are paying some members of this Board, some of whom live in St. Michael and less than two or three miles from the place where the meeting is to be held, \$50 a month of the taxpayers' money. 12.55 p.m.

If the Minister feels that they are worth \$50 -because the Minister has got to stand up here and tell us whether he feels they are worth \$50 a month - as soon as he tells us this, I will ask the Minister what he feels that he is worth, having to visit his own constituency - a thing which he must do. The \$50 a month is not all; they are being paid \$15 for each meeting that they attend and each Committee meeting. But what we are concerned with is this: were it a case where these people were given out-of-pocket expenses incurred in getting from their homes and back to their place of work, if they are paid \$15 a meeting we might say that this is alright because a meeting might fall at an hour when a person has got to leave his business to attend to the people's business. We may have nothing against that, but can the Minister justify taking \$50 a month out of the taxpayers' money and paying to these members of this Board merely for travelling meetings?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order. The hon. member has developed his point. I am not trying to interrupt him, but it is not merely a question of attending meetings; these are attendant functions of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board on an island-wide basis. It is a question of attending dumps all parts of the island day in and day out throughout the thirty-one days that occur in a month, so that there is no question of wasting the taxpayers' money as such, and if they get the \$50 nobody should grudge them. If you get \$100 for travelling in your help people to maintain a healthy system in this country.

A few weeks ago people complained to me about mosquitoes within certain areas. I spoke to the Minister about it, and told him that the idea was to inspect areas once every month. I do not care who was the doctor that recommended this. I understand they have changed it to once every three months. Are you telling me that you can inspect houses in some of these areas, which hon. members know well, once every three months and keep up the standard of sanitation which in 1965 the Government found? The Government of this country cannot deny the fact that they found a high standard of sanitation in this country. They found super-structures for privies; they found pits in areas which were sheet water areas and as soon as you went down two feet, you would get water, and they also found that we kept masons who went around helping to keep the standard of sanitation up by patching and repairing these places. What is being done about this? Why has this not been done? I do not want you to think that any Inspector came and told me anything, but I have been around and seen that the groundsels to the toilets are broken down and the faeces is exposed and yet the Inspector inspect once every three months. You are talking about doing things for tourists, but it is not tourists you must think of. I have been on this Board in the days when you had 15 or 20 cases of enteric fever, or typhoid fever as it is commonly known, per month. This was eradicated because we were able to deal with this measure day after day and Inspectors had to report. The first outbreak you get, you will come in here and say it is the *Aedes Egypti* mosquito, and then you will run into people's houses looking for them. What is dangerous is that although you have all the antibiotic drugs, enteric fever is still one of the most dangerous diseases, and this is only carried by the common fly. For the 25 years that I have been on the Board, I have never got 15 cents for a meeting, and I would like the Minister to tell me why they are paying \$15.00 for each meeting. I do not grudge anybody for making money; I agree with the \$50 for travelling because I suppose they have to travel, but I am sure that the Leader of the House will agree that there are people in this country of his political complexion who would be willing to serve on these Boards. I can call names of people in St. Lucy and St. John who would serve for nothing. Do not think I am going to call people like Mr. Greenidge. There is Mr. Gill who would serve on one of these Boards, and there are other people in every parish who would serve.

The hon. senior member for St. Joseph has been a member of these Boards for years, and he has never got one cent. He has had to visit the various areas in St. Joseph. I should like to know why inspections are only done once every three months. Mr. Chairman, if you go at the corner of Kensington New Road and Fontabelle now, you will see stuff that has been put out. I insisted when I was Chairman of this Board not to take up any bougainvillea, but to let people burn it because it was dangerous. But people pay their taxes and the stuff which they put out is not removed. The scavengers also refuse to empty the tins in Marshall Gap.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member is very knowledgeable on these matters, but the reason for stuff remaining on the roads is because of the twelve or fifteen year old trucks which were condemned five or ten years ago, which are not serviceable, and which have been repaired several years under the hon. member's administration, but which we are now replacing.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

If the hon. member had any sense, he would not have said this at all, because from 1963 we were begging Government to allow us to borrow money to buy scavenging trucks and they refused to grant permission. I challenge the hon. member to say that they did not refuse permission. Of the twenty-one trucks, we drew to Government's notice that some were thirteen years old, but due to the things they were doing and the undermining that was taking place, they refused permission to buy the trucks.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the money which was being spent for repairs.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

On a point of order, what Standing Order has been broken? How can the hon. member talk about a point of order unless he says what particular Order is being broken? We will continue to have these interruptions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are two hon. members on their feet. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Now there are three hon. members on their feet.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I have been in here long enough to know the Standing Orders. The hon. member has challenged me and I got up on a point of order before he developed his point; he is blaming me wrongfully. This \$52,000 is for the repair of some of the trucks; the old trucks are being abandoned and new trucks have been ordered to replace them.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I have never really clashed with the hon. member, but I am going to tell you here and now that this is the most reckless and dishonest statement that has been made on the floor of this House; no \$52,000 was ever spent in repairing trucks. You have \$52,000 to spend on gasoline, oil and repairs - and not only that; I repeat, do not try to draw a red herring across the line. Is it not a fact that the Government refused the then City Council permission to borrow money to buy trucks? Answer that; do not wait until the Prime Minister comes in here to answer it; call the Leader of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I rise to answer it.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Answer when the hon. member sits down.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member wants me to answer and I will answer him; I am not the Minister of Finance.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

As long as I have a seat in the House I intend to press and press that Standing Orders can be observed or broken, and when they are broken the Chair should rule. When a member gets up on a point of order he immediately makes his point; but to get up and answer a member who is making a speech is wrong; it is time to stop it.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The hon. member talks about broken-down trucks and the like, but he has not answered my question, and I suppose that he will take refuge in the fact that he cannot get up on a point of order. He says that he is not the Minister of Finance, but what has the Minister of Finance to do with this? He has absolutely nothing to do with it. 'Every time a request came from the City Council the Cabinet saw red; so you must not make these rash statements. It is not true to say that the trucks are leaving the stuff on the road because there are not enough trucks; it is true to say that the supervision has gone down and the hon. member knows that.

Ask the Minister of Trade or the Minister of Housing if the scavenging service in the Island was not better before it was transferred to Central Government; they dare not get up and deny that this was so. I have no personal complaints to make, but these are things people call me up and ask me to look into. Go

into Kensington New Road and you will see the stuff piled up against a man's house because the same man allowed me to connect lights to his house during one of my election campaigns. Do you think this is right? I would never do that. There was a time when the Beacon would attack me every Saturday, and I was so broadminded that I would be waiting, just as I would do with you, to pay them money for doing work. When the Democratic Labour Party started to have 15 and 20 people at a meeting, I put the light for them in the Lower Green; ask the Minister of Trade if this is not true. I put it for the people who were attending the meetings, not for them; but this is malicious.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am afraid that that has absolutely nothing to do with travelling, and I would really like the hon. member to observe the appropriate Standing Order.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am sure I have said enough to convince the Minister that he must take steps in this matter. The real thing I want to get at is that people do not object to a Sanitary Inspector coming around in order to see that things are going right, and to advise them on how to cope with certain sanitary problems; but what am I to understand by this coming every three months? If you have more Inspectors than you had before, and the Inspectors you had before used to visit the people's homes every week, why must these visits be made now every three months? I hope I have said enough to convince the Minister. I am voting for the Resolution; I do not object at all to members of the Committee meeting because I know we had to meet nearly every morning and go through the reports.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I was not always a backbencher or a member of the Opposition; I have been a member of a Government for many, many years, and I would like the hon. member to listen, because I am putting this specifically to him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Would hon. members please observe Standing Order 29 (6)? Please let the hon. member proceed.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I think it is sheer impoliteness. Has the hon. member ever found that it is difficult to get people to do this sort of job for nothing? Are members of the Senate paid for anything? If you could tell us, we could understand this \$50 a month travelling; but in my time I found people very anxious to serve on a Board without asking for a half cent. Has that been your experience? 1.35 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I want to reply to two statements that were made. The senior member for the City said that he served as a member on these Boards for a long time and was never paid for his services. How many times do people want to be paid for the same job? The junior member for St. Joseph asked the Minister if he has found out whether people are willing to serve for nothing. If he knows that people are willing to serve for nothing, then the junior member for St. Joseph ought to be the first person to show his philanthropic way of life by handing back \$800 a month which he gets for making himself mischievous. (ASIDES.) The junior member for St. Joseph got in here just now and said that the Cabinet intends to raise the salaries of Ministers in order that I, a young man, may get something.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Again, I must point out that that is irrelevant.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, it is irrelevant now, but it was not irrelevant just now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I asked the hon. member to refrain from so doing, and I am also asking you to do that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I will refrain from so doing, but I should like to say that whenever the Government comes here with any sort of Resolution, the members on the other side can see the wrongs about a Resolution or the wrongs about a Bill. When the Leader of the Opposition was the Leader of the Government, they were the first people to start paying themselves. Nobody had a word to say. As a matter of fact, I felt that they should have been paid. Nobody felt that anybody was looking for money although he was a lawyer - whether he was a good one or a bad one is left to be seen. He was the first to start this thing. He wanted so much money for himself as Premier....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members must observe Standing Order 26(2)

"A Member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion, and may not introduce

matter irrelevant thereto."

The subject matter under discussion now is travelling allowance.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, travelling allowance is money, and we are dealing with money. When the junior member for St. Joseph was the Leader of the Government, not only did they give themselves what, at the time, were fat salaries, but they gave themselves travelling allowances, too. I will tell him where the spirit has gone. The standard of living has gone up; more people have motor cars instead of buggies as they had years ago; the upkeep of a motor car is high and so on. Members on the other side are only talking nonsense. They want people to believe that they are so interested in the taxpayers' money that they have to see that every cent is spent correctly.

Mr. Chairman, when they were in power they never cared anything about what the taxpayers said or did. Today they want to know if the Minister went around to find out whether people would serve on the Boards for nothing. The reason why you cannot get people to serve for nothing today is that those people who served for nothing years ago had other motives for serving on those Boards. Some of them were owners of quarries; some were owners of carts and owners of land they were hoping to sell, and they were making money by other means.

Mr. Chairman, if you were to go through the country today, you would wonder whether the estates or the roads were built first. Some of the roads lead right into the estate yard, because the people who were in power at the time saw it fit to put the two things in close conjunction so that the cart would just have to enter the yard. Nobody said one word about that. Where was the spirit then?

The Democratic Labour Party is now in power, and we are asked to walk around asking people to serve on Boards for nothing! I heard the senior member for the City talking about serving for nothing. He knew why he served for nothing. I would have liked to have served for nothing the way in which he did, too. Do not let people come in here and try to fool the general public and play to the gallery by talking about this philanthropic idea and benevolent attitude, because I know it is quite different. If it were so, as I said when I first got up, let the junior member for St. Joseph hand back the \$800 a month he is drawing for doing absolutely nothing for the community.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member to go outside and say why I have served for nothing. (ASIDES) He does not have the guts to go outside and say why I have served for nothing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am of the opinion that that is not part of the Resolution.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

You are of that opinion now, but you were not of that opinion when the Minister was speaking. (Mr. CORBIN Stop shouting at the Chair.) To hell with you; you can go outside if you do not like it. I would never have risen if the hon. member had not said that. I said that if they felt like centralising, the question of travelling was, in my opinion, right. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL You did not say so.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When a member is speaking, other hon. members must be silent.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Why do you not tell Boxill to be silent? I said that the question of paying members for serving on the Boards was a different matter. If the Government felt like centralising, the travelling allowance is all right. On the question of paying members, I said that I agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that there are still people in Barbados with a civic spirit who would be willing to serve for nothing—even people with the complexion of the Democratic Labour Party would be willing to serve, (ASIDES) You could always write, but you could not read. (ASIDES.) Mr. Chairman, I think you will agree with me that I said so. I said that there was no need to centralise. The hon. Minister said that although they have centralised they have taken two people from each parish. I cannot see that, because they do not have 22 members on the Board.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I never said two from each parish. I said one at least from each parish and, in the case of St. Michael, which is more thickly populated, two. There are Appeals Committee where two members will be drawn. 1.45 p.m.

Why I say that is because it was comprehensive and fully represented, with one member from each parish or area, more or less, together with, I think, two from St. Michael.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Will the hon. member be kind enough and treat this House with the courtesy of telling us, if there are one from each parish and two from St. Michael, how many members constitute the Board?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, there are twelve members on the Board which as fully represented island-wide as possible. St. Andrew and St. Thomas, or St. Andrew and St. Joseph may have one member, but there are twelve in all on the Board. I thought the hon. member would know the constitution of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, being so well informed on these matters.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

It is simple arithmetic. You said there is one from each parish. I do not want to confuse you, because I do not believe that down in your heart you feel there are not people who would be willing to serve as a civic right on the Boards and merely receive a travelling allowance. In the old Act we were allowed a travelling allowance, but nobody drew it.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

The hon. junior member for St. Thomas made reference more than once to the fact that I drew a pension of \$800. May I remind him that it is the winding-up of the Federation of the West Indies that provided my pension, and nothing in the world to do with Barbados, except as a member of the Federation of the West Indies? Let me tell him this. If I were not in politics, it would be \$800 a week if I had continued practising at the Bar; so to sneer at me and say that I am collecting \$800 a month as a pension and doing nothing for the community of Barbados gives the lie to my whole public life for the last 30 years or more. It is only because he has made that accusation more than once that I say this, but do you think I would get up in public and tell the people of this Island or the world generally to look at what I have done and look at what my paltry pension is? It is nasty. Of course, the hon. member is nasty by nature.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to withdraw that remark.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I am not withdrawing that if the hon. member has not objected to it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to withdraw those remarks.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

What remarks?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The remarks that an hon. member is nasty.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I am not withdrawing. If the hon. member had objected, I could understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There will be no debate until the hon. member withdraws those words. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter sit.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

If I withdraw anything, I am going to make a motion that you withdraw as Chairman of Committees, because you are unfit to be Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Joseph for the third time to withdraw those words.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Otherwise what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to read Standing Order No. 36 (2). It reads as follows-

"The Speaker or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting and the Marshal shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of this Order."

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, if you do not understand, ask questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I do not wish to understand. I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Because you are in the Chair, you say so; but I say that it is a grossly disorderly thing to have a person in the Chair who does not know what he reads.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

This happens to be the fifth time now that I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Withdraw what words?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The words that an hon. member is nasty.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

What is the meaning of "nasty"?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is to be no debate here. I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

If you want any respect whatever from members of the House who understand parliamentary procedure, and further who understand the simple meaning of the English language, what is gross disorder?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

"The Speaker or the Chairman shall order members whose conduct is grossly disorderly....."

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am also asking all hon. members to be silent.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member for St. Peter to sit for the second time. I am asking hon. members to be silent. I need no advice from any one hon. member.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

That is your trouble. You do not understand and you do not listen. "The Speaker or the Chairman shall order members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting." Are you telling me that because I say that an hon. member or anybody is nasty that that is grossly disorderly conduct and that I must leave the House for the rest of the day? You are bringing disgrace on the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member again to withdraw those words.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, before you put the question....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. senior member for Bridgetown to sit.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, on the advice of some of my colleagues, and only because of that, I withdraw. It is time that you get together and appointed a decent Chairman of Committee who knows the King's English. I appeal to the Leader of the House to see.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member has withdrawn the words, and I am asking him now, if he so cares, to proceed with the Resolution under discussion.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I have almost from infancy, I might say, been connected with Parliament. Imagine reaching the stage that I have to be talked to by a Chairman in the way you are speaking to me. Your Honour does not realise that you do not hurt me; you bring disgrace to the House and make people say.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member to get on with the Resolution or sit.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

And if I do not sit? If Your Honour would make the hon. junior member for St. Thomas behave himself, you would do one of the greatest things that has ever been done in this Parliament. He sits there and constantly interferes and you do not stop him. He is the only member..

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to say for the very last time.....

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I will say on the part of the Government that no other member of the Government misbehaves himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will the hon. junior member for St. Joseph take his seat?

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I will take my seat because, if Your Honour is in the Chair, I will obey the Chair. I obey the Chair, not the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will read for the benefit of the hon. member Standing Order No. 36 (1) which reads as follows-

"The Speaker or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the House or of the Committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech." 1.55 p.m.

If it continues, I will have no other alternative than to perform the duties which I am here to do.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, the reply on behalf of the Government.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Before the hon. member replies, I hope the hon. member noted the points I have made.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I will reply to the potent points which were raised. The first point raised by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was with respect to voluntary service in the old day and all that sort of junk; I want to tell him that in this year of grace 1970, with the high cost of living and with more advanced ideas, people like us cannot afford to serve for nothing. We have to be paid for our services, and if you happen to represent the group who could serve for nothing, we on this side do not represent the merchants and farmers....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to advise hon. members of Standing Order 29 (6).

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The point raised by the hon. senior member for the City in connection with inspection services is well taken. I understand that these visits were to have been made once every five months but it was changed to once every three months; I called in the officers concerned, including the Chief Medical Officer, and insisted that inspection should be made at least on a monthly basis. In so far as cemeteries are concerned, the hon. member during his time as Mayor acquired about 21/2 acres of land at Westbury Cemetery for which he never got vacant possession; we have got that vacant possession recently, and that land will be used until such time as we shall have completed the acquisition of land near Warrens for a new cemetery and crematorium. We recognise the need for providing graves, and I will not be trapped by any suggestion that I should open old graves where such graves exist. I am not blaming the hon. member, but I did not think that an old politician like him would have fallen into this trap and I was merely saying that I was being advised to open up old graves, whether or not there were any signs or not of anybody being buried there. We are taking all the appropriate steps to see that that measure is taken care of.

In so far as the burial fees are concerned at St. Thomas, I will have to investigate that, and if there is any truth in it, it will have to be stopped. In so far as scavenging units are concerned, we have nine in order, twelve have been abandoned, and as to twenty more, I hope to get Cabinet to agree to order new chassis and to have bodies built locally. There will be a general improvement of all these services for the benefit of our people here to see that our tourist trade is protected. Barbados is regarded as being one of the cleanest of the Caribbean Islands, and in my constituency we have a big tourist set-up.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The people here must be protected, not only the tourists.

Hon. C. B. TALMA:

I said the local people and the tourists; so if you choose to only refer to the tourists, that is a matter for you. That is about all, Mr. Chairman.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I would just like to tell the hon. member that there is no hon. member in the House who is more friendly disposed to the hon. member than I am, but when he can get there and say a stupid thing such as that I would be champion of the merchants and farmers of this Island, I will have to remind him that I took the hon. member from nothing.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order. I did not say that; I merely said that in the days when the planters and merchants controlled the Assembly they did not want to be paid, but the members of the Senate today want to be paid an allowance; try to get that clear. We must be compensated reasonably for services rendered.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

If I had misunderstood the hon. member I would apologise, but I did not misunderstand because I was shocked when he said it.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

It now being 2 o'clock, this sitting is automatically suspended, according to the appropriate Standing Order.

On resumption

Mr. SPEAKER:

I give the hon. junior member for the City permission, as he was not here at the beginning of this meeting, to give notice of a Resolution.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the junior member for St. Joseph, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution

RESOLVED that this House note the Development Plan laid in the House on 13th January, 1970, and strongly condemn its failure to cope adequately with problems of inflation, banking and finance; the problem of the agricultural industry and fisheries; the problem of land utilisation; tourism; housing and social amenities; and education; and accordingly call upon the Government to review the Plan immediately to make adequate provision for these problems.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I give similar permission to the hon. senior member for St. James, of which he may now avail himself.

Mr. CRAIG:

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

WHEREAS students, after qualifying from local Secretarial schools, are finding it difficult to obtain employment due to the very low standard of instruction associated with these secretarial schools;

AND WHEREAS competent stenographers and secretaries are vital for the expansion of trade and industry in Barbados;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government be asked to carry out a full investigation into the curriculum, teaching methods, and general policy of all local secretarial schools.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 64 to which an Answer, I understand, has been laid; it stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister-

Is the Minister aware that since the reopening-of the Sub-Treasuries throughout the Island, there are no cleaners attached thereto?

2. Will the Minister state the reason why?

3. Will the Minister see to it that this defect is remedied without delay?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follow

(1) Yes, Sir.

(2) The reopening of the Sub-Treasuries did not allow for the immediate provision of all amenities attendant upon such offices.

(3) A supplementary vote to restore the services will shortly be sought of Parliament.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

In restoring the services, will the Government consider transferring again the payment of pensions to the Sub-Treasurers? Or will you carry on with the new system that you have introduced, which is allowing the Post Office to pay them?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I think we all continue the Post Office effort.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister can tell us, in view of the incidence of armed robbery throughout the Island, if Government would consider having policemen posted at these Sub-Treasuries for the protection of the Sub-Treasurers who receive cash at these various outposts.

2.40 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that we would like to consider that, and I will draw it to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

HOLDING OF DANCES AT COMMUNITY CENTRES

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 62 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael, who is not in his place; that Answer may be printed and circulated.

REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF A PUBLIC AUDITORIUM

Mr. SPEAKER:

Similarly, in respect of Question 52 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George, the Reply will be printed and circulated because the hon. member is not present.

So far as I am aware, there are no other Answers. We may proceed now to Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Item of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. This is at page 13, left hand column, and it is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relating to the publication and dissemination of the printed debates at a reasonable time throughout the Island. When this matter was last before the House, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was speaking. He may now resume, if he wishes, his speech.

RESOLUTION re PUBLICATION OF PRINTED DEBATES

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, "WHEREAS the public of Barbados are deprived of all political information and speeches made in the House of Assembly by their representatives

AND WHEREAS the only daily newspaper in this country and the two broadcasting stations refuse to give wide publication to speeches and information given in the House of Assembly:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to have prompt publication and dissemination of the printed debates to be sold at a reasonable price throughout the Island, and to instruct the nationally owned and operated Radio Barbados to give extensive broadcast coverage to the speeches of all the Members made in the House of Assembly."

Sir, this Resolution does not need a lengthy speech because we already know what is existing now that

the Advocate, the one and only daily newspaper in this Island, is operating. Up to Tuesday last week, reference was made to the inadequacy of the printing of the debates in this hon. Chamber. This is a very serious matter. It is time that the public should be informed and educated with regard to the actions and performances of members in this hon. Chamber. They should know what the representatives of this country are doing either for or against them.

Sir, we have Radio Stations that do not even publish or announce in any way two words of every hon. member's speech in this hon. Chamber. We have to vote money for their upkeep, and yet we are really departing from the old saying: "He that pays the piper shall call the tune". We are only paying the piper, but we cannot hear a tune. It is not fair to the people of this country. We cannot make the Advocate publish what it does not want to publish.

As I have said last Tuesday, you have people who do nothing else dally but buy an Advocate and look to see if they can get money. They look to see If they can file an action and collect money. The Advocate is fully aware of this, and when it comes to the question of imposing a fine on a company or an individual in the sum of \$20,000, it is time for anybody to cover up. It is time for them to move when Barnwell is coming down. They have to protect themselves. As I have said, about three or four weeks ago a few members of the public have drawn a few thousand dollars from the Advocate, and you cannot expect them to put themselves in trouble regularly. (ASIDES.)

Sir, I will agree with the remarks made in an aside that they should employ a good lawyer. It is very hard to find a good lawyer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not sure if I heard the hon. member aright.

Mr. SMITH:

Sir, they do not want to find a good one, then. It is negligence. If I were a newspaperman and a layman, I do not see how anyone could get a chance at me after I had been burnt once. There is nothing to prevent one from thinking that one could allow something to slip and then a "pass-back" could be worked out. Who knows, especially when thousands of dollars are going around? 2.50 p.m.

Everyone of us was interested in reading the Manifesto of the present Government in its first term, and I am sure that this very item was included, and it was high up; but the Government has not up to now

seen fit to implement it. I hope, now that the Prime Minister has had to admit that justice is not being done by way of publication of debates of this House, that something will be done. There are people who do nothing else but look forward to seeing what their representative is doing, and I am sure they are anxiously looking now because we will have one of the most hectic general elections when it comes about again, and the horse that catches the judge's eye meant for the judge so to do. This is no longer making sport, but the only way the electorate of the country can give a fair judgment of their representatives would be to let them know of our activities in here; otherwise they will again vote blindly. There are some members who would be left out if the electorate read what they said; so there may be very few of us returned, and that is what I want to see. Every man should be dealt with according to his actions and his words in this Assembly, because it is the only way that we will be able to assess the true and honest representative of the nation. I am not going to prolong this Resolution, nor talk it out, because I want it to be passed. I am sure that it is going to be passed and without any further ado, I know I may have to make a reply, and will save my further comments for that occasion.

Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion, and I wish to say that when I first read this Resolution, I felt it was possibly not strong enough. The hon. member knows, of course, that you wake up in London with what happened in the House of Commons the night before at your bedside, and I suggest that the Government should stress the necessity of getting the debates published early and getting them distributed to members, at least, immediately. Because of some debate in the House of Commons about the West Indies Federation I have had copies sent to me for possible correction. While members are speaking the statements are being taken down and rushed off - I do not remember exactly where the House of Commons debates are printed - but you get them almost as soon as they are finished. I want not only to second the hon. member's Resolution, but to emphasise the absolute necessity of our knowing early what took place in the House.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be interesting to hear if the Leader of the House has anything to add to what he said some time last year when there was a Resolution before this House to debate a recommendation of the Debates Committee. In this Resolution, you will recall, the Debates Committee had suggested that Parliament set up its own printery of Hansard. Now what has happened between the passing of that Resolution by this House and now I cannot say with any detail, except that it would appear to me that the Ministry of Home affairs is attempting to interfere with the recommendations of the Debates Committee and of this House, in that, as I understand, even the Ministry of Communications and Works had been pressed into service to prepare a plan for the wing of the Public Buildings that is supposed to house this Parliamentary printery, but when the Debates Committee agreed and this House passed a Resolution to the effect that Government would investigate the possibility of setting up a Letter Press system in the printing - and I lay emphasis on Letter Press - my information is that the Minister of

Home Affairs who knows absolutely nothing about printing or about this business whatsoever is still trying to move some of the old junk that they have at the Government Printery to foist upon us down here, and that is why we cannot see action being taken at this end. They cannot get the work done up there, and the machinery that they condemned with their own mouths they are still attempting to foist on us to print Hansard down here. In other words, their plan is that Hansard must not be published in truth and in fact. It would appear for one week and then we would be having all sorts of unnecessary trouble. That is one end of it.

Now I am glad that this Resolution is being debated at this time. The Resolution, you will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, stems from the fact that we are satisfied that the Government Printery has failed up to now to produce Hansard in a respectable time, that is, the time in which it can reach the man in the street and be read by him.

3.00 p.m.

I made statements in this House not many weeks ago, and I am to ask the Leader of the House if he has carried out any investigation into the statements I made then. I told this hon. House that one of the troubles of the Government Printery rested in the fact that persons there were undertaking the turning out of jobs for commercial houses in Bridgetown; I told the House then that I had specimens of some of the items they had turned out, and I am to wonder what investigations have been carried out or if it is intended to carry out any. Do you want members to come and make statements and hope that they will forget them? I would like to hear what the Leader of the House has to say has been done about the Resolution which has passed this House, and if it is Government's intention to see that a printery is set up so that we can get Hansard on the road and it can reach the people in a day or two after matters have been debated in here. That is what this Resolution seeks and I support it with all that there is within me.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, we on this side accept the Resolution, except that I propose to offer one slight amendment to the text circulated to hon. members, and this amendment would be to the last two lines so to speak, of the third paragraph which reads

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to have prompt publication and dissemination of the printed debates to be sold at a reasonable price throughout the Island, and to instruct the nationally owned and operated Radio Barbados to give extensive broadcast coverage to the speeches of all the Members made in the House of Assembly."

I would suggest that it should be amended to read as follows:

"and to instruct the nationally owned and operated Radio Barbados to submit a plan to the Debates Committee for broadcasting debates of the House." I would not really like to undertake this kind of thing unless the Debates Committee, representing the House, had a full say on what was to be done. If the hon. member would accept that amendment, I think that this would meet the wishes of the whole House.

I need hardly say that, like any other hon. member of this House, I deplore - although I have not said it many times on the floor of this House - this morass in which we have found ourselves in not getting Hansard off more quickly, and it is true that the Debates Committee after long and careful consideration made recommendations to the House which were embodied in an Interim Report, which Report the House has adopted and which has gone on to Cabinet for its consideration. The Government accepts the recommendations of the House in this respect, and the delay in bringing down the appropriate request is not due to any attempt on our part to set aside the wishes of the House or not due in any way to any scruples which a particular Department or Ministry may have; it is simply due to the fact that it was thought preferable to get some costings on various bits of machinery before.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I want to tell the Minister that all the costings that are necessary can be had within less than seven days.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that is not a point of order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This may well be true; I have no reason to contradict that. While we had the benefit of the hon. member's knowledge and advice on the Select Committee, we do not have it in other places and this may be the reason. I am hoping, perhaps in two or three weeks' time, to bring a Resolution asking the House to make good the supply for getting this printery established; I believe the hon. member also knows that the Ministry of Home Affairs has set aside the bottom part of the west wing of these buildings for the use of the printery. I do not think the House should be concerned with the internal difficulties of the printery in this exercise, because while I agree with the hon. member that a thorough investigation is needed at the Government Printery, whether or not that is investigated should not prevent us from having our own printery here to publish the debates of this House.

The whole rationale of the exercise is not even if they continue to have their grouse - they have to deal with their grouse, anyway - so long as we solve our problem here with the printing of Hansard. I apologise for the delay, but I hope to bring a Resolution shortly asking for the money which will give the assurance that, despite what the hon. member has heard, it simply is not true that we are dragging our feet or that we do not intend to have a Resolution passed by this House. It is coming, and when it comes we should be able to give effect to one of the provisions of this Resolution.

With respect to the broadcasting, we accept this entirely, except that, as I say, it would be better for the Debates Committee to summon representatives of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to its deliberations and work out with them a satisfactory method of broadcasting debates. It is a question of the time at the station's disposal, a question of the mechanics of broadcasting, and this ought to be worked out with the experts. I think the Debates Committee is the appropriate organ of this House to have these deliberations with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I accept the amendment, but I would like to add a further amendment. At the end of the third paragraph, I would add the words "on or before the 28th day of February, 1970". In other words, if we give them time to leave it open, we would find that this particular Committee would still be playing around with it this time next year.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I will accept that, but I would prefer it to be at the end of March.

Mr. SMITH:

"Thirty-first March, 1970;" do not forget the year. 3.10 p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, whom I do not observe now to be in his place.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 10, under Private Members' Business, be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion. Mr. SPEAKER It has not been seconded.

Mr. SMITH:

Sir, I beg to second the motion moved by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown.

The question that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Accordingly, Order No. 6 is the instant Order of the Day and it stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown, and it is to move the third reading of a Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1956.

MAGISTRATES JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) ACT

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that, on the last occasion when this matter came up for debate, the Bill was sent to a Select Committee. That Committee has reported, and it has accepted the Bill in its present form.

I now beg to move that the Report be adopted.

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

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

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

That Order stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Christ Church.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to proceed with the Bill which stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. and learned member for Bridgetown is seeking the leave of the House to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Christ Church, and if there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted to the hon. and learned junior member for Bridgetown to move the third reading of a Bill to incorporate the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH ACT

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, on the second reading of this Bill it was sent to a Select Committee; a Report has been laid before the House today, and I now move that the Report be adopted.

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. SMITH:

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

Mr. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, and it is now to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relating to the spending of money on a suitable building near to 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 debate on this Resolution was adjourned, the hon. Minister of Health and Community Development was addressing the Chair at the time when Private Members' Business expired. That hon. member may now, if he is so disposed, continue his address.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I am in order, but the hon. senior member for St. James has asked me to give way so that he can do Order No. 10. If I am in order, I will agree that he should do it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member then does not seek to proceed with Order No. 5.

Mr. SMITH:

I will proceed after the hon. senior member for St. James is finished, because I do not expect him to be very long.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the House decides to proceed now with No. 10, then it is a matter for the House to decide whether it will proceed with No. 5 later. Does the hon. senior member for St. James seek now to proceed with No. 10 standing in his name? If there is no objection the hon. member can proceed. There being no objection, the hon. member may proceed with No. 10, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution re increase in the weekly minimum wage payable to agricultural workers by at least \$5.00.

RESOLUTION re INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE TO AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, it would appear to me that some of these Resolutions which I have introduced seem to have a dampening effect on some of the members of this august Assembly. 3.20 p.m.

However, Sir, I always feel within myself that anything that I can do that is of any value to the more unfortunate ones, I am prepared to do.

This Resolution seeks to provide for the agricultural worker a better way of life, though the amount which I am seeking for Government to increase the rate by is almost negligible as compared with the very high increases which the Civil Servants of this country have just received. You will recall, Sir, that Government has just increased some of the Civil Servants' salaries by as much as \$300 and \$400 a

month. Government brought down legislation to pay Civil Servants to live in their own houses. All I am asking for in this Resolution is to increase the very small pittance of \$13.44 guaranteed per week to \$18.44 to the agricultural worker. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues on the other side have professed on several occasions what wonderful Socialists they are, and how often have I heard them with the chorus: "The masses, the downtrodden, the unfortunates". All these famous statements I have heard from them, but in their own Manifesto of 1966 which was beautifully laid out and printed overseas under the caption "Trade and Labour" they say "The Democratic Labour Party has both before and since its assumption of office been the consistent champions of the Labour movement in this country." Today, Sir, I am sure they are going to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt what champions they are. I am confident that the Minister himself will agree that those poor people who are responsible for the \$200 and \$300 a month increases to the Civil Servants' "salaries are entitled to have at least a better way of life. Many of them cannot afford the luxury of going through the Grenadines on a yacht; many of them cannot afford the luxury of having a 17-day visit to the United States of America; many of them will never see Europe unless you show it to them on a map. Therefore I feel that since they are responsible for the wealth of this country, they are entitled at least to a little of it, and I do not think I am asking Government too much when I ask for an increase of \$5.00.

Let us take, Mr. Speaker, the famous radio interview with the Hon. Prime Minister just a few weeks ago. He made what I would consider some very interesting remarks, some of which would cause the hair of many persons in this country -and, I imagine, even you yourself - to stand up when he said that some morning we are going to get up and find that we have not got our dear land, and that some day in the not too distant future, within 18 months or two years - and I am no economist - Barbados may become more expensive than the Bahamas and Bermuda. Economic observers are satisfied that the Bahamas are one of the most expensive places in the entire world. What the hon. Prime Minister did not realise at that time was that in the Bahamas you pay no income tax. What would be the position of the people of our land, paying the high income tax that we have now, and yet finding it more costly than Bermuda and the Bahamas? I do not know if you realise, Mr. Speaker, what a difficult job it would be for the agricultural worker to have a balanced diet. At least they are entitled to this since they go in the sun and the rain and till the soil. They gave their blood in 1937 to provide for this country a better way of life, and to this very day, 32 years after, they are giving their sweat for a guaranteed minimum wage of \$13.44 per week. I am seeking an additional \$5.00 for them and I am confident that the Government must face up to this. They have to support this. I am not postponing this Resolution; I will vote in favour of it, and if they refuse to support it, then they have to answer to the country for it.

Mr. Speaker, for the past eight months or thereabouts I have been closely associated with an agricultural village. When I was campaigning in 1966, I went through agricultural villages. I knew there were poor people in Barbados as all over the world, but never in my life was I ever as conscious of the sufferings and the hunger of the people who worked particularly in the agricultural village until the last six or eight months. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that often have I seen with my eyes a little boy bearing a script on which is written "25 cents hard biscuits, one tin sardines, four cents ice, two Ju-Cs". You would see that slip around midday on Sunday, and therefore one could only conclude that this is the midday meal for some of the agricultural workers. 3.30 p.m.

The hon. Minister of Health has an idea of what I am talking about. I speak this afternoon with the feeling that I could have been in the position of the agricultural labourer and that he could have been in my position; therefore my sympathy goes out to him. I do not think that it is possible for any of them to have enjoyed a lunch as we enjoyed in here this afternoon; they do not see that type of lunch at all - sliced cabbage, corn, carrots, beets, lettuce and tomatoes at \$1.75 per pound, and when they grow a little crop of tomatoes they cannot afford to eat one; they find themselves in a position that they have to sell them to support their families.

Government, I may say, cannot solve all of the problems of society; Government cannot change a man into a woman; Government can do anything else', Government reigns supreme; therefore Government has the blame to carry. As in 1961 all of the things which the other side thought should have been done - the bricks of failure were thrown at this side, but when it was given to them they did absolutely nothing. Throughout the 1961-1966 campaign, all you could hear was that the Prime Minister was an honest man, and that the Ministers on the other side were not. When a man is honest he has not got to be shouting it abroad; let somebody else say that he is honest. Government would be dishonest this evening if they refuse to support a Resolution of this nature, knowing they profess to be Socialists, and that we on this side - and if I misquote the Minister of Health now, I apologise but he said that we were with the planters and the capitalists. The Minister said words to that effect; therefore.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I said in a previous debate that when Parliament was comprised of planters and merchants they did not want to be compensated for their services, but today with people like ourselves, we have to be compensated for our services. I have no apology to make because I referred to those Boards as at present constituted! and they should receive adequate travelling allowance and receive at least some small honorarium for attending every meeting. That is the policy of the Government; that has been the policy of the old Labour Party Government for many long years, and that is still our policy today.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, it was not necessary for my hon. friend to rise on a point of order, because I said if I had misquoted him I would apologise; but since he has risen and cleared the air, he has strengthened my hands, just with that point of order. I am confident that the hon. member, since it is Government's policy, would support this Resolution; I must see Government's policy this evening because I have been hearing a little hint here and there that they cannot support this. Do not tell me you cannot support this, but you can come in here and support something for yourselves and for Civil Servants who live in ivory towers, and if one of them has ten children and one is fortunate to go to a Secondary school and to rise to the rank of Permanent Secretary he can get a salary of more than \$1,000 a month, plus travelling allowance,

plus everything else.

I am seeking to provide vegetables for the agricultural labourers so that they would not have to be dodging the 'coolie' men on Sundays, so that they would be in a position to provide themselves with at least a good meal per week. They are not in the position to do that now, I know that. It is alright for us to shout about an industrialised country, but look at the many boys and girls working in the industries around here for \$8 and \$10 per week; pass by the Harbour and see them out there eating a bread and-fish and a Ju-C. That is why I have always said this country needs two more Trade Unions to make Senator Frank Walcott know his place; His is not a militant trade union; it is a dominant trade union.

The hotel workers are in another category and they are the people who are providing the bulk of the country's economy; day after day I get telephone calls on the problems that the hotel workers go through; week after week you can look and see the suffering on the faces of the sugar workers; yet they hold their pride as citizens of this country. What pride have they got? Then you talk about pride and industry! Let me see Government's policy this evening. I challenge any of them to get up and reply to this, because I believe I will have a bit of health and strength and I am qualified to preach as successful a gospel in 1970 or 1971 as I did in 1966. I am dealing with the people from whom I have sprung, and I will go further; it was only a second thought that I did not bring in an amendment to this Resolution because when I gave notice of the Resolution it was before the Prime Minister had his famous interview. I am no economist; I have to be guided by them; but since the Doctor knows that we are going to have Inflation in 18 months or in two years, as he said, and since he knows we are going to lose our lands, Government must provide for and protect the people; provide for them a better way of life, and protect their lands. We are liable to get up some morning and find blood on our steps. Hungry people are dangerous people; they are ruthless; hunger drives them mad. Do not be surprised if one morning you get up and hear there is some strange thing happening, and the Police who are in a different position altogether are liable to hear nothing at all, and the innocent will be paying for the guilty.

Mr. J. W. CORBIN (ASIDE.):

Close up the gap, now.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I know it is not my duty to draw your attention to the relevant Standing Orders, but I know that you are very capable of asking members not to interrupt. He does not know what is going on; he does not have a clue, and will never have a clue. Some people find it difficult to understand. 3.40 p.m.

Sir, in order to assist my hon. colleagues - I have been told that they have not looked at the Resolution. This Resolution did not come from a lawyer. They like lawyers a great deal. If it had come from a lawyer they would have seen it. I have heard many of them say that they did not know what the Resolution looks like. I asked some of them to second it, but they are dilly-dallying and pushing their foot down the wicket and easing back. Tell them that Michael Findlay is behind the stumps. I am going to stump them on this. This is my Party's policy, and this is what is written in their Manifesto:

"The Party's agricultural programme will be directed towards a greater diversity of products, securing a rapid increase in production, securing the fullest and most effective use of all land, improving the economy of the rural areas and raising the standard of living of the rural population."

This is my Party's policy. My colleagues cannot play that they are not going to second this Resolution, or that they will second it with the short speeches they made on the Resolution of No-Confidence; the policy of my Party is to raise the standard of living of agricultural workers, and that is what this Resolution is seeking to do. It is seeking to provide \$5.00 more for the agricultural workers. You can only raise a man's standard of living by providing for him a better wage. Tell them not to dilly-dally with this. I do not hold much strain, and I am fairly weak. They cannot jump around the fence and say that I did not inform or notify them about this Resolution and that therefore they cannot vote for it. The same thing applies to the Government, and it is also in their Manifesto.

May I remind my hon. colleagues whose support I am looking for in case the Government fail me - if the Government fail me, they will be letting down the people of this country. I would just like to refresh their memory by reading the Resolution. Some of my colleagues say that they have not seen the Resolution, and because they have not seen it they may not second it. If they do not second it, then it cannot go to the vote. It reads:

"WHEREAS the minimum wage payable to agricultural workers in this Island - \$13.44 -is totally Inadequate to combat the ever-spiralling cost of living:"

They have to fight against it in order to survive and try to exist. They will not be able to go to Pandora's; they will never be able to go to Eastry House or to the Caribbean Pepperpot unless they want to carry a message. It is \$4 alone to enter there, and whisky will be \$23 or \$25 a bottle. All I am doing is to try to provide for the agricultural worker a better standard of living. This is my Party's policy, and I am asking my colleagues to support this Resolution. Let me remind them by reading the balance of the Resolution. It states:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon Government to introduce legislation as speedily as possible having as its object the increase of such minimum weekly wage by at least \$5.00 per week."

I am asking Government to introduce legislation, and I am asking my colleagues to support me so that the Government will introduce the necessary legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to see them in a position - not in a position with the Government talking about providing houses for them and having novices with paint brushes working on them in order to catch votes. Housing, clothing and food are the three essential things in any man's life. He must protect himself from the weather; he must have food and clothes. Into this world we have brought nothing, and, no matter how many millions of dollars you make in this world, you cannot carry anything with you. While we are here, we should endeavour to do something for those who cannot help themselves. I am calling on hon. members to support this Resolution.

Sir, I know that this is a Resolution that must give Government and the Cabinet Ministers a nightmare. Do you know why it must give the Government a nightmare? When they had the Sugar Workers' dispute in 1968, the Union said: "We are not harvesting any crops, " and the Government speedily came here and rushed a Bill through Parliament in connection with the matter. I challenge Government, the Prime Minister and the Union's boss to name -

(a) the persons who did a survey of the sugar industry to determine whether \$13.44 a week was an adequate wage bill;

(b) who did it; and

(c) when was it done.

Sir, if they cannot provide this evidence, then one must only conclude that it was guess work when they brought in the Minimum Wage Bill. In other words, if they do not find work for you for three days, they must give you \$13.44 a week. 3.50 p.m.

Sir, it is a rather amazing thing to see some of the literature that goes out of Barbados and is published by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation. Listen, Mr. Speaker. This is an advertisement in our own Development Corporation magazine "Operation Beehive". I am not reading from any magazine, book or anything at all; so don't start to look at the Standing Orders. This is one of the advertisements. 'Should I open a plant in Barbados?' That is a question. The answer is "yes". "Unfortunately we cannot decide that for you, but here is some information to help you make your decision". This is "Operation Beehive". "The highest literacy rate in the world, 98.7%. You can take advantage of an educated easy-to-train work force at surprisingly reasonable wage rates." You are calling foreigners here because you need them, and you are attracting them by telling them that we have the highest literacy rate in the world, - and there are about five billion people on the face of the earth; so we are giants - so come and take advantage of easy-to-train skills. Do you know what some of the rates are? You would be the most amazed person if you heard some of the rates. They say that 80% of staff would be willing, and that basic weekly rates will run from \$9.00 to \$12.00 per week with a bonus of \$4 to \$5. When people like I.S.L. come to Barbados, they tell the people to forget the Trade Union and that they are going to give the relatively reasonable responsible rate of \$9 to \$12 a week. For you to earn \$20 or \$25 you have to work overtime, while people at I.S.L. in North America would be getting anything like \$US 10 per hour. It is exploitation of our people, and therefore we must lose our land. It is not losing our land by buying; it is losing the land because you would not provide for the people of your own country a better Wage Bill whereby they would be in a position not to sell their land for nothing; but they sell for nothing now and take to the hills like the Ibos took to the forest while our North American and European friends take advantage of the wonderful beach lands. A friend of mine said that he likes the sea, but Barbados is very small and he can ride a bicycle there or drive there; therefore his property has gone. This gentleman bought the property for \$50,000 E.G. and sold it for \$US 120,000.

Mr. Speaker, where are we going? What are we seeking in this Resolution? We are seeking a way of protecting the peoples of our land and providing for them a better means so that they would not have to give away their lands, because when you are hungry you would do anything. You would steal, and do some very immoral things when you find things difficult, and this evening I am calling on Government to support my Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, listen to the luxury in which our Canadian friends boast they are living. A man called Donald Gale, one of the Bank of Nova Scotia's big bosses writes this article in another issue of "Operation Beehive". "The Gales live in a pleasant, well-furnished three bedroom bungalow three or four miles from town at \$200 Canadian per month That is about \$370EC. That I know is reasonably cheap, because I know of some being rented at \$1,400 per month. Who is providing the economy for us to build our bridges on? It is the agricultural worker who today is no better off than he was in 1945, though he may be getting a higher wage. His wages are much bigger, but the cost of living is so high that he finds himself in the same position. He wears one shirt a week, his pants-folds are still turned up, and he must pick cotton at night so as to give him a few extra dollars on his money. 4.00 p.m.

This is the type of Resolution that I believe Government should have been satisfied to see that a member on this side had the vision to bring here to strengthen their position. I know that the Government will say that they gave them an additional \$5 a week and they are going to seek the credit by saying that if they do not want to do it, they do not have to. No credit would be given to this side of the House for seeking to protect the agricultural worker, and therefore I have to do this. But you cannot get out of this Resolution; it is a tight one. This is a Resolution like a ball going between bat and pad, and you have to fence it out unless you have the genius of Sobers.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask my colleagues, the Opposition, to support this Resolution, and I hope that they will not allow Government to put them in a very awkward position by not allowing one of them to second it and then claim that the Opposition member who introduced it could not even get a seconder. I hope members on my side would not fall into this trap; I am therefore begging to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second it, but let the hon. member and everybody sitting around this Table understand that nobody is to threaten me or frighten me, and if there is any necessity for a New Year Resolution I will make one. It is a terrific Resolution; I say no more.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed. Only the hon. member could have thought out quite clearly the implications of it and I am sure that no other hon. member has clearly seen the ramifications of a Resolution of this sort. Mr. Speaker, in order to catch the attention of both sides of the House, it would have to be properly thought out. I do not wish to say anything more, but I see that there is a reluctance on the other side to vote for it, and I therefore move that further consideration be postponed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that. The question that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows

AYES; Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. LOWE; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY;

Mr. ADAMS; Mr. SMITH; Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS -13

NOES:

Mr. CRAIG - 1.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 5 is the next Order of the day. (ASIDES.)

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

No point in making any noise about it; you know everything about a subject or you do not know. I do not know anything about the subject and therefore I voted for the motion that it be postponed. That is nothing to cheer about.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. Joseph decided when he gave way to the hon. senior member for St. James with that Resolution that he would next proceed with No. 5 standing in his name. The hon. Minister of Health, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, was speaking when Private Members' Business expired on the date when this matter was last discussed. That hon. member may now continue, if he so wishes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when this Resolution was being debated, I think I was making the point that, admirable as the suggestion is, the actual substance of the Resolution moved by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is that a suitable place should be found for old people, and he has repeatedly been heard to press the case and explain the position of the old people of the homes in the northern parishes, more with respect to St. Joseph, and the inconvenience which certain members of their families have to undergo in going to St. Thomas or to St. Lucy, as the case may be, where the few from the Infirmary in St. Joseph have been removed. 4.10 p.m.

The hon. member will recognise the fact that recently certain restrictions relating to mini-buses have been revised and they are operating today much more than they were formerly operating when the Resolution was tabled. Certain relaxations have taken place so far as mini-buses are concerned, and they may well take the young relatives from St. Joseph to St. Lucy or St. Thomas, as the case may be, to see their old relatives.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Minister made a point that there have been certain relaxations. (Interruption by a motor vehicle.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a clear contempt of Parliament, and I trust the Police will take the necessary action.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned something about a relaxation with regard to the Regulations appertaining to the operation of the mini-bus. I do not think I should allow the Minister's statement to go unchallenged for the simple reason that I can say that the drivers of mini-buses are now being reported more often by the Police. They have been reported very often during the past two months, and they have been reported more often than in the past four or five years. If there has been this relaxation, then what has been the result of the relaxation?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let me say that the hon. member is not making a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Peter has not yet spoken on this Resolution, but I disagree that it is a point of order. I am not disagreeing with something he has said. Let the hon. junior member for Christ Church proceed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I was making the point that the useful services which the minibuses now provide are being very closely examined and that further relaxations have been made in so far as the operation of mini-buses are concerned. Whether there have been more reports or not I am not in a position to say, but I can tell you of the policy of the Government. The policy of the Government is to grant relaxations as far as mini-buses are concerned. (ASIDES.) If the hon. member does not want to hear about Government's policy, he need not worry to listen. The difficulties now experienced will be to some extent relieved in the future.

The question of providing a Home near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for old people has been examined. The Resolution 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. In other words, the suggestion is that one Home should be provided somewhere in the precincts of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for this purpose. The theme or purpose of the Resolution is quite good in theory, but in actual practice we have converted some of the Almhouses. We have reduced the number of Almhouses, in the first instance, from 12 to 5, and we are improving the various Almhouses. They are now being called District Hospitals; we are making provision for sick patients and elderly ones; extensions to the various Institutions are taking place so that the elderly folk will be better taken care of than in the past.

Sir, the hon. member who moved the passing of this Resolution is himself a member of the National Assistance Board. I think he is the Deputy Chairman, and he should have very intimate knowledge of these problems, as the Board deals with these problems at first hand. He is the Deputy Chairman of the National Assistance Board; he is a senior member of this House, having served in the House of Assembly for 24 years and retained his seat consistently for a number of years. He has fought for the poor people in the House and outside of the House, and he has been a member of the Vestry. This is an admirable suggestion, Siiy but it is not feasible at this time in that the Government has already gone ahead with certain plans to take care of the old people without having to bundle them together, even if the transportation to Town is more central and quite easily achieved.

Sir, we have made certain adjustments and arrangements in accordance with the Jackson recommendations. We have reduced the number of Almhouses from 12 to 5, and we are now reorganising various Infirmaries not only by name by calling them District Hospitals, but we are separating the ones who are sick from those who are well. The Board is now visiting all of the District Hospitals. The hon. member has visited these Hospitals and many of these Institutions with the Board. I had the privilege of attending the St.. Michael District Hospital with the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, who is the Deputy Chairman of the Board, and with the Board We have visited the Christ Church District Hospital and several of the District Hospitals.

It may well be that the hon. member, after he has made a complete investigation, may see that the Government is not really failing in its duty in seeing that the needs of the people, who were formerly in the Almhouses in St. Joseph, St. Thomas, etc., are being provided for. I think what the hon. member has in mind mainly is the transportation difficulties that relatives in St. Joseph and St. Andrew experience in visiting their relatives in St. Thomas, St. Lucy or wherever they may happen to be.

Sir, in this modern age of transportation, probably about 60 percent of the people who live on housing estates have some means of transportation, whether it is a bicycle, or auto cycle, or a car. They all have some means of transportation. These are not the old days. Everybody has aspired to own some means of transportation today. If they do not have transportation, then their friends will certainly have. The majority of them do not even have to ask for a lift, and it is possible for them to visit their relatives in St.

Lucy or St. Thomas.

Sir, I mentioned at the very inception what was Government's policy in respect of the mini-buses. The position of the mini-buses is at present being revised so that more mini-buses will be able to assist the poor people in the various districts in travelling from one place to another. The mini-bus is like a motor car; it drops you at your home, whereas a Government bus or a concessionaire's bus drops you on the road and you have to get to your home somehow. We realise and recognise the services of the mini-buses to the poor elements in the community. I refer to the low-income group, and, bearing that in mind, I think the bone of contention raised by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph will be taken care of in that there will be greater facilities for cross-country travelling.

4.20 p.m.

Of all the parishes, St. Lucy and St. Peter, in my opinion, have more mini-buses than anywhere else; but if the hon. member wants St. Joseph to have a few, I do not believe he will be out of order. It is a question of seeing the Minister of communications and Works and approaching this question from a different angle. It is more a transportation problem as such. (Mr. HINDS: But the Police are reporting people.) I am not a policeman and I do not know anything about that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members not addressing the House, their turn will soon come.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am saying, Sir, that this problem is not so much accommodation as such, because provision has been made in the Estimates, and money is available for improving and granting facilities to certain former Infirmaries, or Aim-houses as they were called some years ago, but now called District Hospitals. Monies have been provided for re-organising, extending and improving the facilities of these District Hospitals, and the older people may be better taken care of under the new set-up than in the past with respect to the standard of eating and things of that sort, and the provision of highly qualified Nurses to attend to these people. Whereas in the past you did not find many of them, today you have more highly qualified and trained Matrons and Nurses to deal with these inmates, whether they be on the sick list, or whether they are well patients and suffer from senile decay. The question of transportation is the main problem and that is being tackled, and I would suggest that the hon. member take some steps in that direction and see whether the people of St. Andrew and St. Joseph, and the northern parishes generally, can be given further assistance by way of transportation.

In so far as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is concerned, there are other plans for the land around there to improve the services at the Hospital proper. It is not that the land is lying idle, because we have plans which will soon be implemented in providing better facilities and in merging the work which is done at the Enmore Laboratory etc. into one central place on the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I fully appreciate the sentiments of the hon. member in moving this Resolution, but I think, with his service on the Board which deals with these problems, he will see as he goes along that we have not really blundered in reducing the number of Almshouses from twelve to five, but that we are trying to improve and upgrade the standard and grant more facilities to the same old people whom the hon. member and other hon. members may want to help, and we feel the same way about it. We all feel they should be assisted. We are examining the question of mini-buses and better transportation and facilities for going across the country whereby the ones he has in mind will benefit, and the relatives of the same people will be able to go and see them more easily and get home more easily, whether they have a bicycle, autocycle or motor car or nothing at all.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, you will see, does not apparently make provision for the poor people now in the St. Lucy District Hospital, but I do not think it is intended that they should be left out in the event of Government setting about to provide a Home, as the Resolution otherwise seeks to have Government to do. Now we heard the Minister say all he had to say about these District Hospitals and reducing the number of Infirmaries from eleven to five and so on. What the Minister seems not to understand in this whole exercise is that his Government is calling these Institutions District Hospitals, but they are still providing Almshouse services. We still get complaints from the St. Thomas Almshouse and from other Institutions as well about the poor service that is rendered to the inmates, about how much breadfruit they are fed and how many chicken-backs are bought. They have no proper refrigeration at the St. Thomas District Hospital. It is not now an Infirmary, because when it was an Infirmary there was a refrigerator there that could keep some of this food in a fit condition to be used next day; but now that it is a District Hospital, they have to dump more than 80 pounds at one time and carry it on the adjoining lands and bury it. This is the type of thing the Minister has got to see to.

What you will find, Mr. Speaker, is that formerly when these poor people from St. Joseph were at the St. Joseph Infirmary, and the people from St. Peter were at the St. Peter's Infirmary, the relatives of inmates would visit them and could at times assist with a meal. Providing them with a meal from home meant much to these old people at times when they tended to get scurvy by being fed on all cod fish, as happens in the case of the St. Thomas District Hospital, above all places.

On this question of transportation, Mr. Speaker, we can agree that a very great part of it hinges on the question of providing adequate transportation to and from these Institutions wherever they might be placed. This Resolution is suggesting a place near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because it is known that transportation, particularly on Sundays, is provided from the country districts to the Hospital. There are buses to accommodate people visiting the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is our main Institution for

catering to the sick, and if it were humanly possible to have an Institution near to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to house all these poor people, it would be so much more convenient for their relatives in the country districts to visit them; but when we are told by the Minister of the relaxation in respect of these mini-buses, that is something which I personally welcome. I like to hear it coming from a Minister; but as I have said to the Minister, there is no point relaxing these Regulations at Cabinet level and not communicating them to the Police Stations, and perhaps it might even be necessary to communicate them to the Magistrates to let them know the feelings of Cabinet as regards certain matters, because I am sure that the Police seem to have started a deliberate campaign during the past six or seven weeks against these mini-buses, when at the same time the main buses that are supposed to transport people to and from work are breaking down at all points on the main highways.

4.30 p.m.

If these people are being hunted down, one can just appreciate the plight of the people who are left to suffer, and I am to ask the Minister to do all that is humanly possible to have it communicated to all of the Police Stations that Cabinet has relaxed certain Regulations, and that the mini-buses can now do what they could not. We are not suggesting that the Police are to be expected to be given a "hands-off" order where the mini-buses are concerned, but whatever the relaxations are we would like them to be related to the Police.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

When this House was last in Government Business the House was in Committee, and to that it shall now revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. YEARWOOD resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When this sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, there is one point to which I would like to address the Minister's mind. He made

mention of the appointment of an Appeals Committee; this is very good indeed; but what the Minister has got to bear in mind is that in the case of sanitation there are certain Regulations which are to come into effect, and that the people from whom the Public Health Officers are going to get the most trouble are the people who did not see or will not know in truth and in fact anything about these Regulations. The law requires that they be published in the Official Gazette and in the daily newspaper; this is not good enough. We have got to do something wherever possible to remove this question of a daily newspaper and go beyond that because the average worker or the average householder, the people for whom health laws have got to be framed, they are the people who will not or who cannot afford to buy a daily newspaper, and some of them have never heard of an official Gazette; they do not know what it means. My suggestion to the hon. Minister is that if he really wants to get the best results from any Regulations, whatever they might be, he should try and condense them for the benefit of these people and do not take anything out of context that it cannot be understood by the man in the street, and try wherever possible to place them in more than the daily newspaper. Place them in some of the weeklies and in all of them, if possible. The reason for that is that I know, and the Minister knows, that householders will see to it that at weekends.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

They get the Truth newspaper.

Mr. HINDS:

Yes, if it came twice a day, they would try and get it. The householders will see to it that they get the weekend newspapers, and they relax in their homes, particularly on Sundays, and enjoy the sweet items of news; and if you were to place your Health Regulations in those same newspapers, that is where you can best get them across to the people. You might from time to time use the services of Radio and Television for this purpose; but where you have the written word so that their children can at times draw something to the attention of their parents, I am sure that the Health Officers will find it much easier in future to carry out their duties. Ignorance of the law is no excuse, and the Minister should do all that is possible to protect these people from themselves so that they will not be liable for prosecution, then to hear it said that they did not know. The people who would see the Official Gazette or the daily newspaper are not the people from whom the Public Health Officer is going to get any trouble, and that is why we are asking the Minister to cater to the householder, the poor people who do not know and who have never seen an Official Gazette and perhaps may never see one; the people who cannot afford to buy a daily newspaper.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member's point is well taken, Sir.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

4.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Chairman has reported to me the passage in Committee of one Resolution.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until five o'clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On resumption

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, will you kindly ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I thank the hon. member for drawing my attention to the absence of a quorum. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Item under Government Business stands in the name of the hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Note to Item 15 of Head 102 Communications and Works, Part 11 - Capital of the Approved Estimates for

1969-70.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTE TO ITEM

15 OF HEAD 102 COMMUNICATIONS AND

WORKS PART 11, CAPITAL

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, 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:

The next Resolution also stands in the name of the same hon. member, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of several parcels of land in St. Peter as described in the Schedule to the Resolution for the purpose of Highway Improvement.

RESOLUTION re COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

OF LAND IN ST. PETER FOR HIGHWAY

IMPROVEMENT

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A.DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister if the law has been carefully complied with in respect of these parcels of land appearing in this Resolution. Does the advertisement comply with the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949-56? It says

"A notification published in the Official Gazette, under the preceding subsection shall describe the land with precision either in words or by reference to a map or plan which should be kept at the office....."

Now, looking at this Resolution, I take it that it is exactly what would appear in the Official Gazette and in a daily newspaper. 5.10 p.m.

The First Schedule reads: "All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of a larger area the property of J. K. Johnson) situate in the parish of Saint Peter in this Island containing by admeasurement 2,610 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on other lands of J. K. Johnson on lands of Darnley Cozier and on the public road or however else the same may abut and bound/9

Now, Sir, if you look at the other Resolutions that are in the possession of hon. members here today, you will see that the Schedules are properly set out. We had quite recently a case with lands at Black Rock in the parish of St. Michael, but all this Schedule is telling us is that it is land belonging to J. K. Johnson, part of a larger area, and abutting and bounding on lands of Darnley Cozier and on the public road; but it does not say which public road, nor does it tell you that it is at Queen Street in the parish of Saint Peter. In other words, it does not describe the land with precision according to the Act, as is done in the case of other Schedules that appear here. Exactly why it has happened in the case of Saint Peter I do not know. You will see that we have Resolutions for areas of land in the parish of Saint Thomas. They are set out with precision as required by law. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Tom seems to be in trouble because you are going in for the law!) It is not a question of somebody going in for law; it is a question of somebody not being a fool. This does not tell you where the land is.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, in Notice No. 862 of the Official Gazette, you will see that "Notice is hereby given that it appears to the Minister responsible for Lands that the parcels of land described in the Schedule hereto and situate in the parish of Saint Peter are likely to be needed for purposes which in the opinion of the Minister are public purposes namely, for the purpose of Highway

Improvement. It then goes on to set out the area.

Mr. HINDS:

But the Act requires much more than that. It tells you that this land, wherever it is, shall be described with precision. Precision means something. As in the case of the lands at Black Rock, you did not only say that it was at Black Rock in the parish of St. Michael, but you said it was also known as Bamboo Walk.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

If the hon. member would give way, the First Schedule says "All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of a larger area the property of J. K. Johnson) situate in the parish of St. Peter in this Island containing by admeasurement 2, 610 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on other lands of J. K. Johnson on lands of Darnley Cozier and on the public road or however else the same may abut and bound.

Mr. HINDS:

With precision would have said "on the public road known as Queen Street or "known as so-and-so". That is the type of precision that the Act requires, and this is a matter which can bechallenged before a Court. That is exactly what the law meant when it said, "with precision". If it abuts on the public highway, you should put public highway No, 1 or whatever it may be, or on the highway known as so-and-so. All this tells you that it is land in St. Peter; so you have to go and search about the whole parish of St. Peter for somebody by the name of J. K. Johnson or Darnley Cozier.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is that this Resolution....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, let us face facts. What I have brought to the notice of the Minister is either a fact or it is nonsense. I happen to be a member for St. Peter, and I would have an interest in St. Peter, and as soon as you say "Darnley Cozier", that rings a bell in my ear. I know where the land is; but hon. members on this side of the House would have to go all over St. Peter looking for these areas of land, and that is why the law requires that you shall describe the land with precision, not just to say that it is in St. Peter and it belongs to Darnley Cozier. This is no district; this is St. Peter. Nobody wants to hold up the passing of this Resolution, but the Minister of Health is a solicitor, and he can certainly advise his colleagues.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, I would like to say that the description of the parcels of land as set out here in each case seems to be inadequate. It should say "land situate at Road View", "Sand Street" or whatever it is "in the parish of Saint Peter" in order to indicate clearly where the land is, along what street it can be found and how it abuts. That is how descriptions are always given of parcels of land; so the hon. member is quite correct. It is not properly described; it is vague and the normal person would not be able to trace where this land is.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

As I was rudely trying to do from my seat without standing up to say it, I would suggest that the hon. member write in now "on the public road known as Sand Street". (Mr. SPEAKER It would have to appear in the Official Gazette.) Then the Resolution would have to be withdrawn and re-advertised in the Gazette. There are only a few words to put in and that would make it clear. This means nothing. I do not know who J. K. Johnson is and no ordinary member knows. I suggest that the Minister for Health make a suggestion as to what should be done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. junior member for St. Peter has given way.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, what I got up to say is that the suggestion from the Leader of the Opposition cannot be accepted - not that it is not a good one for me, but I do not like drafting legislation on my feet because I am not a lawyer - I do not know the first thing about it - and secondly we may do this and do it wrong. After the Minister of Health has spoken, I have no alternative than to withdraw the Resolution. It means we have to go all over again and advertise; so I am asking leave to withdraw the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is asking leave to withdraw the Resolution, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted to the hon. member to withdraw the Resolution. 5.20 p.m.

RESOLUTION re LEASE OF LAND AT ST. PETER TO DR. CHARLES D. RUSSELL

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. Leader of the House, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease of land to Dr. Charles D. Russell, of a parcel of land in St. Peter, as described in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Russell submitted an application to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the lease or purchase of this bit of land. This is a bit of Government land bordered on its western side by keywoods and to the south by District "E" Police Station. It appears that they require this land in order to round out some development which is being carried out; the land in question is a piece of rab land outside the existing guard wall of District "E" Police Station. Hitherto it was used as a dump for the waste from the horse stables, and there is no further need for this bit of land by the Police Department; consequently the decision to lease it to Dr. Russell seems to be in order. Hon. members will see the bit of land in the Plan and will also have seen the conditions which are attached to the lease. I will answer any questions that are asked and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister give any indication as to for what purpose Mr. Charles Russell wishes this land? It cannot be built on; it would probably still be used as a dump for the horse stables. It is, as far as I can remember, very precipitous land with a ridge, if it is the land I am thinking of, which is at the back of the single house along that road. Was that the reason given for the request to lease it?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes, they want to build.

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

I think perhaps that the Minister is mistaken because one of the terms of the lease - and I am obliged to my friend the hon. junior member for St. Peter for drawing to my attention that Schedule 3 specifically stated that one of the terms of the lease will be that no construction will take place. This is the bit of land to the north of the station; is that right? To the back of Mr. Smith Chandler, more or less.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes.

Mr. J. M. G. M ADAMS:

There must be some purpose; what is this Douglas Development that we see here and what is the nature of the development? I have been shown a Plan here which I would take to be the Plan of the land between Cole ridge-Parry School and the Police Station where Mr. Smith Chandler is one of the developers and Dr. Charles Russell is another; but \$66 a year for a development involving 17 house spots and a swimming pool with a panoramic view of the West Coast seems very generous. I think that is the rent to be paid for this piece of land, but I think the Government should try to participate a little more fully in these elaborate land deals that are made. If there are 17 house spots there being developed by a Canadian gentleman, Dr. Russell, Mr. Smith Chandler and by one Miller, I take that to be the development of the whole town and I imagine that \$66 in 10 years' time will not buy 30 square feet of the land; \$66 might not buy many more square feet of that land than they can cover.

The southern key stone of this development is only one plot away from the swimming pool, and nobody is going to use the swimming pool with the District "E" horse stables discharging their manure and other grass 20 or 30 feet away. Honestly, this is a valuable concession to have this parcel of land - not only the prime spot, because obviously this must be the prime spot, and 128 feet frontage right out of the escarpment with a view of the West Coast. Nobody is going to buy this prime spot perhaps even at 10 cents per square feet when they have the Police Station dump next door; so this is obviously worth a lot more than \$66 a year to the developers. Why could it not be the Town Planning Office that gets all the money when these developments are going up? Why can the Government not get into the business legitimately? I do not know if hon. members have studied the Plan, but looking at it it is not very meaningful to say that there is going to be no building on this spot because parcels No. 6 and No. 7 obviously are going to be built on, and for them to be built on, this spot will have to be cleared because it is the view to parcel No. 6 and is next to parcel No. 7; so obviously you have to have this spot to develop these two parcels.

I will be interested to know if anybody in the Crown Solicitor's office or anywhere else wrote and asked Dr. Russell and Mr. Chandler what price they proposed to ask per square foot for this land. I was asked recently to advise on some of this same escarpment land a little to the north. I did not believe that you would get any Barbadians buying it at the prices mentioned to me, but the man said he was not offering it for sale in Barbados; it was only for sale in London, Montreal and New York, Sixty-six dollars a year is a very small sum for that bit of land which might seem to be valued at that amount now, because when you look at it and see the condition of it it does not appear as if it would be worth much; but by the time they scrape off the old grass, clean it up and install the swimming pool and the expensive

Americans and Canadians, and the rich English too, no doubt, are out there enjoying themselves, that is going to look like \$6,600-a-year land, I would suggest. That is what I have to say.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

So far as the method at which the price was arrived at, it appears that the Standing Valuation Committee agreed that for rental purposes a price of 2 1/2 cents per square foot per year would be adequate.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

They are making fun; I do not care who they are.

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

I know of nowhere whatsoever on the West Coast escarpment, absolutely nowhere, where land is sold at less than \$1 per square foot; it may be that I am mistaken. I am not up-to-date with prices, but I have not heard for many years of the escarpment land, which is for residential purposes considered better than beach land. Let us not fool ourselves with that; for a development you build on the escarpment, you have the trade winds blowing right through the house and you have your beautiful view looking out. 5.30 p.m.

Sir, the Standing Valuation Committee must be out of its mind if it thinks that 2 1/2 per cent is a fair return for that piece of land. Suppose it said \$66, it will get more than 2 1/2 per cent per sq. ft. No doubt in 10 years' time, if the Government manages to get re-elected to power - (ASIDES) -which is very unlikely. I am glad the Minister admits that there will be a re-election. Nevertheless, you can say that in 10 years time the land will revert. That is not the way business is done. If the land is worth a certain amount, then you must charge what the land will bring in an alternative occupation. I believe it is probably worth more than that. It is worth more to the developers than that.

Sir, the Prime Minister said that some day we will wake up and find that Barbados does not belong to us anymore. Here we are - not selling, but renting out Barbados at \$66 a year to these developers. We have to share more in these things, I submit.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. Leader of the House to look at this matter most carefully. If you take this plot of 3, 365 sq. ft of land into consideration, it is essential that they own this in order to sell out Nos. 6 and 7. They are developing as many as 17 lots at Douglas, and it is essential that this horse-

manure spot should be given to them.

Sir, the Standing Valuation Committee can only value land for friends whom they want to get big money. I will prove it to you. The Standing Valuation Committee went there and saw that those people were selling land at \$1 a square foot and it was essential to have this 3, 365 sq. ft. to sell Nos. 6 and 7. If you sold the 3, 365 sq. ft. you could put the money in either of the Banks in Bridgetown and it would bring you \$234.55 a year at 7 per cent. How

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I hope that the postponement will not mean that the Government will bring it back and rush it through when the Opposition is not here, at the same price; I do not believe they would try to do that. I hope they will go into the matter fully because I am sure that they have not gone into it; so it is not just a matter of withdrawing it altogether because we do not want to do anything to prevent the island from being developed.

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

6.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Resolution stands in the name of the hon. Minister of Health and Community Development and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of the Crown of a parcel of land at Farmers, St. Thomas, as described in the Schedule to the Resolution for the provision of a playing field.

RESOLUTION re ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FARMERS FOR A PLAYING FIELD

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the negotiations for this parcel of land are still in progress, as far as the price is concerned, as well as the amount for the transfer of tax. What we are now doing here is implementing a policy which the Government has recently adopted in order to secure vacant possession of the land in a reasonable time, and in order to get a good marketable title we are utilising the facilities of the Land

Acquisition Act.

Hon. members will ask what price we are going to pay and so on. I do not negotiate or buy land for the Government. I am interested in seeing that the Government's policy in providing playing fields on an Island-wide basis should go ahead. Our policy during the last few weeks is to circumvent long negotiations by coming here under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in order to secure vacant possession as soon as possible in order to implement our programme. The questions regarding what we are paying for the land and who is going to pay the Land Transfer Tax - the Land Transfer Tax in the case of Nationals is paid, but in the case of non-Nationals I think both sides pay. In this case the vendor should pay. All of the negotiations are being done by the Crown Solicitor. The point I am bringing to the attention of this House is that if negotiations cannot be completed within two weeks, we are going to utilise the powers of the Land Acquisition Act in order to get possession of the land. That is all I want to do here this evening, Sir.

Now, with regard to questions such as how much we are going to pay for the land, who got a bribe and so on, I am not in a position to say. I did not get any. This is merely a question of implementing the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in order to get a good and marketable title for All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of Farmers Plantation) situate at Farmers in the parish of Saint Thomas in this Island containing by admeasurement 4 Acres 2 Roods 11.2 Perches or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on three sides on other lands of Fanners Plantation and on the public road or however else the same may abut and bound. The Notice was served on the 11th November, 1969.

Sir, I have the Plan of the land which we are about to acquire compulsorily. This matter has been under negotiation since 1967. No doubt the Minister of Housing and Labour and National Insurance is totally fed up because the matter has taken so long. I think that two crops have been reaped since we have been trying to acquire this land. When we proceed by way of negotiations it takes too long. If negotiations take longer than two weeks, the Government have decided that we will proceed under the Land Acquisition Act. I have another one like this to bring before the House very soon.

Sir, I have told you that one of the bones of contention is the Land Transfer Tax. The price may be settled except for that. The matter of the acquisition of land is dealt with by the Minister of Home Affairs and the Crown Solicitor; so the question of price and who will pay the Land Transfer Tax will be dealt with in that Ministry. I, personally, have nothing to do with it.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. Speaker, before the Minister sits down, will he just tell us what the Government is prepared to pay and what the owners of Farmers Plantation are asking so that we can get an idea of the range of difference between the two parties? This is important for the purpose of knowing whether we are doing right in compulsorily acquiring the land.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Actually the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has risen to speak, and he has given way to the hon. junior member for Christ Church.

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

I have not yet started to speak, Mr. Speaker. The motion has not yet been seconded and I cannot speak to it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

But you may second it. Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS No, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on the question of price, this is what I have seen on the file. There is a letter, apparently, an offer and acceptance in" the normal way, from Dunscombe Estates Limited dated 1st October, 1967. In one of the paragraphs this letter states

"I am instructed to inform you that Messrs. Dunscombe Estates Limited is prepared to make available to Government an area of land up to 5 acres for the playing field at the price of 7 per square foot, the purchaser paying for the surveying and the stamp duty."

That is all I can say at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, the bone of contention, I repeat, is the Land Transfer Tax which has not been settled.

Hon. G. G. PERCUSSION:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken in this hon. House, on public platforms, in public places and privately about the desirability of these playing fields in St. Thomas being acquired as soon as possible and something done about them at an early opportunity.

6.10 p.m.

I am glad that the Minister has indicated what price is being asked for the land at Farmers, because, as I see it, it would not be reasonable to ask the House to conduct all land purchase negotiations for the Government, because in effect that is what the Minister is asking. It is very seldom that people ask a price for land and they can agree on everything all within two weeks. I think that 7 cents per square foot was a substantial price to ask for that particular piece of land next to hills planted with casuarina trees to attract the rain, most of it hilly and more than usual unproductive. Seven cents a square foot was undoubtedly a large price to ask for that; but, Sir, I started by saying I had spoken about this before. I do not want to talk too much about the principle now. It is obviously desirable to have a playing field. We had a whole playing field's debate inhere in which, despite all the efforts of hon. members on the other side, they were quite unable to show any playing fields that had been constructed since the Democratic Labour Party came into power. There were no playing fields which were not the responsibility all those long years ago of the Barbados Labour Party Government, and I am.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member's memory does not seem to be serving him very well this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

But he is forgetting Blenheim; he is forgetting the National Stadium, the Gall Hill Playing Field at St. John and the one in Christ Church, and there is one in the Pine. We have had about six. We have one at Grazettes. The hon. member is saying that since the Democratic Labour Party has been in power, not

one single playing field has been constructed, but that is not so.

Mr. SPEAKER, No point of order.

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

Gall Hill is his only correct exception, because it was in the debate on Gall Hill that the statement was made, and these other playing fields had already been acquired and marked out as playing field areas, and they were only made up. But not the one at the Pine neither. Mr. Cox opened the Pavilion at the Pine. The only thing the Government has done with the playing field at the Pine is not maintain it properly. But nevertheless I am glad to see that the Democratic Labour Party Government recognises that youths need playing fields. The Farmers area is not a very promising one. I suppose it is close to St. Andrew and indeed close to St. James, albeit an under - or unpopulated part of St. James; so its position is strategic even if the land is not very good. But 7 cents a square foot is not too much. I see a development in which it is said that certain members of the Government are interested, in which land is being sold at \$2,500 an acre for residential purposes. At least it can be used for residential purposes. One would imagine there was not even enough - I hear these allegations being made - to pay the Town Planning Office out of that. That is merely by the way. But, obviously, if we can read advertisements in the paper for potential residential development being sold in two-acre lots at \$5,000 for two acres, we can assume that the whole land at Farmers, St. Thomas, for public purposes should be sold at, or thereabouts, that price. It is unfortunate that many of the plantations - and I must say that the largest plantation in the constituency of St. Thomas, Dunscombe Estates and those associated therewith, as well as the Dowding Estates and Trading Company - have been asking to my knowledge excessive prices for land which they hope the Government will buy. We can only regret that the Land Acquisition Act was not called in at an early stage. But since the Government has reached the stage of working out the Land Acquisition Act and can short-circuit all these negotiations, it should also, I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Housing, who, I believe, is also interested in this matter, to look at the poor people who live just across the road from this area of land in the old Farmers Tenantry - not those who were worse housed and whom the Barbados Labour Party Government put into Farmers Housing Area - but those who now live in very distressing conditions, where roads and other facilities are concerned, in Farmers Tenantry, those who have petitioned the Housing Authority to be re sited on some of this land near where, I understand, the playing field acquisition is going to take place. I would hope that Government would look at their demands. There are not many of them, but the hon. junior member for St. Thomas will bear me out.....(Hon. N. W. BOXILL They do not want to move.)

The hon. junior member for St. Thomas will not bear me out that the roads at Farmers are bad; he will not bear me out that the people who have vehicles have to park them in the main road - the same main road mentioned in this Resolution - and he will not bear me out that if a lady is pregnant she cannot afford to stay down there near the time of her confinement, because if she is taken in suddenly or uncomfortably, she may not be able to get out. She has to go and stay in town or with relatives in a more accessible place shortly before her confinement. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas says that the

people in Farmers Tenantry do not wish to move. They put their names on a petition; they go to the Housing Authority and ask to be moved, but they do not wish to be moved. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Government give these people some consideration, when they are acquiring this land, to see if it might not be possible to resite the remaining tenants of Farmers Housing area, living down muddy, precipitous roads that it would be quite impractical to repair, close to their present homes - which would be just a quarter or half a mile away for many of them - on some of the new land to be acquired by the Government.

Sir, I am quite totally and entirely baffled by this suggestion about the Land Transfer Tax. I know that if you sell land with a house on it and the value is more than \$25,000, you have to pay a certain tax. I cannot remember seeing in any Act that this tax is not payable when the land is sold to the Government. Equally I cannot see that the Government would have to pay itself the tax, because the Government is not foreign. I am at a complete loss to understand how the question of the Land Transfer Tax arises. I very much hope that those members of the Cabinet who have legal knowledge would look at these Acts when they hear this sort of argument being raised as to who would pay the Land Transfer Tax. The vendor has to pay it; there is no question about that; and the Registrar is there to put the vendor in Court if he does not pay it. It is a simple straightforward matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, in the case of nationals, the vendor pays. In the case of non-nationals, the transfer tax is divided share and share alike.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not got it right. In the case of the vendor, the vendor always pays. In the case of a non-national purchaser, he also pays the same amount, not share and share alike. The vendor always pays, and to the best of my knowledge Dunscombe Estates Limited is a Company registered in Barbados, I think, at Alleyne Arthur. Perhaps if you go and look through the bay window, you may see the sign. I certainly do not believe that there is any foreign capital in Dunscombe Estates Limited, nor do I believe that the Government of Barbados has yet entirely so far sold overseas interests, and that it could be said it is not national. I do not know if that is what the Minister is aiming at. I am totally at sea with this. If what the Minister is suggesting, and this may be possible, is that since the Land Transfer Act has come into force the vendors want more money so that they can pay the Transfer Tax, in other words, if they are saying that the existence of the Land Transfer Tax means that they should now get more for the property, that is a matter for the tribunal that determines a fair price to decide. I am confident that no tribunal administering the policy of the Government of Barbados and the law of this Island is going to say that the Land Transfer Tax is a tax on purchasers, that where the Act says there is a tax on vendors, they are going to say that the vendor is entitled to take into account that tax in computing what is a fair price to be paid for the property concerned. But that is a matter for argument. Maybe the lawyers for Dunscombe Limited may be able to pull the wool as successfully over the eyes of whatever tribunal deals with this matter as the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is so fond of alleging

that criminal lawyers are able to pull the wool over the eyes of those tribunals before whom they appear. (Asides.) Did I hear the word "jury"? 6.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I was listening to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas whom I did not hear use the word "jury".

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

I have just used it, Sir. The Opposition is obviously glad to have playing fields and I expect that other members on this side are going to ask the Government why it is only in the threatened constituencies that playing fields are being purchased. Why is it on the borders of St. Andrew and St. Thomas that a playing field is being purchased? I will ask my colleagues not to grudge us that; if they think they can stop the Barbados Labour Party from winning St. Thomas and St. Andrew, let them spend all the money possible on St. Thomas and St. Andrew. I am only too glad that my constituents could acquire these benefits, and on election night I am sure that....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is going far afield.

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

.....the good electors of the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Andrew, whomever they vote for, will be able to know that they have a playing field at Farmers.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has spoken at length on this Resolution and he does not seem to understand - I cannot blame him because he has not seen the Plan - where the playing field is supposed to be sited. I think he may be aware that the site offered by Dunscombe Plantation was the site immediately behind the book-keeper's house on the hill; this was a hilly portion of Farmers Plantation and was not accepted by Government. A site was chosen after meeting Mr. Mahon. the Attorney for the Plantation, the Crown Solicitor, the Minister of Health, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health, the Sports Officer and myself, and we selected, together with the surveyor, a site of flat land, about the flattest piece of land at Farmers Plantation, which is on the way to Blowers on the other side; this is the part of the field behind what they call the Great House going down to Blowers where there is a cart track where the hon. member goes and parks sometimes.

I was going through this for the benefit of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. Mr. Mahon has represented in his letter that this part of Farmers Plantation was one of the flattest portions of the plantation, and that to sell this portion of land it would increase the cost of running the plantation because this is one of the flat pieces of land where the tractors and the lorries can go in and bring out the sugar cane, and he has asked, since the introduction of the Land Transfer Tax, that over and above paying the legal fees and the cost of surveying, the Government pay the Land Transfer Tax. This is subject to negotiations because that is the duty of the vendor and not the purchaser where it is a local purchaser involved. I just rose to advise the hon. member where the land is; it is a productive piece of land and it amounts to something like \$3,000 an acre for land in St. Thomas where there is some of the best agricultural land in the country. I do not think it is unreasonable.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, whenever a Resolution of this nature is before Parliament, I cannot help taking the opportunity to remind Government that it is not only in parishes like St. Thomas and many other parishes that they should set about to acquire lands, and to remind them again that from 1966 I have been asking them to acquire a piece of land in Fitts Village for the purpose of putting up a fish shed and public conveniences. Apparently this parcel of land in Fitts Village has been vacated by the people who were there and I am told that a block of apartments is to be put up there. I have been there on two occasions with the Minister of Health in order to acquire this land for the purpose I have just mentioned. I am also glad to hear that Government is embarking on a policy to provide playing fields, but I do not think that outside of St. Michael, Christ Church and St. Philip, there is any other parish in so dire a need of an additional playing field than the parish of St. James.

You have the Trents Social Centre and its adjoining lands where you have the Maple cricket ground; then you have in the Housing Area in Thorpes one of the largest in the Island; you have the St. John the Baptist Pasture, and when you look at it carefully it looks like a gully. I have called on Government on more than one occasion to send some piece of machinery out there, especially out of the cricket season, so that they can level the pasture and provide for the people there better facilities. The latest plan I hear is afoot is to remove the playing field from there and put it over by the Church where they are now about to acquire or to be given some four or five acres of land for that purpose; how true this is I do not know. But what I do know is that you cannot continue to bring coaches like Graham Adams down to Barbados to coach the young people in the games of their choice, and then on the other hand fail to provide for them the facilities for these same games. It is no wonder that the Barbados Football Association finds itself in the very awkward position today that it cannot send a team to represent Barbados at the Central American and Caribbean Games just for the lack of funds. 6.30 p.m.

Sir, I believe that it is not too late for the Minister to ask Government to agree to send a football team to the Central American Games by bringing a Resolution here to give them \$12,000 in the same way as Trinidad, Jamaica and other countries have provided such funds. This Resolution seeks to acquire land compulsorily in St. Thomas for the purpose of a playing field, but what about St. James? What about the

Hard Tennis Court that I have asked the Government to provide at St. John The Baptist? Do we have to wait until the Minister of Housing tries to win votes in St. Andrew and so on in order to get a playing field up there? Give the people in St. James a playing field and you will get all of the votes. There is no playing field in St. James although it is considered to be the most densely populated agricultural area in Barbados. I have asked about the land at Standard, and I have been asking Government repeatedly to give us a playing field up there. Unless you are a member of the Government, probably you will be unable to provide anything for your constituency.

Sir, every time the Government brings a Resolution here for the acquisition of land, I will remind them about the land at Fitts Village. I have been there on several occasions with the Minister. The hon. junior member for St. Peter also went with the Minister for the purpose of acquiring land for public conveniences. I am asking Government not to let 1970 run out without doing something in this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. These matters are being negotiated. Apparently, the hon. member would like me to proceed under the Land Acquisition Act.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have always had a deep respect for the hon. member who has just sat down, but that point of order and statement which he has just made is one that I have been hearing since 1966. Every time, you hear that they are going to bring down a Resolution to deal with it. Are you going to wait until a block of buildings go up there and then say that you did not know anything about the matter? (ASIDES.) This is not vote-catching for me; I will be in the battle. Do not mind my business. As Jackie Opel says "I will be going up, and you will be...."

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I am asking the Minister to give this House a bold assurance - to commit his Cabinet and his Party to acquire land at Fitts Village before people put up a block of flats there. There is a fish market in St.

Peter, one in Christ Church and so on. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS One at Orange Hill.) How did you know that?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I heard in an aside that a fish market will be going up in Orange Hill. I am grateful to the hon. member for giving me that information. He is not the Minister to deal with the matter, but he knows that one is going up there.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. Minister of Health and Community Development, the junior member for Christ Church, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, as described in the Schedule to the Resolution for the construction of an outpatient clinic.

RESOLUTION re CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUT-PATIENT CLINIC

AT ST. ANDREW

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of the lands of Saint Andrew's Glebe) situate at Belleplaine in the parish of Saint Andrew in this Island containing by admeasurement 22, 290 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of the Crown, on other lands of Saint Andrew's Glebe, on lands now or late of Mrs. E. V. Rock, and on the Public Road known as Highway No. 2, or however else the same may abut and bound together with the building thereon.

Sir, there is an old building on this piece of land and it will have to be removed. It is not a property as such. In this case the title is defective, and the object of this Resolution is to remedy the title by using Section 2 of the Land Acquisition Act in order to get a good and marketable title. As far as I know, the price has been agreed on. The negotiations went on between the Crown Solicitor and Rev. Hatch, who is the Secretary to the Church. Here is a letter written to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, by the Crown Solicitor. He says:

"I enclose for your attention a copy of a letter received from the Solicitor for the Diocesan Synod of Barbados concerning the land at St. Andrew which is being acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, for the purpose of providing an out-patient clinic in St. Andrew. 6.40 p.m.

"I will remind you that the Church was advised that the land was worth 60 cents per square foot, and that as a public service they were willing to accept 50 cents per square foot provided that Government paid all costs in acquiring this land and waive or pay the Land Transfer Tax". Again this question comes up. "I should be grateful if you would instruct me as to whether the price of 53 cents per square foot is acceptable to Government". They have added on the three cents, as suggested by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, which would take care of this Land Transfer Tax. That seems to be the practice. If you agree to 50 cents, you then ask for a little more to take care of this tax; but the Government would hardly waive it, and the vendor would have to pay it, so that he would have enough from the purchase price to round it off and pay. The price seems to be 53 cents, and not 50 cents, by virtue of the Land Transfer Tax. The object of this acquisition is to complete the St. Andrew District Hospital and to provide an outpatients clinic; so this is one of the last things we have to do to finish off the Job down there.

Mr. HINDS:

Before the Minister sits, if he would give way, the Minister says it is not a property as such, but I would like him to explain the Addendum at line 3 of paragraph 2.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The Addendum reads as follows

"Negotiations as to the terms of purchase have been taking place, but the owner of the parcel of land appears unable to give a good and marketable title.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the hereditaments and premises described in the above Schedule in order that the purposes set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcel of land".

It is for that reason that I mentioned that the last time I was there, there was an old building there which has to be removed, in order to develop the land for the out-patients clinic. That is why we have said "hereditaments and premises". If it was just the land we would say "land and hereditaments", but there is a building as such.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am most alarmed and disturbed by what the Minister has said about the Land Transfer Duty being added on to the purchase price automatically. This is a tax on vendors, and if there is one thing the Government should establish, and establish by forcing one of these land acquisitions through, it is that vendors are not entitled to add on anything to an agreed price merely to take care of the Land Transfer Tax, particularly in dealing with the Government. It is extraordinary and out of all consideration that it should be done. Only a person who is interested in selling land himself - and I say that deliberately - could negotiate such a contract on behalf of the Government, and if the Government has received advice that vendors of land are seeking to circumvent the Land Transfer Tax Act by increasing the purchase price so as to pay it, the Government should take independent advice, and deal with such matters by means of some adviser who is convinced and who is going to look at the Act and not take the vendor's part when dealing with the Government who is the purchaser. It is an unpleasant thing to have to say it, but I say it. It is a disgraceful idea that the Government should agree to pay 50 cents and because it passes a tax to penalise vendors, agree with the vendor to pay the tax, because that is the equivalent of what it has done. It is a disgraceful idea and I cannot believe that any Supreme Court Judge would accept that where the policy of Parliament is to penalise vendors and make vendors pay on what goes into their pockets, Government it--self, members of the same Parliament who pass the Act, should agree to relieve vendors at the expense not of a purchaser, but of the taxpayers. I may never have the occasion to argue it in Court on behalf of the Government, but I look forward to seeing it argued, and I look forward to arguing it myself.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I do not know if the hon. member was here when I tried to explain this Resolution, but the Church was advised that the land was worth 60 cents per square foot, but as a public service they reduced it from 60 cents to 50 cents. When the Land Transfer Tax came into force, and they realised that they would have to pay it, it was then that three cents was added on; so it is not as disgraceful as all that, because they might have got 60 cents.

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

That is exactly the thin edge of the wedge that you have to deal with. If it was not for that agreement, Dunscombe Estates could not have held out for that increase in price. Let the Government consider that, perhaps. If it was not that the principle is once allowed that these people are giving it to us cheap, and so make us pay the Land Transfer Tax, you would not allow other vendors to suggest that.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister knows that there is litigation on the Court between a barrister and the Bank of Nova Scotia relating to charges - I am not going to discuss the case because I do not even know the results; I only know there is litigation - made by the Bank of Nova Scotia that appear to be efforts made by the Bank to put itself in as good a position vis-a-vis lending money on mortgage or lending money as it was before certain legislation was passed. I would not go any further than saying that. This matter is a matter of some dispute. Persons who are intended to be penalised by particular policies of taxation passed by Parliament should not be allowed especially by the Government at any level at all to get out of it. If they ask you to pay them 53 cents because they were going to charge you at 50 cents but they have to pay the tax, let the whole thing go to arbitration and pay them 60 cents. I prefer to see you pay 60 cents than to allow the principle of paying the Land Transfer Tax for them to creep in through the back door. You may say it is a hard case and so let it creep in; but hard cases make bad law. That is an old cliché which perhaps the Ministers are not so familiar with. I prefer to see them get the full value of the land than to be able to tell the Government that they will sell at this price, but you have to pay the Land Transfer Tax for them by allowing them to charge the necessary amount. It is a bad principle in my submission. The Minister's explanation, of course, perhaps means that I would not vote against it, but were it slightly different, I am sure I could not vote for this Resolution if those were the only facts.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COMPULSORY

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOPE WELL

PLANTATION IN ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Item under Government Business also stands in the name of the Minister of Health and Community Development, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and it is to move the passing of a

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land of Hope-well Plantation, St. Thomas as described in the Schedule to the Resolution for use as a playing field. 6.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, again this is a matter enforcing the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in order to secure vacant possession of this parcel of land. The description of the land is;

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land (part of Hopewell Plantation) situate in the parish of Saint Thomas containing by admeasurement 4 Acres 0 Roods 34 Perches or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on other lands of Hopewell Plantation, on lands of Sundry owners, on Highway - No. 2 and on Holy Innocent's Cemetery or however else the same may abut and bound.

The Standing Valuation Committee met and considered the valuation of this land, and in their opinion the land is agricultural land and normally valued at \$2,400 per acre, but they have no objection to paying \$3,000 per acre in this case. There is a condition in connection with a 20-foot road way to the north which has to be developed by Dowding Estates Limited in order to have access to the land, so that this is merely in keeping with Government policy of providing playing fields in each parish, on an island wide basis, and we intend to pursue this policy as soon as a decision is reached at Cabinet and negotiations are made which will take about two or three weeks when we intend coming here to enforce the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act in order to gain quick vacant possession and to have the title remedied at the same time. These negotiations have been in progress for quite a long time - I know that the Minister of Communications and Works has been disgusted all along and he should feel a little happier now because he has been pressing for this for quite some time - and now that they have decided to acquire these parcels of land, he will be able to get things going and provide the playing fields and other facilities in a quicker way than before. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

For all the years that I have been interested in St. Thomas, Welchman Hall has been in need of a playing field. Contrary to what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas may think, and certainly contrary to what he says, the only subjects in St. Thomas in which I am interested are not Mr. Wiles, the postman, or lights in Porey Spring; I have spoken just as much about a playing field for Welchman Hall as for some of these other places. I have even asked a Question about it and I have had extensive

conversations with young men of Welchman Hall and with the owners of this land at times. I have already made known privately to the Minister that there was a period when the owners were prepared to give land to the Government; but for one reason or another-perhaps they never indicated to the Government - no opportunity was taken of their good wishes if they existed in a form in which the Government could have made use of. The Minister of Communications and I have often spoken over this land, and perhaps I should make the Party point and say that he and Mr. Batson were in the House for five years and nothing was done; but as soon as the people of St. Thomas re-elected a member of the Barbados Labour Party as senior member, everybody hustled to produce a playing field for Welchman Hall. Whatever the motives are, I am sure he and I are very glad that this thickly populated area of St. Thomas will receive this playing field.

I remember, the first time I was ever solicited by the youths of Welchman Hall in this behalf, they said if they would give them a proper playing field in Welchman Hall they would soon have boys who would be able to be playing football for Barbados, because - never forget-football is still a metropolitan sport in this country taking place in St. Michael and the City. Let us have a proper playing field at Welchman Hall, give the young men something to do and, who knpws, when he is in retirement in a few years time, I may be able to persuade the Minister of Communications and Works to come out and present a trophy to his former constituents at Welchman Hall and in other districts for their achievements on this self-same playing field.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the last speaker reminded me very much of Lou Nova who was a heavyweight boxer and who talked to himself so well that he talked himself into five rounds with Joe Louis when everybody else was only going one round or two. This is Lou Nova on the opposite side, and it is unreasonable and unfair for him to say that only since he came into St. Thomas we are talking about playing fields; if he is going to say that, I can also say that only since he came into St. Thomas children suffered effects after taking school meals; but we do not want to say these things. The late Mr. Batson and I were asking for this playing field for a long time, but they wanted us to put the playing field at the back of the school which was formerly a cholera ground, and it was so hilly that in a cricket match the bowler would be running from up the hill to bowl at the batsman down the hill; so you would understand the speed at which he would be coining down. I objected to it and I am the person who suggested that the present site was the best place. Furthermore, when we first talked about acquiring land in Welchman Hall for a playing field - I am going to surprise the hon. member now - the owners of the land asked at the time for something like \$9,000 per acre, and when I asked how they could expect this sum they told me that it was told to them by somebody at the Agriculture Department that that particular spot was the best soil in Barbados. This is how it came to be prolonged and then I decided that the best place, or the most level site, would be just in the back of the Cemetery. It is not really fair for the hon. member to say this of me because he knows it is not true. When he said that Mr. Batson and myself did not try to get the land.....

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

On a point of order, I know that Mr. Batson and himself tried to get the playing field; but what I am saying is that the Democratic Labour Party could not get this playing field for the people until a Barbados Labour Party member was elected.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Oh no, Mr. Speaker, this is not true; I pointed out to him the reason why and it is not good enough to spend the taxpayers' moneys for something that when they were finished the people could not use. He knows the area as well as I do, and he knows that you could not play any game other than pitching marbles; so you could not buy a playing field for just that purpose.

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

7.00 p.m.

PROPOSED VISIT OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ANGIE BROOKS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes our business for today's sitting.

I would like to inform the House informally, because a Message will come next week from His Excellency the Governor-General on this point, that Her Excellency Miss Angle Brooks, President of the 24th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, will be paying an official visit to Barbados from the 31st January to the 3rd February, 1970. In the course of this visit she has expressed a desire to visit hon. members in their respective Houses. The House will be officially informed of this at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

I now beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 27th January, 1970, at twelve 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.

7.05 p.m.