

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 30th 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. BRANCHES, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J. P.; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J. P., (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, J. P.; Hon. C. S. TALMA:

'(Minister of Health and Community Development); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J. P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Trade and Tourism); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, and His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy Speaker); Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are available for confirmation, I have the honour to inform the House, the Minutes of Tuesday, 10th March, 1970. Unless there is any objection those Minutes will be confirmed; there being no objection, I declare those Minutes duly confirmed.

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

STATEMENT re ACCEPTABILITY OF RESOLUTION

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that in accordance with an undertaking I gave in respect of an objection which was taken to a Resolution which was given notice of by the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown, I have the following statement to make

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

Last Tuesday, the Honourable and Learned Member for Bridgetown gave notice of a Resolution calling for the appointment of a Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the administration and operation of the Barbados Housing Authority during the period July, 1969 to June, 1970.

The Right Honourable and Learned Prime Minister on a point of order objected to the inclusion -in the said Resolution - of certain words which therein appeared, and I undertook to consider the matter and Rule thereon at this meeting.

However, in the course of the same day, the Honourable and Learned Member for the City sought and obtained my permission for the said Resolution to be amended by deletion there from of the words above referred to to which exception had been taken. Accordingly, the Resolution - thus amended - is contained in today's Order Paper.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am not questioning your ruling, but in truth and in fact I think you have not had occasion, as I understand it, to make a ruling in respect of this particular Resolution as such. You have actually said that the Resolution as laid last Tuesday had been amended in part, and I was wondering whether, under our Standing Orders as at present constituted, such procedure is possible - whether it is possible to amend extra-murally, outside of the House, a Resolution which already has been laid on the Table of the House, or whether any amendment as such must necessarily be made in Parliament. Any change is an amendment; that is only the legal way of putting it; a change of any legal document is an amendment as such. This is an amendment made by the member who actually moved it, and any change as such is regarded as an amendment whether it is made by the Opposition or by any other member, or by the member himself. Any change to any legal or Parliamentary document is an amendment as such, and I want to know if the hon. member, having tabled it, can just amend it of his own free accord, having heard what the learned Prime Minister had to say, and after it has already been laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Notice of It had only been given; it had not been moved. I will refer the hon. member to whom I am grateful for referring to the point - to the 17th edition of Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Procedure and Practice, page 400, chapter XVIII, The Process of Debate, under the caption of Irregular Notices. I am satisfied that this was at that stage a notice - it had not yet been printed - and at the instance of the member and with the concurrence of the Chair, that it is permissible,

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. Speaker, if you do not mind, just quote the authority again, please.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Page 400, Chapter XVIII of the 17th edition of May's Parliamentary Procedure and Practice. I emphasise that I regard it at that stage as being a notice, it not having been moved, nor even seconded, nor yet printed.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, you will pardon me, I do not want to go against your ruling, I only want to say how I feel about the matter. I take it that the hon. member introduced it and read it out, the Hon. Prime Minister raised his objection, and then you gave the assurance that you would rule today. It does not

look too clear to me that a member can introduce something in this House and then behind the back of the entire House amend it or change it and send it back to us quite differently from the way other members heard it when it was read out. It had me at sea when I received my copy, I thought it was a printers error. I hope you will make it perfectly clear, because it is confusing to me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I note the point the hon. member has made.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders to 31st March, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land near Good Shepherd School in St. James, for purposes of extension of the school grounds.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to amend the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 1963.

A Bill to amend the Airport Service Charge Act 1967.

A Bill to amend the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Act 1948.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to amend the Interpretation Act, 1966. A Bill to repeal the Lepers Act 1904,

I also want to say that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 97 asked by the hon. Junior member for the City is ready,

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 105 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES - QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. and learned member for Christ Church; his Question re debts due by the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture

Will the Minister state:

(a) Whether the Barbados Marketing Corporation owes the Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd., any bills for electricity; and if so what is the amount due?

(b) whether the Barbados Marketing Corporation owes the Frick Corporation any bills for maintenance and/or technical advice; and if so, (i) the amount due and (ii) how long has the said amount been outstanding?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The same hon. member; his Question re the termination of a contract awarded to Barbados Sea Foods Ltd.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture

1. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that contract between Barbados Sea Foods Limited and the Barbados Marketing Corporation has been terminated by letter dated 18th March, 1970?

2. Will the Minister state the reasons for terminating the said contract?

3. Will the Minister state whether Barbados Sea Foods Limited is required by the said letter dated 18th March, 1970, to give up possession of the freezing and storage facilities at the premises of the Barbados Corporation?

4. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that approximately 500 people were employed by Barbados Sea Foods Limited in connection with the processing of shrimps and the provision of shore facilities for shrimp boats in Barbados during the past five (5) or six (6) years?

5. Will the Minister state how many people he expects to be employed by Bajan Sea Foods Limited on the termination of the contract above referred to? 12. 25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER; The same hon. member; his question is contract to Bajan Sea Foods Limited'

Mr. ST. JOHN; Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture: -

1. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that a company called Bajan Sea Foods Limited has been granted a contract by the Barbados Marketing Corporation to process shrimps at the premises of the said Barbados Marketing Corporation?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state:

(a) who are the Directors of the said company;

(b) what is the paid-up capital of the said company;

(c) the name of each and every local agent of the said company from the time it started to negotiate for the said contract;

(d) whether the said company owns any boats, and if so, how many;

(e) the port or ports of registry of the said boats;

(f) whether there is or are any encumbrance or encumbrances on any of the said boats;

(g) how many of the said boats have arrived in Barbados to date.

3. Will the Minister state whether the Company or Corporation known as "Out Riggers Inc. " has any connection with the said Bajan Sea Foods Limited?

4. If the answer to (3) is in the affirmative, will the Minister state what is the connection?

5. Will the Minister state, in respect of the said "Out Riggers Inc;

(a) the Directors of the said Company or Corporation;

(b) the paid up capital of the said company or corporation;

(c) the name of the local agent of the said company or corporation;

(d) whether the said company or corporation owns any boats;

(e) the port or ports of registry of the said boats;

(f) whether there is or are any encumbrance or encumbrances on any of the said boats?

Mr. Speaker: The same hon. member has other questions.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture:

1. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that the plant used for processing shrimps at the premises of Barbados Marketing Corporation is in a bad state of repair?

2. Will the Minister state at what percentage of operating capacity has the said plant been operated for the past six months?

Mr. SPEAKER; The hon. and learned senior member for St. Thomas: his Question m shrimp peelers and packers formerly employed by Barbados Sea Foods Limited. Has die hon. junior member for the City had his permission to put the question' for him? It can be done.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, I would like to enquire of the Appropriate Minister -

Is the Minister aware that over 100 shrimp peelers and packers formerly employed by Barbados Sea Poods Limited are now out of work as a result of the Barbados Marketing Corporation's decision to terminate the contractual arrangments enjoyed by Barbados Sea Foods Limited?

2. Is the Minister aware that, due to a reduction of a number of boats operating in the shrimp Industry as a result of the above mentioned decision, another 100 or more maintenance and other employees are expected shortly to lose their jobs?

3. Will the Minister seek a guarantee from any new body with whom shrimp fishing, packing and marketing arrangements are made that the level of employment will not fall below that provided by Barbados Sea Foods Limited?

4. What representations, if any, have been made by the Barbados Workers' Union on this matter?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 1963.

A Bill to amend the Airport Service Charge Act, 1967.

A Bill to amend the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Act, 1948.

A Bill to amend the Interpretation Act, 1966. A BUI to repeal the Lepers Act, 1904.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 1 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, it is usual and customary⁹ when these Standing Orders are being suspended, that the other side consults with us over here, so that the usual assurances in relation to Private Members' time is guaranteed. No such approach has been made on this occasion And therefore, until such an approach is made we must object in respect of this matter. The effect of this, no doubt, is that the Government intends to take away Private Members' time today, having suspended the Standing Orders, we could not, possibly, agree with that. We have urgent business on the Order Paper, and unless we received an assurance from the other side we cannot accept such a Motion.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I suppose old age has something to do with it, but I seem to see from time to time in this House things being done that I am sure, when Your Honour and I were first in the House, nobody would dream of trying to do. I very strongly support what the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said; otherwise this is not a democracy; it is not a House of Assembly; it is a House in which the Government

just dictates, and we can never agree to that.

I am not saying this with any offence to Your Honour. Your Honour is there to keep an even balance and to see that neither this side nor the other side puts anything over on the other. When you have superior numbers you can do anything, unless the Chair intervenes and prevents advantage being taken of one side. Mr. Speaker, I really interrupted the hon. member, and if Your Honour will allow him to continue with his remarks I will be very glad. 12. 35 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Just let me get this position clear. The information of the Clerk which corresponds with my own view of what took place is that the hon. senior member for Christ Church had completed his speech, and there is no record that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition rose on a point of order; therefore in my submission I cannot do otherwise than to say that the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition had completed his speech.

Mr. St. JOHN:

On a point of order, I draw to Your Honour's attention that the motion moved by the hon. junior member for Christ Church is out of order. He has not asked Your Honour for leave.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, is this the first time a motion has been moved to that effect in here? You can either ask for leave or make a motion.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Can I ask Your Honour to control the hon. junior member for Christ Church? I am on a point of order and having some manners and some breeding, I noticed Your Honour was looking at your papers; so I

did not continue speaking. I was on a point of order, and the hon. junior member for Christ Church, obviously lacking in the qualities which I exhibited, got up.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Lacking in qualities? I will ask the hon. member to withdraw it. What qualities is he referring to?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Standing Order No. 62 to which the hon. member has referred reads as follows -

"A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the House shall be proposed only with the consent of the Speaker, either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House. "

As at present advised, the expression of general assent of the House can only probably be obtained by a vote being taken on the motion.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if it has already be intimated to Your Honour that we on this side of the House are objecting, there can be no general assent.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not my point. My point is that the general assent of the House can be obtained by a vote on a motion which has been made, and this says it can be taken only with the consent of the Speaker either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House.

Mr. HINDS:

We are saying that there can be no such motion at this stage in view of the expression of feeling from this side of the House, because there can be no general assent to be expected. It is as simple as that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The general assent of the House is obtained by a vote of the House on a motion.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Standing Orders say that a question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the House shall be proposed only with the consent of the Speaker, either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House.

I submit to Your Honour that before the motion for suspension can be put, Your Honour has to be satisfied as to one or two alternatives. Firstly, whether notice has been given, or that there is general assent. It does not say 'majority assent. We are objecting on this side.

Mr. SPEAKER; This I regard AS a very interesting point, it has never been raised in this form before in this Chamber, and I propose to ask the House, as there is certainly no grave disorder and I cannot suspend the sitting, to do what a High Court Judge in my position would do, and to suspend for a few minutes, and I will give my considered ruling. I will ask the Hon. Acting Leader of the House if he would move, a abort suspension and I will give my considered ruling on this point, because it is a matter which may create a precedent for the rest of this Session.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, before the Leader of the House proceeds, could we on this aide.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Did the hon. member say 'on a point of order'?

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, could we on this aide of the House learn from Your Honour at this stage what is Your Honour's interpretation of general assent of the House?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am sorry I failed to make myself clear. I said I would be very happy to give a considered ruling on this Standing Order after a very short interval.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, will it be on the entire Order or part of the Order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

On the Order as it is material to the present point.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with your request, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for fifteen minutes.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

As Your Honour wishes, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for thirty minutes.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House did not suggest that the original motion be amended. At one stage he said fifteen minutes⁹ and he just got up and said thirty minutes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I am merely trying to accommodate the Speaker just as the Speaker accommodated the member who moved the Resolution.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Since it seems to be the pattern to rise on a point of order although another member is on his feet on a point of order, I rise to say that you should stop it. I have been in this House more than thirty years and I have been seeing things happening now that could not possibly have happened in the old days. The Speaker has to rule and keep order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It was the hon. senior member for Bridgetown who made the suggestion in respect of the time, to

which the hon. Acting Leader of the House concurred and acquiesced. He accepted the suggestion and I appreciate it tremendously.

The question that the sitting be now suspended for thirty minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.45 p.m.

On resumption.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, when this House was formerly suspended, at your request and also at the suggestion of the hon. senior member for the City, you will recall that I suggested a suspension of 15 minutes in the first instance, and then it was generally agreed that 15 minutes would be too short a time for Your Honour to look up the various authorities. We agreed then to a 30-minute suspension - half an hour and in my opinion half an hour has long passed and I want to hear your ruling on that. I am just drawing to your attention that the time has expired.

As far as suspensions go, suspensions have to be up to the very minute; no grace is allowed; so I am wondering whether when Your Honour gives a 30-minute suspension and extends it to 35 minutes or longer, if that is in order.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

When I suggested half an hour I looked purposely at the watch of the hon. member on my right, and I did not see.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker,

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you may recall that the hon. junior member for Christ Church used the words "in my opinion"; he was not specific; so therefore I am convinced that he did not look at his watch nor at the clock to determine whether it was half an hour or not.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is not as simple as that; a direct check has been made. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY By whom?) By me. The Reporters have to meticulously note times of suspension and times of resumption; Reporters have to note those things very meticulously, and in this case, the Reporter's note will show that the motion of suspension went into effect as from 1245. There can be no argument about that; that is no opinion; that is fact. I am perfectly sure that you; resumed the Chair after 1.25 p.m. and I am perfectly sure that all hon. members are aware that you resumed the Chair after 1.25, and by simple subtraction; is that not obviously more than half an hour? That Is not opinion, that is recorded fact; Reporters have to take down these things meticulously" and in that case it was done and a query was made, and the. answer given was that the official time was 12.45. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY. ' By whose watch?) By the same clock which said at 1.25 that the Speaker had not yet resumed his Chair, not by a member's watch,

Mr. CRAIG; Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member on a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes, I am listening to the point and I am also in conference.

Mr. CRAIG:

Is It a point of order? Mr. SPEAKER Yes.

Hon. K. N. B. HUSBANDS:

At this particular point I am saying that the times we re taken from the same time-piece, and it was meticulously and purposefully noted that by the same time-piece referred to, which is the clock in the House of Assembly - I do not know if it is a bogus clock - but it is the same clock that recorded 12.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, when I rise on a point of order, will I be allowed to make a speech as the hon. member was allowed to do?

Mr. SPEAKER:

So far as lam concerned as to the point which has just been made, it is my view that I, having resumed the Chair after suspension, there being a quorum and the Mace yet being in its place, that this sitting may properly continue. I am convinced that today is a very interesting day for these new problems, but so far as the other matter is concerned, I have conferred - but I of course accept full responsibility for my own ruling - but I have conferred in the limited time available, less limited to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, and I have come to the following conclusion. In respect of Standing Order 62 - Suspension of Standing Orders, that reads as follows "A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend

any Standing Order of the House shall be proposed only with the consent of the Speaker, either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House. "

A question is proposed when a motion is made and seconded; therefore I rule that in this instance a question has been proposed. In the second instance the consent of the Speaker was not previously sought; thirdly, no notice of a motion such as this has been given, nor is such required to be given. (Refer to Standing Order 19 (10). In respect of "the expression of the general assent of the House", research has not assisted us in any way as to what that expression means, nor even where those persons who proposed these Standing Orders got that phrase from; it seems to be original. Sir Erskine May is absolutely silent on this expression "general assent of the House"; in order, therefore, to determine what is meant by "general assent of the House", as I said, this is my ruling, but this is the view of the, Presiding Officers of this House after consideration, the general assent could be determined by the motion being put, in the first instance, "that those in favour of the motion being entertained, and those against the motion being entertained., 11 Depending on the result of that vote, whichever way that happens to be, then the matter may be finally entertained.

That is my decision, that to determine the general assent, whether that means a majority vote of 1, 2/3 or 3/4, it is no way laid down or decided. We can consider in our Standing Orders revision whether we will clarify that. 1.35 p.m.

So far as I am concerned, it is my decision that the general assent will be determined, in the first Instance, by those in favour of the Motion being entertained, and thereby I will be able to determine the general assent. I am not going to lay down from here that it should be a simple majority, a two-thirds, a three-fourths, or anything. The motion which I will be asking the House to vote on is, "Those who are in favour of the Motion, as proposed by the Hon. Acting Leader of the House being entertained. "

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, before the motion is put, I want to say that I am perfectly willing, and always have been willing, to give my vote for the suspension of Standing Orders if there is business for the Government to do. I mention this for the reason that last night and this morning I heard on the radio that the Government would deal with the Insurance Bill. Can I be assured that the Government will deal with the Insurance Bill? The Announcer even went on to say what parts of the Insurance Bill will be dealt with, and that the Manager would be able to direct what portion of the money the Insurance Company would have to invest here.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let me intervene here. So far as the Insurance Bill is concerned, it cannot and will not be dealt with today. That is my assurance. Up to now copies of the Bill have not been circulated, and neither Radio Barbados nor Rediffusion is to be taken as official as to the things done in this House. ?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, Radio Barbados and Rediffusion seem to know more what is in the Bill than some hon. members of the House' of Assembly. I presume that only members of the Cabinet know what is in the Bill. We do not know anything about it. -

Mr. SPEAKER:

I assure the hon. member that it will not be dealt with today.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, as far as Government Business is concerned, I see here a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land; a Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

I command the hon. member for what he had done in relation to road signs and so on. I believe that these items will go through very easily. You also have on the Order Paper Resolutions to approve the lease of land to two people; one at Brittons Hill and one somewhere else. I am not saying that the Insurance Bill is controversial, but it will cause considerable debate,

If Your Honour assures me that the Insurance Bill will not be debated today, then I see no reason for suspending the Standing Orders dealing with Private Members' Business. I should like to hear from the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition what arrangement has been made by them. It does not seem to be enough Government Business to warrant the suspension of Standing Orders.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, the custom is that where there is a desire to ask for the suspension of Standing Orders, the Leader of the House informs the Opposition and an agreement is usually reached, provided that Private Members' time is guaranteed. I have already said that on this occasion no intimation was ever made to the Opposition.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, no one would attempt to challenge Your Honour's ruling on this matter, but we feel that we are here to assist the Chair, whether that assistance is requested, appreciated or otherwise, and we in the Minority group must rely very heavily upon Your Honour's protection of the rights of the minority. That being the case, we would like to be assured that.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I would like to know what is before the House at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Did the hon. member preface his remarks by saying that he was speaking on a point of order?

Mr. HINDS:

Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member make his point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

I am expecting Your Honour to exercise the same discretion you exercised when my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Peter, was making his point of order. I purposely had to draw Your Honour's attention to that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would like the hon. junior member for St. Peter to understand that I have given a ruling, and the remarks which I understand the hon. member to be making are not that he is questioning the ruling - because he could not do it other than by a substantive motion - but he is still, if I may say so, without intending to be offensive, very subtly and cleverly explaining how he differs, though he is not questioning my ruling.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that you can be right at all. I am not attempting to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER; As I have explained, my ruling is that a question, in order to determine the general assent of the House, as at present advised, is to be determined by me by putting a question, "Those who are in favour of the motion being now entertained."

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the motion be now put.

Mr. HINDS:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that, under the present circumstances, I have heard the point, and I fully appreciate it, but the question is.....

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

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The closure can only be moved on a motion, and there is no motion before the House. You cannot move the closure on Mr. Speaker's question, "That the motion be now put. 9. The "motion be now put" is not the closure. I wonder if some hon. members know the meaning of the word "closure". Do you mean to say that the Chairman of Committees is going to remain in his seat and say that the words "The motion be now put" is not the closure? 1.45 p.m.

Do you mean that the Chairman of Committees is going to sit in his seat and say that the motion that the question be now put is not a closure? There is no motion before the House. The question that the question be now put cannot be put.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order.....

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

Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order and I am asking Your Honour a question.

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There was a motion duly moved and seconded. I am making a statement of fact. I am ruling that before that motion is put, and so far as I am concerned at the present moment, that motion is in abeyance.....I have ruled that the motion will be put that those who are in favour of the motion be entertained. Those who are in favour of the motion being now entertained will please say "Aye".

VOICES: "AYE".

Mr. SPEAKER:

Those who are not in favour of the motion being entertained, please say "no".

VOICES: "No".

Mr. SPEAKER:

I declare the "Noes" have it.

A VOICE:

Divide,

On the division being called.

AYE& Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. O. O. FERGUSON; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOX1LL; Mr. LOWE; Mr. SARGEANT; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. WEEKES and Mr. HOPPIN - 11.

NOES; Mr. SMITH; Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

((On being called to vote) Mr. Speaker, before I cast my vote, I think I was treated with rather scant courtesy when I asked what business the Government had and why they wanted the suspension of the Standing Orders and I got no reply. In those circumstances I must cast my vote as "No".

Mr. HINDS:

((On being called to vote) Mr. Speaker, I rose earlier and attempted to draw to Your Honour's attention the fact that no one on this side of the House could attempt in any way to challenge any ruling of Your Honour, but I say to Your Honour that there was an opportunity available to Your Honour to

take into consideration what relation the word "assent" gives to the term which Your Honour spent half an hour considering, that is "general assent". Now, Mr. Speaker, having heard Your Honour's ruling, I must abide by that ruling; but it must be drawn to Your Honour's attention that the decision which Your Honour gave leaves hon. members on this side of the House asking questions amongst themselves.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid the hon. member is making a speech. He is now going beyond the limit.

Mr. HINDS:

But what we are saying is that we on this side of the House certainly do need further enlightenment even as to Your Honour's decision.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is duly forthcoming, but I must direct the Clerk to record a vote of "No" in respect of the hon. member.

NOES:

Mr. CRAIG.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

(On being called to vote) Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote, but what I would like to find out is exactly what is the motion before the Chamber, on which we are voting. If I remember correctly.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion - and what I have informed the House I will require a vote on in order that I may determine what the expression of general assent is intended to mean - is that those in favour of the motion being entertained must please say "Aye".

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

What I would like to find out from you, Sir, not being presumptuous, is at what stage was that motion moved and by whom. It was never put as a formal motion and it was never seconded by anybody in this Chamber, I would be very grateful if you would check with the Clerk at the Table, if I am misleading the

House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That point does not arise in this one particular instance because it is an expression of "general assent of the House" which the Chair has to determine, and I have decided that the only way I can determine the general assent of the House is by taking a vote of the House as to whether the motion be entertained.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY⁵ Without any formal motion being put, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I abide with Your Honour's ruling. My vote is "No¹¹.

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

(On being called to vote) On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I intend to be quite short. I know - and perhaps you can correct me - of no instance of parliamentary procedure upon which debate is not allowed unless the Rules specifically so state. We have not been allowed any opportunity of debate as to whether this motion should be entertained. The question which Your Honour has proposed from the Chair has perforce fallen to be debated under points of order, and I have, if I may say so, had the opportunity of making a point of order to point this out to Your Honour. As I understand it, any question that comes before Parliament is a matter for debate unless the Rules say, as they do with motions of closure, that there should be no debate - as on motions for suspension of a member from the service of this House, after he has been named by Your Honour or the Chairman. Unless the Rules specifically provide, the practice and the law of Parliament is -and I would submit it to you - that all questions fall to be debated, and we have not had a chance to debate this question which is proposed from the Chair. It has not been moved from the floor of the House, but we have not had any opportunity of trying to persuade hon. members one way or the other by speeches in favour of entertaining the motion or not in favour of entertaining. I appreciate that Your Honour wishes to obtain a vote of the House so that Your Honour might rule on the question of general assent, but it is obvious that it would be very difficult for hon. members to make up their minds; and if there had been a debate in which the question of general assent had been thrashed out and Your Honour had been pressed for a ruling where there had been a difference between 'assent' and 'general assent¹, we might not now be debating this at all. Sir, I am still baffled as to what 'assent' and 'general assent' means. A strike is a strike, and a general strike is something different.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member cannot go on to make a speech.

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

No, Sir, but it is a point of order which in my submission is valid. Why were we not allowed to debate the question?

Mr. - SPEAKER. It is not a motion which has been made from the floor of the House, and as such the hon. member would not be entitled to debate it. This is a matter in which the Chair has ruled that it will, rightly or wrongly, obtain the general assent of the House. 1.55 p.m.

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

On a point of order, may I point out that the moment of interruption has arrived?

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is out of order.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

(On being called to vote;) Mr. Speaker, I draw to Your Honour's attention that it is 2. 00 o'clock and therefore the House has to be suspended. I am not voting simply because I draw to Your Honour's attention that it is 2. 00 o'clock, and that at 2. 00 o'clock Your Honour should suspend the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk, please record a vote of "No" for the hon. member.

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

The division is interrupted by the suspension.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Standing Orders allow ten extra minutes for a matter to be completed.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

That is, if the business of the House can be concluded; does anybody know that this business can be concluded in ten minutes?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am informed that eleven hon. members have voted AYE and that nine hon. members have voted NO; I therefore declare that the general assent of the House is that - nothing more than that - the motion be entertained.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER It is now after 2. 00 o'clock, but within the extended time which the Standing Orders allow, the House is now suspended until 2.30 p.m. On resumption:

QUESTION TIME Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, before we go into Question Time.. ..

Mr. Speaker; It is now Question Time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

But I said before we go into Question Time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time and I am informed that the answer to Question No. 97 standing in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown has been laid.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with Private Members' Business and Question Time, I thought that there was a motion before the House which had not been resolved, I made a motion that Standing Orders No. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be impended; what has been decided on that?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That matter can be resumed when Government Business arrives; we are now already in Question Time, it being after 2.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, we are now attempting to get into Question Time. Your Honour has not given a ruling on the substantive motion before us.

Mr. SPEAKER:

According to the Standing Orders.. Question Time automatically begins at 2.30 p.m., and it is after 2.30 o'clock p.m. It is now question Time.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is the Minister aware that the owners of the tenantry known as Bannister's Land and several other tenantry owners have increased the rental of lots of land in their several tenancies in contravention of the provisions of the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act, 1965?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The Reply is as follows; "Investigations reveal that there had been an unauthorised increase in rents for Bannister's Land, but the infringement has now been remedied to conform with the provisions of the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act. "

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question 105 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

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

To enquire of the Minister of Communications & Works: -

Will the Minister take steps to have a post office letter box placed at Fisherpond in the parish of St. Thomas as soon as possible?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the Question is "Yes, Sir, "

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

Mr. Speaker, how soon?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

As soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER:

My understanding is that no other answers to Questions have been laid, and accordingly there axe no more Questions to occupy Question Time. We now proceed with Private Members' Business, and the first Item of the Day under Private Members' Business is a motion in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and It is to move the passing of A Resolution requesting Government to set up A Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the administration of the Barbados Housing Authority from July 1969 to the end of June, 1970.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I have received a set of papers which were supposed to have been sent to me from the House of Assembly. 2.35 p.m.

I have also received among those papers an Order Paper and a Resolution which is purported to be moved or to be introduced in this House of Tuesday last by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown. The Resolution moved by the hon. member was objected to by the senior member for St. John, because it contained certain allegations which were considered by the hon. senior member for St. John to be offensive. The Resolution contained certain offensive statements.

You, at that time, told this Honourable Chamber, after the hon. senior member for St. John rose to his feet and raised objection to the Resolution because of the offensive statements contained therein, that you would give a ruling as to the admissibility of this Resolution in Parliament today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I hate to intervene when the hon. member is speaking, but I did not intend to - nor did I give - any such intimation so far as the Resolution as a whole is concerned. Objection was taken when the hon. and learned senior member for St. John rose on a point of order and objected to the inclusion of certain words. I undertook to give a ruling in respect of those particular words. This is the Official Report.

"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 have 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. "

May I point out that my ruling was intended and promised in respect of the words to which objection had been taken. Before the Order Paper was printed -before, in fact, the notices were sent to the Government Printery, I was informed by the Mr. Clerk that the member who had given notice - and, incidentally, I emphasise this: no Resolution had been moved - I was informed by Mr. Clerk that the hon. member who had given notice of the Resolution and who had, presumably, heard the hon. senior member for St. John's point of order, had requested that those words be deleted.

I satisfied myself that it was within the province of the Chair to permit the deletion of certain words, my attention having been drawn to them in the House and a request having been made before the Resolution went to the Government Printery to be printed. I am quite satisfied that I acted in accordance with the powers of the Chair in concurring in the request for the deletion. That is why the Resolution, as printed, conforms to what was agreed upon after the point of order had been made. May I just point out that the Resolution was not move by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown; he gave notice of a Resolution and, as I understand it, the objection was to a certain portion; that portion was, at the request of him who gave notice of it, deleted at his request, with the Speaker's concurrence, and within the authority of the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all that you have said, but I still feel that this political intrigue must stop.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the hon. member is making a point of order.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am making a point of order. I was elected in this Chamber, and I have my democratic right to come in here and make any representation....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is not on a point of order when he refers to 'democratic right' and 'political intrigue'.
12.45 p.m.

The hon. member is just to direct my attention to the point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

And I can take as long as I want to direct your attention to the point I am about to make and that is what I am doing.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I admit there is no time limit.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You anticipated the point which I intended to make. It seems to be very funny that you are going to anticipate the point I am going to make.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member made it very clear to me what he was advertising to, and I thought I would assist.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I did not ask for any assistance, Mr. Speaker. I am quite capable of representing myself. (Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS You have a lot of representing to do now.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I just remind the hon. member that no member can be interrupted by another hon. member "except by rising on a point of order when the member speaking shall resume his seat and the member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman for decision. ' So I would ask the hon. member me rely to conform and direct my attention to the point which the hon. member desires to bring to my notice.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask you one question. I have risen on a point of order. Who is to tell me how I should arrive at my point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Only the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The Chair has to tell me how I should arrive at my point of order, but the Chair can only tell me that if after my point of order the Chair felt it was out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am merely asking the hon. member, in conformity with Standing Order 28 (a), "simply to direct attention to the point which he desires to baring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman".

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I accept that. I am not permitted to direct attention to the point because.....'

Mr. CRAIG:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

There can be no point of order on a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order and nobody 10 going to stop me from making it this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is entitled to direct my attention to the point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Everybody understands that I was not brought in here in a dung basket. I am not permitted to make my point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The behaviour of hon. members not speaking. Will the hon. member direct my attention to the point? I wonder if the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would assist me in stating what he is seeking to make the point of order on, because my understanding is that a motion has not yet been made after I declared Private Members' Business. No Resolution has yet been moved or seconded.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, you have pointed out that the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is a Resolution calling on the Government to appoint a Judicial Commission in respect of the functioning of the Housing Authority. The point I have risen to make is that a certain Resolution was brought by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and despite all the interruptions from members sitting, I am still going to make the point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am seeking to hear it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You cannot hear me when hon. members have no discipline or training.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That does not arise on a point of order. Let the hon. member make his point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

This Resolution which was brought to the Chamber last Tuesday by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown has been placed on the Order Paper. My contention is that if any member of this Chamber is allowed to bring a Resolution here in respect of any particular matter and objection is raised to points in that Resolution and it is allowed to go on the Order Paper, the Resolution going on the Order Paper ought to be the one introduced by the hon. member on the particular day. '(Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, when hon. members learn manners, I will continue.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In respect of that matter, ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, It is unfair to me to stop me from making the point I want to make.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You cannot enquire of me what is the point. You have to wait until I make that point, and I will make it in my way.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let us get this straight.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

It is nothing to get straight.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Our Standing Orders say you shall simply direct attention to the point.

Hon. A, DaC, EDWARDS; My simplicity may be different from yours; so you have got to allow me my way of arriving at my point.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have to insist that you direct my attention to the point.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

You do not know what my point is. You have to wait on me to make my point.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I cannot wait Indefinitely.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Well, get out of the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must withdraw that at once.

Hon. A, DaC. EDWARDS:

I withdraw that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

So far as the Resolution is concerned, as it now stands, it is my ruling that it is in order.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has not said anything yet. I see two hon. members on their feet. 2. 55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point of order?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You will have to hear it first.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Obviously it has to be made, and it has to be made succinctly; will the hon. member make his point of order?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I was making a point of order and you gave a ruling before I completed my point of order. I am not questioning your ruling, but what I am saying is that it is not fair to me or to any other hon. member, if he rises on his feet to make a point of order, that before that point of order is completed any person in authority should anticipate the hon. member's point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is now making a speech.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is talking about anticipating; let the hon. member make his point of order and resume his seat.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The point of order I am making is that you ruled that this Resolution is in order. I am saying that you did not give me an opportunity to complete my point of order before you ruled, and you ruled on something other than what was my point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER; Then the hon. member did not rise on any point to deal with the validity of the Resolution,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Yes. Mr. SPEAKER; What is the point?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; My point is this, that the Resolution which we have seen in this Chamber is not the Resolution which the hon. member introduced in this Chamber last Tuesday, and it.....

Mr. SPEAKER; The hon. member has already made that point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am going on to say that since that Resolution which we now have in our possession is not the Resolution which was Introduced In the Legislature on Tuesday it should not be on the Order Paper for today.

Mr. SPEAKER; Anyhow, it is my ruling that it is validly there and there it remains. That is my ruling.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, this is going to break up.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this matter is a parliamentary matter and it is a Resolution which was tabled In the normal way, and to which objection was raised on certain features which were objectionable, and so on. One member made a correction, but there are objectionable features of this Resolution which are still embodied in the Resolution as such. The Resolution states.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may not now go into the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I can only speak on it now because only now I have got a copy of the final Resolution, and it is only now for the first time I can speak on it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I very much regret that the hon. member did not receive a copy of this Resolution with his other papers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This is the first time we have a meeting which deals with this Resolution, and I am just explaining my position.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the hon. member's point of order?

Hon C, B. TALMA:

That the recitals give statements of fact; can you couch charges or allegation; which are therein described in the recitals? (Mr. St. JOHN Nonsense) It is not nonsense; you probably do not understand the recitals which are stated as fact. It is wrongly worded 'and it has given a decision before any Commission is set up.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have heard the hon. member. I have noted his point and I have given due consideration to that.

Hon. C. B. TALMA:

You cannot allow a recital to state "WHEREAS this is a box and this is a file and this is a man, 1' and you cannot bring a charge and say that such-and-such is the case; you should say "WHEREAS it is alleged or WHEREAS there an allegations to that effect91.

Hon. A, DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, you said you have given consideration to the point raised by the

hon. junior member for Christ Church. You have also said that the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. John has been the only point at issue in this Resolution which was introduced last Tuesday. How in one breath can one say that the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. John was the only point at issue in the Resolution and then in another breath say that due consideration was given to the remainder of the contents of the Resolution which was raised by the hon. junior member for Christ Church?

Mr. Speaker, the whole point is that this Resolution ought to have been re-introduced today so that if there were further objections to be raised this could be done. Your Honour stated that there was only one objectionable point which was raised by the hon. senior member for St. John, and If you had given your ruling on that you were then duty bound to come back here and have the Resolution introduced again.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid my view is otherwise and I am supported by the authority which is to be found on research.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see or hear the authority. (Asides).

Mr. SPEAKER:

Erskine May's. I am afraid this disorder is now grave.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I said I would like to be advised on the authority; anyone can come in here and say that there is authority for something.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is not entitled to be advised by the Chair when he comes into Parliament. The Speaker gives his ruling from the Chair, but he advises in his Chambers. That is recognised.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, you said that you gave your decision after having done.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is repeating himself and I will have to ask him to sit down. The hon. member is going on with too much.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I have not yet repeated myself.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Hansard will establish that.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Can Your Honour not call on a policeman and say,....,

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

I see two hon. members on their feet. I suspend this sitting until a quarter past three, on account of grave disorder. 3. 05p.m.

On resumption.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege to point out that there is something which affects the privileges of the House; it is being trampled on, and I would like to raise the matter on a point of privilege immediately. Mr. Speaker, there is a Resolution on the Order Paper, which Resolution is purported to have been introduced by the hon. junior member for the City on Tuesday, 23rd June, 1970. The contents of this Resolution are not in accordance with the Resolution introduced by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have already ruled that, in my view, the Resolution, as it now stands, is valid and in order. That ruling could, of course, be challenged on a substantive motion. Now, let me deal with what is now being referred to as a point of privilege. I ruled on the matter when a point of order was raised. Standing Order 68 states

1."A motion directly concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence of all other public business.

2. If during the sitting of the House a matter suddenly arises which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on such matter. "

My ruling is that, so far as Standing Order 68 is concerned -

(a) It would have to be by way of motion, and no motion has been made; and

(b) It had to be in respect of a matter which suddenly arises during the sitting of the House and which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 68. I beg to move a motion in respect of a breach of privileges of this House emanating from the contention that the particular Resolution on the Order Paper is not the Resolution which was introduced in this Chamber by the hon. Junior member for the City.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That point has already been raised by way of a point of order, and I am submitting that it is not a prima facie case of privilege. I would just remind hon. members of what is said in Sir Erskine May's 17th Edition on page 377. It states

"SPEAKER'S DISCRETION IN PERMITTING MATTER TO BE RAISED. - As a motion taken at the time for matters of privilege is thereby given precedence over the pre-arranged programme of public business, the Speaker requires to be satisfied, both that there is a prima facie case that a breach of privilege has been committed: and also that the matter is being raised at the earliest opportunity. If he is

not so satisfied when the circumstances are first brought to his attention privately, he may inform the Member that he is not entitled to raise the matter as a question of privilege, or he may allow him to make a statement with a view to ascertaining whether or not a prima facie case can be made out. This latter course is also taken when for some reason a preliminary explanation has not been given to the Speaker. The right of making complaint of a breach of privilege is open to any member of the House, and, even if an individual Member alone is affected, is not confined to that Member. The Speaker himself has informed the House of a breach of privilege committed against an Officer of the House. "

Now, it is my ruling that I am not satisfied that there is a prima facie case made out.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In accordance with May's Parliamentary Procedure and the passage which you have just read, I would like to draw Your Honour's attention privately to a matter which I consider to be a breach of the privilege of this House and to discuss it with you. I, therefore, move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour so that I can discuss this matter with you,

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I cannot accept such a motion. Discussions of such a private nature are arranged at a convenient time, but not to disturb a sitting of the House, unless, of course, the Speaker we re not in the Chair, but the business of the House was yet going on.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, this matter which I am dealing with and which I consider to be a breach of the privileges of the House must take precedence over any other business, as you yourself has pointed out. I would like to discuss it with Your Honour so that you can see my point. You are anticipating the point I am making. I say that it is a breach of privilege of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Now, let me point out to the hon. member that I have heard him very thoroughly and very carefully, and I am very appreciative of his point of view with which I happen to disagree, As the occupant of the Chair, I have given my ruling. I must warn the hon. member that if he does not resume his seat -I am inviting him to resume his seat and rise again if any new occasion arises for a point of order different from that with which he has dealt so very fully and thoroughly. I would remind the hon. member that, if he continues in this way, his conduct will be such as I will have no alternative but to deal with in accordance with the appropriate Standing Order 36 (2). 3. 25 p.m.

I appeal to the hon. member, as I do always appeal to hon. members. I know I suffer from an excess of tolerance; the fact that both sides accuse me of that is comforting to me.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you just made a statement and referred to Standing Order No. 36 (2). It reads as follows: -

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have read the Standing Order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I want to be able to read it because I want to know what is my misconduct.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the hon. member persistently disobeys an order of the Chair, if he persistently refers to what is a ruling of the Chair with which he is entitled to disagree and express it vehemently as is so often done in this House on a substantive motion, he is certainly guilty of conduct which I would have no alternative but to regard as being grossly disorderly, because I have stated that the Resolution is, in my opinion, In order as it now stands, and the procedure by which it came to be as it is now is in order, and that is the result of careful research, not only by myself, but my relevant confreres and colleagues.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, I am accused of being guilty of gross disorderly conduct, I may be wrong and I would like to get a clarification on this matter, because if I rise in this Chamber to make a point of order which I honestly feel is a genuine point of order, and I have not been rude to any hon. member or to the Chair, In making my representation in respect of the point of order...

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may not continue like this.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I just wanted clarification as to whether I am bordering on disorderly conduct.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is not merely bordering; he has crossed the border because he has continually disobeyed and declined to follow the ruling of the Chair that the Resolution Is in order and may be proceeded with. I have considered all the aspects.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The point I am making.....

Mr. SPEAKER; The horn member cannot go on like this, I will Ask the hon. member either now to sit, and I am doing it for the last time - I do not means in this House, but for now-and let the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown proceed to move the Resolution standing in hie name,

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the guilty fleeth when no one pursueth. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the serious nature of this Resolution which has not been brought lightly. It has been brought by the Barbados Labour Party after careful consideration of various representations that had been made. I would not like to say that I am spokesman for Housing, but you will appreciate that I have dealt mostly with Housing in the past. In the past I have been critical of the Government's Housing policy, but today it is not a question of the Housing policy of the Government to which I advert; it is the entire administration and operation of the Barbados Housing Authority.

Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name reads as follows: -

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 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 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 Loans 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.

Mr. Speaker, despite any attempt that has been made and will be made in this Chamber to prevent this Assembly from discussing this Resolution, we in the Opposition intend to do this Resolution and to see it through to its logical conclusion. Whatever attempts may be made by the Government to attack parliamentary privilege in the hope that members will not pursue this Resolution, I am not scared of. I am not even scared of the fact that certain people have been going around this country saying that anybody who threatens to take away their livelihood they are going to shoot. I was warned on Friday afternoon in James Street by a prominent member of the Democratic Labour Party - not a member with whom I am friendly - of my own personal safety, and there is one person in this Assembly who knows I am telling the truth. But I am not afraid of anything. 3.35 p.m.

I am not afraid of anything. Sir. If it is my luck to be shot or to die as a result of fighting for the people of Barbados, I can find no happier time or no better place. I am prepared to give my life to the cause to see that in this Island there must be a new standard of political morality, and that it is time that people who hold political and public office should realise that they must not only appear to be honest but they must in fact be honest. I have been subjected to a lot of personal abuse, but that does not worry me. Now we find that we have brought to light certain allegations, every possible attempt is being made to prevent this Resolution from being discussed. I do not propose to address the Chamber at any length at this time, but I will say this, that the first part of the Preamble to the Resolution states: "WHEREAS a contract to build houses has been awarded by the Barbados Housing Authority without any invitation for Tenders; "

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

I would recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that about August last year we were told in this Chamber that the houses which were being built at Lodge Hill would cost the Barbados Housing Authority in the region of \$5,600 for a two-bedroom house, and \$6,700 for a three-bedroom house. This year when we were discussing the Development Plan, it was brought to light that a certain gentleman had been given the contract to build these houses, and we were told in this Chamber that the cost of those houses would be about \$200 less than what the Barbados Housing Authority was building for, but the Barbados Housing Authority today is paying \$600 more than the price for which those houses were supposed to have been

originally built. A directive came down from the Ministry to the Housing Authority - and this is one of the failings of the Board of the Housing Authority, that the Board seems to be operated by one or two people at the top, the Manager and the Executive Officer, and things are placed before the general Board and they are told that they must ratify them. As a classic example, there was a meeting at which it was to be decided that 25 houses were to be given to applicants; a number of people had applied for the possession of these houses, and when the members of the Board arrived, they were told that there was no sense discussing it because the houses had already been allotted, the Ministry had already given the keys to certain people. The Board did not make any awards to the applicants, but the awards were made within the Ministry.

These things cannot be right. How can anybody feel satisfied with any political office-holder to take on to his own property scaffolding, a compressor and a block machine belonging to the Barbados Housing Authority at a time when no rent was being paid for them, and to use them on his premises for his own purposes? As regards the compressor, how can the taxpayers of this country really feel when a political office-holder can use a compressor at his building site and at the same time the Housing Authority must turn around and rent a compressor from C. O. Williams Construction Company? Is this how the taxpayers' money must be spent? This is not all; I could go on ad infinitum; but we would like to know why it is necessary to have a contract to paint houses given to Mr. Sydney Watson, and I understand Mr. Watson is an employee of the Government in the Water Works Department as a plumber, when it was state here that it would cost \$500 to paint or repair the houses and the contract which was given to Mr. Watson was for \$800, What reason was given for the Housing Authority to increase that price from \$500 to \$600 per house? Purely because somebody was getting money out of it.

It is because of these things which are listed in the Preamble to this Resolution, it is an effort to ascertain whether cheques from the Housing Authority were paid directly into the Bank account of any business which any political office-holder has anything to do with. If this is done, this is carrying politics to its lowest depth, and therefore it is because of the desire of the Barbados Labour Party not only to see that persons who hold political office and persons who hold public office appear to be honest, but to be absolutely clear that they are in fact honest - that is why this Resolution is being moved. I go one step further; how is it possible for a Board of people to sit down and to allow this sort of mismanagement to have taken place? As a result of contracts being offered to private individuals, people who have been working for 18 years at the Barbados Housing Authority have received notices that when they are finished working on the particular job they are now doing, they have to leave because there is no more work for them to do. How is it possible for big men to sit down and allow this sort of mismanagement to go on and not to say anything about it? The answer is simply this; because of the policy of the Democratic Labour Party of appointing people - not because of their ability, not people who can make any contribution to the national development of this country - but the sole criterion for being appointed to the Board is the fact that they belong to and are stooges of the Democratic Labour Party. Nobody can convince me that if there were independent people on this Board, people who were not looking to the Democratic Labour Party for any favours, this sort of conduct could go on at the Housing Authority. It is because you appoint people on the Board who do not want to embarrass anybody that this sort of thing can take place, and that is why the time has come for this enquiry for

which we are asking, that the whole relationship of the Statutory Boards to the Government must be gone into. Are they merely to exist and operate because of the fact that the Minister or somebody can send down directives to two or three people? 3.45 p.m.

What, therefore, is the purpose of having the other members on a Board?

The other point is that, as presently constituted, are these Statutory Boards, in particular the Barbados Housing Authority, serving any useful purpose in this country? As a Board it should be protecting the interests of the taxpayers and seeing that their money is well spent; but that is one thing that the Housing Authority has not done. It has seen that the money is well-spent, but not in the interest of the taxpayers of this country.

I believe, Sir, that it was a former Prime Minister of England, Gladstone, who said "Ideals in politics can never be realized. I have been forced to recognise that truth, but it is, however, vital constantly to feed and fan the flames of righteous indignation." That is the purpose of this Resolution, Sir: to feed and fan the flames of righteous indignation of the conduct of the Barbados Housing Authority. This is not a question of Party policy. The issue before us is a simple one; it is a simple principle. Are we prepared to accept political immorality in public life? Are we prepared to condone public officers who indulge in immorality, or we are prepared to see that politics is kept on a high and decent level? That is the question before us. A vote against this Resolution and against a Judicial Inquiry - I have not called for any ordinary Enquiry, Sir - is a vote of condoning the conduct that has been complained of in this Resolution. A vote in favour of the Resolution is a vote of sanity, good Government and clean politics in this country.

I beg to move this Resolution.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second this Resolution. There are certain words that in different countries are used to describe what are different aspects of the same variety of conduct. When, in the Bahamas, the former Prime Minister - or whatever title he was known by - decided that he could not put a burden on the Bahamas taxpayers by accepting a salary, the people applauded; but when it was discovered that in lieu of salary he charged a fee as a lawyer of \$500,000 (U. S.) to a gambling concession in order to furnish them, as Prime Minister, with a certificate of exemption from the Gambling Laws of the Bahamas, he was very rightly driven out of office, and a new and decent and popular Government came into power. In the Bahamas they are so conditioned that they only called such conduct a conflict of interest.

In England and in the United States, where they have had such conduct for many years, they call it

bribery and corruption, but in Barbados our people axe more simple and direct and to the point, and we call it stealing. We call it stealing whether you put your hands in the Treasury and take out the money and put in your pocket, or whether you put your hands in the Treasury to put the money in somebody else's pocket. We call it stealing, and stealing has to do with money. This is what this Resolution is about. Close friendship can play no part in this, Sir.

Sir, I have already been subject to a bitter attack for declaring that I am on terms of close friendship with the Minister whose conduct is the subject of this Resolution. I will repeat here for his benefit something he may not have heard me say before. It gives me pain, and it has given me pain over a period of years - of two years at least - to see the Minister get further and further into the type of conduct set out in this Resolution. I had, perhaps, my most considerable shock in dealing with the Minister when in August of last year, soon after he became Minister of Housing. I said to him - 'I reported to him is a better way of putting it - that to my knowledge a contractor who had been building houses for the Housing Authority had complained that he had to bribe two members of the Housing Authority to support his application for the contract. I gave the Minister the name of die contractor, but I did not give him the names of the members of the Authority. I did not think it fair at the time to do that.

Sir, the Minister's reply to me was not that he Would see if he could put an end to it, not that he did not think that sort of thing should be going on, His reply to me was: "Well, if they can get it. " That was in August last year, and we can trace since then the change in the Minister's fortunes. Nothing very much arose as a result of last year's activities. The Minister, evidently, was feeling his way, but things came with a rush.

Hon. members who have had the opportunity of observing the demeanour of hon. Junior member for St. Andrew when this Resolution was read out last week will remember how he seemed to enjoy himself as he heard the terms of the Resolution read out by the Junior member for Bridgetown. We have all adopted his comments on the situation: "Those who run too fast, they cannot last 19 We would like to adopt the remarks of the Junior member for St. Andrew. He is the one man on that side who seems unabashedly pleased to see the troubles that had descended upon his colleague.

Sir, I think we can trace back the Immediate causes of complaint in this Resolution to the activities of last December. I am informed that at that time the Minister had then, more or less, completed what may be called his private business or arrangements. But a very significant decision was taken by the Housing Authority around that time -at the end of November last year and approved by the Minister early in December. This was a decision which had the effect of amending Rule 4 of the General Workers Housing Loan Rules of 1957. Rule 4 formerly provided that a loan might be made to a General Worker for essential repairs to a chattel house or for the removal of a chattel house and so on. It also gave a maximum in respect of applications for loans or any other projects in respect of the purchase of chattel

houses. A maximum of \$1, 600 was then in force. This decision that I am telling the House about was revoked, and the Minister raised or gave his approval for the raising of the maximum amount that could be lent for the repair or the purchase of a chattel house from \$1,600 to \$3,000. 3.55 p.m.

There is something else; namely, the phenomenon, began to be introduced that houses built at the back of the yard belonging to the Minister of Housing were becoming the subject of loans of up to \$3,000 approved by the Minister, and I believe - I hope I got the officer correctly - there is a Mr. Brewster involved in it who has now disappeared somewhere in the United States of America. I am not sure if he is the public officer going with the General Workers or what. Shortly after this, these loans began to be made and payment was made - we find it hard to discover to whom. We cannot find if it is directed to Mr. Bryan, the Minister's father, if it is to the Federal High School account or to whom. We only know that the Minister would tell people. "Go to my home, and you will be shown a house; I can arrange a loan for you"; and the Minister to my intense and deep regret did not then or apparently does not even now realise this conduct is regarded as stepping outside proper, ethical, Ministerial behaviour. He only felt or appeared to feel that he should do it, that having raised the loan limit from \$1,600 to \$3,000, he and his family and his school should then go into the business of building houses, all to be paid for by loans of \$3,000 which he approved, and he went so far as even to show the Housing Authority architect and an architect from Surinam around his back yard to show them the houses they were building for the use of the Housing Authority in one way or another, because that is not the only way in which these houses have been used. They sought to sell houses to the Housing Authority to be given away under certain Welfare provisions. They gave them away, in effect, because if the houses were beyond repair, apparently people were allowed to live in these houses. I am using the Minister's own information on this point. If I am misleading the House, I very much regret it, but I would be misleading it, following the Minister's explanation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you heard the hon. junior member for Bridgetown comment on that in paragraph 2 of his Resolution. A letter has arrived from the Minister's father offering houses at \$2,400 each for the Housing Authority to purchase. I understand the terms of the letter are vague, and therefore the letter apparently cannot be construed in such a way as to make it clear for what exact purpose the Authority wants these houses. It is significant that the figure of \$2,400 and the offer to tender came a week after the Housing Authority had decided it was going to buy houses for Welfare purposes and that \$2,400 was a fair price. This is a recent matter, something that happened within the last few weeks; so it is not fully worked out. If the House approves this Resolution, the Judicial Commission will have every opportunity of investigating those allegations. That at the very least is 'conflict of interest', and the part played by the Board must also be mentioned in passing.

There were a certain number of decent people whom any Opposition or Government could respect on that Board. The Chairman was one, but the Chairman has had his passage paid to go to England to view some houses which the hon. senior member for St. Philip and I looked at in Bristol earlier this year. Also the Chairman's wife, I believe, is ill; so he was making a trip to England, anyhow. He has had his

passage paid to go to England so that he would be out of the way when the crooks were at work, because some of the members of the Authority are crooks, and those who are forced to bribe them in order to get them to go along with corrupt decisions know better than any member of this House what crooks they are.

Mr. Norman Miles is another decent member of the Housing Authority, and opportunity was found to force him off because he objected to the racketeering. It is the very pressure on the Authority itself that alarms me. When I think that only a few weeks ago a decision was taken to give a lady a job - a particular vacancy fell - against some pressure exerted by the Minister - the decision was taken, and the following week that decision could be rescinded and the person upon whose behalf the Minister was exercising pressure was given the job upon the changed vote of Mr. Small, a member of the Authority, a man who has a child at the Housing Authority for whom he hopes for advancement. When I think of that, I have to say; "Look at what pressure self-respecting people have to go and fit down under at the Housing Authority. " Look at the kind of thing that even people who might like to be honest have to face when they are at the Authority: Ask Mr. Macdonald Blunt, a decent man. President of the Barbados Workers' Union, how he feels about recent activities at the Housing Authority and what he has seen going on at the Board. Let him give evidence before a Judicial Commission and hon. members will hear a thing or two that even we in here find it impossible to get at when we try to investigate the facts. And it is not only the pressure to do things. A Parliamentary Secretary went to an employee of the Housing Authority and told him that I had told the Prime Minister that that employee was the source of certain information - as wicked and as outright a lie as even that particular Parliamentary Secretary has ever told.

Again, Sir, what are they trying to do? They are trying to eliminate the possible sources of information. They are trying to pin down who can tell us this, that and the rest. Let me tell the Minister and the former Parliamentary Secretary this: there is not a member of that Housing Authority or the Board itself from whom information in some form or another has not come at one time, and very few employees at the present time because they are ashamed. The Minister puts a different construction on it. The Minister tells me that he stopped them from getting theirs; so they are angry because he is getting his.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the hon. member knows that is not true. I do not want to say he is lying, but he knows that is not true, and he should be asked to withdraw it.

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

If I have paraphrased the Minister incorrectly, I would be glad to give way if he would tell me exactly the form of words he used. Will the Minister deny that he used the words " I stopped them from getting

theirs"? I will continue.

Now, Sir, the contracts for maintenance. I am informed, and I can only say I am informed because with the best will in the world I may be misled; I may check out something with two or three people, I may enquire from every conceivable source, but you may still be misinformed, and I do not want to mislead anybody. The best source of all is the source from which we get most of our information - that is, the Minister himself - and he may sometimes be mistaken and, I am sure, unwittingly may mislead us. The Housing Authority could have painted houses for very much less than \$500, the sum at first awarded as an amount for painting houses. That figure was arrived at.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I hope the hon. member would not mind my correcting him. The houses given out on a maintenance contract were not given out for painting only. It is general maintenance and repair of floors, windows, door jams, tops of houses and whatever repairs were to be done. It was a general maintenance programme being carried out, not painting alone.

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

True, it was the painting and repair contract. However I do not mean the timber houses in Lodge Road which at a period perhaps had escaped the Minister's notice. I wonder if the Minister knows that underneath his activities a racket was carried in Lodge Road by which people were paid \$1,000 for painting and repairing small chattel houses quite recently. I believe it happened last month, but the most that was estimated, accordingly lag to my information, for paint and repair for certain houses in a part of the Pine was \$492 because they were in bad general condition. 4.05 p.m.

The Bay Land houses were perhaps worse, but they were houses built to a lesser standard, anyhow, than those at the Pine, and they were small houses. I am told, Sir, that \$492 was the maximum, and this was arrived at after discounting the fact that if the Housing Authority had done it they would have had duty free material; it would not have had to make a profit. All of this was arrived at after inserting a substantial contractor's profit and discounting, I believe, 25% for the loss of the duty-free aspect. The contracts were awarded for \$500 where the maximum estimate was for \$492 for one set of houses. But that was not enough. In April, I think it was, of this year after this Mr. Sydney Watson had already allegedly painted some houses in the Pine -how can a man be working at the Waterworks Department as a plumber and painting houses in the Pine as well? But I will deal with that later - an application was made to the Housing Authority for an increase retroactive to January 1, and without a date a \$100 increase passed the Housing Authority and a cheque for \$14,000 was drawn, and I would be glad if the Minister would get up and deny that it was paid into the account of the Federal High School.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I categorically deny that.

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

I am glad of that, because one of my informants who is a little fanciful - Since the Federal High School no longer stamps the cheques - they are endorsed by Sydney Watson and then they pass through this account sometimes - but since the School does not stamp them, apparently there is now no way of telling which cheques pass through the account of the Federal High School itself.

Sir, the painting of the houses. The contract was awarded to Mr. Sydney Watson, and I must accuse Mr. Watson of being no more than a front man for the Minister and his family. Mr. Watson is a Waterworks plumber who has been induced to put his name on pieces of paper, the work is carried out by the Minister's father, the materials are kept at the Minister's house, and workmen leave from the Minister's house the morning they do the work, they paint.

Minister's house in the interval of painting the Housing Authority houses - and after, all why shouldn't they? It is the Minister's paint, or the Minister's father's paint; the work is the Minister's family's work, This is not a contract for \$10; this is not a contract for one or two \$600; this is a contract for painting and repairing all the houses on the Pine Housing Estate, the Bay Land and a good number of those in Grazettes - 2,000 houses for an amount of over \$1 million, not peanuts - and that includes a calculated contractor's profit of 25% when it was only \$500 for a house; what is it when it is \$600? All this can be revealed by a Judicial Enquiry. I am not dealing even with the other contracts particularly. There is a creature of the Parliamentary Secretaries - one Holder - who was fired from the Housing Authority and who still finds himself getting the contract to paint Sayes Court, and the Inspector was prepared to approve payment to him for painting two houses that were never erected by the Housing Authority and that had to be stopped.

That is only by the way; I do not blame the Minister for that; I do not believe that he knows of the full iniquities of Mr. Preston Holder and his particular Christ Church contract. Even houses which have been sold - a member of the Authority had her house painted although she is buying it. She has not got the Conveyance yet and her house is being painted out of the Housing Authority's funds. I can quite see that if you have a terrace of houses you do not want to paint five and leave one unpainted; she does not have the Conveyance yet, but she has signed an agreement and is paying. Surely you can ask the people who are buying the houses to make some contribution towards the painting and repairing of them, and if there is not such a clause in the purchase contracts of the Housing Authority, this should be inserted. Anybody with common sense would see that you do not want to leave one unpainted house merely because the Housing Authority has contracted to sell it, but you must not continually involve the taxpayer in expense of this sort on matters of that sort. I submit to the House that that is very well worth the investigation of a Judicial Commission. The true relationship of Mr. Sydney Watson to the contract standing in his

name, the activities of the Minister, his family and the Federal High School of which he is controller, and his father, Mr. Bryan - all of that is well worth examination.

The very way the Mr. Spencer was got out of the way and Mr. Niles fired from the Housing Authority when the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister were out of the Island - all of that should be dealt with. When the news that the Minister was going to be shuffled into another Ministry came out, the day after that, June 13, the Minister was asking the Manager of the Housing Authority, Mr. Ellis, to do something for him before the end of the month in respect of the exercise of undue influence. He knows what I mean; he knows these things; the Minister must not think that anything is concealed, because the members of the Authority are themselves alarmed. The Minister has tried very resolutely, in circumstances favourable to listening to things like this, to suggest that other members of the Government are involved. I have already made known privately to one Cabinet Minister some thing which is alleged - the Minister has never told me, but we hear it - we are hearing that the Minister is building a house for the Deputy Prime Minister.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that again is - I do not want to call the hon. member a liar - but I say that that again is untrue.

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

I accept that. I want the Minister when I say something false to correct it, but the fact is that the Deputy Prime Minister does have a piece of land next to the Minister's private property at Stanmore, Black Rock, and that the Housing Authority architect was asked to draw a plan for it, and that Senator Brathwaite asked for one, too, from the same architect, and the architect was so fed up that he asked him why he did not go and ask the Deputy Prime Minister to show him his plan. The Minister should know this. He may not know about it, but he should understand in those circumstances show rumours may arise that he is building a house for the Deputy Prime Minister. This Stanmore site is the centre of so much speculation in Barbados; the Minister gave instructions that all Housing Authority materials were to be purchased from Plantations Limited, Speightstown, in future, and the comment that I heard - obviously it was an unkind comment - but the comment was that that is the only lumber yard from which the Housing Authority trucks would have to pass Stanmore Crescent on the way to the Workshop.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Housing Authority trucks do not draw material from Plantations Limited.

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

I give way to all those things, but the Minister knows that at the time when he gave instructions for the Housing Authority to buy its materials only from Plantations Limited he was then doing an immense amount of business with the same Plantations Limited; he knows that. 4. 15 p.m.

He knows that must give rise to comment on the Housing Authority. If he wants my opinion, I do not believe some of the things that the Housing Authority's employees say about that contract. I know Plantations Limited, Speightstown, and I have the greatest regard for Mr. Jordan. I do not believe he would be a party to any drawback to a Minister in return for any contract for suppliers. I believe that and I mean it quite genuinely; but that is what they are saying in the Housing Authority, if the Minister wants to know. It was said that he was getting his material for Stanmore cheaper than usual, because of the transference of the purchasing contract. All of that is what a Minister should try to be above; he should try to look out for those things and avoid them.

I do not believe that the Minister who knows so much about the movements of Housing Authority trucks will deny that certain things - not only trucks have found their way to the building sites of premises under his control. Who would believe, Sir, that where a Resolution alleges that a compressor was used at the Minister's building site at a time when the Housing Authority needed it and as a result of which they had to rent one from C. O Williams, and that on the very day when that Resolution was moved the compressor also moved from one of the Minister's building sites, it is alleged, to another? Will the Minister deny that?

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

On a point of order. I deny this categorically.

Mr. J. M G. M. ADAMS:

I beg the Minister's pardon. It was not moved from one of his building sites to another, but it was moved from a Housing Authority site at Thorpe's to the Minister's site at Kent. It had already been moved from Stanmore Crescent. Maybe he is paying rent for it now, Sir, but I do not know. I have no idea about the matter. I know that he did pay \$30 a month for the block-making machine at the back of his house in Belmont Road. I also know that he did not pay for the traxcavator, where he met the driver one morning at a quarter to seven and turned him off from the Housing Authority work on to the Stanmore Crescent work.

Sir, if we are making false allegations, then a Judicial Commission can expose them and we will be the losers. The Minister ought not to be the one to make points of order to prevent this from being discussed. If he has any confidence in the proper administration of his Ministry, he ought to be prepared to expose it to the view of a Judicial Commission. I am not going to deal with Mr. Rayside's contracts,

Sir. They are subjects all by themselves. At least we have one employer of the Housing Authority whose threat of resignation was taken seriously enough on the occasion when Mr. Rayside wanted money for any foundation that he had to dig more than three feet, and the Architect finally drew the line at that and Mr. Rayside had to be content with his small profit. I wonder if the Minister knows what Mr. Ray side's comments on all these things are. I wonder if the Minister knows that, without fear, once a month you can hear somebody say how Mr. Rayside complains that he has to ask for so much and so much for building the houses and he has to ask for extra money, because when the fellows agree to take a piece at first they will come back for more. I am not saying he is telling the truth, but there area large number of people in Barbados who halve heard Mr. Rayside complain about the necessity to bribe people, Mr. Rayside could mot deny it, Sir. I do not know if he ever bribed anybody, Sir, but I only know that he complained of it. Anyway, Mr. Raysid's conduct is not in the Resolution.

Sir, think of the motor vehicles. The amount's involved are small. I believe these vehicles are about fifteen years old; but if m Judicial Commission is allowed access to all the facts, it will reveal that a valuation of two Housing Authority trucks at \$1, 600 as a second-hand price was made known to the Authority, and that from the top it was complained that the valuation was too much and a new valuation was called for from the head of a Company which the Minister stated he had shares in. I have searched the register and I do not see any shares in the Minister's name, He said in the presence of witnesses that he had shares in this Company, and they called on the Manager of the Company, to come and value the trucks, because it looks bad lor the Housing Authority's trucks to come into hie yard and he wanted a truck of his own. Can the Minister deny that conversation? Can he deny that one of the trucks was subsequently valued at \$200?

Sir, I have no idea what may have happened to the witnesses by now. They talk about intimidation, and the hon. and learned Junior member for the City speaks of shooting. I have two authenticated incidents in which the Minister has been present and taking part in converstations involving the use of violence. The Minister knows what I am talking about. On the steps of the House of Assembly the Minister discussed the shooting of Tom Adams with a Police Superintendent. Let him deny that. It is a serious accusation to make, Sir, and I do not make it casually. I did not take it seriously because I believed that the tone of the conversation and the two people involved are people who have a lot to say: the Minister and the particular Superintendent. If they walk about saying these things, then sooner or later somebody will take it seriously.

Sir, I thought there was some substance in what the hon. junior member for Christ Church was saying about reciting facts calling for a Judicial Commission I am not here to present evidence to the House. We are calling for a Judicial Commission at which evidence will be presented. I can only tell the House that these matters which we have canvassed are on a basis of our being told something. I can believe them because I have seen the activities of the Minister over a period of time. The Minister is not one of these people to whom, I think as the expression goes, money Is a God. The Minister is a person who believes that money is a key, and that every person has his price. The Minister's political thinking, in so far as it is formulated, Is the political thinking of the late Sir Robert Walpole: "Every man can be bought. "

Sir, when the Minister discovered that his new constituency would include Orange Hill, St. James, he paid no regard to the sincerity of the people of Orange Hill, one of the most Barbados Labour Party-minded districts in the whole of Barbados. He sets out, and I accuse him bluntly of this, to corrupt the people of Orange Hill by the use of money to buy them as if they were slaves, and as if they were still living under the conditions of slavery from which their ancestors were freed 150 years ago. He sets out with the Conservative politics in the distant part of Barbados in St. Philip and St. Andrew.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has said that I set out to corrupt people in Orange Hill. I think that this is not a fair statement on the part of the hon. member; I feel that It is unparliamentary, and he should be asked to withdraw it.

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

I do not mean corrupt in any moral sense, Sir. I mean corrupt in a political sense. The Minister knows that, and I withdraw any implication of moral corruption. People get paid to say that on platforms. Sir, and I do not have to come in here and say It in the House of Assembly. The Minister believes that money Is the key that will open every door that can ever be closed, but we believe on this side of the House in the Barbados Labour Party that we put an end to money politics when we came along.

As a little boy I sat at the feet of the Leaders of the Barbados Labour Party and saw them fight against the money-bags of the Conservatives in the country districts; and fight against the philosophy of; "Give the Negroes a half bottle of rum and a salt bread, and they will vote for you. 11.25 p.m.

We fought against that, Sir, and we won the fight. This is why it hurts and distresses me to see a young man like the Minister in this day and age bringing back old Conservative days. He even boasts how his supporters in St. Andrew are the Conservatives who never like the Barbados Labour Party because we were never going into rum shops floating them and floating the electorate on a sea of liquor; but the Minister believes that money, money, money is the key to political life. The Minister has told me what he considers to be the mistakes of the hon. Junior member for St. Thomas. Whatever the mistakes of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas are, I have never known them to include financial corruption, either personally or in his approach to politics. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Are you afraid? Are you playing that you are lauding me?) I can afford to laud the hon. junior member for St. Thomas; It is time that somebody did. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL Not you, at least.) The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has never accused me - that I know of - of trying to buy the St. Thomas electorate, and I have never accused him. I am satisfied that we were among the lowest spenders in the entire 1966 elections, and we showed that we can get into the House of Assembly by projecting your personality to people, not your pocket, and not, above all, the taxpayers' pocket; and that, Sir, is the true sadness of the situation in which the

Minister of Housing finds himself today, that he cannot believe there are higher things than money, and he has allowed himself to be led by the pursuit of security, both political and financial, into activities which we as an Opposition and as men would be entirely abdicating our duty if we did not draw it to the attention of the House at this time.

Sir, I beg to move that Private Members. Time be extended by one hour.

Mr. CRAIG:

I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that not even one item of Government Business has been considered, I am afraid I cannot, agree to this motion; so that we will be voting against it.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows: -

AYES:

Mr. SMITH Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. HOLDER; Mr. St. JOHN and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS - 9.

NOES:

Mr. YEARWOOD; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. WEEKES and Mr. HOPPIN - 8.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a Resolution here - I am not attacking the Resolution as such - which is based on many accusations and allegations, and I do not see that we have sufficient evidence before us to proceed as we are proceeding here today. The Resolution has numerous recitals, and the recitals are allegedly based on facts. The Resolution starts off by saying

' WHEREAS a contract to build houses has been awarded by the Barbados Housing Authority without any invitation for Tenders; '

Let us deal with that first. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas, speaking in connection with the handing out of contracts, the main point in the Resolution, did not see fit to substantiate it even by hear-say allegations, so that the main point of the Resolution is the weakest point. You do not start a case by proving or disproving or omitting to prove the point which is the cardinal point of the Resolution. The cardinal point is not being dealt with as such, but you withdraw that allegation and move on to a lot of subsidiary points....

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

On a point of order, I have not withdrawn the first allegation. I merely did not deal with it because the hon. junior member for Bridgetown dealt with it. The Minister is making a serious mistake as to my motives if he says I did not support the first point. That is imputing quite a wrong motive to me for not dealing with it in my speech.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my contention is that the first recital which is allegedly based on some statement of fact or some sort of allegation which is accepted by certain members of the Opposition states "WHEREAS a contract to build houses has been awarded by the Barbados Housing Authority without any invitation for Tenders;" I take it that the hon. member as a trained lawyer and outstanding scholar would have attempted in some manner to justify every word raised in this Resolution and to go through each and every recital verbatim.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir, the Minister of Housing knows that the first -part of this Resolution is true, because he has admitted in this House already that the contract was awarded for Silver Hill without going to tender. There is no doubt about that. The Leader of the House is barking up the wrong tree. 4. 35 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would have thought that, as two practising lawyers we re the ones who were putting forward this Resolution, they would have dealt with the various recitals which are alleged to be statements of fact, and which have to be corroborated to some extent to the satisfaction of members in this Chamber, and that when we have dealt with that exhaustively and convincingly - you (find that they

did not deal with it convincingly, but they merely say they do not intend to attack us or to expose us or to have anything to say on the alleged contract which was given to Mr. Rayside, and this means that Mr. Rayside will not now be exposed in any way. It is well known that Mr. Rayside has done work for the Housing Authority for a long number of years, when the Barbados Labour Party was in office, and they never went to tender, and that Mr. Rayside in this connection has been given work for building roads and for certain other works at the Housing Authority for a long number of years, even under our administration, and he has been doing that work for some time and has done this work beneficially and effectively, and has effected more savings to the Government in building houses for the Housing Authority than the technical people at the Housing Authority have done in the past. In other words, there is no good ground for attacking Mr. Ray side as such, in that he has built more houses and better houses at a cheaper cost than the officers and the builders of the Housing Authority have done in the past.

The object of the Government is to provide houses for the lower income groups; so Mr. Rayside has performed a useful service to this country in that he has built more houses at a cheaper cost, and has done better work than even the experts at the Housing Authority have done. I would just draw to the attention of the House that Mr. Rayside could not be challenged; they have no ground to stand on as far as Mr. Rayside is concerned, because he has produced many more houses at cheaper cost. I do not care to repeat myself over again, but Mr. Rayside has been employed over a long number of years at the Barbados Housing Authority without tender, and by this Government in. building roads, and has done very useful work for the country, and the Government has affected great savings in employing a man of the quality of Mr. Rayside with his long years' experience and his building technique. Whether Mr. Rayside has contracts with the Government for the National Stadium.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; On a point of order, only the senior member for St. Thomas and myself have spoken on this Resolution and we did not attack Mr. Rayside, but the Minister of Housing, during the Independence debate, pointed out and admitted that the contracts had been given to Mr. Rayside without going to tender, and we accepted that. It is the Minister who is attempting to attack Mr. Rayside in a round about manner.

Hon. C. B. TALMA:

I am simply talking about the way you state the recitals in your Resolution, and I am explaining about Mr. Ray side's activities; there is no reason why you should jump up and try to get the record straight.

The second recital states: "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 Ia4he Barbados Government from July, 1969 until June, 1970, which offer has been tentatively accepted. 'without any invitation for tenders; " I did 110\$ hear this explained; I was not here all the time, and I would like to know what

corroborative evidence you have that such a contract has been given and that such a contract has been tentatively accepted. What does that mean?

The third recital states: "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; ". What evidence is there of that? What are the names of the people who have agreed to buy these houses? I am not satisfied that that has been proved here, because we have no evidence on this. The Resolution goes on to state "AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority has awarded contracts for painting and repairing the 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 worth over one million dollars were awarded without any invitation for Tenders advertised for in any Newspaper in circulation in the Island of Barbados; " - there is no complete evidence on that. "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; ". The hon. member has spoken at length and has made a lot of wild accusations. This is probably a political manoeuvre; it is probably more than anything else, with the hope that a Commission of Enquiry --would reveal something. A Commission of Enquiry is not in order as far as we are aware; if you have the evidence and you can prove things conclusively, do it; but a lot of wild accusations were made here to influence public opinion, and a lot of things which are alleged are not statements of fact, and the Resolution is trying to condemn the Hon. Minister and the Government itself. 4. 45 p.m.

That is really what it is. It states: 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 WHEREAS this House strongly condemns this abuse of public office and this disgraceful....."

You cannot use a term "disgraceful"; you have to prove that it is disgraceful. That is a matter of opinion. This whole Resolution is still out of order. I say that, because it has a lot of opinions given right through it. (Asides) In your opinion it is disgraceful, but you cannot say that in a Resolution. You cannot say in a Resolution that the behaviour is disgraceful.

"AND WHEREAS this House strongly condemns this abuse of public office and this disgraceful exhibition of nepotism..... "

You can say that on a platform where you are doing all of your cursing outside, but you cannot come in here and behave in that manner. Very soon you will not be able to use that sort of statement in here at all.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that a threat to the Opposition that sooner or later we will not be able to speak in here?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is not in the Law Court where you have to.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I object to those remarks, Sir. If when he used to go into the Law Courts they were accustomed to indulge in nasty, dirty tricks - he not only went into the Law Courts, but he went in the Law Courts in the course of practice and in the dock, too. He went to the As sizes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member cannot quote what he hears correctly, what else could I tell him? I did not say that he could not talk in here. I said that sort of behaviour and language would be controlled. In our Standing Orders it is controlled already. You cannot come in here and talk of 'disgraceful and things of that sort. It is a matter of opinion, and the whole Resolution is out of order, because all of the recitals should be based on facts as they exist at present. A recital cannot be based on a matter of opinion, or an allegation, or some accusation. I say that the whole Resolution is out of order.

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

On a point of order. The Minister has said that the whole Resolution is out of order. I submit that he is questioning the Speaker's ruling. That is point No. 1. Point No. 2, Sir. If the Minister says that these are only allegations, would he like to say which of the 11 recitals is untrue? Is it untrue that contracts have been awarded without tender? It is untrue that a letter has come from Mr. Bryan? Is it untrue that houses were built on the premises of the senior member for St. Andrew? Have those things been denied? How can he say that the Resolution is out of order? Sir, he is attacking the motives of hon. members who spoke on the Resolution. He must be attacking our motives, because he says that we are putting forward something untrue to the House. We want to know what it is that is untrue we have put forward. If he cannot find something that is untrue, then he must withdraw that remark because it is imputing base motives to an hon. member to say that he is putting forward an untrue recital to the House.

Sir, the only thing I have not dealt with has to do with the Public Officers Loans Committee, and I allege that is a fact. My point of order is that he is imputing base motives to us, and he must withdraw the remark, unless he can say which recital is untrue.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I do not take the hon. junior member for Christ Church to be imputing bad motives to members on the other side of the House. It is regrettable that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was not in his place when the hon. junior member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair. He was going through the Resolution in detail. I would like the hon. junior member for Christ Church to know that I do not share his view that the Resolution is not in order, because it was so ruled by the Hon. Speaker.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I am trying to point out, even at this late hour, is that there are certain objectionable features in the Resolution. The Resolution is not properly worded; it is not couched in proper parliamentary language, and it is not the type of Resolution which can come down here and be dealt with in this form. It is all based on accusations, allegations, and what this person said or what a lot of backsliders in the same Housing Authority, who are members of the Barbados Labour Party, have passed on to them, and we cannot accept it on that basis. To make out that these things are facts, whereas in truth and in fact they are merely a matter of opinion - when we go further the Resolution says

"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..... "

I am saying this is out of order. Anyone who has been in here for a year, for two years, or for any little time, will know that it is out of order. The hon. junior member for the City knows that it is out of order. This is a matter of opinion, and I am saying that not only the recital is out of order, but you cannot express an opinion on something before it is tried. You are asking for a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the Housing Authority's activities over the last year. Are you going to prejudice the minds of the Commission of Enquiry, if and when appointed, by telling them what has happened already and what the decision should be? That is why it is out of order. Anybody who says that this is not out of order is merely attempting to.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER; I would prefer the hon. junior member for Christ Church, who is an experienced parliamentarian, not to repeat the expression "that it is not in order". It would be better to say that no evidence has been put forward. I am not expressing an opinion, but it would be better for the hon. member to say that no evidence has been supplied, or no argument has been adduced in support of the accusation, rather than to say that the Resolution is out of order, because His Honour the Speaker has ruled it in order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will recall that I dealt with recital after recital from the very beginning. I have been going through this Resolution and pointing out where there has been no corroborative evidence to support these accusations. I have now got to this point which even goes further and not only gives what is glaringly untrue, but it goes further and expresses an opinion which, on the face of it, is wrong. You cannot express an opinion in a Resolution of this sort.

4. 55p.m.

The next paragraph reads as follows: -.

"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; "

I did not hear any evidence on that.

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

On a point of order, why is the Minister talking about evidence? Is this still the House of Assembly or is it a Court? Does he want stronger evidence than the Minister's failure to deny paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8? We do not want evidence. We are waiting for a Judicial Commission to have evidence.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It suits the members of the Opposition to be jumping up every minute. I did not attempt to interrupt anyone when they were speaking. Because you have not produced the necessary corroboration and explanations that are due, you want to hurry this through because you saw our members were outside, and you wanted to use a political trick to see if you could get the Commission appointed. All these are political tricks which we know. The Resolution goes on

"AND WHEREAS the Minister has approved, loans to Public Officers despite the fact that the Committee has been no meeting of the Public Officers Loans Committee; "

Again, I did not hear that explained. I am saying, that a lot of allegations and accusations are made. There have been very flimsy explanations and we are asked to agree to put this, to rush this to the vote and have this Commission appointed. This is not the first or last Commission of Enquiry to be appointed, because Commissions of Enquiry have been appointed in the past and the matters investigated as they should be. Matters of public interest should be investigated, but the fact that the House of Assembly appoints a Commission of Enquiry is not evidence of guilt on anybody; it is merely a question of an investigation as such. It is only after a careful investigation has been conducted and the Commission has done its work in a proper way and make recommendations and submitted their report that anybody can be involved or any of these allegations which you have here can be corroborated or accepted. A lot of gullible talk went on merely for purposes.

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

If the Minister would "give way for one moment. If the Minister is representing the views of that side and he objects to the recitals, would he then support the Resolution part if we withdrew the recitals and just say "BE IT RESOLVED that a Judicial Commission be appointed"? If he does not like the recitals, at; Seconded I would be perfectly prepared - not to abandon them, but to remove them from the Resolution on the convenience of the Government if it would support the Resolution calling for an enquiry.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member who has just sat (made a very clever or ingenious suggestion. After he has trotted out all these statements and/or misstatements of opinion and got them down on the Official Gazette - and the newspapers have to be careful how they publish this thing - and the Hon. Mover has done likewise although he did not speak at any length and was very anxious to sit down, I notice, he wants to withdraw the recitals. Why didn't the hon. member display that sort of co-operation and good behaviour earlier? As a trained lawyer and with his years of experience in big countries followed up by parliamentary debates, he knows that this Resolution is wrongly worded and badly drafted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am drawing to your attention, with all due respect, is that it is only at this late hour, with the technique of the Opposition, clever and ingenious as it is to them, but a little clumsy to me, after they have got everything some of them had to say - not the senior members who have been in here long enough to know how far to go and what to do and how to do it - they claim that the recitals should not be there.

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

On a point of order, no, Sir; what we are saying is that if the Government will support the Resolution, we will withdraw the recitals so as not perhaps to prejudice the Commissioner, but not to withdraw the allegations.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Point made.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

On a point of order, let me make it clear. The hon. member is speaking for himself. I think he has done wrong to suggest withdrawing the allegations.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This is Just what I wanted The Hon. Leader of the Opposition normally knows that this matter is of such grave Importance, and with his long years of parliamentary experience and experience in die Law Courts and distinction in all parts of the world, he is the person who should have "brought this Resolution, and the Shadow Minister of Housing, if he felt he wanted to Justify his position for the future ten or twenty years from now, could second it. The Leader of the Opposition has called all these allegations. They are not statements of fact as worded here.

I am flaying. Sir, that despite all these rulings, this Resolution is wrongly worded, because they have stated recitals as though they are facts. Anyhow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of irregularities happened here today. The whole sitting has been bungled and over bungled with a lot of irregularities from start to finish, and even the extension now is a breach which we are committing. The motion made at the end of Private Members1 Time without the Standing Orders being suspended is again a breach; so breach after breach has been committed in here, and all that happened in here today should be ignored.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I know that the hon. junior member for Christ Church is very conversant with all the Rules of this House, and he knows that any ruling made by His Honour the Speaker can only be questioned by a substantive motion. 5. 05 p.m.,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, I am one of the well-behaved people around here, and unlike the hon. senior member for Christ Church - I will not worry to say it while I am on my feet; I will

let him off this time - I behave so well because I understand that this is Parliament; but this has been a breach of our Standing Orders. The Standing Orders were not suspended, we had a ruling from the Speaker.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Would the hon. junior member for Christ Church please stick to the Resolution before the House?

Hon. C. E. TALMA; This is all part and parcel of the Resolution. We have been sitting here now from 12 o'clock and we have not done anything at all, and there has been a lot of interpretations and misinterpretations, rulings and.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, the Minister is being irrelevant.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

You keep quiet for a change; There has been a lot of rulings and overrulings, and I am just trying to bring it to the attention of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I must caution the hon. junior member for Christ Church that he is repeating himself.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution, provided it has weight, should be dealt With in the proper way, and the taxpayers must be protected at every stage, If there is justification for a Commission of Enquiry there will be one as there have been in the past, and the report of the Commission of Enquiry will be dealt with. in the right way I am giving the House this assurance, that the Government will see that this duty is performed, and the appropriate action taken if this Resolution is passed, so that the public interest will be always protected,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my eight and a half years in politics, never have I seen a greater exhibition of political slime than what I have seen over the past few days. Never have I seen and experienced the sort of political connivance to bring down a Government by people who profess to be members of that very Government. Never have I seen and experienced the sort of political chicanery that we have been experiencing by people who profess to be members of a political Party when they do not know which limb they are standing on. I was asked to sit down when I stood to defend my right and the right of

members of this House where the privilege of this House is concerned. I was told to sit then, but nobody can stop me from talking now, because I am talking on the Resolution and I will say what I had to say then.

If you are in a political Party and do not know where you stand, come out and go to the other side or stand alone; but do not get inside and try to pull it down, and what I have seen here in respect of this Resolution before the House today is a clear indication of how people are thinking. Mr. Deputy Speaker, can anyone tell me that I can come to this Legislature and bring one Resolution to this House of Assembly and then hon. members are given another resolution? The Resolution placed on the Order Paper which we are dealing with today I still contend is not the Resolution which was introduced in this Chamber last week.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that that part has already been ruled on by His Honour the Speaker, and I cannot allow him to have any further discussion on that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I will bring a 'no-confidence' motion,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

A 'no-confidence' motion can be brought against me morning, noon and night, but I will represent the Rules of this Chamber and I will not have that type of conduct by any member of this Chamber.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

These things can be dealt with by a substantive motion, and I still have the right to bring a motion, whether I am a Minister or not, and that is the end of that.

To deal with the Resolution as it stands, it has been mooted and proclaimed that this is a Resolution against the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and Minister of Housing. It accuses the Minister of Housing of nepotism; one of the paragraphs in the recital to the Resolution states "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; " earlier, the Resolution talks about the Housing Authority awarding contracts without advertising for tenders. Hon. members got on as though I, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, awarded a contract to somebody; but the Housing Authority awarded the contracts, the Housing Authority followed precedents, the Housing Authority did nothing in

awarding the contracts for the construction of these houses that was not done in the past, the Housing Authority awarded the contracts for the construction of the houses - not to a different person from whom the Housing Authority under the Government of the Barbados Labour Party ten or eleven years ago awarded contracts for roads. The same person who was awarded those contracts without going to tender is the same person that has got a contract for instructing houses for the Housing Authority at Silver Hill, and he is the same person who was given contracts ten or eleven years ago, without going to tender, to build roads, 5. 15 p.m.

This was when the Barbados Labour Party thought that the person was with them. They gave the same person a contract to build all of the roads. What is the difference then? This is not the action of the Minister, but the action of the Board. The Minister did not put his fist to the signing of a contract for any particular person with the Housing Authority. The Housing Board awarded the contracts. Why pick out Watson? There were several other people who had contracts. Why pick out Rayside? Do you know why they picked out Rayside's contracts for the houses? It is merely because he identifies himself with the Democratic Labour Party. Watson also identifies himself with the Democratic Labour Party. I have absolutely no apology to make for anybody whom Watson or anybody else employs, if he were awarded a contract by the Housing Authority. If Watson were awarded a contract by the Housing Authority, and he chooses to employ his son, brother, friend, my brother, my friend, or my father, that is a matter for Watson and not a matter for me. Where does the nepotism come in?

Sir, Watson had been awarded a contract and he employed people. Why is it that the contract awarded to Watson has been attacked? Do you mean to say that my father must not eat? Must he go into the Almshouse or go and beg? If he has been employed by Watson, then he is a man; he is a citizen of Barbados; he is entitled to the same right as any other member of this community; he is entitled to be given employment like anybody else in this country; he is entitled, if he is a skilled carpenter, to build one million houses and sell them. I want to make this abundantly clear. There is nothing in the Housing Act which states that the Housing Authority should not lend a General Worker or a Sugar Worker money to purchase a house. The Housing Authority does not lend out more than nine-tenths of the value of the house. If the Housing Authority is satisfied that the house is properly valued and the General Worker or Sugar Worker has income under \$60 a week, then that person qualifies for the same loan as anybody else. There is nothing in the Act which tells you that you cannot buy a house from the hon. senior member for the City, if you are getting a loan from the Authority. There is nothing in the Act that says the Housing Authority cannot lend money to a man, who qualifies for a loan, to purchase a house from the hon. Junior member for St. Peter. There is nothing in the Act which says that the Housing Authority cannot lend money to a man to purchase a house from me as the senior member for St. Andrew, or from a member of this Legislature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the prices fixed on the houses were in excess of their values, then hon. members would have an argument. If the prices were in excess and the officers of the Housing Authority had valued the houses at prices above the market value, then I would say that there was need for contention. Can anyone say that a man whose business is house building - because a member of the community or a worker in this country who qualifies for a loan has to get the loan from the Housing

Authority - that the Housing Authority must dictate to that person from whom he must get the loan? We have other people in this country building houses and selling them at the same price. As a matter of fact, there is collaboration in respect of the prices of these houses. Mr. Deputy Speaker, for eight years or more houses have been built by a lady living in St. Andrew who is supposed to be a Senator in this country. The Housing Authority buys the houses on representation made to it by the people who want to borrow money to purchase the houses from this same Parliamentarian. The houses are bought from the same Parliamentarian by the Housing Authority to give to the working-class people of this country. This went on during the time of the Barbados Labour Party, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it did not begin last year. My father did not begin building houses to sell people from last year when I became the Minister of Housing; he was doing that work now for four years, and people were buying the houses from him. The fact that there are more requests for houses than he is able to supply is evidence he has been giving people good quality houses and the people are satisfied with them. I have nothing to hide.

If hon. members can come here and say that anybody who made representation to the Housing Authority to loan them money to buy houses from Tom Jones or John Browne; the house was built, the officers inspected the house and fixed a valuation on the house; the valuation of that house was in accordance with the Rules; it was not over valued and the valuation was just and fair; if the loan that the person applied for does not exceed nine-tenths of the value of the house; if the Housing Authority had funds available and refused to lend that person the money to buy a house and turned around and told him to buy the house from my father, then I would say that there was something irregular.

I want to make this very clear. My father was building houses for four years, and he is going to continue to build them. Anybody Who wants to buy them, whether he lives at home or not - do you want me to throw my father at the door? I am not going to throw him at the door; he is going to live at home as long as he wants to live; he has to make a living in this country, and he will continue to make a living and nobody is going to stop him. His trade is building houses. Because a man is a politician and his father is a lawyer, must you tell him that nobody should employ his father to do a case for the Government because his father is a Minister or member of Parliament? Do hon. members want to tell me that my father must not live? I feel that he should live. As long as he is not stealing anything from anybody - if hon. members could come here and prove where anybody connected with me has stolen anything, if they can come here and prove that my father stole something or that I stole something from the Housing Authority, then I would resign my seat immediately. If they could come here and prove that I stole something or my father stole something from the Housing Authority, then I would offer my seat to anybody. 5. 25 p.m.

He stole the masons that fixed up " Tyrol Cot" about fifteen years ago.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not get what the hon. member said. I wish the hon. member would repeat it. (A VOICE He said that you stole the masons that fixed up "Tyrol Cot1' fifteen years ago.)

I challenge the hon. member to say that on the steps of this building.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I challenge any of them to go outside and make the statements that are brought in this Resolution.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

We have done it, both the hon. senior member for Christ Church and myself. (Disorder).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order in the House.

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

On a point of order, let the hon. senior member for St. Andrew take some legal advice and do not challenge us to repeat anything.

Hon. A. DaC. EDEWARDS:

Do you want me to stop speaking? Am I going too well that hon. members want me to go out? I am defending myself because the speeches made by hon. members on the other side were to the effect, and as a matter of fact, one hon. member actually did say I was stealing. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said there was stealing going on.

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

On a point of order, I said that the Bahamians call it 'conflict of interest', in England you call it bribery and corruption, and in Barbados we call it stealing, I never said the Hon. Minister had stolen anything, because I have not the slightest evidence that the Minister ever put his hands in the taxpayers1 pocket for money. He used the compressor and the traxcavator and so on, but I have no evidence of any money.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am glad the hon. member has made that statement, He actually told me before now that ha is

satisfied that, although this Resolution is being brought, I did not steal anything. But what amazes me is to see that this Resolution was directed at me and the hon. member got there today and said there was stealing going on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

It is now 5.30 p.m., and the end of Private Members' Business,

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO LEASE LAND TO Mr. GEORGE C. WALKE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 be the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution concerns all that certain piece or parcel of land situate at Fairfield Road, Welches, in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement 1, 560 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of the said George Carle ton Walke on lands formerly of the Barbados Co-operative Bank, on lands of Frank Massiah and on other lands formerly of the Barbados Co-operative Bank or however else the same may abut and bound.

The lease is to be for a period of Twenty-five years at the rate of Thirty-six dollars per annum.

This matter has been referred to the Town and Country Planning Office and the Chief Town Planner has commented as follows: "The plots on the Fairfield Road are very shallow and are further reduced by the twenty-five foot building line on the Fairfield Road. Furthermore, several encroachments have already been made and the area is covered in bush. I would recommend, for the short stretch behind Fairfield Road, that the land be leased to adjoining owners. The remainder of the railway is of historic interest and could provide a long distance cross-country walk for the public in general and for groups such as Scouts and Youth Groups. " This piece of land is covered with a lot of bush and is not being used by the Government, There are other comments here which have, more or less influenced the decision-the land should not be allowed to waste; the untidy condition in which it is kept; and some revenue, though small, can be earned; and leasing it to adjacent owners will improve the prevailing conditions in the area, and the mosquito nuisance will be eliminated. For those reasons, among others, it is agreed that this land-should be leased to Mr. George G. Walke for a period of 25 years at \$36 per annum.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been told here that Government has no use for this land for the next 25 years. What I would like to suggest to the Hon. Mover of the Resolution is that further consideration be postponed for this reason, I understand that Mr. Walke has signified his intentions Government to purchase the piece of land, and it, is as clear as daylight that if the Government has \$0 use for it for the next 25 years and the lease might be renewed for another 25 years, it is only a small. area of 1, 560

square feet, and I would counsel Government to consider selling Mr. Walke the little plot of land and be finished with it once and for all. I understand that he is presently leasing it to improve his yardway and would grow some flowering plants and the like, and I am sure that the little development that he could carry out if it were his own outright, he might not be able to do when he only has a lease over it. 5. 35 p.m.

We agree that 25 years is a long time; but since Government is prepared to be without the use of it for 25 years, plus the time that they have not been using it already, we are to ask Government if they would consider selling Mr. Walke the land, as he is willing to buy it. It is not adjoining any other Government lands, and Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to see the plot if the Minister has it, since the development in that area, and from the report that the Town and Country Planning Department has given, it can be seen that Government will not be able to make any use of this shallow land, and there are already, we understand, several encroachments in the area. We are to ask if Government would consider the matter in respect of the sale to Mr. Walke of this plot of land.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would go a little further than the hon. member who has just sat down and say that if the Government does not wish to part with the land they can charge the man a peppercorn rent and allow him to hold it until he dies or something else, but for 25 years he will be buying it and it will not be his. After all, this is a Government and I would ask the Minister to take it back to the Cabinet and find out if they could not charge the man a pepper-corn rent and give it to him. It is of no use to the Government; but if they do not wish to part with it, they could signify their willingness to help him with it, because I would say that \$36 a year is too much.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of elucidation, this is a part of the old railway line and we do not wish to part with it at the moment because - one never knows - we might have to run pipe lines across this area of land, and then we would have to buy that land; that is the reason why we are leasing it (Mr. HINDS; Reduce the rent, then) Reduce what rent? It is not exorbitant.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has made my point a little stronger; he says that they do not want to sell it, and I said if they do not want to sell it they should give it to the man at a pepper-corn rent, because it is of no use to him at the moment. If it were my land and I had an object in view, I would tell the man to give me a penny a year so as to prevent him from owning it, and he could take it; if I were a representative of St. Michael I would tell him to take it altogether. This is a Government now, not a pauper, and they are trying to squeeze this \$36 a year out of the poor man for something that is of no use at the moment. I am appealing to the Minister now to let the people, and this man, see that this is a

sympathetic Government and give him the land at \$5 a year as a pepper-corn rent and let him hold it.

We are not in favour of this \$36 a year from a sympathetic (point of view; we are in favour of \$5 a year as a pepper-corn rent until you are ready for it. You are not getting one cent now, and you are going to lease it; I feel that if this Government is a sympathetic Government, they will agree with me and make it \$5 a year as a pepper-corn rent and not \$36, because \$36 for 25 years is a lot of money and he still cannot do anything with it at all.

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

I must say that I so much support the suggestion made by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, and if he cares to move an amendment to delete the words "Thirty-sixdollars" and substitute "Five dollars".....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member is putting a charge on the Government, but this is a Money Resolution and he cannot do it.

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

I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a private member cannot move a motion to educe revenue. I support the arguments of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. 5. 45 p.m.

I was astonished to hear the Minister read out the suggestion about the cross-country walk because, obviously, people have been thinking about this. If the , the senior member for Christ Church were in his seat; I think he would confirm that he and I have discussed this matter of potential cross-country walks that you can have in Barbados - Gully Bottom Walk, and the Old Railway Walk. I wonder how far it is sensible to reserve any part of Carrington Village for a crosscountry walk made on the old railway line. As far as I know, the place where the railway came out on a level crossing at Constitution Road is now built across on both sides of the road; where it crosses Just above Halls Road and Belmont Road is also built across and it does not open up again until you are approaching Pinheiro Road in Carrington Village.

I suspect that the bath is built across the old railway reserve, Certainly it must run close to it, but I do not have the plan. It then runs out again above Alkins Road And comes out on the main road by a pipe; the pipe is also built across the railway reserve. When it crosses Tweedside Road at this point, you

cannot find where it ends I used to think that Fairfield Road itself was the old railway line, because the Railway Road obviously cannot be the line of the old railway. There has been so much building or encroachment on the railway reserve that, if I were the Government, I would abandon altogether any idea of ever making the walk start in the lower part of Carrington Village. If you are going to start, you should start at Flint Hall, because the Kingston Embankment, Licorish Village Cutting, and so on are still in order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask the Minister to postpone consideration of this matter for a little longer, so that members who are interested can be taken by an official of the Town and Country Planning Office, along with the Minister of Communications and Works and which other Ministers are dealing with this matter, and shown the railway reserve in Carrington Village, because if houses are built across anywhere between the country and Mr. Walke's portion, I would say it would be pointless not selling the land to him outright. I would very much like to be assured by actually seeing if our railway reserve is open. I am sure the railway reserve does not come out in Belmont Road. I would ask that this matter be postponed for a short time if the Minister would be kind enough, perhaps, on Thursday this week to take a party of members, who are interested, to see the old railway reserve. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I have never yet driven in the train.) I have driven in the train, but so long ago that I daresay Carrington Village was not there at the time. It had not been sold out yet. The houses are very near the railway reserve in Belmont Road, and pipe is on it. I do not see how the Government is going to build a walk on that. If the Government is not going to build a walk, why stop Mr. Walke - no pun intended, Sir - from purchasing the land? It is a big piece of land, anyhow; it is fifteen hundred square feet, and it must be a very big property that Mr. Walke has, if he needs 150 feet of yard space. I would ask the Minister to postpone the matter and let us have a look at it. Mr. Walke is not being delayed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I thank the hon. member for giving way. I could not honestly take him along the railway line, because I do not know it. I saw the train in Barbados about three times in my entire life, Sir. I was a little country boy and never came into town very often. I used to live in Dayrells Road. I know that the train passed through Kingston and went on to Bathsheba. He will have to get somebody else to show him the railway line.

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

If the Town Planning Department can say that this particular portion of road is essential to form the foundation of the cross-country walk then somebody ought to be able to show us where it aspects this walk will run. We may find that somebody has built a house across the line, and in order to build the walk we may have to acquire somebody's house. I know the district moderately well and I certainly cannot say that I have ever seen any continuous line such as is worth preserving in this year 1970. I would really like to ask that the plans be produced and somebody take us over the ground to see that we are not accidentally misled by officials of the Town And Country Planning Office. If the Minister does not know the way the line runs and cannot give us any assurance, all the more reason for a short

postponement to let us have a look. In any case, I would suggest that you reduce the man's rent.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am quite certain no one would deny the hon. member who has just sat down the opportunity of walking over the old railway track, properly conducted by someone who knows about the land over which the line ran; but that is no ground for postponing the Resolution. Mr. Walke made application for the lease or purchase of this land. His application was in since September 1969. It is the policy of the Government, in exceptional cases but very rarely, to sell Government land. The policy is to lease it at a pepper-corn rent. Do you want it cheaper than \$3 a month, \$36 a year? Do you want it to be \$1 a year?

It is Government land, and if we are giving it away at a pepper -corn rent you accuse us of giving land to our friends. Now that we are renting it at a rate which we feel is reasonable and can do no harm to Mr. Walke, who has asked for either purchase or lease, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, who is very enthused about a cross-country walk, can still have his cross-country walk. I can see no justification in postponing this matter. The Cabinet has considered this matter on several occasions; it was before Cabinet since 1969; on one occasion it was deferred. As the Minister of Works and Communications has said, it was deferred because it was felt that at some foreseeable time in the future this same land may be useful to the Government for Government purposes.

Sir, the matter was deferred in January this year, and it was deferred for consideration of the question of preserving a way-lien for Public Works, including the laying of pipelines by the Natural Gas Corporation in the area. The application to purchase or lease was made in September last year; it was deferred until January this year, and the matter has been submitted to the appropriate Government Offices for advice, etc. I will give you the sum total of the advice in a few words. We have this land; I have produced the plan, and I have done everything possible to show that it is a pepper corn rent. The land does not belong to the Cabinet and we cannot give it away.

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

On a point of order, Sir. I have not seen the plan on this side. I would be glad if I could see it. (Mr. HINDS I saw it.)

C. 1.TALMA:

Sir, I have done everything possible in this matter. Sending it back to the Cabinet does not mean that it will be made any cheaper, because Cabinet has been considering it long enough. None of us here has the authority to reduce the rent. The matter has been thoroughly considered the rent is reasonable, and the piece of land for 25 years is good; he can probably get it for another 25 years; he may have it ad infinitum. It is doing Mr. Walke a great service, because he may not be able to find a lump sum of money to buy the land. 5. 55 p.m.

Mr. HINDS; On a point of order, Mr. Walk(c) expressed a desire to buy. What is the Minister saying?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

He expressed a desire to purchase or lease. The policy of the Government is to lease.

Mr. HINDS:

What right has the Minister now to suggest that he might not be able to find the money to buy?

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

RESOLUTION TO LEASE LAND TO MRS. ANITA PRESCOD

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this next Resolution concerns all that certain piece or parcel of land (part of a larger area the property of the Barbados Government) situate of Britton's Hill Road in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement Six hundred and twenty five square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of A. Prescod on other lands of the Barbados Government being the remainder of the larger area aforesaid and on the public road known as Brittons Hill Road or however else the same may abut and bound.

Mrs. Anita Presod has made application for the purchase of the strip of land described in the Schedule, which is adjacent to her property, to be used as a drive-way. This land forms part of an area on which a Branch Police Station was built. The land is valued at \$1.00 per square foot, and it is proposed subject to the approval of Parliament to sell the land to Mrs. Prescod for the price of \$625. I will attempt to give hon. members some more information. Mrs. Anita Prescod of Dalkeith Hill, St. Michael, made application for this land. She has been living on the land for seven years and apparently was not aware that she had been encroaching on Government lands which were formerly used by the Britton's Hill Police Station. The Standing Valuation Committee valued the land at \$1.00 per square foot which has been determined by the Chief Surveyor to be 625 square feet. The land forms part of an area on which a Branch Post Office will be built. Since the Ministry of Communications and Works is satisfied with the disposal of this land, there seems to be little objection which can be taken to disposal, and in view of the awkward shape of the land, that Ministry feels that the land should be sold. A copy of the plan is available and shows it is 625 square feet, It is outside a wall erected as a boundary to the Government property. This again is another parcel of land which is of very little use to the Government; and which the lady in question has been using for the last seven years. Since it provides an entrance to her house and she has been using it, we are asking that the sale be approved.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE STATUTORY BOARDS SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1970.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Order No. 8, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order No. 8 is the next Order of the Day and stands in the name of the Acting Leader of the House, and it is the second reading of a Bill to amend the Statutory Boards Service Commission Act, 1969.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, as has already been mentioned, this Bill will amend the Statutory Boards Service Commission Act, 1969, in order to empower the Governor-General, if he thinks it expedient so to do, to revoke at any time the appointment of the chairman or any member of the Commission established by that Act.

There is an anomaly, and this is to make it doubly clear that the Governor-General has power to revoke at any time the appointment of the chairman or any member of the Commission established by the Act. There is reason for this, and in order to regularise things and do them in a proper legal way, this amendment has been advised by the Attorney General. I do not care to go into any further details, but I think hon. members will realise the wisdom of having this amendment and vesting this power in the Governor-

general.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this question of the Statutory Boards Service Commission, we feel that the functions of the Commission ought to be of some concern to us today, and at the same time we might even venture to say that the functions of the very Statutory Boards should concern us, and I want to draw attention quite briefly to the Child Care Board. It would be very interesting if the Minister could tell us what provision has been made for the appointment of a Secretary to the Child Care Board, because if there is an anomaly which has brought about the necessity to give the Governor-General the power sought here today, there is also a similar situation with respect to this so-called post of Secretary to the Child Care Board.

Now this Board is heading, as far as we know, for a considerable amount of confusion. 6,05 p.m.

This is why it is very necessary to have the Service Commissions Department really so established as to be able to correct any misuse of power by some who now seek to do so. One finds that at some of these Children's Homes - as happened, I remember, some time ago with the Parrs Children's Home and the Home at Glendale in St. Thomas where a Matron from Parrs was transferred to act as Matron at the Home in St. Thomas for a very brief period; but when it came that there was a vacancy for the Headship at the St. Thomas Home, no attempt was made to appoint the head of the Parrs Children's Home who was sent up there to act, but they went beneath her and took her junior and sent her to act in the post. I am to wonder who is going to pay these Bills, because I know it for a fact that this Deputy who is now acting Head has gone all about Bridgetown selecting the furniture that is to be installed at the Home at Glendale. You will also find that Nurses are transferred without given even a day's notice in advance, which makes it difficult for them to be able to reach their homes.

All of this is causing a lot of confusion, and I understand that some of the Nurse have already tendered their resignation. So we make mention of these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because we do not want to see the little children suffer in any respect. We do not mind what method might be employed for somebody who wants to recruit their friend over the head of somebody else, we do not want the children to suffer; that is our main concern. But what we want to look into most carefully is to see that people who do not have the authority to transfer people are no longer allowed to usurp power that is not theirs.

I would certainly like the Minister to tell us if there is such a post as Secretary to the Child Care Board, and if so, what are the functions of the Secretary. You will also find that in that same set-up there are some officers who are jockeying for positions, and who want to leave the Child Care Board section to go to work in the Rates and Taxes section for the simple reason that they find that the Child Care Board is too strenuous for them, and when you find situations such as these, they throw extra burdens on the officers who are left to serve. We want to see everybody there being content and we all cared for, because we have got to look at it carefully. There are something like 19 Day Nurseries and 18 Community Centres - although I understand that there are about seven of the Community Centres which are active; and if you find that these Centres are to be brought into full play we have got to do something by way of getting the staff satisfied, because only satisfied people can give of their best, or can be expected to give of their best.

When we come to the question of the Community Centres and these extra activities involving, I would say, our Youth Groups, we have the Indian Ground Youth Group which had been suffering for the use of the Indian Ground Girls' School for months. They have been turned and twisted around several times; all sorts of representations have been made on their behalf; they have written letters to the Ministry of Education; I myself have made contact with the Ministry of Education, and I have heard that they would have received letters advising them that permission would be granted for them to use this school, and up to today no such letter has been received. But nevertheless you will find the Headteacher at the Indian Ground Girls' School saying that they can use the school, but the janitor who is in charge of the keys overnight would not release the keys to anybody, and when a complaint is made to the Headteacher nothing is done about it. This is the kind of thing we want to see remedied, and our officers should be able to function properly and these Youth Groups should be well looked after.

We offer no objection, but we would like to hear from the Minister what has really brought about the situation where we have got to give the Governor-General the authority to revoke the appointment of the chairman or any member of the Commission, and where he discovered the anomaly existed, in the first instance.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Acting Leader of the House in introducing this Bill stated that he was advised by the Attorney General. This is not the sort of power that one should go casually just like this and give to the Governor-General; it occurs to me that there must be some reason why within less than a year after the passing of this Act it has become necessary to bring this Bill before the House. I would like to find out if there is in existence at the moment a Statutory Boards Service Commission, who are the members appointed to that Board and who is the Chairman of the Board; also the reason why the Government has decided to put in this amendment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter arose as a result of the fact that Mr. C. A. Coppin, the former Chairman of the Public Service Commissions, had been appointed to serve, but was no longer a member of that Commission, and Lt. Col. O. F. C. Walcott had been nominated to replace him. 6. 15 p.m.

The matter was deferred so that the Attorney-General might give an opinion as to whether a member of the new Public Service Commission should be appointed to replace a member of the former Public Service Commission. The Attorney-General is of the opinion that the statutory Boards Commission Act should be amended to include the necessary provision to meet this situation and other similar situations, and he has submitted this Bill which we have before us. It is a question of regularising this position and empowering the Governor-General to appoint a Chairman of the Public Service Commission. In other words, there was someone appointed as Chairman, but we could not revoke his appointment.

So far as the questions raised by the hon" junior member for St. Peter are concerned, although they do not deal with the matter before us - they are not exactly out of order, but slightly so. I am glad for the advice he has given. The Secretary is Mrs. Gittens, and the Chairman is the Chief Welfare Officer. This lady acts as Secretary of the Child Care Board. The Act, as such, does not make provision for anybody, but she is the Supervisor of these Day Nurseries and she assists with the matter. There is no such post, as far as I know. With respect to the question of abuse, I have heard one or two things myself and I am already taking appropriate steps to deal with these situations. I have not actually got my teeth into it yet, but I have made the first step and I intend dealing with the matters, including the Community Centres, if they are still under my control, as from tomorrow.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until July 14, 1970, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that. '

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I just(want to get an assurance on behalf of the Opposition that when we come at 2.30 p.m. on the 14th July, we will be doing Private Members¹ Business. We do not want to come here and then find that the Standing Orders have been suspended or anything of the sort. I want to get that

assurance from the Leader of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House is not here, but if my word will have any effect, I think the assurance will be given. I will not have the authority in another few days, but I suppose I could give the assurance.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 14th July, 1970, at 2.30p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative withiut division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6. 25 p.m.