

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th May, 1970.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., Hon. K. N.R. HUSBANDS, J.P., (Minister of Agriculture Science and Technology); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C.M.G., M.A., (Leader of the House); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Trade and Tourism); Hon. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works). Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing); Sir G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., D.C.L. (Hon.) (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. ;C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., Mr.

J. B. SPRINGER; and Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were read.

ACTING APPOINTMENT OF Mr. JOHN CONNELL AS DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. John Connell, Barrister at Law, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk of this House with effect from the 26th March, 1970 until further notice.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

I beg to second that.

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

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER; I have the honour to inform the House that Minutes have been circulated in respect of three meetings. If hon. members would intimate to me whether they have had opportunity of perusing those minutes, I shall then deal with them separately.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 27th January, 1970 are now available for confirmation. Unless there is any objection, I will declare them confirmed. There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of the Meeting of the 27th January of this year duly confirmed.

Next, the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 3rd February, 1970 are now available for confirmation; if I hear no objection, I will declare those Minutes duly confirmed. There being no objection, I declare

the Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd February, 1970 duly confirmed.

Lastly, the Minutes of the Meeting of 10th February, 1970 are now available for confirmation, and unless there is any objection.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Minutes of 10th February, I think it is about the 9th and 10th lines from the bottom of the first page which read "Mr. Speaker spoke re letter which he had sent to the Minister of Home Affairs re the non-circulation of the Minutes of the House". That is a very serious thing.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am more than grateful to the hon. member, and I am sure the Hon. Ministers are ever more so for pointing this out; it will be duly corrected. Subject to that amendment, if there is no other error or omission I will declare these Minutes, as amended, duly confirmed. .

Mr. ST. JOHN entered the House and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Accounts and Statement for the month of June, 1968 prepared by the Accountant General.

In connection with the renovations to the House to which I believe hon. members were looking forward, there has been certain correspondence from the relevant Ministry. There is a letter written by Mr. Clerk on my instructions dated 7th April, 1970 to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works:

"Sir,

I have been directed by His Honour the Speaker to write you relative to the renovations and alterations

agreed to be done to the House of Assembly.

You may recall that correspondence concerning this matter has been exchanged between yourself and the Cabinet Secretary resting with his letter to you of 1st April, 1970 (Reft No. 3893/T.1/30).

At the meeting of the House of Assembly held on 24th March, 1970, I WAS instructed by the House on the suggestion of the Leader of the House to liaise with your Ministry with a view to having some of the alterations completed before the 5th May, 1970, the date upon which the House is scheduled to meet after its Easter Recess. The House expects that during the interim period the new seating arrangements for Members would have been completed and the Speaker's Chair re sited; also that the stairway to be erected and to be used as an entrance to the Strangers' Gallery would be finished.

I would be obliged if you would let me know how soon your Ministry intends to commence operations as the time at our disposal is very limited.

Yours faithfully

(Sgd.) H. O. ST.C. Cumberbatch. Clerk, House of Assembly".

A letter dated 10th April, 1970 from the Minister of Communications and Works:

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

"Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 7th April, 1970, addressed to this Ministry by the Clerk, House of Assembly, regarding the renovations and alterations agreed to be done in the House of Assembly and to inform you that by memorandum dated 1st April, 1970 and addressed to the Permanent

Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works the Cabinet Secretary notifies.....

(a) that provision of \$120,000 has been made in the Estimates for 1970-71 under Head 3

Parliament, Item 38 - Renovation of

Houses of Parliament, for the renovation and redecoration of the Chambers of both Houses and their precincts; and

(b) suggests that now that both Houses of Parliament are in recess opportunity should be taken for carrying out the work.

2. I am advised, however, that before work can

commence on the proposed renovations and improvements measured drawings, working drawings and tender documents must be prepared. It is estimated that this preparatory work will take approximately four weeks as follows:

(a) Preparation of measured drawings -1 week (elevation)

(b) Working drawings: 1 week (A) partitions

(b) new tables and chairs (members)

(c) balcony

(d) new stairway with lavatory

(c) Preparation of tenders: -2 weeks (a) air conditioning

03) electrical work

(c) plumbing

(d) sound equipment system

(d) Award of tenders - 3 weeks

3. I am further advised -

(a) that it will take approximately 10 weeks complete the work; and

(b) that the labour content of the estimate will have to be revised in consequence of the recent revision of salaries of Government employees. It is therefore not unlikely that the cost of the required renovations and improvements will exceed the provision of \$120,000 in the approved estimates.

4. It is regretted that my Ministry will be unable to undertake the necessary renovations and improvements to both Houses of Parliament during the present recess, and I submit, for your consideration, that the internal renovations be carried out during the summer recess.

I am,

Mr. Speaker,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Neville W. Boxill

Minister."

2.25 p.m.

Hon. members will realise that this correspondence will be duly circulated for members' consideration at their leisure.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Prime Minister -

The Customs Duties (Rattan Furniture Ltd.) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Fibre Glass Ltd.) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Workers Union) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Vitafoam (Barbados) Ltd.) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1970.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Marketing Corporation) Order, 1970.

Statement of Rum Transactions for Quarter ended 31st March 1970.

Statement of Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 12 months ended 31st March 1970,

The Public Officers' Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

Also on my own behalf:

Statement of dealings, transactions and dis-positions of land without the prior approval of the Legislature by the Minister of Home Affairs.

Information relating to Primary Schools, arising from Parliamentary Question No. 71.

I am also commanded to lay the following Statement regarding the renovation of both Houses of Parliament:

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE RENOVATION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Provision was specifically made in the current Estimates to meet the cost of renovating and redecorating the Chambers of both Houses of Parliament and their precincts in accordance with recommendations made previously by each House. It was hoped that the opportunity of the Easter recess could have been taken to carry out much of the work involved.

However, it has not been possible in the time available since the beginning of the financial year on 1st April, for the actual work to be started for the reasons that it is necessary for measured drawings, working drawings, and tender notices for certain aspects of the work, to be prepared and for tenders to be invited and awarded.

It is proposed to have such of the work as can be carried out without undue inconvenience to hon. members and to the business of either House proceeded with as soon as possible and independent of other aspects of the renovations wherever possible. It is expected that at least the internal renovations will be completed by the end of the Summer recess.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am com-manded to lay the following

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders to 30th November, 1969.

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders to 31st December 1969.

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders to 31st January, 1970.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am com-manded to lay the following

The Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1968.

The Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1969.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES; Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Report of the Committee appointed to examine legislation affecting children and young persons in Barbados and to make recommendations.

The Health Services (Hotel) Regulations, 1969.

The Health Services (Building) Regulations, 1969.

The Health Services (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 1969.

The Health Services (Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes) Regulations, 1969.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am com-manded to lay the following

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1970.

The Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the year 1969-70.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947.

On my own behalf I beg to give notice of a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Juries.

Also to say that replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 31 asked by the senior member for St. Thomas; No. 69 asked by the same hon. member; No. 74 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter; No. 80 asked by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown and No. 82 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter are all ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

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

A Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, 1952.

Also to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 48 asked by the junior member for the City; No. 51 asked by the junior member for St. John; No. 60 asked by the senior member for St. Joseph; No. 65 asked by the senior member for St. Thomas; No. 67 asked by the senior member for St. Thomas; No. 68 asked by the senior member for St. Thomas and No. 70 asked by the senior member for St. Thomas are ready.³

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS; Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Question No. 86 asked by the senior member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr" Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No, 76 asked by the junior member for St. Peter is ready.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. and learned member for Bridgetown his question re repairs to Parkinson Comprehensive School.

REPAIRS TO PARKINSON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister -

Is the Minister aware that the Parkinson Comprehensive School is in a very bad state of disrepair - several window panes and other items being in need of replacement?

2. Will the Minister take steps to have this school repaired as quickly as possible? 12.35 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

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

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

3. Will the Minister direct that such increases as have been illegally made either (a) be credited to the accounts of the tenants who may be in arrear of rent; or (b) returned to the tenants immediately?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Is the Minister aware that the owners of the tenantry known as Bannister 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?

2. Will the Minister take immediate steps to have this matter investigated and rectified?

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are certain other Questions on my Notice Paper. Will any hon. member assure me if he has the authority of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to put those Questions?

In the absence of such assurance, those Questions will stand over.

Horn N. W. BOX1LL:

Mr. Speaker, on A point of order, I did not hear what you said, Could you kindly repeat it?

Mr. SPEAKER; There art certain Questions on my Notice Paper which purport to be in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. That hon. member is not in his place, nor has any hon. member

given me the assurance that he has the authority to put those Questions.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. R. St.C WEEKES, a Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Juries was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. N. W. BOXILL, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, 1952, was read a first time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am not pro-posing to do any Government Business today for a variety of reasons. I am suggesting, however that in as much as we have laid the replies to some fourteen or fifteen Questions, the House might wish to take Question Time now. If it so wishes, there will have to be a motion to suspend the Standing Orders to enable Questions to be done in Government Time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. R. ST.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION re FIRE HYDRANTS WOODSIDE TENANTRY

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 48 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows-

To esquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware that there is no fire hydrant in Woodside Tenantry, Dunlow Lane, Bay Street, Bridgetown?

2, Will the Minister agree that the lack of such provision poses a great danger to the residents of the said tenantry, especially in view of the fact that there is only one entrance to the said tenantry: 1. 0. by way of Dunlow Lane?

3. Will the Minister see to it that:-

(a) a fire hydrant be immediately installed in the said tenantry;

(b) entrances to and exits from the said tenantry be provided so as to give ingress to and egress from the said tenantry from and to Collymore Rock and/or BayLand, Beckles Road?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows-

" There are four fire hydrants in Dunlow Lane, two of which can be used to serve a section of Wood-side Tenantry. Consideration is being given to the installation of a water main and two additional fire hydrants to serve the remainder of the tenantry.

The feasibility of providing an additional entrance to the tenantry is being examined".

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I wonder if the Minister can tell us how long this feasibility examination will take, because I think the Minister will agree that if there is a heavy rain and the wall in Dunlow Lane fell, nobody would be able to get out, nor would a fire engine be able to get in.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know how long a feasibility study would take. I cannot say it would take three days, three weeks or three months. Unless the hon. member doubts the veracity of my statement, there

will be a feasibility study. 12.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I really cannot understand that question; this is not anything we are building. The only reason why the hon. member should ask that question is if he doubts my veracity. I do not know if the hon. member knows the area as well as I do, but I could never understand why this wall was erected from the Henry's Lane side; I believe that this probably was erected in the days when certain people did not want people looking like me passing on their lands, and so there was always this little gate left there for people to go through. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Are you speaking about the Woodside Wall?) I am dealing with the area the hon. member asked the question about, in Dunlow Lane. There is one entrance for a motor car, but pedestrians can pass freely in and out.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

There is one public entrance; because you can walk over people's land, that does not make it an entrance.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The hon. member was not really asking a supplementary question, but I will answer him. As I said before, I doubt there is any-body in this Hon. Chamber who knows this country better than I do; that is not meant to be a boast. But what I was telling the hon. member was that, as far as a motor car is concerned, there is only one entrance and an exit; but if you are walking, you can enter from Henry's Lane, side or just above Dr. Bayley's Clinic from St. Paul's Avenue. I knew the area from the time the Dears used to live there. What I am saying is that we are negotiating to see if we can get the people to remove the wall. There is also a possibility that we can cut a road from the St. Paul's Avenue area.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

A further supplementary, Sir. I am trying to ask the Minister if in his Ministry he has not found that the previous Government made a feasibility study for cutting right across from the top of Dunlow Lane, instead of across the private lands at Henry's Lane, and into St. Paul's Avenue, because this would be the answer to the whole problem.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wonder if the Minister would agree, in view of the fact that he knows this area so well - to find that in the year 1970 the area does not contain a water main - has he not been neglectful to the people in this area?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I think that that question is bordering on a bit of impertinence, but the answer to that is simple. The hon. member's father was representing the area long before I came into the House of Assembly, and what was he doing about it? Why was nothing done before? I consider this question to be rather stupid; I did not say he is a fool. I can also say that the Party which he represents has been neglectful to the population of Barbados from the time of its inception, because they were in power when things were cheap, and they never saw fit to put any pipes in Dunlow Lane. It is only since we came into power and we have given the priority to private tenantry roads that they are getting any improvements now. People can only see things when they are outside looking in; apparently they do not see things when they are inside looking out. Dunlow Lane is not the only place that is short of water; there are a lot of places in the City which need water.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

If the hon. member was less rash, he would realise that the Supplementary I put to him was; did he not find in his Ministry a feasibility study for putting a road across from Dunlow Lane into St. Paul's Avenue. When the hon. member accuses the hon. Junior member's father for not doing anything - and you, Sir, allowed him to say it - this was asked in here already and there was a similar answer given.

12.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to his statement that no tenantry road was ever done, I would just like to draw to the hon. member's attention the fact that, ever since 1941 when the money for highways from taxes was paid into a separate account, tenantry roads were started under my instrumentality.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to his question is "No". I am not saying that it is not there, but I have not seen it. The Junior member for the City did not ask about the wall; he was talking about further up beyond the wall, I will promise the hon. member to look for the feasibility study that he said was carried out and let him know the position at a later date.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that we are going up against a blank wall. Question No. 51 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John. That is to be found on page 5.

**REPAIR OF ROAD FROM CLIFF, ST. JOHN TO HALTON, ST. PHILIP AND PROVISION
OF A BUS SERVICE**

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the appropriate Minister-

Is the Minister aware that the road leading from Cliff, St. John through Kendal to Halton, St. Philip is in dire need of repair?

2. Will the Minister use all the powers at his command to ensure that the said road is properly repaired in its entirety and also that a bus service be provided along the said road from Cliff to Halton to accommodate the many residents of the surrounding area?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows

1. Yes, Sir.

2. The road referred to will be considered for inclusion in the private tenantry roads programme 1970-71.

3. The provision of a bus service to this area is being investigated.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 60 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. That can be found on page 6.

BUS SERVICE FROM BRIDGETOWN TO CAVE HILL CAMPUS

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Is the Minister aware that there is no bus service leading to the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies?

2. Is the Minister aware that the lack of such a service poses a great difficulty to several students at the said campus?

3. Will the Minister consider the advisability of arranging a bus service from Bridgetown to the said Campus?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows

1. Yes, Sir.

2. No, Sir.

3. A survey will be carried out to ascertain whether there is sufficient demand to warrant the provision of a bus service to the Campus.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I take it that the Minister says that a survey was carried out. (Hon. MEMBERS Will be carried out.) Then why take up valuable time in replying when the matter is not finished? Why waste our time?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The Reply was ready. Mr. SMITH When will the survey be ready? Mr. BOXILL Shortly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH:

As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister know when this Question was tabled?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I believe so, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH:

From that time until now the survey is not ready! Does the Minister feel that it is not enough time, if he is not making sport?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, though I like to be jovial, the House of Assembly is no place for making sport, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, you must tell the hon. member or any hon. member in here that, when an hon. member, who is elected by the people, tries to find out or to get something done in the interest of the people, he is not making sport. Does the Minister think I am making sport when I am questioning him about a bus service for students going to the Cave Hill Campus?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Perhaps I misunderstood the Hon. Minister. I thought he said he was not making sport.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

That is exactly what I said, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, he is not making sport, but he is implying that I am making sport. This is the people's business, but he is taking everything as sport. The people's children are getting wet, and they cannot get a bus to take them to the Campus. A bus could go there at the opening and closing hours of the University.....

Mr. SPEAKER; I fail to detect the supplementary; the point is noted.

Mr. SMITH:

I am merely saying that to talk about a survey is foolishness. I am asking for a bus service for the students. The University opens at a particular hour and closes at a particular hour. Arrange for a bus to go there at that particular time to convey the students to and from the University. It is the people's money that is running the bus service, and not the Minister's money.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member put it in the form of a supplementary question; he cannot make a speech; he has made his point very forcefully.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, you can see the attitude of the Government. For what must we have a survey? To send a bus there at nine o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon?

Mr. SPEAKER rose - -

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he inquired from the University authorities how many students wanted a bus?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, the Reply to that question would be two students.

1.05 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's reply to Part 2 of the question said that he was not aware of any great difficulty. Upon what is that answer based? It could not be based on the survey because he is now carrying out the survey.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next question.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister a supplementary question. Let me re-peat it, in case the Minister does not understand. He said he was not aware that the lack of a service created a difficulty to the students, and then he said he would carry out a survey.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next question.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister a supplementary Question. Let me repeat it, in case the Minister does not understand. He said he was not aware that the lack of a service created a difficulty to the students, and then he said he would carry out a survey. I would like to know on what is the Minister's answer based.

Perhaps I should rephrase my Question to make it more simple for the Minister to understand. Would

the Minister agree that the only way he could be cer-tain that the lack of a service does not cause any difficulty to the students is if A survey was carried out?

May I ask another supplementary? Would the Minister agree that he is behaving in an unmannerly and uncouth manner?

Mr. SPEAKER:

No, no, no.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister agree that if you pass by a hogpen the hog would grunt?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That could never be a supplementary. I am proceeding to Question No. 80.

QUESTION re WESLEY HALL SCHOOL

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is the Minister aware that the yard of Wesley Hall School, King Street is in a state of disrepair.
2. Will the Minister take immediate steps to have the said yard repaired?"

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

"Yes, Sir. Both the grounds and the buildings on the Wesley Hall School compound at King Street, St. Michael, are scheduled for maintenance and repair work early in the 1970 - 71 financial year."

Mr. ELLIOTTT MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister give the House the assurance that, when the grounds are repaired, steps will be taken to have a fence placed around the yard to protect the children from running on to the road?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I do so.

QUESTION re PROVIDENT FUND

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 86 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware of the great hardship and loss of time and money, caused to the old retired agricultural workers who do not understand the qualification for assistance from the Provident Fund?

Will the Minister take positive steps so let the people know how and when to make correct applications for same?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

"1. No, Sir.

2. Publicity was given in the Press to the commencement of the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund payments and the factory and plantation managers were asked to co-operate in completing application and information forms for their workers.

Application forms and other relative information are available from the Secretary /Accountant, Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Board, Herbert House, Fontabelle."

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, is the Minister aware that the managers or employers are telling the people that they do not know how and when to fill in these forms and do not fill them in?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

As a further supplementary, in view of the fact that these applicants for Provident Fund are not highly literate, will the Minister see to it that some responsible person is put at Herbert House to assist people in filling out these forms and avoid them having to go to lawyers?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer both Questions at once. The Secretary-Accountant has under him other officers and, as far as I am aware people are assisted when they go there. If I have been misdirected when I ask questions, I can only come to the Legislature and say what information has been given to me. Secondly, there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about the Provident Fund. The problems that we have are not from cases of people that qualify. There are a lot of people who came out of the sugar industry before they were sixty-five years old. It is true they were not able to work, but there is provision in the Act that these people can qualify for a pension if they can get an affidavit signed or can produce a medical certificate showing that they were medically unfit to work. In the early stages, delay was occasioned by the fact that managers and owners of plantations in 1957 were no longer there,

and people have had to go from St. Joseph to St. Lucy to get someone to sign a form saying he has been working at Parks Plantation. I would like to advise hon. members that we are trying to get it done as smoothly as possible. Hon. members on the other side are not the only persons who get these complaints from workers. Up to Saturday I had to send a chap to Mr. Mahon in respect of one of his aunts from Porey Spring, and I have had to get a letter from Mr. Mahon pointing out that he had been giving the lady \$2.00 a week pension from Dunscombe. These cases come up every day. The Chief Labour Officer personally pays interest in this, and whenever difficulties do arise, even if the officer who is doing it is not competent enough to advise the person satisfactorily, he handles the matter himself. 1.15 p.m.

I would like to advise hon. members that it is going as smoothly as it possibly can. I have gone into the matter myself, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has discussed it with me, and I would like to assure him that everything is being done to help these people.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister willing to admit that one of the main difficulties of this whole Provident Fund is that there is not proper staff at the Labour Department to process the forms that are recieved?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, this is what I admitted earlier on.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is admitting that there is not enough staff to process the forms, how is the Minister out of the same mouth going to get up and tell us that when these people go there, there are officers present to fill in these forms and advise them?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

This happens now, but it was not always the case.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister state the system that is being used in the payment of the Provident Fund, that is, alphabetically by name, or alphabetically as far as the factories and plantations are concerned?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The answer is that it is done on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am telling the Minister that that is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the Minister answer the Question.

Mr. HINDS:

It is not true; do not let the Minister mislead the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member cannot answer the Questions; if the Question is answered and a member disagrees, then he may state his reason.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a supplementary Question, and I have answered that supplementary Question in keeping with the information which I have at my disposal; I am not a Civil Servant. I have enquired about this answer myself, and what has happened is that if the officers go in and see applications before them for January, the January applications are dealt with before those for February.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many applications have been received so far.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I think that this would be a Question for a substantive answer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 82 which stands in the name of the junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

1. No, Sir. The main problem experienced has arisen out of incorrect information supplied. The staff has no great difficulty in copying the appropriate documents.

2. Affidavits are sworn to in cases where the birth is not registered or the entry is not found, or errors and omissions made at the time of the registration of the birth are to be corrected.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I might expand this Reply somewhat. The Registrar has commented on this Question and he says that the staff who make the searches and prepare copies of birth and baptismal certificates have no difficulty in deciphering hieroglyphics, and that they are under the direct supervision of the Senior Executive Officer. He also said that there were many transfers during a short period of time, and that if the Chief Personnel Officer could provide a better type of officer the work could be speeded up. He continued to say that if a member of the staff misreads an entry and thereby issues an incorrect certificate, that incorrect certificate can be corrected without the need for an affidavit.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware of the fact that if a member of the Registration staff makes an error in copying a certificate, and the certificate is issued to the applicant with the error, there is no possibility of the Registration Office correcting that error without the applicant having been put to some difficulty by going here and there and being refused before the error has been detected? In other words, the Registration Office issues a certificate by spelling the name " Rita" as against " Reta" or something like that; the applicant receives it and goes to some other De-partment and then the Department detects that the name is being spelt one way on the certificate and another way by the applicant; the Registration Office cannot correct it at that time. That is the type of thing which is misleading a lot of people, and many of them have to swear to affidavits to correct these errors. 1.25 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered that point which the hon. member just raised when I said that the Registrar has commented that the staff who make searches and pre-prepare copies work under the direct supervision of a Senior Executive Officer; secondly, according to the Registrar, if a member of the staff misreads an entry and thereby issues an incorrect certificate, this could be corrected easily without the necessity of an affidavit.

My personal opinion is that if somebody's name is spelt wrongly - an "i" where an "e" ought to be -this is not an error in the same sense in which a date is put down wrongly on two different documents. I think the hon. member will distinguish the difference between them. Perhaps in the latter case where a person is said to be born on his baptismal certificate on the 10th May, and on the birth certificate it is given as the 20th May that would be a serious error, and I believe he would need an affidavit to put that right; but in respect of the juxtaposition of a letter in a name, which is reasonably the same name, I do not think you would need an affidavit for that. (Asides) The Registrar says that you do not need one, and I should imagine that the way for this to be handled is for him to make this public: for an incorrect entry you can have it corrected without an affidavit. An error, of course, would be a different matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister bear in mind that the main difficulty that arises in matters of this sort is whether or not the error was made at the time of registration of birth, as in the case of applications for birth certificates?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I did say in my Reply that there are certain conditions under which you would have to swear to affidavits -for instance, if the birth is not registered, if the entry is not found, and if you want to

correct errors and omissions made at the time of the registration. In all those cases you would need an affidavit but, according to the Registrar, in no other case.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 76 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, and that can be found at the bottom of page 8.

INFORMATION OF CHICKEN PARTS UNFAIR COMPETITION TO LOCAL POULTRY FARMERS

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the appropriate Minister -

1. Is Government aware that quantities of chicken parts - breasts and legs, marketed under the Brand name "Arawak" are arriving in this Island and are offering unfair competition to local poultry farmers?

2. What is the Government's policy relative to the importation and exportation of eggs and baby chicks and the issuing of licences therefor?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Question No. 76 is as follows

"1. No, Sir.

2. The importation of eggs and baby chicks is subjected to the issue of import licences under the Exports and Imports (General Open Importation Licence) Order, 1968. Licences are issued in cases when shortages occur or other circumstances justify the issue of licences. There are no restrictions in force on the export of eggs and baby chicks."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, does the Government know or has it heard about Arawak brand chicken and chicken parts?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, Arawak chicken parts, legs and breasts are CARIFTA products which are imported from Trinidad in packages not exceeding 2 1/2 lbs each. These chicken parts are exempted from price control in accordance with the provisions of the Miscellaneous Control of Prices (Amendment No. 3) Order, 1968, which exempts from price control chicken parts imported and ready packed in boxes, cartons, packages and similar containers not exceeding 2 1/2 lbs and bearing a brand name.

From the records of my Ministry, 1,241, 622 lbs of chicken parts, legs and breasts, was imported in 1969 of which 1, 120, 308 lbs consisted of chicken in bulk and 121, 304 lbs in packages of 2 1/2 lbs and under. Of the 121, 304 lbs of chicken parts in packages, only 36, 356 lbs or 2.9% of imported chicken legs and breasts came from Trinidad. The much larger portion of 84, 948 lbs or 6.8% was imported from the U.S.A. and Canada.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Arawak brand chicken in the packages not exceeding 2 1/2 lbs still imported into Barbados, or was it stopped since the tabling of these Questions?

Hon. G.G.FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the chicken parts were put up in package not exceeding 2 1/2 lbs. (Asides) No other restrictions have been placed on them. During the period when we were short of chicken legs, a lot of chicken legs in packages were bought and sold. For instance, the average cost of a package of Arawak chicken parts is \$1.10 c.i.f. per pound, and the retail price range between \$1.87 and \$2.00 per pound. If this item were subject to price control, taking account of tax, cold storage and profit margin, the price could be fixed at about \$1.83 per pound. The control price of chicken parts, other than in 2 1/2 lb packages and under, imported from any source or locally produced, is fixed at \$1.23 per pound.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, is it a fact that the Minister just said that the price of Arawak chicken c. i. f. is \$1.10 per pound?

Hon G. G. FERGUSSON:

Yes. The average price of Arawak chicken parts in a package is \$1.10 c.i.f. per pound.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Is the sale price of that \$1.85 per pound?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

The retail price ranges between \$1.87 and \$2.00 per pound because it is not controlled. If this item were subject to price control, taking account of tax, cold storage charges and profit margin, the price could be fixed at \$1.83 per pound.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, does not the Minister see a clear case for price control in respect of that?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, it is one of the CARIFTA products, and this sort of thing can happen only during a shortage. When our local stuff is controlled at \$1.24 per pound, nobody is going to stop buying it to purchase the same type of thing at \$2.00 per pound. 1.35 p.m.

The unfortunate position is that there was a shortage, and then the prices were increased because they were not controlled.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am again asking the Minister if it is not true that the importation of these small packages of Arawak chicken parts has been stopped since the tabling of these Questions. I have good reasons for asking this.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, I could not state this; I would have to check for the hon. member and let him know. I should mention here that one of the reasons why the importation of parts was stopped was because they

had to produce a certificate from the Veterinary Surgeon in Trinidad showing that these chickens were free from disease, as there was some poultry disease in Trinidad. There are no parts coming from Trinidad because they have not been able to produce a certificate from the Veterinary Surgeon in Trinidad.

Mr. HINDS:

The local price of \$1.23 per pound stipulates legs and breast. In the case of the Arawak parts where the c.i.f. is \$1.10, will the Minister tell us what parts they brought in?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I would like to ask the hon. member when.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may not answer, but he may by question ask the Minister if he is aware that they were brought in on such a date.

Mr. HINDS:

Up to the last shipment of Arawak goods that came in since the tabling of these Questions. That is what the Minister is getting away from. They definitely made a move to stop them since the tabling of this Question, but I want the Minister to explain what was the position up to the very last shipment.

Hon G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Marketing Corporation who are the importers of Arawak chicken parts stated - and this was two months previously, which would have been early January that parts had been suspended from importation due to the shippers not being able to provide a certificate to satisfy the local Health authorities in Barbados that at the time the chickens were killed they were in good health, because Trinidad has been suffering from some chicken disease. In other words, from early January no chicken parts have been imported into Barbados from Trinidad.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware that other importers in Barbados could have got the necessary certificates with shipments of Arawak chicken parts, but the Barbados Marketing Corporation could not get these certificates?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

This would be beyond my knowledge because the same Health authorities have to receive health certificates, whether they be from DaCosta and Musson, Harrison or the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. HINDS:

Would the Minister tell us if it is not a case where the supplier of Arawak chicken parts showed an unwillingness because of the inability of the Barbados Marketing Corporation to pay its bills, and the supplier was willing to sell to other people who could have got the certificates?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I never heard of it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 65 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member puts the Question, I should like to give notice that I have already laid this Reply. I find it extremely difficult and strange that you can jump from one Question to another to accommodate a member who did not give notice that he wanted this Question to stand over.

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

Nor was notice given to hon. members that Question Time would be taken at 1 o'clock and not at the regular time.

QUESTION re WATER SUPPLY IN THREE HOUSES HILL

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

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works: -

1. Is the Minister aware that the water supply to the district of Three Houses Hill in the parish of St. Philip is very poor and gives rise to numerous com-plaints among residents?

2. Will the Minister take early action to remedy this situation?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I did not give permission or authorise that they be laid before Question Time was completed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to say so, since I have been in this House, I have noticed that when there are twenty-seven Questions, they art asked in numerical order. The hon. member was not here and you have deliberately gone out of your way to accommodate him. I have laid the Reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That statement is not correct.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

It is correct. I say it is correct.

Mr. SPEAKER:

When any hon. member notifies me that he expects to be late, I give him the appro-priate assurance. On this occasion we are still on Question Time and the hon. member is in his seat while Question Time is still in progress, and irre-spective of what his profession is, the hon. member is entitled, the Question having been called, to put the Question now as it is still Question Time.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the Hon. Leader of the House to call on the Hon. Minister to withdraw that disgraceful insult to the Speaker.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Look who is talking about a disgraceful insult to the Speaker. You should be the last person, because you came in here and tabled a motion of No-Confidence against the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We must have order. Members not addressing the Chair must please observe the appropriate Standing Orders. 1.45 p.m.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I could not help hearing what the hon. member said. I sat down in the criminal dock at the District "F" Court some years ago because I was prosecuted for saying something the hon. member has just said, but the Attorney General is not going to prosecute the hon. member.

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

On a point of order, if the hon. member thinks for a moment, he would re-flect that there was no way of my knowing that Question Time would be going on at this hour. I was conducting a case in Court today, and I telephoned the House while the case was going on, and again at the end of the case and asked what was going on, and the Clerk told me that it was Question Time. Perhaps the hon. member will understand that these Questions have not been called and found me not in my seat.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

With all due respect to the hon. member, I would like him to know that my attitude on this matter has absolutely nothing to do with him. I am not saying that he deliberately did this, but on more than one occasion on the floor of this House I had Questions tabled here and the Speaker told me that the senior member for Christ Church asked him to hold them, and I asked the senior member if it was so and he said that there was not such a thing, It is about time that this thing Is, stopped.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On many occasions that I in-formed this House that in hon. member has made a request of me, it is because such a request has been made. (Hon. N. W. BOX1LL Who would believe that?) On this

occasion I called Questions in respect of certain members whom I saw present, and if Question Time has been concluded, even though we had not reached the normal time for Questions, those Questions would have been ordered by me to be laid; but the presence of a member in the Chamber is sufficient justification for me to call on him to put his Question during Question Time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Replies to the Question are as follows (1) No, Sir. (2) Does not arise. A new feeder main has been installed from the Belle to Grand View which will relieve the pressure on Hampton, and the area has now been adequately supplied with water.

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

Did the Minister by any chance enquire of the senior member for St. Philip whether he was satisfied with the water supply?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not deem that to be a supplementary. No. 67 standing in the name of the same hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

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

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works -

1. Can the Minister give an estimate of the cost of placing street lamps at the following sites in the parish of St. Thomas :-

(a) The corner of Spring Farm Road and Porey Spring Road;

(b) The corner of Porey Spring Road and the road at Dunscombe (sometimes known as Hill House Road) which leads to Canefield Tenantry from the North;

(c) Barker's Corner;

(d) The road junctions in Spring Farm Road?

2. Are there any plans in the Ministry for the installation of street lamps at any of these points, and if not, why not, bearing in mind a petition sent to the Ministry some time ago by a large number of residents in the above-mentioned areas calling for street-lighting?

3. Will the Minister give an assurance that no consideration of the political complexion and voting habits of Porey Spring and surrounding districts has been responsible for the long delay in responding to the petition mentioned in paragraph 2 above?

Notice of this Question was given on the 3rd December, 1969.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows:

-

(1) The cost of placing street lamps at the site mentioned is \$153.60 per annum, and the installation of a lamp at Barker's Comer would require a contribution by the Government of \$118 towards the capital cost of bringing electricity supply to the site.

(2) Yes, Sir.

(3) Street lamps are installed subject to priorities and subject to availability of funds, and by no other consideration.

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

Can the Minister say how high on the list of priorities are the sites mentioned?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

High up.

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

Can the Minister say how high up, bearing in mind that there are no street lamps in Porey Spring?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Fairly high up.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Am I to understand that the Government is diverting from their former policy and that even when the Government wants electricity in a particular area, they must pay some of the cost of carrying the electricity there?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, in order to facilitate these things, if you want it done, you have to pay for it. I cannot understand the hon. member at all; he is a capitalist, and the Government cannot dictate to these people. The hon. member knows what I am saying is quite correct. If they do not have the poles in the particular area and you want to facilitate these things quicker than they have included them in their programme, you will have to do this.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Are you saying that a public utility company, without any competition, is being encouraged to make the people pay for carrying poles in a particular area? (Hon. N. W. BOXILL Yes.) I have never agreed with that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I do not agree with it either, but we have to do it. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY But you are the Government.) We are the Government, but we are not dictatorial.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAM:

S Mr. Speaker, while there is a great deal in what both hon. members have said, is the Minister aware that for annual light bills which amount to \$150 a year the electric company will lay down the service free, and that once a sufficient number of persons accept the service they will lay the service down?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

This is in certain Areas

What the hon. member is overlooking is that in Porey Spring there is electricity there already, but the hon. member is now speaking about street lamps. 1.55 p.m.

It costs the Electric Company \$120 to erect A pole. I went into this matter most thoroughly. I have a friend who wanted electricity and she had to pay \$120 for a pole. People must understand that the cost of living has gone up. (Asides) Let us look at the Telephone Company. I know that some people have to pay as much as \$600 in order to get a connection. It is exorbitant, but when you look back you will find that a telephone is even different from electricity. You can put up two electric wires and service everybody in the Island, but you cannot do the same thing with a telephone. Each telephone has its own breaking point and so on. Despite the fact that it is a utility company, it is trying to make money. (Asides) You must not think that, every time the Electric Company puts down a light or a pole, it makes back the money involved.

Mr. Speaker, the Telephone Company does not make a profit every time it tries to facilitate the people, but that is not my business. My concern is to get electricity to the people as quickly as possible. If in doing that the Government can spend a few dollars and assist the people in getting electricity, then I have no objection to that.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Hon. Minister this question Is the Government prepared to bring in the necessary legislation to compel the Electricity Company to do what the Government wants? I include the Telephone Company for that matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not regard that as a proper supplementary.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is forgetting.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have said that I do not regard that as a proper supplementary.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am referring to another supplementary. Some hon. members seem to have forgotten that in 1950 the slogan on the political platform was that 'six weeks after we have been elected to power we would nationalise the Electric Company'. Twenty years have gone by, and the Electric Company is still running on its own. We do not have to bring down legislation for this. I can say that the Electric Company is always acquiescing to our requests. The Electric Company is facing a problem that the whole world is facing the demand is greater than the supply. As a matter of fact, you will notice that the Electric Company is employing a lot of outside labour to dig post holes and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the standard of living in Barbados has gone up. When the Electric Company first came into operation, in 1919 or 1909, it was not allowed to service any place outside of Bridgetown. (Asides) That was mentioned in the Act. If the hon. member Had nationalised the Electric Company it the time, then it would have been ours today and we would have been able to tell the Company what to do.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we might break here. I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

2.05 p.m.

On resumption.

QUESTION TIME RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 68 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

QUESTION re ROADS AT DUNSCOMBE ST. THOMAS

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

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows-

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Are there any plans for surfacing, making up or otherwise working on the private road which divides lands owned by Dunscombe plantation from the area known as Dr. Moore's Woods in the parish of St. Thomas?

2. How many houses are there in the said road and what is the estimated cost of the work to be done?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Replies are as follows

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. There are seven houses on the road and the road is estimated at \$2, 526."

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

Will the Minister say whether in fact the road has been made up since the date of the asking of this Question?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, as far as I remember.

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

Would the Minister say if there was any list of privately-owned roads in St. Thomas set out in order of priority before the making up of this particular road?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I really can-not remember, but I do not think so.

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

Was there any petition from any resident of that road to the Minister for the making up of the road?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, no. There was no petition from any resident. There was a petition from the owner of the road. Mr. Mahon took me there some time ago and asked that the road be carried right through.

Mr. J. M. G. M ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister really say that if he had \$2, 526 to spend, it was better spent on that

road rather than putting street lamps nearby on Porey Spring main road?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a proper supplementary.

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

I will ask another supplementary. Did the Minister receive a request from a Miss Doriel Trotman to have the road made up?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

You asked that already and I told you "no".

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

Is the Minister aware that a lady called Miss Doriel Trotman is walking about in Porey Spring and saying, " you see, you all are idiots to vote for Adams; look what" - and she names the Minister by name - "has done for me. He has given me a private road to my house and a car to drive on it"!

Mr. SPEAKER:

No proper supplementary.

Question No. 70 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

QUESTION re CRITERIA FOR REPAIRING PRIVATELY OWNED ROADS

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

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:-

1. Has any list of criteria been worked out for priorities for the repair of privately owned tenantry roads, and, if so, will the Minister set out the factors being taken into consideration?

2. Will the Minister give an assurance that the political complexion and voting habits of districts served by private tenantry roads are not factors which have been or will be taken into account in deciding whether or not to repair the said roads?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

"Yes, Sir."

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

Mr. Speaker, the question asks "Will the Minister set out the factors being taken into consideration"?

Mr. SPEAKER:

He said he will set them out.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Will the Minister tell us what they are?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

That is another question you are asking.

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

Mr. Speaker, what could the plain language of the Question mean? This must have been one of the rogue Cabinet meetings when the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House were absent in Jamaica when the Cabinet approved that answer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not quite gather the supplementary.

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

This is a point of order, because I am saying that as a question of order the Question has not been answered, and I am just commenting in support of my point of order that we know the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House had been away from Cabinet, and while they were away a lot of strange things were done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order whatsoever.

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

Will the Minister tell us now what the criteria are?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I do not have that information here.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am really interested in this. I have asked many Questions in relation to tenantry roads in Christ Church. Will the Minister tell us what criteria he is going to use in respect of tenantry roads in Christ Church.

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

If the supplementary can be expanded, where you make imaginary logic-chopping and so on with the Minister - and some silly ex-schoolmaster in the Cabinet perhaps has said "will" does not mean "set it out now", we may be faced, if we ask a new Question with a reference to this one, with the particular Standing Order which says that you cannot ask a Question arising out of an answer given earlier in the Session. It is obvious that the plain language of this Question is asking the Minister to tell us what the criteria are. If the words were used in straight English "will the Minister say what the criteria are"? obviously he would say; but it seems that somebody has managed to get into their heads that "has any

list been worked out and will he set it out" does not mean "tell us now". It could not mean anything else, as a matter of grammar, if you really consider it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I do not want the hon. member to go away with the wrong impression. I do not have anything to hide. I was looking to see if I had the appropriate Cabinet paper here, but I do not have it; but if the hon. member wants to know what criteria we use, I go and examine these roads with the hon. senior member for St. George and the technical officers; we look at the number of houses and see the amount of people the road would serve. For instance, if we had \$8,000 to spend on two roads (a) and (b), but road (b) has more people living on it, we would spend the money on road (b) because it would facilitate more people. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER; It may be somewhat unfortunate that (b) represents one surname and (a) represents another. If only they were "x" and "y".

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

We then put up a Paper to the Cabinet. We give each parish..., (Asides) You get yours too,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am glad to see the Hon. Minister is addressing the Chair when he says "you" in this particular case.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

When I said "you", you are getting your piece in Josey Hill, and the hon. senior member for Christ Church is also included, because I have said on the floor of the House on more than one occasion that we do not run the Government on the basis of who voted where.....(Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let me point out to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

When the hon. member is not talking about Milton Wiles, the ex-postman, he is talking about Doriel Trotman. Doriel has not done you anything. Do you mean you are to get all the votes and I am not to get

any?

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no supplementary about Doriel.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I was pointing out to the hon. member that we put up a Cabinet Paper setting out the roads in the different areas. (A VOICE Bridgetown too?) Bridgetown will get too, but not as a result of your agitating for anything; as a result of a good Government being in power. We realise that all the people, whether they voted for the Government or not, are Barbadians. Hon. members must be realistic, Mr. Speaker, and understand that we can only do as much as our physical as well as our financial resources would allow us to do. There is no point in inflating the Estimates and bringing down a list of what we will do and then next year the money lapses. I hope the answer satisfied the hon. member. The roads will be fixed in every parish. (Mr. HINDS In St. Peter too?) The hon. senior member for St. Peter represents the parish, too. Because you talk yourself hoarse does not mean that you will get more than anybody else. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are no more supplementaries for the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Will the Minister tell us roughly in the whole of Barbados how many roads they propose to do this year as tenantry roads?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

This is a very good question but in fairness to the hon. member I will give him an answer next Tuesday when we come here. I can tell him some of the roads that have been done in the tenancies. We have done Waterhall Land, Holders Land., ..

Mr. St. JOHN; If the hon. member would give way, perhaps for the information of everybody, I would be glad if the Minister would consider publishing now the programme so that we will be able to tell our constituents and they would be able to see for themselves. 3.00 p.m.

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

I would ask the Minister and the hon. senior member for St. George to go and have a look at the road which is the Vaocluse Tenantry road. I will ask the Minister if he is aware that Vaocluse Plantation owners refused to repair that road because it is a public road; it has been lost sight of in the Ministry that it is a public road, and the Ministry refused to do it because they think it is a private road. There are a lot more people living there than at Dr. Moore's road.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I know there are a lot more people living on that road, but it also costs a lot more money to repair it.

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

Would the Minister, when he is going to publish his programme, make it official and have it circulated to all newspapers?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one thing; I agree with the hon. member, but I am one of those fearless people, and we are doing things above board so there is no need to hide anything. What I would like to say is that my Ministry does not have the physical resources to do all these things at once. We do not want to throw away money because we can, and a lot of the roads that have been built by the private contractors in new developments had to be built according to my specifications, but at times I am not sure that we are getting value for money. This is a point that we must not overlook, and I would like, when we are going to do this programme to be able to get the work done as quickly as possible, and also to get value for the money involved. We might have to get some private contractors to do this in order to expedite the programme, (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY Not Rayside) As far as I know, Rayside is a Barbadian like any other Barbadian, and if a lot of parasites can come from all over the world and make a living here, I do not see any reason why Mr. Rayside cannot make his living here too.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Rayside does not arise by way of a supplementary.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The Ministry's physical resources might not be able to cope with all these things, but I will say that in my opinion the Waterhall Land area took too long to be completed. The hon. member for Christ Church will remember that he complained to me about a road we were doing in Fairways Gardens where he had some land, but I would like him and all the members of the Opposition to realise that Barbados is their

country, and whether they are in power or not, when they pass and see these people who are drawing money from Highways and Transport doing absolutely nothing, I think it is their duty.....

Mr. HINDS; On a point of order, I want the Minister to understand that a lot of them are standing up on the road now because they have not received their back pay.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order; let the Minister proceed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

This gentleman is supposed to be a representative of the people, and this is his attitude .

Mr. SPEAKER:

What the hon. member rose and said is to be deemed not to have been said.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Yes, but it is in Hansard.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for Christ Church says he has a supplementary.

Mr. St. JOHN:

In the publication of this programme, would the Hon. Minister consider stating each road that will be done, the approximate length of the road and the estimated cost?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

All this information the hon. member is seeking is on a file, but not this one I have in my possession at the present time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is giving that type of information, would he be considerate enough to publish it as a Government notice and not as a mere item of news?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member does not seem to understand what goes on in here; anything that is laid on the Table of this House is a public document.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, the Minister does not understand what a newspaper man means when he speaks about a Government notice.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have never yet been a newspaperman, but I hope not to be one like the hon. member who has just sat down.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. Thomas; his Question No. 31, to which I understand a Reply is ready.

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

To enquire of the appropriate Minister-

1. Is the Minister aware that for some time now the air conditioner in use in a part of the Law Library has been out of order with consequential danger to the valuable books contained therein?

2. Will the Government restore this facility and extend air conditioning to the entire Law Library in the interest of preserving the many old Law Reports and other legal works?

3. Will the Government consider the provision of a telephone in the Law Library?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:

(1) Yes, Sir. (2) Provision has been made in the Estimates for replacing the air conditioner in the reading room of the Law Library. It is not considered necessary at this stage to air condition the entire Law Library; the older volumes will be housed in the reading room. (3) A telephone will be installed in the outer section of the Law Library.

3.10 p.m.

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

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that, in fact, the most valuable Law Reports are at present not in the air-conditioned room? I refer to the official series of Reports Queen's Bench, Chancery Court of Exchequer, House of Lords Reports, and all the reprints of the English Reports. None of the really valuable Law books are inside the air-conditioned room at the present time, and many of them are falling apart.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am not personally aware of this, but I may tell the hon. member that this recommendation was reached following consultations with the learned Chief Justice who had quite a lot to say on this matter. What we have arrived at is largely in consequence of consultations with him.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the air-conditioner has been fixed? (Asides) It is supposed to be a new and more powerful one than the last one, but the transfer of books has not, in fact, taken place.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. member means the older volumes to which reference has been made.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, to replace the volumes of the Reports will cost a large sum of money, because they are done in Canada and America. Those volumes are still in a section of the Law Library which is not air-conditioned.

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

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister take note that such series as the All England Reports, which can quite freely be bought for, I suppose, L150 - and there are more than one series of the All England Reports in the air-conditioned rooms, but where the official series of Law reports are kept (and it is not now possible to buy them for less than L 1,500) these volumes are kept in the outer room in not very salubrious conditions. These volumes are not even in glass-fronted book cases.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas will remember that I had given an undertaking to look into this matter personally, and I have done so. I have just heard things that I do not know anything about. It must be remembered that I am not yet a lawyer, despite the fact that I am wearing similar clothes, I will promise to look into this matter further. As the Hon. Minister has said, this WAS done in consultation with the learned Chief Justice and we are not aware of certain things.

With regard to the telephone, it will be installed very soon. I had also promised on the floor of this House to have the telephone installed. Hon. members must remember that, as individuals asking for something, they will remember it more keenly than I would as a Minister having so many things to deal with at the same time. It is not a matter of disregarding the request or anything like that. I promised to give them an extension telephone, which everybody had agreed would be all right. I will see that you get it A.S.P.: "as soon as possible".

Mr. HINDS:

What is that?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken for 10 minutes.

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Item 13 is the next Order of the Day and it stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to authorise re-adjustment of parts of the roads and side-walks forming the boundaries of the buildings known as No. 1 Broad Street.

MANCO INVESTMENTS LIMITED (ROAD IMPROVEMENT) ACT, 1970

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I will remind hon. members that it was dealt with before and a Committee actually sat on it. Unfortunately, the House was prorogued and, therefore, it could not come back for the third reading of the Committee's Report. The object of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is to allow the re-alignment of the roads to No. 1 Broad Street buildings. This is being done in accordance with Regulations for Town Planning. The Plan has been prepared; the Town Planner has consented to the Plan, and the scheme of the Bill will state that any alterations that are carried out must be carried out in accordance with the Plan which forms part of this Bill.

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding the second reading of the Bill, there is a point which the hon. member has omitted and I should like to have it recorded in the Hansard. I do not want anybody to say later that the Government took away the people's rights and gave them to the capitalists and so on. The land that we are now dealing with never belonged to the Government. It is Manning & Company's land, and we are merely handing back what is really theirs. I should like this to be stated explicitly so that everybody will know the true position.

I beg to second the motion.

The question that the Bill be now read the second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without di-vision.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is moving the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the Bill. The former Committee was comprised of -

The hon. senior member for Christ Church The hon. junior member for St. Thomas The hon. junior member for Christ Church The senior member for the City.

I will ask those four hon. members to be so good as to serve again on the Committee. As there is no dis-sientient voice.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. junior member for Christ Church, had he been here, would certainly have served, but I do not expect that..

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I would propose the senior member for St. Philip to take his place.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will that hon. member be willing to serve?

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES indicated assent.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Then I name him as one of the members of that Committee. The Committee is now comprised of

The hon. senior member for Christ Church The hon. junior member for St. Thomas The hon. senior member for St. Philip The hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th May, 1970, at 12 noon.

I am also to announce that the Hon. Minister of Finance will on that day at 4.30 p.m. present to the House the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the fiscal year 1970-71. I will myself write Your Honour and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition on the broadcast arrangements separately.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I take it that when I meet the Hon. Leader of the House, the length of time said so on will be discussed and agreed to.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, that is why I said I would write the hon. member separately on that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th May, 1970, at 12 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.20 p.m.

