

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd June, 1970.

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

PRESENT His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER. Q. C.,

F. Z. S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J. P.; Mr. ERNEST D. MOTTLEY, C. B. E. J. P. 5 Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J. P.; (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Community Development; Mr. J. W. CORBIN. J. P.; Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. "W. R. LOWE. J. P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J. P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Labour National Insurance and Housing); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER and Mr. H. B. St. JOHN, LL, B.;

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not yet in a position to say whether there are any Minutes for confirmation, as my file is yet to arrive.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Message No. 3/1970 regarding the re -allocation of certain Ministerial portfolios.

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 two months ended 31st May, 1970.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

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

The Barbados Harbours (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

PETITION

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Petition from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. The Petition is respectfully worded, and I ask that it be taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Resolution to approve the lease to Mr. G. C. Walke, of a parcel of land at Fairfield Road, Welches, St. Michael.

Resolution to approve the sale to Mrs. Anita Prescod of a parcel of land at Brittons Hill Road, St. Michael.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

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

Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1970. Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1970. Rt. Hon. K. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

A Bill to amend the Statutory Boards Service Commission Act, 1969.

On behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following: -

A Bill to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada a sum of money not exceeding \$2, 600,000 in connection with the development of the water resources and water supply of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with this matter in all its stages today as it is very urgent, I have already received the consent of the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I have not given my consent to deal with it, but to introduce it. No copies have been circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Copies will be circulated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 9, 9, asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, is ready.

On behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No, 93, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, is ready.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 96, asked by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, is ready.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 109, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, is ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, 1943.

Mr. SPRINGER:

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

WHEREAS the foreign-owned car rental firm known as HERTZ has declared its intention to operate in this Island; AND WHEREAS car rental services in this Island are well supplied by Barbadian owned hired cars and car rental companies; AND WHEREAS the presence of HERTZ is certain to cause hardship to these said Barbadian operators; BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of this Island intervene immediately to prevent HERTZ rental service operating in this Country.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

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

WHEREAS a contract to build houses has been awarded by the Barbados Housing Authority without any invitation for Tenders; AND WHEREAS an offer to build houses to be distributed by the Welfare Committee of the Barbados Housing Authority at "a price of \$2, 400. 00 has been made by a Mr. Bryan the father of the Senior Member for St. Andrew and Minister of Housing in the Barbados Government from July, 1969 until June 1970 which offer has been tentatively accepted without any Invitation for Tenders; AND WHEREAS the Barbados Housing Authority has agreed to purchase houses built on the premises of the Senior Member for St. Andrew and Minister of Housing at Melbourne, Belmont Road, St. Michael, by the aforesaid Mr. Bryan. AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority has awarded contracts for painting and repairing of houses owned by the Housing Authority to Mr. Sydney Watson an employee of Government in the Waterworks Department; AND WHEREAS one of the supervisors employed by Mr. Watson is the aforesaid Mr. Bryan; AND WHEREAS the said contracts awarded to

Mr. Sydney Watson are worth over one million dollars were awarded without any invitation for Tenders advertised for in any Newspaper in circulation in the Island of Barbados; AND WHEREAS equipment belonging to the Housing Authority has been used at the residence of the said Minister of Housing at Melbourne Belmont and at a building site belonging to the said Minister of Housing at Stanmore Crescent, Black Rock; AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority rented similar equipment from C. O. Williams Construction while the Housing Authority equipment was in use at the Minister's residence and aforesaid building site at Black Rock; AND WHEREAS this House strongly condemns this abuse of public office and this disgraceful exhibition of nepotism on the part of the Minister and senior member for St. Andrew; AND WHEREAS this House is of the opinion that the Prime Minister's action in doing no more than removing the Minister from the Ministry of Housing is a condonation of the deplorable behaviour of the Senior Member for St. Andrew and is an inadequate measure for dealing with abuse of public office; AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority has privately sold a number of motor vehicles at a price below their real value and at least one of these, vehicles has been in the use of the Minister; AND WHEREAS the Minister has approved Loans to Public Officers despite the fact that there has been no Meeting of the Public Officers Loan Committee; BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon the Prime Minister to appoint a Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the Administration and operation of the Barbados Housing Authority during the period commencing In July, 1969, until end of June, 1970, being the period during which the Senior Member for St. Andrew was responsible for the portfolio of Housing. 12. 25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the hon. - that word "hon. " is in inverted commas - Junior member for the City is not fully seised with the ethics of Parliamentary behaviour and Parliamentary practice, but on a point of order the House cannot accept a Resolution which says that the Prime Minister has done so-and-so because of so-and-so, and therefore before Your Honour accepts any Resolution any member gives notice of, in the course of the Preamble or otherwise to the Resolution he cannot say that somebody has done something because of so-and-so. It is highly improper and if the hon. member

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am on a point of order.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am on a point of order, and you cannot have a point of order on a point of order. I will invite Your Honour to be very, very firm in your rulings on both sides of the House, particularly on points of order, because we have had a criticism by the Leader of the Opposition about the standard of debate which of course in my opinion is again being done under privilege.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, ...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is not on a point of order when he refers to a criticism by the Leader of the Opposition.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

That was just by the way; I am only pointing out.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have noted the point of Order of the Hon. Prime Minister and I will give the matter my consideration. I had not heard the Resolution or seen it until it was read just now; I will give the matter my consideration, and I will give my ruling at the next meeting.

BILLS TO BE READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Statutory Boards Service Commission Act, 1969 be now read a first time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada a sum of money not exceeding \$2,600,000 in connection with the development of the water resources and water supply of Barbados be now read a first time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Act, 1943 be now read a first time.

Mr. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and it is to resume Committee on a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, 1952.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am not ready to go ahead with this Bill yet because I cannot get the Actuary's report from England. I apologise to the House for this, but this is due to circumstances beyond my control.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the other items are not quite ready, and I beg to move that the Bill to authorise the Government of Barbados to borrow from the Government of Canada a sum of money not exceeding \$2,600,000 in connection with the development of the water resources and water supply of Barbados be now the first Order of the Day.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Acting Leader of the House approached me in connection with this matter, and I told him that subject to what other members said we would be willing to do this matter today, provided it was circulated so that other members could see it, and he said he could do it this afternoon.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

If the hon. member would give way, I would just like to explain that the prerogative of making treaties with any foreign Government is vested in the Cabinet. This is a matter dealing with money and so we come to the House for approval; this is a loan, which is on favourable terms, for the development of water resources in the island for which we already have money voted in the Estimates, and we also gave an indication of our approach to the Canadian Government in the Development Plan which has already been passed by the House.

There is nothing hypothetical about it except that the amount is \$2.6 million and we are merely asking

approval to borrow this money at a very low interest rate. This is a matter of extreme urgency, and it is not a complicated Bill like the Insurance Bill which we have postponed for about five or six weeks because we cannot get the printing done due to some difficulty among the staff at the Printing Office; this is a short matter for the development of water resources, I understand now that the Crown Law Officers have the Insurance Bill, but the Bill was sent to the Printers. This is not a propos the motion before the House; it is a very simple Bill and I would like to invite the Opposition to assist the development of the water resources on terms that they have never had. 12.35 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, nothing the Prime Minister has said has affected the validity of the point I am making. If the power to enter and to negotiate treaties is vested in the Executive, we know that. We also know, as a fact, that the Executive cannot execute any treaty without coming before the House for legislative permission. The basic point is that we ask that the Bill be circulated, and that some time be given to members on this side to look at it. The Bill is now being circulated. A casual glance at the Bill shows that it does not have any provision, either in the Addendum or anywhere else, as to what the rate of interest is. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW The rate of interest is 3%.)

Mr. Speaker, there was no meeting last week, and they could have called a meeting of the House last week, if they thought that this was a matter of urgency. We are not unwilling to deal with the Bill, but we want a reasonable time to see it. Contrary to what operates on the other side of the House - maybe the Prime Minister does not think that the members on that side should have any time to look at the Bill, but we on this side conduct our business differently. We feel that members on this side deserve to have an opportunity to see it, and we cannot consent to it unless we have an opportunity to see it. We are not obstructing anybody in anything, and we are just being reasonable.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make my position perfectly clear. I did ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to agree to the taking of this Bill in all its stages, and I did say that he would have a copy of the Bill in time to read it. I could not expect him to be able to deal with something that he has not seen. Owing to the representation made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and with my concurrence, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 1 p.m. today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; I beg to second that.

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

On resumption,

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada the sum of \$2, 600,000 for purposes connected with the development of the water resources and water supply of Barbados be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

DEVELOPMENT CANADIAN LOAN ACT, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER:

The instant Order of the Day, which stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, is a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada for the purposes set out hereunder a sum of money not exceeding the amount so set out and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, on the 23rd August, 1967, this House by Resolution approved a loan from the Canadian Government in the sum of \$250,000 for the development of the Dairy Industry of this Island.

The Bill which we now have before us is a Bill authorising the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada the sum of \$2.6 million for the development of the water resources and water supply of this Island. Approximately, before the Canadian dollar was freezed, it was the equivalent to \$5 million Eastern Caribbean dollars. It is now slightly more than \$5 million Eastern Caribbean dollars, because we have specified that the loan should be in terms of Canadian dollars. The Canadian dollar has risen about four points since this Draft Agreement. We have not yet signed the Agreement. We have agreed to borrow \$2.6 million Canadian dollars. (Asides) The Canadian dollar is now on a par with the U. S. dollar or one point below it.

I would apologise to hon. members of the House for the omission of the interest rate, but I think that this apparent error crept in because in the previous Bill, which I mentioned just now, there was no mention of the rate of interest, because it was not settled and the House had authorised the Government to negotiate the loan on such terms and conditions as the Government might think fit. I think that that loan was also at the rate of 3%, and there was a moratorium on the repayment, in the same way as there is a moratorium on this loan, of 7 years from the date of entering into the Agreement, because the first repayment will begin in 1977; there will be half-yearly instalments on the loan, and they will retire altogether in the year 2000 when I, at least, will be beyond caring. Anyhow, we can do this for posterity.

Mr. Speaker, the rate of interest is 3% which, I am sure, hon. members will agree is a very reasonable rate of interest in view of the fact that the prevailing market rate is well over 8 1/2%, and the Bank of England rate is 7 1/2% at the moment, We cannot get any money on the London Market at less than 9 1/2%. 1.05 p.m.

Whether it is 3 per cent on \$5 million E. G. or 3 per cent on \$2. 5 million Canadian, it is the same amount of money. (Asides.) We will be paying them in Canadian money. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it a soft loan?) It is to be considered a soft loan; so it will be 3 per cent interest on Can. \$2. 6 million, and we will repay them in Canadian currency because we will be receiving the money in Canadian currency.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, if it is a soft loan, I want to know if you are paying the interest in E. G. currency or Canadian currency. I know the loan will be in Canadian currency. I might amuse some people, but I know what I am talking about.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

As I understand the query raised by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, he is asking whether the interest will be paid in Canadian funds. I can only say that I presume so, because if we borrow the money in Canadian funds, we repay the interest in Canadian funds. If they would accept the interest payments in E. G. dollars, we would be only too pleased to do that, but for private industrialists they are entitled, if they borrow money in Canadian or U. S. funds or bring in money for investment, to repatriate both the interest payments and the amounts on account of principal in the currency in which they borrowed it. We allow people without any difficulty at all to buy American refrigerators, air-conditioning plants and food for hotels in U. S. currency; so there is no reason why the Government itself cannot use hard currency to repay its debts. We have not got the Draft Agreement here; we are only getting authority to sign an agreement broadly on these terms, and I will lay the Agreement on the Table of the House when the Agreement is entered into.

Mr. Speaker, I am merely pointing out that in 1967 we had a similar arrangement, but this time we are getting, of course, more than ten times the amount that we would have got. I should like to inform the House that there is a strong possibility, as a result of my recent negotiations in Ottawa, that we will be getting a loan of even larger turn for airport development which will not form part of our allocation under the Canadian Aid Scheme, but will be entirely independent of that, and I have requested the Minister responsible, Mr. Maurice Straughan of the Canadian International Development Agency, that the rate of interest should be not more than 3 per cent as well. We have never, of course, had a direct loan from the British Government at any time, but at such times as we have raised money on the London Market during my time of office, we have never been able to get anything below 6 1/2% per cent, and I think hon. members will appreciate the gesture of the Canadian Government in making this soft loan available for us which will not impose too great a strain on the economy of this Island, because we have until the year 2000 to pay it back.

Mr. Speaker, with that short introduction to a relatively short Bill, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have had the benefit, while considering this Bill during the period when the House was making its mind up as to whether it could be dealt with in all its stages today, of a conversation with the Minister of Communications and Works on the question of the water resources which are to be developed, and I should say that as far as the Opposition is concerned, the projects as outlined seemed quite satisfactory. I do not wish to say a great deal about the Bill itself and the rate of interest and those points that have been made by the Minister of Finance in the second reading speech. What I would just like to say a short word about is what the Minister of Finance was saying when he interrupted the hon. senior member for Christ Church in urging us to deal with this Bill - the question of how the old Government never had the opportunity of raising a loan at this rate of interest.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, I never said they never had the opportunity. I said that they had not raised a loan at this rate of interest with any Government.

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

That is quite correct. I was correcting myself on the Prime Minister's seated intervention, not to speak of his actual intervention. But to be fair to us, he should surely say that the reason why the rate of interest is so low and there is no other reason - and do not let us fret ourselves about repayments, is that it is an offshore procurement for a Canadian supplier of waterpumping equipment. There is probably unemployment in a particular Canadian industry; the Canadian Government for one reason or another wishes to get a good order for its factories that produce machinery, materials and equipment for the development of water resources, and therefore they are making the loan at the cheapest possible rate of interest so as to provide work in a Canadian factory. It is quite a simple matter. As the Minister of Communications will tell the House, if it were denied, no consideration is being paid as to whether this equipment will be the standard that is presently being used in Barbados or whether it will be an American standard. The threads on the joints may be of a different throw and so on. I am not saying it is bad, but what I am saying is that this is being presented to us as if it is the best thing in the world, and the Democratic Labour Party even after nine tired years of worn out office can still produce an idea or two. Let us face the facts for what they are. Canadian industry is being assisted by the taxpayers of Barbados. We would spend this money somewhere and over the same period of time, but In fact we are getting a cheap.....

Rt. Hon., E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, in order to save a lot of time, since the Bill is so objectionable to the Opposition, I will withdraw the Bill and then the member who has just sat down will present me; with better terms and a better loan than this one. I am willing to get the most money at the cheapest possible rate; so if you like, I would now postpone further consideration of the Bill in order to allow the Opposition to present me with a better Bill a a cheaper rate. I do not want to deprive the taxpayers of the benefit of his financial wizardry. I now formally move that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may not do that on a point of order.

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

What a charming point of order; We got up here to say that this thing, although good, must not be presented to the House as if it is the best thing in the world the Democratic Labour Party is doing for Barbados, and he says we are objecting to it and he is going to withdraw it. I will sit down and let him withdraw it if he wants to withdraw it. Let him find in my speech something that objects to paying 2 1/2 per cent interest and withdraw it on those grounds.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, as I understood it, was moving a motion and Your Honour ruled that he was out of order then. We are only giving him an opportunity of moving the motion if he is serious.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It was not seconded, and I ruled it was out of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Naturally if matters were fairly presented in the House instead of being presented with a political flavour and without the intent to hoodwink the public, this would not occur.

The basic point that was being made on this side is that where you have aid, very often today in the context of the Twentieth Century, that aid is 'tied' aid, and as a condition of getting aid, you have to buy materials and equipment from the country from which you are borrowing the money. 1.15 p.m.

A true and honest presentation of these facts would enlighten the public and the House that there are strings attached to this aid, and the point the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was making was that if you superimpose upon the existing equipment that you have at the Waterworks Department, which basically as I understand it, is Canadian, some problems at least of spare parts and maintenance would arise; so therefore he was only pointing out that, on the one hand, one cannot look at this matter as something which is totally beneficial. The Prime Minister of Guyana refused Canadian aid not so long

ago because it was due to the fact that you had to hire Canadian contractors and you had to buy Canadian equipment.

These are the problems that all underdeveloped countries have got to face, that there are strings attached to this aid; and what we are saying is that we hope the problems which have arisen in other countries in respect of this 'tied aid would not arise. The truth of the matter is that we could get all the money we need in this country for public development if the Prime Minister was not a coward in the Ministry of Finance to control the banks of this country, and what is more.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Sir, we are in the House of Assembly, and I heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about the standard of debates in here; but the hon. member has just called a member of this House a coward, and you should know that he cannot do this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not deem that word to be unparliamentary.

Mr. St. JOHN:

That is only bringing the attention of the House to a trait which we regard as not a good one; there is nothing derogatory in that. If I had called the hon. member who just sat down a pig, I could understand.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Then you would have to withdraw that immediately.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Yes, that would be unparliamentary if I had called him so.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I do not think if he had called me a pig, it would be as unparliamentary as if he had called me an ass.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Another point about aid which we have got to recognise in this country is that we would not need half as much money that we do now if there was interest shown in the Government Departments of this country, and that is the trouble with this Government. There is too much wastage and Indifference to production by varlous Departments in this country, and the speech I am making here today is that I hope that this money will stretch as far as possible, and that greater productivity will take place in this Department than is taking place now. I saw a few weeks ago the workers from the Waterworks Department take quite some time to lay pipes at Top Rock, and even here at the Roundabout they spent a lot of time and money.

A lot of our problems here result from the reckless and irresponsible attitude which has been produced and engendered by speeches of the Prime Minister himself. There are true strings attached to this aid; on the one hand it appears generous, but on the other hand we are going to be saddled with equipment and other staff from Canada. I bet you the Prime Minister did not have the guts to tell the people that we want the aid, but we will purchase equipment from wherever we please; we are glad for the aid and the low rate of interest, but give us complete flexibility to purchase equipment. Not this Prime Minister, definitely not; he would not do that at all.

Hon. N. W. BOX1LL:

I rise to represent a point that the hon. member made. The hon. member. said that he saw indifference on the Maxwell and Top Rock roads when workmen were laying pipes. What I want to tell the House here and the hon. member is this. The members of the Waterworks staff who dig pipe trenches usually do this by task work; so you cannot do task work and relax on it because it would mean that you would not be able to get any more money than what was originally agreed upon. If this work took longer than was anticipated, it only means that the road was harder than the people thought. And not only that; the hon. member passes this road every morning, and two weeks would look like three months to him. This is his road to get to and from work, I hope; so do not try to mislead the House into believing that the staff of the Waterworks Department is so indifferent that they would delay a job deliberately, because this is one Department , of which I am proud and it is not fair for the hon. member to say these things about it. It is not true, and I am denying it categorically.

The hon. member should stick to law which, I think, he knows a little bit about - hot a big amount - but leave out engineering. You do not know anything about engineering, and what might appear to the hon. member to be wastage of time would be time of value to the engineers. When we first started the Roundabout, I heard hon. members saying that we did not know what we were doing because they did

not know what we were doing. Look at the place they went to work in; it was not the most conducive to this kind of work; as a matter of fact it was in a river tweed that we were sinking piles, and we had to sink piles as far down as 75 ft. to 80 ft. (Mr. HINDS: A lot of galvanise has gone down the drain, It has probably gone down at the Truth.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members not addressing the Chair.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I am glad to see you are doing that at last, Mr. Speaker; I appreciate it, thank you. I want hon. members to understand, as I pointed out to the senior member for Christ Church, that we were dealing with a place when we had to go as far down as 85 ft. before we could find a proper foundation; so when he says anything that is not true about my Ministry, I intend to defend it.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I think this Bill is worthy of support, especially from what it says in the Objects and Reasons, and it looks to me as if the Opposition would be stupid not to support it. The statement which was made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as to the strings attached, as a business person I feel that any loan of this magnitude would have some strings attached, and I believe that while there is no Agreement or terms of the loan presently here on the floor of the House for hon. members to see, the Prime Minister who made the negotiations would tell us if there are these strings attached which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke about. 1.25 p.m.

If England is lending money - at least we have not had money from the British Government as a loan as such, but when the Colonial Development Welfare Department gave us loans there were strings attached. Let the Prime Minister tell us what kind of strings are attached to this loan. There are things that we can get from Canada for extending our water supply which may not be out of tune with the regular services which we have here. There is no Agreement before us, and we expect the Prime Minister to tell us something about the matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether the senior member for St. Thomas was criticising the Bill or criticising me for saying that no other Government has been able to negotiate a loan of this magnitude on these terms. He has admitted that is so, but he says that the reason they have not been able to do it is that this loan will have strings attached. I want to deal with these points seriatim. First, there is no conspiracy between me and Mr. Maurice Straughan who is in charge of the Canadian International

Development Agency. He gave up private business at a \$150,000 Canadian a year in his early 30s to go and work with the Canadian Government to give aid to developing countries; so he does not have to enter into any conspiracy with me.

As the senior member for the City has just pointed out, there is no country in the world that is going to find it even politically or economically feasible to pick up money which their taxpayers have contributed to lend to another country to go and build up the economy of Peking, or Java, or some other country unrelated to their own development. Every single developed country, whether it is the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada or Russia, as a necessary condition lays down that in spending this money, if it has materials available at competitive prices - we always insist on this Clause - the materials must be purchased from it.

In the same way that I have to come to Parliament to get approval for this loan, they are the people giving out the money, and they have to go to their Parliament to get members on both sides of the House to agree to lend Barbados this money. How is a man in Vancouver going to feel when he may be pressing, say, for a new airport for his particular constituency, and the Canadian Government is lending money to Barbados to spend in Peking? If I were lending money to St. Lucia or to St. Vincent and I had materials here - we lent \$500,000 to St. Lucia the other day for development purposes - and we were manufacturing machinery for pumping water, do you think that I would not have laid down a condition on that loan that they would have to buy the machinery and equipment in Barbados so long as we could supply them? What kind of nonsense is this?

Mr. Speaker, whenever the Government of Barbados does something, you can either hear about some conspiracy, or that they could have done better, or that if they could not have done better, it was only because of So-and-So; so much so that today they have Civil Servants intimidated and frightened, and they cannot do their jobs properly to say that the Government has just built a school, or the Government has just done something. If they publish a picture of a school built by the Government or make any statement about what the Government has done, it shows that they are partisan by pointing out what the Government has done for Barbados.

I made absolutely no apologies, because the policy of the Government of Canada now is that 60% of the foreign content must be spent in Canada. In the United States it is 80%. In Canada it was 80%, but Mr. Arthur Daniel and I had a Committee set up and we made representations to Ottawa that the foreign content of all the loans they were making to all developing countries including Burma, India and elsewhere were unreasonable, and we were able to get the Canadian Government to reduce it to 60%, if they have the supplies available. Now, when every single country in the world is insisting on this, and Barbados itself would have to insist on it if it had the materials available - I could not take up the taxpayers' money to lend to Mr. Compton to go to Peking to buy materials that we could supply here.

Now, suppose we were manufacturing rollers for mills, and Mr. Cato thought of putting in a new mill and wanted a loan from the Barbados Government to have a new sugar mill for St. Vincent. Would members of this House consider it unreasonable if I told him that he would have to buy the rollers from the Barbados Foundry? It is as simple as that. (Mr.. ERNEST MOTTLEY: We could sell them Haggatts)

We could sell them Haggatts at a knockdown price. We could say: "We have a sugar mill ready for sale; all you have to do with it is to move it and transfer it down there. '1 Do you think I would not take the opportunity to get rid of Haggatts? Do not let us talk nonsense about any conspiracy between me and Mr. Maurice Straughn, the Minister in charge of Development. This is a normal procedure. We have not worked out the provisions of the loan. The foreign content will only be 60% and only where suitable equipment is available.

Now the hon. senior member for Christ Church said that I am a coward and that we could raise all of this money locally from the banks and the Insurance Companies, and we would not do anything about it. Who is the Minister of Finance that has introduced a Bill to control Insurance Companies? Who is the Minister that has served notice on this House that Barbados is going to have a Central Bank this year to control banking in Barbados? The hon. member calls me a coward, because I would not control the bank and the Insurance Companies. The Insurance Bill to control Insurance Companies was 7 years going backwards and forwards between the Insurance Companies and the Legal Draftsmen. There are lots of other Bills that we have referred to in our Programme, made Cabinet decisions on, and up to today they cannot see the light of day because we have people trying to put on the brakes both in the private sector and elsewhere in order to prevent things from coming before the House.

Sir, there is no member on the other side who knows the difficulties we have to face. I can give you an illustration, and the Public Service Commission, although they think that they are above criticism, are not without blame in this respect. I am not talking about the present Commission. We used to have a lot of trouble with them. We have passed Resolutions in this House for the establishment of posts, and two years later you will find that the people have not been appointed. Take the case of the Postmen. We had Postmen walking about wearing their own shoes for two years and we had passed the money in the House in two succeeding Estimates and they would not appoint the Postmen. One of them attacked me at a party in Bridge Road one night and said: "What are you doing with us? We have been here all of this time and you would not put us on the Establishment. " I told him that he was joking because the Cabinet had made a decision on that 2 1/2 years' ago; the House of Assembly had voted the money; so he could only be talking ignorance. As I said that, who should walk into the same function but the Chairman of the Public Service Commission. I called him and said that he should listen to the man talking ignorance about not being appointed, He said "We have finished that a long time ago, and these fellows should have been appointed by now. " The Postman turned to him and said "You say that it has

been done a long time ago. How long was that? We have not heard anything about it. " He said "Week before last at a meeting we dealt with the matter. " That was 2 1/2 years after this House had voted the money!

Mr. Speaker, it is 7 years since I have had the Insurance Bill drafted. I received the Cabinet's approval for the appointment of a Hospital Board exactly 6 years ago, and we cannot get the Hospital Board appointed up to now. We settled all the terms and conditions for the change-over from the Public Service Commission to the Hospital Board 6 years ago, I am not going to make any accusations now; I am going to talk facts. Do not call me a coward; it is the hard-mouthed yard-fowls that they have left over that we have got to contend with; it is the yard-fowls that are giving us all the trouble, and they are sabotaging the Government at every turn. This is the problem we have in this country. It has not been for lack of courage, or for the lack of the Ministers pushing the matters forward, but we make decisions and then those decisions are frustrated by people who have no intention of allowing the Government to get any credit for doing anything. To get something in front of this House beneficial to this community is like breaking rocks. (Asides.)

I have named some already. I can go through a long list of projects. 1.35 p.m.

I am saying that six years ago the Cabinet laid down everything for the establishment of a Hospital Board and we have not got the Hospital Board yet. What are we to do? What is the Minister to do? It is seven years that the Cabinet approved the insurance legislation and we have only just got it on the floor of the House; so when you are talking about cowardice, you had better go to some of the saboteurs that you have who are still trying to prevent progress in this country. You can afford to sit there and laugh because you know where the brakes are being applied to progress in this country. Interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members not addressing the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Do not start me off on this now because I can bring in answers to a list of projects and tell your every single thing that you asked, and the date the Cabinet made the decision on them and we cannot get the legislation here on. Interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members not addressing the Chair, please observe the relevant Standing Order. 1

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

We have to get out of this habit that every time something good is being done for the country, people try to run it down. The people in this country want water. We have been able to negotiate a loan when they said that Ministers are wasting time flying about. I find that if you ask a Civil Servant to write a letter, he writes another Civil Servant and sometimes that Civil Servant on the other side does not even allow his Minister to know what the Government of Barbados wants. When I step out of a plane here at Seawell and people ask me if I had a good time I feel sometimes I would throw a brick at them. They think you go 'out there on a Joy ride. Who go out there sometimes to negotiate very hard terms.

I will tell the House now that I refused to sign a Canadian bilateral air service agreement in Canada three weeks ago because I did not like the terms the Canadian Government was laying down. They would not give in to our terms. They would not give us the concessions we wanted. They said they would consider them another time, but they did not want to create any precedent. I told them that they had to create a precedent with the Government of Barbados or we were not signing. On the 26th May we refused to allow British Overseas Airways Corporation to run a service from London to Barbados because we said the fares were too high, and the Board of Trade sent down a very rude letter saying they wanted to know in what way the Government of Barbados should suggest that fares should be settled. I am not going to allow fares to be settled by any international conspiracy, and I told them that, and they said they fixed these in Caracas with the Government of Venezuela on well-trying international air transport rate-fixing machinery. I said this was nothing to do with the Government of Barbados. They said they had passengers booked to fly the next day, and I told them i.: " put them on something else because they were not coming in here, and up to now although we had talks with them last week, they have not got the route into Barbados.

We wanted to supply cut flowers from here to London, and the South African Government was getting a rate from Lanannesburg to London which was about one-third of the rate that we wanted from Barbados to London, and one Government objected to Barbados getting this rate. I said that the Board of Trade should fix the rate because they had authority under international air law to fix it, and they said they did not like doing that because it would create a precedent and they like to go along with IATA decisions. I told them that, if they liked to go along with IATA decisions, they should let IATA build an airport to land in Barbados. They fixed the rate ten days ago and we are now able to fly cut flowers to England. If that is cowardice, the hon. member can give me some more illustrations. When we are begging, it is one thing; but when we are talking on a contractual basis, we do not give way to anybody. As a matter of fact, when the British Government tried to make us pay for keeping sterling in London, I was the person who summoned a meeting and sent telegrams to Malaya and Singapore to tell them not to agree. I summoned a meeting in Jamaica, not in Barbados for psychological reasons, because I knew the Jamaicans were willing to give away the concession to pay 1 1/2% on our 50 million up there for the privilege of their keeping sterling in England, and when I offered them one quarter of one percent they

said that was contemptuous, I said that if one quarter of one percent was contemptuous, then we were not paying anything at all, and I was withdrawing all the Barbados sterling reserves the next day. The result today is that I have saved the whole Commonwealth 600 million a year in interest, because the British Government eventually had to give way to the pressure from my friends in Malaya and Singapore to whom I sent cables.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not want this loan, and if the Opposition knows of a better loan, I would be willing to negotiate the best terms and conditions. We are seeding the banks here with money now, and if they have the \$5 million to give us at 3% or 2 1/2% as I said before, - I am not being frivolous, and I am not trifling with the time of the House - I am willing to postpone consideration to get the best terms for Barbados. (Mr. HINDS: Use the National Insurance money.) We are getting 7 3/4% now on National Insurance deposits. What kind of economics would it be to lend the Waterworks Department money at 2 1/2% to say we got it from National Insurance when they are getting 7 3/4% on fixed deposits? (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY Are these repayments going to be in E. G. currency?) It does not make any difference whether we pay 3% on Canadian funds. Let me give you an illustration. If it were \$4 million E. G. at 3%, it would be \$120,000 a year in interest. If it were \$2 million Canadian, it would be \$60,000 Canadian in interest which is \$120,000 E. G. The rate of interest is not doubled. It is 3%, no matter how the corn sells and what currency you describe it in. It is the same amount of money you pay out on interest whether you express it in E. G. dollars or Canadian dollars. (Asides.) I would like to give another illustration. There is no calculus involved in this. Suppose we borrowed \$1 million from the Canadian Government and they said that the rate of interest is 10 percent, we would then pay them \$100,000 Canadian a year. Let us say that the rate of conversion is two to one, it would be \$200,000 E. G. money. If you borrowed \$10 million Canadian now, in E. G. it is \$20 million, and at 10 percent it is the same \$200,000 you have to pay. The rate of interest has not changed.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed. Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand Part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I could not at the time make any sotto voce remarks or reply to the Prime Minister because I had already spoken; but there is something which he said that has been worrying me, and I hope this is carried in the Press, that six years ago the Cabinet gave authority to appoint a Hospital Board and up to today no Board has been appointed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That has absolutely nothing to do with Clause 2 of this Bill.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, did not the Prime Minister say this when he was talking on this Bill.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No matter who said it, it has absolutely nothing to do with Clause 2 of this Bill, and I expect the hon. senior member for Bridgetown to deal specifically with Clause 2. 1.45 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Are there double standards in this House, one for the Government and one for the Opposition? I heard the Prime Minister in dealing with this Bill.,...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Since I have been in this Chair the Prime Minister has said nothing.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

While you were in this House you heard the Prime Minister say so, and you did not object at the time as a member of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am only concerned with now I am in the Chair.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Then there are double standards in this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are no double standards here. Even double standards do not come under clause 2 of the Bill; let us deal with clause 2 of the Bill.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The opportunity is given to any member of the Opposition who wants to reply to anything the Prime Minister said. I am not critical; I want to understand more about it, and I really want to understand why this has happened.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Nothing at all that happened then is relevant to clause 2, and I am now asking the hon. senior member for the City to confine his remarks to clause 2 of the Bill.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I hope that the Prime Minister will tell me why this has happened; I will sit down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

If the hon. member would give way, I would just like to say that I agree with the ruling of the Chair. I did mention this, but I was only trying to explain the difficulty.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You are out of order; sit down.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

What is he out of order for doing?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Would the hon. senior member deal with clause 2 of the Bill?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

What else could you think I was dealing with? In dealing with this, the whole question of borrowing money from Canada for improving the water system in this country has been mentioned and this would be health because Medical Services and the Hospital would come in, and that is why you want the Hospital Board. The Prime Minister was not in order when he spoke about the Hospital Board.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. senior member now to deal with clause 2.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Look at clause 2 and see what it says, it reads as follows "Notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment the Government is hereby authorised to borrow from the Government of Canada a sum of money not exceeding \$2,600,000 in the currency of Canada on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the Government and the Government of Canada. '(Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

This sitting is not yet suspended; I can hardly hear the hon. member.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

During his speech in introducing this Bill, the Prime Minister.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like the senior member for the City to take note of Standing Order 44 (1) which reads as follows "Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall not discuss the principle of the Bill, but only its details. " At this time I will not hear anything on the principle of the Bill; you can deal with the

amount of money which clause 2 sets out to be borrowed from Canada.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The details include Objects and Reasons. I am not dealing with that; I am dealing with the \$2,600,000 and during his introductory speech the Prime Minister told us what it was for.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

This is about the fourth time the hon. senior member for the City has said that, and at this time, in my opinion, he is repetitious and I am going to ask him to sit down.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

How do you mean 'repetitious', Sir?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, I assure the hon. member that at a later stage and at the appropriate time - perhaps on the motion for the adjournment - he can ask me any question relating to what I have said and I would be glad to answer it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

On what has the Hon. Prime Minister risen?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Oh a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I rule that is not a point of order. At this time the question will be put.

The question that clause % stand part teas put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that clause 3 stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is understood from what the Prime Minister has said that the money under clause 2 is going to be used for the purposes set out in clause 3, and that the machinery, servicing material, equipment, etc, will be purchased from Canada.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, what I said was that usually the condition in development loans of this kind is that there is an undertaking given that where prices are competitive \$rid the machinery, etc. is compatible, we purchase from the country which is making the loan. The wage factor is on the Government of Barbados; they do not lend us money to pay wages; they lend us money for equipment.

Mr. HINDS:

In the light of what the Prime Minister has just said, Sir, I wonder if the Prime Minister would see the necessity for inserting at line four immediately after the word "equipment" the words "from Canada."

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

To answer that very quickly, I could not do that because that would then tit us down to buy equipment from Canada.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I understand the Prime Minister to say that a condition of the loan will be that he will purchase equipment, services, etc. from Canada as long as those services are competitive. That being the case, what is the fear of having it laid down in this Bill that we are going to purchase these services from Canada? I do not see that we would be laying down any conditions which, the Canadian Government, according to what the Prime Minister has said, will not be laying down and making it a condition of the

loan, I cannot see it at all.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Again on a point of Order, I did not say that this is the agreement; I said it is usual in agreements of this nature from all developing countries, and we have got them to reduce it to 60%, But we have not signed the Agreement; I do not even have a copy of the Draft Agreement here. 1.55 p.m.

What I am enjoining the hon. member to desist from is not to let us put in that we must have it from Canada, because the House Will be laying down conditions that the Canadian Government, when we come to settle the final Agreement, may say: "You do not have to buy all from us and we will reduce it to 40% or something like that."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether, in the services we are going to acquire, the Prime Minister will take into consideration that it will be for the most part Canadian manufacture. I think the hon. senior member for Christ Church intimated earlier that there may be some conditions with which our local Engineers or maintenance men are not familiar. Would the Prime Minister consider having a small number of our key-men here undergo a six-weeks' or a short period of training in Canada or elsewhere, if he thinks it necessary so that we may not find ourselves faced with difficulties, eventually, with which we may not be able to deal?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think I made the matter clear. In any Water Development Programme there are three aspects you have the research, and there is still a lot of research to be done; you have the Engineer and you have the hardware; you also have another element of labour which is all Barbadian and paid for by us, as you will see in the Development Programme. The whole Programme will be under the control of the Technical Officer in the Waterworks Department, and we are not going to buy screw pipes which are incompatible with what we are accustomed to using in Barbados. That will come under the condition where we say that we buy the machinery from you where you can supply what we want. It is not a question of the people having a warehouse full of second-hand machinery that they want to get rid of. We will lay down the specifications and that is the whole point. There is no guarantee that, apart from pipes, any of this equipment may come from Canada, because frequently they do not make equipment of this nature. (Asides.) I am not saying that they do not make pumps and pumping machinery. Frequently they are not interested in a project because they do not make that type of machinery; they may be buying from England and the United States themselves. I do not see any problem in that. Our Chief Technical Director is supervising the programme; he lays down the specifications, and if he needs any Water Resource Engineers or Hydrologists they will send them down, because we do not have any in Barbados apart from the two we have in the Department.

Mr. HINDS:

Sir, I wonder whether this amount of money is going to meet the requirements of our water development for the next 10 years. How much money is actually needed?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Sir, we have the approval of the House for the Development Programme. I do not know if the Minister can tell me off hand how much money it is. I remember at one time when we were discussing water resources, they told us that in the next 25 years we would probably have to spend \$21 million, but this is for our immediate requirements. There is a certain amount of absorptive capacity in the Waterworks Department, the Public Works Department or any Department... '

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I wonder whether the hon. senior member for St. John realises that that would be very much more appropriate under the Clause which we have just passed which dealt with the amount of money, and the purpose for which the money should be spent.

Mr. HINDS:

Yes. Mr. Chairman. Clause 3 reads

"The money borrowed under the authority of this Act shall be appropriated to finance expenditure...."

I am asking how much expenditure you are going to finance. That is all I am asking. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: He is out of order.) Out of order what; Why do you not allow the Chairman to read and understand what he is reading?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman has already read and understood.

Mr. HINDS:

I wish I could believe that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN; Any of these inference scorning from any hon. member in this Chamber to the Chair, I shall ask him to sit down and take no further part in this debate. I am asking the hon. junior

member for St. Peter to take his seat, and have no more part in this debate.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, you are asking me to take my seat, and have no further part in this debate;

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

It is an insult to the Chair. Mr. HINDS I will withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am in the Chair, and I ask the hon. junior member for St. Peter to sit. I will not hear him under this Clause again.

Mr. HINDS:

Are you saying that you cannot hear me under this Clause again?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have asked the hon. member to sit.

Mr. HINDS:

Sit forever?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The dignity of this House must be maintained; the hon. member cannot insult the Chair, and I will not have such behaviour from any hon. member in this Chamber, no matter who he is.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I say that the hon. member has insulted the Chair, and I am not hearing him.

Mr. HINDS:

If I have insulted the Chair, I will apologise and withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am not going to tolerate any hon. member insulting the Chair and then apologizing. The hon. member will not be heard by me. If he refuses to sit, I will ask him to take the remainder of this sitting at the door.

Mr. HINDS:

What?

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I draw your attention to Standing Orders. You have said that you are asking the hon. member to sit. The Chairman's authority is confined within the Standing Orders; he does not get his authority from D. L. P. or Z. L. P., but from the Standing Orders. Now, Standing Order 36 states specifically; "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..."

" I have not heard the Chairman, at anytime, accuse the hon. member of irrelevance.... (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Is he challenging the Chair?) I am going to ask Your Honour to take notice of a rat over there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will not have this type of behaviour in this Assembly,

Mr. St. JOHN:

Why did you not take notice of that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I take notice that there is no rat in here, and I am asking the hon. senior member for Christ Church to withdraw the remark.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I withdraw the word "rat". I am sinking Your Honour to take notice of the interruption to which I have objected. I will see what you are going to do now. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I ask all hon. members to be silent.

Mr. St. JOHN:

As I was saying before I was rudely interrupted with the connivance of the Chairman, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

What am I hearing from the hon. senior member for Christ Church? I say that that is also insulting to the Chair, and I am asking the hon. senior member for Christ Church to take his seat.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I was speaking on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is no point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I ask Your Honour to rule whether it is not a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member must withdraw every word he has said.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I withdraw every word I have said. I ask Your Honour to deal with the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will deal with every hon. member as he deserves.

Mr. St. JOHN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I ask Your Honour to deal with the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. He interrupted me while I was speaking on a point of order. You have done nothing about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I did not hear him.

Mr. St. JOHN:

You say that you did not hear, but everybody in here will know whether the interruption was audible or not. The Standing Order continues to state "either of his own arguments or of the argument's used by other Members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech. " 2. 05 p.m.

That is the only power hat Your Honour has. If the hon. member was guilty of irrelevance or persisted in tedious repetition, Your Honour could ask him to discontinue his speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If the hon. senior member for Christ Church would understand, there was nothing relevant under Clause 3 when the hon. junior member for St. Peter asked the Chairman to read and understand what he wa3 reading. That is why I asked the hon. member to discontinue and I am not hearing him.

Mr. HINDS:

But Mr. Chairman, is it fair to me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If the hon. member persists, I will have no other alternative than to ask him to leave the Chamber immediately.

Hon. members not addressing the Chair must be silent.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member on my right talked about putting in the word "Canada", but I do not agree with him. I am not irrelevant, am I?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member may proceed, Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY I just want to know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I heard an aside by the hon. Junior Member for Bridgetown, and I will ask him to withdraw it'

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

If you will be so kind as to tell me what is the remark used, I will withdraw"

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Asides are made all over the world, and as long as they are not insulting, the Chairman should pay no attention to them, However, I do not agree with the hon. member on my right that we should put in the word "Canada", because it would pin the Government down to borrowing money from there. I feel that Clause 3 should be put as it is.

The question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 4 was called and passed.

On the motion of lion. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Kill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of lion. C. E. TALMA, seconded by lion. A. DaC. EDWARDS. the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA.; Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C, E. TALMA:

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

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

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

QUESTION re SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 93 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is the Minister aware of the dissatisfaction among persons resident In Barbados who are in receipt of Social Security payments from the United States of America, due to the fact that such payments although already subject to taxation in the U. S. A. are also liable to income tax locally?

2. Will the Minister seek to provide ways and means wherever possible to alleviate the hardships caused by such double taxation?

Mr. SPEAKER:

1 will defer the answer to that Question until later in the day.

QUESTION re IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 99 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

1. Is the Minister aware that letters are being sent from the Chief Registering Office to members of the public requesting them to collect their identification cards at the Chief Registering Office?

2. Will the Minister give a directive for the discontinuance of this practice, and instruct the Chief Registering Officer to revert to the practice of having identification cards mailed to voters?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"1. Yes, Sir. Letters have been sent to request persons to complete the information requested.

2. The Chief Registering Officer will continue to observe that cards are delivered in accordance with regulation 34 of the Registration of Electors Regulations, 1969".

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us if this is a case where persons have been called in to sign the master card? In other words, persons who are being registered; or the first time?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This matter have been investigated and the Chief Registering Officer points out that letters are only sent to electors inviting them to call at the office in the event that there are any doubts as to the information set out on the back of the identification card. If the answers given are satisfactory, the cards are completed and handed to the electors in accordance with the provisions of regulation 34 (a) of the Registration of Electors, 1969. In all other case, identification cards are sent out by registered mail in accordance with regulation 34 (b) of the said Regulations. 3. 20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Apparently this is the case where the Minister Is not familiar with the system employed at the Registration Office; can the Minister tell us If the I. D. card that is sent to registered voters is compiled from Information contained on the master card?

Hon. C.E. TALMA:

I think the hon. member is probably referring to cases where people are being registered for the first time; I am afraid I do not have anything to help him with on that.

Mr. HINDS:

I can help him, Sir; the Minister gave way for me to explain the point.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may explain his point by way of a Question, but the Minister may not give way for him to explain it.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister not aware that the Registration Office maintains what is called master card for each registered voter, whether he is voting for the first time or he has voted already?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am not very conversant with the master card to which the hon. member refers, but the Registration Electoral Regulations state that the Chief Registering Officer shall issue a complete identification card, (a) by causing it to be delivered by hand to the elector to whom it relates, or (b) by sending it by registered post to the address appearing in the register of electors published under the Act in respect of the elector to whom it relates. I am not aware of this master card, and I am afraid I cannot help him with that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter and I have other questions to ask in connection with registration of voters, and in view of the fact that the Minister is not au fait with the registration system, we appreciate that it is not anything the Minister can be well versed on, and it is in the interest of the Opposition if you can allow this Question to remain on the Order Paper till the next sitting of the House so that the Minister can avail himself of the information to be collected.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the two questions posed were these -

1. Is the Minister aware that letters are being sent from the Chief Registering Office to members of the public requesting them to collect their identification cards at the Chief Registering Office?

2. Will the Minister give a directive for the discontinuance of this practice, and instruct the Chief Registering Officer to revert to the practice of having identification cards mailed to voters?

These are the Questions which have been asked. The matter has been investigated and the Chief Registering Officer gave the information which I have already disclosed. The question of a master card does not arise, and I do not see how it comes into the debates. The Chief Registering Officer has investigated the matter and has advised as follows: -"I may point out that letters are only sent to voters inviting them to call at this office. In the event that there are any doubts as to the information which maybe set out on the back on the identification card. The cards are completed and handed to the elector in accordance with the provisions of regulation 34 (a) of the Registration of Electors Regulations, 1969; in all other cases identification cards are sent by registered mail in accordance with Regulation 34 (b) of the said regulations."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of the fact that an I. D. card is not issued without the necessary information being taken from the master card, or which had been contained on the master card?

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we in the Opposition have numerous questions to ask on this point, we are asking that this Question remain on the Order Paper until the next sitting of this Honourable House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I will suggest to the hon. member that he could pose some other questions dealing with this master card and ask subsequent questions on that so that we can investigate it properly.

Mr. HINDS:

All that has happened is that the Minister has come without the necessary information.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would say "yes" to the hon. member to pursue it and hand in any other Questions in time for the sitting next week.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we must appreciate that that in itself is another long delay. These questions had been asked on the 12th May, 1970, and they have been answered earlier than others but this is another month away when in our view - for instance, I feel that the Minister could be advised by telephone in another two to three minutes as to what is a master card and how the system works, and then we might proceed to ask questions on this matter. I wonder if the Minister knows that many persons have been called in to the Registration Office for the specific reason that the information on the master card was not complete.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that no further action can be taken in this matter and I will proceed to Question No. 96.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, are we allowing this question to remain on the Order Paper?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid I cannot do anything about it, but other questions may be put and answers may be given expeditiously. Question No. 96 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown and it is to be found on page 5, left hand column. 3.30 p.m.

INCREASE OF RENT BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

-Is the Minister aware that the Barbados Housing Authority has recently Increased the rental of its lands to the tenants thereof?

2. Is the Minister aware that such increases have been made in contravention of the provisions of the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act, 1965?

3. Will the Minister direct that such increases as have been illegally made either

(a) be credited to the accounts of the tenants who may be in arrear of rent or (b) returned to the tenants immediately?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, when the Minister says "Yes, Sir; No, Sir", does he mean "yes, it is in contravention?"

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is the normal procedure. The hon. member knows the procedure in the House of Commons.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I do not know it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There were three Questions.. The reply to those questions were "Yes, Sir; No, Sir; Does not arise. "

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister received a legal opinion from the Legal Adviser to the Barbados Housing Authority that it is in contravention?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I have had two legal opinions from the Crown Law Office to my Ministry that the increase is not in contravention with the provisions of the Housing Act or the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act, 1965.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Is it not a fact that the Housing Authority, which comes under your Ministry, received a legal opinion stating that the increase in the rent is illegal?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I run the Ministry; I take my legal advice from the Crown Law Office, and that is all the legal advice I want. I have received two opinions from the Solicitor-General in respect of this matter which pointed out that the action taken by the Ministry or the Housing.

Authority to increase the rent is not in contravention of the Homing Act, 1955, or the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act, 1965, The rent charged is legal and legitimate. If the hon. member wishes me to read the opinion I can do so.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Do not worry to read it. Mr. Speaker, the Minister say that the rent was increased by the Ministry. Is it not a fact that the rent was Increased by the Barbados Housing Authority or the Board, which is a separate entity, and not by the Ministry? The land is vested in the Board and not in the Ministry. The Housing Authority is responsible for increasing the rent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Authority increased the rent with the approval of the Minister in collaboration with the Cabinet.

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

Mr. Speaker, before we pass the question of the opinion, is it not a fact that the Solicitor-General said that he did not know if the Courts would agree with his opinion upon which the Minister is replying so strongly?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member seems to know more about my files than I do.

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

Is it not a fact that he said so?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Is the Minister not aware of the fact that Mr. W. K. Fergusson, Legal Adviser to the Barbados Housing Authority, gave a legal opinion to the Authority that it had no power to increase the rent?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am prepared to answer the questions that I want to answer, and the others I am not answering.

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

Is it a fact the Mr. Norman Niles insisted that the act was illegal, and was dismissed by the Minister from the Housing Authority?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That does not arise as a supplementary.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Is the Minister aware that legal opinion has been given to the Housing Authority to the effect that it is illegal to increase the rent? Is he not aware that there is a decision given to the Barbados Housing Authority, as a result of a case in Court, by Mr. W. K. Fergusson that it was illegal?

Mr. HINDS:

Are tenants still required to pay the increased rent?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The rent has been increased since October last year, and the people are paying the rent. They do not howl about it. The rent was increased in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Spatter, I would like to Inquire from the Minister whether he is not aware of the existence of two conflicting legal opinions AS regards the increase of the rant?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, lawyers disagree all the time, I am sure that if lawyers never disagreed, they would never be any Law Courts and none of them would be able to make a living.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of whether lawyers disagree or not, but whether or not there are two conflicting opinions as regards the legality of the increase of the rent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I have already pointed out that the legal opinion that I, as Minister, have had to take is the one from the Crown Law Office. They are the Legal Advisers to the Government. As I have pointed out, there are always differences of opinions. One lawyer does not always see eye to eye with another lawyer. One quotes a decision in 1935, and the other one quotes a decision in 1945. There are always two sides to the story. I am only an amateur, and I do not think the hon. member would want me to tell him this.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, it was not a question of which legal opinion he should accept. I asked him whether there are two legal opinions in existence which conflict one from the 'Grown Law Officers, and one from a private lawyer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not regard that as a proper supplementary; there might be any number of opinions.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

There are two opinions which state that the action is legal, and one states that there is a doubt. I go by the majority.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

In view of the fact that there are in existence two legal opinions one from the Crown Law Office and one from a private member of the Bar will the Minister take the matter to Court to ascertain, in the interest of the tenants, whether the increase in the rent is legal or illegal?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

No.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister agree with me that it will be in the interest of the tenants to have the matter decided by the Courts of this country? 3. 40 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I do not agree with the hon. member that it would be in the interest of the tenants, because whether it is carried to the Courts or not, the rents will still be increased. If the Tenancies Act, 1965 had repealed any section or sections of the Housing Act, 1955, then I would agree that the Board or the Ministry had acted illegally, but the whole point is that by the Housing Act the Board has the authority to grant a rebate in rents, fix rents, reduce rents and increase rents. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY For houses, not for land.) It says "cents."

Mr. Speaker, Section 42 deals specifically with the increase, reduction, granting of rebate of rent. it does not say "bouse rent"; it says "rents".

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Since even in the Minister's mind there is doubt about it, I would like to know whether it would not be in the interest of the tenants to carry it to Court. It cannot cost the Government anything to ask for a declaratory judgement of the Courts.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is saying that there is doubt in my mind, but there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the increase of rents is legal; otherwise I would have come here and asked to have the Act amended or would have gone to the Courts or asked the Minister responsible for land to make an Order in respect of it. I go by the legal opinion of the people who are supposed to advise me.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister tell me what is the position of the Housing Authority as regards the acceptance of increased rents since he has an opinion which states that you can do it, and the Housing Authority has an opinion which states it is doubtful?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The Housing Authority has already increased the rents.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

You have a legal opinion in the Ministry which says you can do it; the Housing Authority has an opinion on file that it is doubtful whether they can increase rents. What directive has the Minister given to the Housing Authority? Should they continue to accept increased rents or should they go to the Court and ascertain whether it is a good opinion or not?

Hon A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The need for a directive has not arisen. The point is that the Housing Authority made representation to the Ministry in respect of increasing rents which was taken to Cabinet. At that stage we had the opinion of one of the Crown Law Officers. Subsequent to this query being raised, we had the opinion of another of the Crown Law Officers and both officers agree that the action taken was legal. It was on those premises that the Ministry and the Government agreed with the representation made by the Board and approved the increase in rents.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY and Mr. J. M. G. ADAMS rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think other hon. members are entitled to exercise their rights, although I think the matter is becoming rather exhaustive.

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

Mr. Speaker, I must advert again. The Minister has said he has absolutely no doubt. Is it not a fact the Solicitor General's opinion on which he relies so strongly expressed a doubt? Will the Minister not answer?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

It is not a fact.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Wall, read the last sentence of the Solicitor General's opinion.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You cannot make me read it.

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

If the Minister is saying that, I challenge the Minister to read the last sentence of the Solicitor General's opinion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid challenges are not Included among supplementary Questions.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister not agree that, though the Solicitor General In his opinion said that the Housing Authority had the power to increase the rents, at the end of his opinion he said he does not know how

this matter would be resolved by the Courts?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question 109 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister a question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

So far as I am concerned, this matter has been exhaustively put.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I asked a supplementary Question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You cannot make the Minister answer.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I cannot make the Minister answer, but you did not even allow time for the Minister to answer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid I have heard the Minister's answer so many times already that he has acted on the advice of his legal advisers good, bad or indifferent. And I hope the day will never come when clients will not accept the advice of their lawyer, whoever their lawyer is.

QUESTION re TELEPHONE AT SPEIGHTSTOWN FISH MARKET

Mr. Speaker, Question No. 109 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is Government aware of the inconvenience caused to fishermen, fish-vendors and others using the Speightstown Fish Market through the absence of a Telephone Service there?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government seek to remedy the situation without delay?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is AS follows

Yes, Sir.

The Government proposes to install a telephone at the Speightstown Fish Market.

Telephones are installed at markets primarily to facilitate the administration of the markets.

Telephones at fish-markets are available for use by fishermen and fish-vendors in certain circumstances such as for contacting the Barbados Marketing Corporation in connection with the sale of their fish.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is such a service available at the Speightstown Fish market?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I read at dictation speed. I will do it again. The Government proposes to install a telephone.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to give the Reply to Question No. 93. It is as follows

"Social security benefits are not taxable in the United States of America. There is therefore no element of double taxation involved. Any income tax paid by local residents on social security pensions alone are at such a low rate that I do not consider such payment to constitute any hardship."

Mr. SPEAKER:

That concludes Oral Replies to questions. 3.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I have not consulted with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as to what Private Members' Business he proposes to deal with this afternoon, but subject to their programme to deal with Private Members' Business, it may well be that if there is nothing to do the House could properly adjourn until next week. (Asides, There appears to be one item to be dealt with on this side and I am asking that Private Members Business be now taken until 4.30 p.m.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPRINGER:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution which I gave notice of earlier today be the first Order under Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPRINGER, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that on this Resolution we will have any division, and very little debate, and I do not think for the same reason that it is going to be necessary for me to use much of the House's time in presenting it, Hertz Rent - a- Car Company is an internationally famous company. If it is not the largest in the world, it is within the first four, and from recent advertisements in the newspaper it is established among local operators that this company has been given some commission by the Government to operate, My main reason for bringing the Resolution before the House is to get a Government denial or approval of this position; besides that, as the second Clause in the Resolution states, there are several Barbadian-owned companies supplying this service, and there are several individuals who have incurred some indebtedness to various finance companies, whether they are Banks or Insurance Companies, and are indulging in Rent-a-Car services.

I think it is a safe that there are some five hundred and eighty such cars operating in Barbados at the moment; already the owner of the owner driven taxi cab is experiencing almost unfair competition from the larger companies who are geared to acquire business long before the tourists get to Barbados, and if you have Hertz, which is for the most part American owned, operating out of the North America market, it will mean that even the large companies will suffer. If that is taken a little further, the drop-outs which the owner-driven taxi cab will get at the moment will go to the company, and Hertz will get what the big companies get at the moment.

The other aspect of it, Mr. Speaker, is that we are not sure, as has been advertised, that the cars will be paid for in Barbados with hard currency. There are several North America companies which operate credit card system; there is the Diners' Club, Express credit cards and very many North Americans come to the island on package deals and use their credit cards, which will mean that this money automatically will be outside. There will be no repatriation to take place; so the argument that money will be brought into the island and no reparation will take place is just nonsense. No money will be coming in because these services will be paid for overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to hear some sentiments from the Opposition before going much further into the actual operation of Hertz. I know that a tender was out some time ago for the operation of cars out of Seawell Airport, and there is a strong rumour that Hertz was granted the right to operate - and this is by a public officer and not by the Government as such - even though their quotation was below a Barbadian offer, and this is one of the things which I would like some member of the Cabinet to deny, if it is at all deniable. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LOWE:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution, I would like to support all the Arguments of the senior representative for St. Michael, We in Barbados have to be more than careful with foreign interests, especially when It comes to the point of the operation of taxis in the Island of Barbados. Hertz, being an international firm and company, will have the financial ability to throw so much money into their company that automatically it would swamp other individual taxi owners in Barbados out of the trade, and then the inhabitants and the nationals of Barbados would suffer great inconvenience. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution and only hope that the Government would see fit to completely stop Hertz from operating in any part of the Island of Barbados,

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, Barbados being an under-developed country has got to make up its mind that there are certain areas of economic activity which must never under any circumstances pass into the hands of foreigners. 4.00 p.m.

Such, in my opinion, is the activity relating to business such as the taxi business and hire car business. - There is a simple answer to this. I do not care whether it is an international company - the biggest in the world or not; this is an area of activity which it is the Government's duty to reserve for Barbadians. We have to be very careful, because it seems that, after all of the years of sacrifice that the taxpayers in Barbados both by way of consumers and by way of income-tax payers have made to advertise Barbados, the international giants want to come here and cream it off.

There are 550-odd cars. What the Government will have to do is to see that it arms itself not only with sufficient power to prevent others from coming in, but to see that no monopolistic conditions exist whereby exploitation can take place. We have to watch both of these things. This matter has received and will receive 100% support of members on this side of the House, because we have to be very careful about this.

As far as, Sir, the award at Seawell Airport is concerned, I am looking forward to a complete debate on the new arrangements in relation to how Seawell is going to operate. My understanding is that the

hire-car concession at Seawell has been awarded to a consortium consisting of number of car owners who have got together and formed something called "The National Association of Hire Gars'¹.(Asides) That is my understanding. It is a company got together with a number of people who are in the hire-car business.

I also have to speak my mind on this. Every little two-by-four Hotel Manager who comes here feels that he must, nowadays, get into the creaming off of the Boutique business and Mini. Moke business. If they come in here and get a work permit and their husbands can work, then I do not see how they can use that opportunity to indulge in other activities. I do not think that they can fool us by having these cars registered in the names of a few puppet Barbadians. There are a few puppet Barbadians who have a few cars registered in their names, and I know how to get to the bottom of this.

Speaking seriously, Sir, I do not think there should be any doubt or quarrel over this matter. This is just an area of activity which generates income from the tourists and the Government must reserve this for Barbadians. We have the skill and the capital to do this. The Tour Operators abroad want 15% and 20% in the summer, and they now want the opportunity to say that you can pay for your hotel room abroad; you can pay for your food abroad, and you can pay for your taxi abroad, and they will leave nothing but the wages they pay the barmen and they steal the 10% at the same time. All, the international giants feel that they should leave in Barbados, is the wages they pay the staff and even the 10% must be creamed off and parcelled off, too. We have to look at this as a matter of urgency. If we allow all of these things to happen, we are going to play into the hands of the people who feel that there is no hope for any of these territories with the existing system of Government.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am taking a different view of things. I am shocked to think that a few months ago when I said that I did not want any fishing boats in the harbour, the Opposition came in here with a Resolution in relation to the fishermen who were contravening the law that I did not make, the House of Assembly was filled with fishermen who came to see their interests represented. Look at the Gallery today. Not one taxi driver seems to show any interest in his welfare. What makes it more shocking, Mr. Speaker, is that I am responsible for the United Taxi Owners Association being where it is. I was the Secretary, and I am still the Honorary Secretary of this Association, and not a taxi driver is in here today to see how things are going.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I remember when I was Secretary of the Taxi Association I suggested to them - I think I have a great foresight - that the time was coming when they should force the Government's hands to pass legislation for the limitation of taxis. At that time we called a meeting which was attended by representatives from Hertz, Belmont Taxi, Mr. Smith, Dear's Garage, Johnson's Stables, the Barbados Taxi Gabs, and a few individual taxi owners who came there and showed

absolutely no interest. I warned them at the time, Mr. Speaker, that it was not to stop Barbadians, but that such operators as Hertz, Avis and a few big giants, could easily decide to throw \$3 million down the drain, bring in a fleet of cars here and start running a low-rate service. Regardless of how friendly you are with a man and you can get the same service he is giving you at a cheaper rate, then you will have to deal with the man who is cheaper.

I pointed out to those people that Hertz could easily come here and start running a taxi service from Bridgetown to Seawell for 500 and run them out of business. After they had been put out of business, Hertz could then start monopolising things and charge \$5 or \$10 to go to the Airport.

A few days ago on the floor of this House the senior member for Christ Church, in a boastful manner, was talking about the Constitution of Barbados, and I reminded him that he said the Opposition members were responsible for making the Constitution, but it should be thrown through the window. The lawyers do not like to see me reading the law, Mr. Speaker, and they get annoyed. I am a Minister and a responsible person, and I would like to be right. Now, in the laws of Barbados, Volume III, 1910-7, page 526 - I have been through this Act, and I do not want to bore hon. members by reading it. I guess that hon. members on the other side who are lawyers might have read it. They do not know the law like me; they know how to take money from people and not to appear to defend them. I cannot appear to defend anybody, but I can give good advice.

The Act says:

"An Act to provide for the Incorporation, Management, and Winding up of Trading Companies and other Associations.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Island... "

I do not want to bore the House, Mr. Speaker, by reading this. In going through this Act there is absolutely nothing in it which states that it is necessary to make application to a Minister if anybody wants to form a company in Barbados. Even the Registrar cannot refuse to register a company. The biggest criminal in the world, Al Capone or Dillinger, can come here, decide to form a company, and the Registrar cannot refuse to register it. 4. 10 p.m.

I do not want people to get the misguided idea that the Government sat idly by and allowed the taxi

men to be fleeced in this community, because the Government has absolutely no say in this. I am very glad that the hon. member brought this Resolution before the Chamber, because by so doing he has forced the Government's hand into bringing down legislation as quickly as possible to stop these people, because, as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, today it might be Hertz and tomorrow it might be some -body else, and as soon as these people get a stranglehold in our little community, there is no telling where this thing will stop. I am glad the hon. senior member for Christ Church said he went and made a check, because the tender for Seawell Airport has been awarded to local operators, and not to Hertz as people were thinking. I am saying this because I want to put the minds of the taxi drivers at ease. I will even go further. It was recommended that the contract be awarded to Hertz. I had all the documents for Hertz's registration, but we did not accept this recommendation. Not one of these persons is a Barbadian. As a matter of fact, they must be rocks because everybody lives the same place in New York. I was looking for the registration form but I cannot find it; otherwise I would read out the names. There are about eight of them, and they are all from New York; so they are only using some poor innocent Barbadian as a front. But they can rest assured that they are not getting here as long as I am on this side of the government. They can order a million cars; they are not coming in, because what people like Hertz do not understand is that you come into a country to fleece it, you make a lot of money, but then you are putting people out of work and this will create a lot of unrest in your society.

One thing I am very happy to say is that the Government and the Opposition are aware of this, and as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, he shares our views in bringing this to the attention of these people. I honestly would like the Press to print what I have said about the taxi drivers showing no interest in their welfare. The fishermen thought they were being unfairly treated. I am not sure the hon. member wants to reply because this is pushing an open door. I do not think there is anything much more to say. However, I would like to say that it is about time that people take a more serious interest in their affairs. If the taxi owners had agreed with me in the limitation of taxis, this would not occur, because as far as I can see, you have far more supply, than you have demand, and as a result people are only eking out existence, whereas if they had accepted my suggestion a few years ago and had a limitation of taxis, it would mean that Hertz or nobody could come to challenge them today. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, I beg to give this Resolution my blessing.

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

Mr. Speaker, in general support this Resolution, but the mechanics of it is what has been worrying me ever since I heard of a very fine speech made by the hon. senior member for St. Michael on the platform, and I caught snatches of the speech in here today. I want to know how exactly you would stop somebody from coming here to operate self-driven cars. I understand the hon. senior member for Christ Church also adverted to this point. The Hackney Carriages Act empowers the Commissioner of Police only to refuse a taxi if it is unfit for the road. I have not been able - I must confess this at the short time at my disposal - to find the part of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act that deals with self-hire vehicles. I really do not know exactly where to find it, but perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you can assist us. What I want to know is the point I heard being raised about the registration of companies. If Hertz comes here and registers a company buys motor cars and licenses them for self hire, according to my understanding, none of three steps are at present forbidden by law; so I want to know what is the point of passing the

Resolution. If it is going to be a question, AS the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, of passing comprehensive legislation which will deal with situations such as this, that is one thing; but as far as I can see, the passing of this Resolution will not make any difference at all because Hertz can open tomorrow. The advertisements which are put out by a constituent, I may say, of the Minister and myself who is, I believe, the Hertz representative - I have not had a chance of speaking with him; I do not know if the Minister has spoken to him - are perfectly lawful as long as no foreign personnel require an opportunity of coming to live here in order to manage this business, I absolutely cannot see how in a short term anything can be done to stop any car-hire firm from anywhere in the world from setting up a Barbadian subsidiary run by Barbadians with Barbadian drivers, with cars bought - the cars do not have to be bought in Barbados - wherever they like. They could be cars surplus to their European fleet sent down here or whatever the situation may be; and so if the Minister has some plans for stopping Hertz from operating next week or week after, I would like to know what they are. (A VOICE Legislation). I hear legislation. I know the Crown Law Officers will not be able to draw a Bill dealing with that unless you are going to draw a general Bill Limiting taxis and self-hire cars which, I think, in some places has proved useful, but I do not know if in Barbados it will prove popular. You may decide to limit your taxis and self-hire cars, and a few people - one or two members of this House who may be trying to get into the self-hire business, I do not even exempt myself..... I see the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is laughing, but he will certainly know I do not only mean him. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS I do not own self-driven cars) I would not touch on that any further. 4. 20 p.m.

I believe that if it is suggested to the Standing Orders Committee that members who are suspended from the House should lose their salaries, even more you should say that Officers of the House who do not attend should not get paid.....I do not physically or technically see how you can stop Hertz coming in here, especially if they act quickly. If they act quickly and establish themselves here before legislation with their hired cars, I do not see what can be done about it. I would gladly give way to the Minister if he wishes to say what he intends.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Has the hon. member given way to a point of order?

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

I have given way to a point of elucidation.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The hon. member is forgetting that I as Minister still have a trump card which I do not care to disclose at the moment. There is a lot of truth in what the hon. member has said. Anybody can form a company; Al Capone can come in here and form a company now and nobody could stop him, but as a short term measure I still have a trump card up my sleeve; but I do not care to disclose it at the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Point made5 the hon. senior member for St. Thomas may resume.

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

Perhaps the Minister may. draw my attention to that section of the Motor Vehicles Act which deals with the licensing of self-hired cars, because that can be the only trump card. We were searching for it and cannot find it. If the Minister thinks that there is a general power to refuse a hackney licence for example i you can only refuse a hackney licence if the car is unfit for the road, and you can only refuse a driver's licence if the man is of bad character or what else.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I am very aware of the law.

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

Does the Minister know which section of the Act deals with the licensing of cars for hire?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid this is not Question Time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

; Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the members this assurance, that this matter received the attention of the Government - not now alone, but it has been under consideration for the last two months or thereabouts. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Minister of Communications, has left no stone unturned In bringing the matter to the attention of the Cabinet and in doing everything possible within his power to see that the local taxi owners are protected in every way possible, and he deserves some word of tribute in that respect, in that the matter has been receiving that attention of Cabinet within the last two months and I have no doubt that, the appropriate legislation will be brought down and full protection will be given to the small taxi owners in particular, Island wide, to see that equity and fair play will be done to them as to other sections of the community. They have to be protected, and they have to earn a living and not be driven off the road; they would not be able to compete with Hertz because Hertz can bring In expensive cars and can lower their rates, as explained by the Minister, and can bring competition; so we are hereto see that the small ma. is protected and we shall not let him down.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Subject to Your Honour's ruling on Resolution of which I gave notice earlier today, I would like to place that as No. 1 under Private Member's Business on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is entirely up to Private Members how they want their business dealt with.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 4.27 p.m.