

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 3rd November, 1970.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12. 15 p.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour Sir. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Social Welfare); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C. M. G., M. A., (Leader of the House); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J. P.:

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. H. St. C. WEEKES, J. P. Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P. Hon.. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J. P., (Chairman of Committee Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. J. B.

SPRINGER; and Mr. ELLIOTT. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were read.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERKS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform hon. members that the Debates Committee has appointed Mr. Chezley Boyce as Clerk of Parliament, and Mr. John Connell and Mr. George Brancker as Deputy Clerks.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 123 and 125 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter are ready.

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. and learned member for Bridgetown, his query re Independent Schools.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. How many Independent Schools are approved for Bursaries by the Ministry of Education?

2. Will the Minister give -

(a) the names of the schools;

(b) the number of Bursaries awarded to each School;

(c) the amount of money paid under each Bursary to each school?

Mr. SPEAKER:

the same hon. member his query re repairs to Wesley Hall Boys' School.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that the repairs to the yard of Wesley Hall Boys' School have not yet been completed;

2. Will the Minister state why?

3. Will the Minister state when such repairs can reasonably be expected to be completed?

4. Will the Minister as part of the said repairs have a fence erected between the school premises and King's Street as a precautionary measure to prevent pupils of the said school from venturing indiscriminately on to King's Street?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The same hon. member, his query re New Orleans stuff bin.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Will the Minister cause a proper stuff bin to be erected in Marshal's Gap, New Orleans for the benefit of the neighbourhood?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The same hon. member, his query re St. Mary's Schools.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that the yards of both the St. Mary's Infant and St. Mary's Junior School are in a bad state of disrepair?

Will the Minister take immediate steps to remedy same?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The same hon. member, his query re school children -

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Will the Minister state how many school children -

- (a) sat the first part of the Common Entrance Examination in May, 1970;
- (b) passed the first part of the said examination;
- (c) sat the second part of the said examination;
- (d) passed the second part of the said examination;
- (e) were admitted to Secondary Schools in this Island?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of the Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of Order No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Prime Minister. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection leave is granted to the Hon. Leader of the House to move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$550,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to enable Christmas Advance of Salaries and Wages to Government Employees.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION re CHRISTMAS ADVANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this is the traditional Resolution which Government has introduced every year since 1962. It is an abstract Resolution in that it seeks authority for an advance and not for an appropriation. Hon. members, I believe, are already familiar with the basis on which these advances are given. For instance, all members of the Established Staff and all casual employees who would normally continue to be employed by Government to the end of the next financial year and other Government employees who receive monthly salaries are eligible for this advance of wages and salaries. The Established and General Staff will get an advance equivalent to twice any weekly earnings received by them for an average week. In the case of monthly paid employees they will get an advance equivalent to 50% of their net salary. Of course, where the salary does not exceed \$150 a month they will get an advance of 25% of the net salary.

Hon. members might wish to know how well and in what respect the reimbursement to Government has been over the past years, 12.25 p.m.

In respect of the advances in 1962-63, \$724.26 is outstanding; in respect of 1963-64 the amount is

\$3,242. 23; in respect of 1964-65 the amount is \$2,459.88; in respect of 1965-66 the amount is \$72.24; in respect of 1966-67 the amount is \$2,193.70 in respect of 1967-68 the amount is \$6,696. 80; in respect of 1968-69 the amount is \$2,870.60; and in respect of 1969-70 the amount is \$6,172.24; making a total of \$24,379.15 owing in an eight-year period of the total disbursements of some \$4 million or \$5 million. This money of course is still outstanding and still due and owing to the Government and is collectable, but Government feels in balance that the policy is justified because this represents - and I want to stress that it is still collectable - a very small proportion of the total advances paid, so that in truth it can be said that the overwhelming majority of public servants to whom these advances are made, have repaid the money over the years, and the cases in which there has been no repayment or slow repayment, are still being pursued.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, no one would attempt to deny these servants the advantage, if advantage it is, of these advances that are made available to them from year to year, but what strikes us most forcibly, Mr. Speaker, is that accepting the figures proffered by the Leader of the House, there is still an amount of \$24,379.15 outstanding. Now is it a case where and I hope the Minister can enlighten me on these points - people have borrowed the money and have died before the advances were repaid? Secondly, have any of these persons who had not completed their repayments from 1962,63 or in any subsequent year or period been given advances after they became in arrears? The other point which arises is this was the money advanced according to the letter of the law, if I may put it that way? In other words, was the money advanced to people who would normally continue to be employed by Government to the end of the financial year during which the advance had been made? If the money had been advanced to these people under these conditions and people were kept in employment, how come we have an arrears bill of \$24,379.15. I wish, Mr. Speaker, that sub-paragraph (b) of the Schedule could be enlarged upon and some sort of explanation given, because it specifically states that no employee should be eligible for an advance in 1970 until any previous advance has been repaid in full, and if this is not an innovation, if it is what has been obtaining as from the first advance in 1962, how come we can have an arrears bill to the tune of \$24,000 odd. I would certainly like, Mr. Speaker, to have some sort of explanation from the Hon. Leader of the House on these points I have raised.

Now it is within my knowledge that advances have been made to people and they were laid off before the end of the financial year. They were not laid off because there was no work for them to do or because there was no money with which to pay them; they were laid off for other reasons. They had

committed no offence whatsoever but these are cases undoubtedly which the Leader of the House would have investigated through the appropriate Ministry, and I speak in this particular instance with reference to the Ministry of Communications and Works, because it has been happening in that Ministry perhaps more so than in any other Ministry.

One other point comes to mind. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us today which Ministry has the greater number of employees indebted to Government to the tune of this \$24,379. In other words, are they postal workers, Communications and Works, Ministry of Education? These are things we would like to have some light thrown on because from what I gather of the Auditor General, he is a very strict, fair and efficient officer, and if the money is advanced under the same strictness as would normally be applied by the Auditor General and the Accountant General, I would certainly like to hear exactly what is the reason for this. 12.35 p.m.

Further, not that we are hearing today from the Leader of the House there is a hope of recovering this money, because that in itself amounts to nothing. Why does it amount to nothing, Mr. Speaker? The answer is simply this, for the period 1962-63 there was an amount of \$724.46 that had not been repaid and we must tell ourselves that when we came to the month of December in the year 1964, 12 months after, to find ourselves making advances with arrears amounting to \$3,242.23, it was time to cry halt, find out what had gone wrong that we still had \$724.46 outstanding and now we could find there is \$3,242.23. What steps did you take then, if you had means of recovery? Were those steps available to you in 1964, and if they were available to you why were they not put into action? Why are you waiting till 1970 to come to tell us that you are now recovering? If you had set the principle of collecting in those early years, we are saying here and now that this balance of \$24,379.15 outstanding would not be as large as it is today.

I feel, Sir, that the administering of this loan scheme by the various departments concerned, leaves much to be desired. We do not want to deny any person who is eligible from having a loan,; but what we would like to hear from the Leader of the House is that he can give us an assurance that nobody who has had a loan in 1967, 1968, 1969 or 1970 had an unpaid balance from 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 or 1966; that is the type of thing I would like to hear from the Leader of the House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this, that I do not think it would be any difference of opinion on either side of this House on the question that what is due and owing to Government should always be collected, and that any scheme for advancing wages and salaries for the month of December to public employees should be most rigorously organised; I think this is common ground. I think we also have to understand that in a scheme like this there must necessarily be some small difficulty in collecting all that is due and owing, for the simple reason that anybody who is not employed by Government and who has

no prospects of being employed by Government between December and the end of the financial year can get this loan. This is an advance to all public employees who have reasonable hope and reasonable chance of being employed from the time they get the advance to the end of the financial year.

It is obvious also, Mr. Speaker, that if any public employees have received the advance and still continue to be employed between the December in which they received it and the March in which the financial year ends, the money will be collected from them in its entirety by being deducted. But you can have problems, for instance, of migration, you can have problems in which many casual employees terminate their employment with Government for various reasons perhaps in the January or the February of the succeeding year, and although money is due and owing, at the same time it could not be as easily collected from people who have left the Government service as it could be deducted from the wages and salaries of people who still remain in the service.

The next point is that no employee of Government who fails to repay the advance made to him in any one year can receive any subsequent advances.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, do you mean for the future?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

In the future, I did use the word "subsequent". If he is still in arrears in respect, say, of last December's advance he is not entitled to get it this year.

Mr. HINDS:

This is the new order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This has always been so. The deductions are made at source and, Mr. Speaker, as I said, those who continue in employment should of course pose no problem because every week or every month as the case may be, the money is taken out. I wish to emphasise one more point, and that is that this advance is never less than \$350,000 a year, and it has now gone to \$ 550,000 because we have increased salaries and therefore one quarter or one half of \$300 is a bit more than one quarter of \$200 as the case may be, but over a yearly period while I admit that there should be no arrears ever, out of the total dispensation of probably \$4 1/2 million to have only \$24,000 outstanding is a very small percentage, and I think it

reflects the care with which the scheme is generally being administered.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, ...

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid the hon. member...

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am addressing you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

But not on this matter.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

But it would be most indiscreet for you to put the question while I am on my feet.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has already exercised his right of final reply on the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I must crave Your Honour's permission and the permission of the House, if the Leader of the House will allow it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If I do that for one hon. member I would have to do it for all hon. members. I would ask the hon. member to desist; he always sets such a good example.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 3 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Item No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the expenditure of \$5,868 to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1970-71 of the Port Department as shown in the Schedule to this Resolution.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE TO SUPPLEMENT THE ANNEXED ESTIMATES 1970-71 OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, from 1961 when the Deep Water Harbour was opened the Port Department occupied a portion of the Hospital at Pelican Island, but the intention was that at some future date a building suitable for Port Offices should be provided. During last year the Port had a new Chief Engineer from Israel. This year a second Engineer was employed and there is not enough accommodation for these two officers. They have been using make-shift off ice sand that is not satisfactory. The former old building was made of wood and it is our intention to use the sum of \$5,868 to make additional space for offices and to install an air conditioning unit. It is very necessary that proper accommodation should be

provided for officers of that calibre. It is proposed to hand back to the junior, officers in the Department the space which they formerly had.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we have learnt from the Minister that there are now two Engineers employed at the Port and one is from Israel. It is expected that the gentlemen who are employed at the Port as Engineers would have some idea of the function of Engineers. I would like, perhaps, to shock this Hon. House today by inquiring of the Minister if he knows, or has been told, what are the functions of the Engineer who has come from Israel. It is common knowledge that the Engineer from Israel has been concerning himself with everything except engineering. In other words, he has been concerning himself with everything except what should concern him. (Interruption.)

I am being heckled on the other side. You can get up and make your maiden speech.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member please address the Chair.

Mr. HINDS:

Whatever is done there, you may find that at some later stage the Minister may have to investigate whether the Engineer is not signing Port Authority cheques. These are very salient points although they might appear small at the moment. We are saying that regardless of what structure you may put at the Port the goods are still taking too long to be removed from the Port sheds. What we need at the Port is a free day from tax. In other words, at the end of 15 days, or once a month, importers ought to be given a free day to clear all of their goods from the sheds. If they failed to remove the goods on that particular day, they would then have to pay the tax due on the goods. That would be a sort of incentive to the people who import goods in this country.

Sir, what one has to bear in mind is that when goods are imported and bonded and are allowed to remain at the Port until tax is due on them the tax is then passed on to the consumer, and nothing is being done to protect the consumer from this. In other words, you may find there is every probability of a merchant importing more goods than he can handle at a particular time, or the shippers at the other end

may consign the goods in such a manner that they arrive in this country at a time when the merchants cannot handle them during the 5-day period allowed to remove them. Each day the goods remain at the Port they become taxable. The merchant will then add the tax to the c. i. f. value of the goods, put on his mark up, and the consumer has to pay the tax that is due to the Port. We would like to see something done to protect the consumer from this burden.

Now, there is no clerk employed at the Port today who is delivering 50% of the goods that were delivered by a clerk who was employed there, say, in 1961, - 1962 and 1963. No clerk at the Port today is delivering as much as 50% of the goods delivered years ago. 12.55 p.m.

These are the things, Mr. Speaker, that are contributing to the high cost which the people are groaning under.

Now Port Contractors do not have enough equipment for the handling of the goods in the sheds. Some of their equipment ought to be scrapped immediately. Some of their fork lifts do not have power steering, and it is extremely difficult to manipulate them inside the port sheds; so you will find a fork lift operator who had been working a lift for a whole day, and that lift does not have power steering, is a beaten man by the time for laying off, and when you are asking him to turn around and work overtime, you are just making a joke, because he is not able. I heard somebody in an aside trying to compare it with the driving of a motor car. A motor car will run for an hour and be put by to rest for maybe five or six hours. It is the other way around with a fork lift. What the Marine Engineer has done is that he has been extremely careful to see that as much Berger paint as possible is ordered but never used. Anybody can deny this. We must say that Port Contractors have got to be told once and for all that the human element within the Port is crying out for a new type of consideration, and if this is not attended to quicker than a shed or building can go up to house the Engineer, we are going to have far worse trouble than we are presently having within the Port. Mr. Speaker, our main concern on this side of the House is that whatever difficulties exist there, that means the delaying of a single packet that is consigned to a merchant, something that the general public is going to buy, if these things, that go on there, without being attended to at the time they ought to be attended to are creating additional difficulties, they will make life harder for our consumers and for the housewives. They are the ones crying out and calling on Government to do something to reduce the high cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, in 1961 when the Bridgetown Port was opened, everybody had been looking forward from that date that goods coming into Barbados would reach the consumer other than through the hazardous route of the old lighter, man power and what not; but to this day there is no item that the Government can show that was imported prior to 1961 that is cheaper. We are willing to take into consideration that in the country of origin there might have been an increase in the cost and what not, but even when we make the deduction for all this, there is still outstanding before us the grim picture that

the Deep Water Harbour as it is now has not brought home to the Barbadian public the relief that it had been led to believe it would have received. We are asking the Minister, Mr. Speaker, to direct his attention to these things which I have mentioned here today.

Paragraph 4 of the Addendum tells us that a new office for the Port Department is being planned. Now it would be interesting to know how far that planning has progressed or if it is merely a note jotted down here on paper, because if it is that it is merely something put here on paper and nothing has really been done, it does not serve any useful purpose except to place the Minister himself in a quandary, because if you are planning a new office for the Port Department, you have already brought some measure of discomfort to the maids and other categories of workers to accommodate the Engineers, it might be that you could set about now if there is money available and put down your new office once and for all rather than going to put down a wooden structure and come back in a year or two years time to discard it and construct a new office for the Port Department. It would be of interest to know what progress is being made with the planning of the new office for the Port Department.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have listened very attentively to the hon. junior member for St. Peter, but I have heard nothing of the criticisms he has made in his remarks. 1.05 p.m.

I would like to mention here that as a Marine Engineer it is a very, very broad field; as a matter of fact, after you are quite qualified as a normal Engineer you then have to do studies for several years to be a Marine Engineer such are the technical requirements of certain qualifications in that field. These Engineers are not starters and stoppers or just able to start or stop an engine, it is a lot of considerations of formulae and treatment of all types of shafts and propellers and that kind of thing in accordance with the general maintenance and upkeep of overhauling a ship. A lot of this engineering is to do with maintenance that takes place in our waters and ships with electric current on board, so it is not just in the field of starting, stopping or pulling a piston down, it is far more than this. The life of a ship would be dependent on the care, especially along the water lines where ships deteriorate; I have never heard any comments, and I think I have been quite close to the Port. I have always been quite interested in knowing what is going on.

I have heard comments with regard to an Engineer's job, but no official demands have been made, to my knowledge, up to now to the Ministry. I have not had any complaints for investigations into the work of the Engineers at the Port. The hon. member has mentioned here that since 1961 with the opening of the Port that no price shave dropped. Mr. Speaker, I would. honestly have thought that one would have heard with the everyday living and rising cost in this Island that if it was one hon. member in here who would be more closely versed in these things it would be the hon. junior member for St. Peter, because had we not had the Deep Water Harbour I would like to know what the normal prices of commodities,

warehousing and that sort of thing would be, especially with the cost of maintenance of lighters, when the ship's carpenter's labour is over \$15 a day. It would have been less than \$5 per day in 1961; today it is over \$15 a day and the maintenance and upkeep of lighters and warehousing, plus the extra pilferage that could have gone on, the sky would have been the limit and we would have no control over it. Although we have had no reduction in prices, the Deep Water Harbour has stabilised the prices considerably and stopped them from rising; it would have been terrific otherwise, so I would draw this to the attention of the hon. member. This is as far as that goes with the consideration of the engineers.

If you compare the cost of freight rates today as compared with 1961, I think we have done well, because Barbados today is one of the cheapest operating ports in the entire Caribbean area. The prices are far cheaper than those in Trinidad or in any other Port in the Caribbean area, including Jamaica. The only Port that is not included is St. Lucia, but outside of that Trinidad and all the other Ports included the cost of handling cargo and loading and unloading is far higher than in Barbados. The hon. member has made a point here which we are very carefully watching, my colleague in the Ministry of Trade and myself, are aware that a lot of these charges are being passed onto the consumer and this is one of the reasons why I feel that more than one half of the cargo landing in this Port has spent over the period of five days in the Port, and I honestly believe that one of the reasons for this is the exemption of duties that have been controlled. This is one of the things we have to investigate very carefully to see that these prices are not passed on to the consumer.

There is something materially wrong that more than half the entire cargo that passed through the Port spent more than five days in the Port Department. I have carried out a thorough investigation into this and I do agree that we need more warehousing space to be able to get people's cargo out. If you have cargo for forty different people, it is difficult to be able to have access to every individual's cargo, so the more consignees you have the greater percentage wise it would be to manoeuvre to get to the various people's cargo, therefore you have to have more capacity. I am quite concerned about this, and in the meantime although I think that was held over the five days, it is not a money earning charge, the five days charge is a punitive charge so that consignees should remove their cargo from the warehouses sooner; it is not a money making affair and it is not doing the purpose that it was meant for. As the hon. junior member for St. Peter said, we have got to be very careful in case this charge is being passed on to the consumer; we have got to watch this very carefully, and I am sure that the Minister of Trade and myself are very concerned about this. 1.15 p.m.

We are very concerned about this. I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter that serious consideration will have to be paid in these instances to see that the tax is not passed on to the consumer. The Minister of Trade and myself are in very close co-operation to see that this tax is not passed on to the consumer. There are certain commodities on which the tax cannot be passed on to the consumer. I refer to things like corned beef and so on which are controlled and there is no opportunity to add on an additional tax on them. With regard to other commodities that are not controlled, we can have a look at the invoices and see what we can do in the matter. The Price Control Order would not provide for any

delay in the Port. All of the cargo should be removed from the Port and put into private warehouses, but today the Port is being used too much as a ware-house and that is responsible for the congestion taking place there.

Sir, I am taking every possible step to amend certain legislation in relation to the Port in order that it may work properly. I feel that two months are too long a period for merchants to be keeping their goods stored at the Port. They should be asked to remove their goods in one month, and any goods not removed within a month should be seized and sold. I should like to inform this Hon. Chamber that the Government is giving great consideration to this matter, and it does not want these extra charges to be passed on to the consumer.

Sir, very often complaints have been made about documents not arriving in time, and it is said that the goods cannot be removed without the necessary documents. Some merchants say that they cannot remove the goods in 5 days when the documents arrive late. Very often cargo cannot be found because the warehouse is congested by virtue of the fact that some merchants do not remove their goods in time in order that other goods may be reached. It is a question of preventing other people from getting access to their goods.

Last year at Christmas time there was a big problem at the Port. The new Minister of Labour and Housing had made preparation for the extension of the Harbour and a contract was awarded for the job. A couple of weeks ago we discovered that tenders were invited to do the job, but nothing was done about the matter. Only two weeks ago a new tender had to be awarded for the same job, and this has caused great delay. We intend to extend shed 3 and shed 1 so that they will be able to take more cargo. What I am very much concerned about is the amount of intransit cargo that is passing through Barbados. It provides work for our stevedores and Port Contractors, so it is added revenue to this country. If we cannot accommodate this type of cargo it will go to other countries, and we may not be able to regain it after we have lost it. Barbados has built up a good reputation in this matter. We have no desire to lose the intransit cargo that is passing through Barbados.

With regard to the inadequacy of equipment in the possession of Port Contractors, I have investigated the matter myself. There are about twenty gangs, and I am satisfied that there is sufficient equipment at the Port. I know that the Port Contractors would be the first to invest in more equipment if they felt that it was necessary to do so. In my opinion there is no shortage of equipment at the Port.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When this sitting was adjourned the hon. senior member for the City was addressing the Chair.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, what are you dealing with?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We are dealing with a Resolution to grant the sum of \$491,655 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71 Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 7 which form the Schedule to this Resolution. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, under item 18 (d) Improvements to Supreme Courts Nos.

3 and 4, I would be grateful if the Minister in charge would inform the Committee what improvements are likely to be carried out to these Courts, and to ask whether any improvement could also DC carried out to Courts Nos. 1 and 2.

In addition, there is the question of the office for the Leader of the Opposition. Is this ready and available?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like the appropriate Minister to tell the Committee what is responsible for the Waterworks Department taking over two years to send out a bill for \$3.20 for fixing a ball-tap.

Now what is happening in that Department certainly calls for an investigation. There are a number of people who are using water and are not being billed for it at all. I can call the names of some persons who have had supplies of water for more than three years and have never received a bill. There are instances where you find that some people receive the same bill for the same quarter of the year twice. Something is wrong at the administrative level at the Waterworks Department.

Now the paying system, which entails travelling out by officers in cars, vans or whatever it might be, calls for an immediate investigation. In view of the fact that there are female staff attached to the Waterworks Department, I do not want to say more than that there are female staff attached there, but I would say however that there are many of them who are called upon to accompany officers about the country districts in these pay cars and they do not like it. I do not like it for them either I am not attempting to impute anything improper against any of the officers, but I want to see and know that the young ladies are protected and they need no protection from themselves.

With respect to the transfer of Government Offices, we are asked for an amount of \$105,204 to continue this programme. Now there is a balance of \$104,076 and that amount is inadequate. What has happened that since March 1970 an amount of \$105,204 has had to be spent? 1.35 p.m.

Private tenancies. It would be interesting to know, Mr. Chairman, how this estimate of \$125,000 was arrived at. We have the case of Benn Hill, St. Peter; surely the present Minister would not be telling us now that it is this serious or big engineering problem that it was in 1966 or 1967, the well at Alleyndale has been done and mains are being laid, and we would certainly like to hear what is the true position as regards what was a problem until recently at mid Benn Hill, St. Peter.

In the same way, Sir, at the Mount, St. Peter, there are still semi-dry stand pipes, and we would like to hear if something can be done to assist those people because they have got to depend in very great measure on the water truck for a supply, and it is not good enough; we would therefore like to hear what is being done in St. Peter.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

When I spoke on the last occasion I was drawing to the attention of the Minister of Communications and Works the area which is dividing St. Michael and the City in New Orleans, and with the exception of Kensington New Road, the other roads have just been paved and that is all. The Government has not done anything there at all. I think myself that nothing has been done in this area for some time and I would like to suggest that now we are spending money on roads that something should be done in the New Orleans/Kensington area, especially with regard to drainage.

On the other hand, on the question of the Waterworks Department, I am not accusing anybody at the Waterworks Department of anything dishonest, but what I would say is that there is too much work for too small a staff. I am going to draw this to your attention; a bill was sent out for \$45.00, the bill was paid and it is a good thing that the person could find the receipt because the bill was sent out again, and it is through the courtesy of the Accountant at the Waterworks Department who went through diligently to find out that the money was paid, that the person did not have to pay the Bill a second time. He made it quite clear that it is very difficult there, and that it happens all the time; I believe they need more staff. The Officer was rather courteous and he was able to discover that people were paying twice in some cases. What the hon. member for St. Peter said is correct; sometimes it takes so long to get a bill that you cannot always know what is happening. There is something wrong there, I do not believe anybody in that Department is indulging in any malpractice, but the staff is too small for such a big department; this is one department that you should look after, it is rather hard on the staff there.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I am not the Minister who should reply to this, but I just want to speak on this. The water situation as it was in Benn Hill, St. Peter did not facilitate the situation with water in the homes of private individuals. To a very great extent it has been improved since the large water mains now run along Benn Hill, and the situation that once existed no longer obtains, therefore I cannot see any reason why the residents along Benn Hill cannot now avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain a water supply. I do not know if any of them have applied recently, all they have to do is to apply and I do not think there is an excuse now because the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry, the hon. member for St. George, and myself..... (Mr. HINDS I do not want to hear you.) I am addressing the Chair and not one member in particular. The Parliamentary Secretary of that particular Ministry and myself visited the area more than a year ago, and we took statements from people along Benn Hill and heard their complaints. As everyone knows now, there are huge mains running along Benn Hill, and I can see no engineering problem that would prevent the residents along Benn Hill from getting private service in their homes. I think, therefore, that Government has done what it set out to do, to remedy such complaints.

As far as the Mount, St. Peter is concerned, the situation up there is still the same; that is to say, the present standpipe at the Mount is one that I have turned on as recently as within three months and there was no water. 1.45 p.m.

I had a telephone conversation through the instigation of the former Minister with Mr. Sealy of the Waterworks Department on the question of the water situation at the Mount. I was then informed that there was a long-range plan and that a booster would be installed in St. Lucy to improve the water supply. However, nothing has been done in the matter. I say that the water situation at the Mount needs some quick attention. It is necessary to take water there by motor lorries, and that has been happening for a long time. I almost witnessed a murder up there some years ago. At the Mount the situation remains unchanged. I think that they should speed up the long-range plan, because we cannot wait too long for this potential booster to be established.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for the City referred to the problem in New Orleans. The position is that when water flows from Wharton Gap it goes down the Orleans and remains there for a long period. The drainage down there is inadequate to take care of a heavy flow of water, but I am giving the matter my attention.

The hon. junior member for the City has asked a question about air condition units for the Courts. A

sum of money is provided for air condition units for Courts Nos. 3 and 4 and to carry out essential improvements. It is also proposed to carry out improvements to the Supreme Courts Nos. 1 and 2, but the plans and drawings for this project have not yet been completed. It is likely that this portion of the work will be taken care of during the next financial year.

With regard to private tenancies, work at Holder's Land has been completed. Work is being carried out at Waterhall Land, Delamere Land, and it is proposed to carry out improvements at Woodside Tenantry.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems regarding some of the roads in these tenancies is that it is no use putting in roads where there is no water. It would be better to put in the roads and the water at the same time. What the Department has been doing is to see that water is available in the areas first and then put in roads. This has been holding up some of the tenancies. If they do not have a water service we will have to put in water before we can put in roads. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Members not addressing the Chair, please observe Rule 29(6) Let the hon. senior member for St. Michael proceed.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No.8

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I ask leave to take Order No. 1 standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. senior member for St. Peter is seeking leave to take Order No. 1 standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister. If there is no objection leave will be granted. The re being no objection leave is granted to move a Resolution to grant the sum of \$73,068 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1970-71, Part I - Current as shown in the

Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks provision for the sum of \$73,068 to supplement items under Head 33 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science And Technology. Hon. members have been provided with a copy of this Resolution. If hon. members have a copy of the Estimates with them they will see that there are short explanatory notes in this year's Estimates dealing with certain matters. Item 65 - Seed Store - \$31,208. Item 65 - Grasslands - \$2,803. Item 82 - Central Livestock Station - \$36,057. Item 98 - Uniforms - \$1,800. Item 107 - Upkeep of Equipment - \$1,200. Now, the sum of \$70,132 is provided in the Current Estimates to meet the cost of the operation of the Seed Store which includes planting material, fungicides, insecticides, and fertilizers for sale to the public and the wages for employees, and so on. The items purchased by the Seed Store have increased, and there is a greater demand by the public for the items that are sold by the Seed Store. 1.55 p.m.

We have also discovered that due consideration was not given to the 1969 salaries revision of salaries in calculating the wages element in the estimates. The expenditure at 18th September was \$48,074 and the revenue \$44,929. The expenditure for the last year was \$89,913. In the case of Grasslands and Central Livestock Station, as with the Seed Store, account was not taken of the 1969 salaries revision when the amounts for these items were being calculated. Added to this the cost of supplies - fuel, maintenance and equipment and animal feeds - has increased since the Estimates were approved, and an additional tractor is also being operated in the Grassland scheme from this year. Expenditure at the 18th September in respect of Grasslands was \$7,793 and Central Livestock Station \$70,557. Expenditure for 1969-70 under the two items was \$11,701 and \$107,307 respectively. A bill for \$1,812 for supplying uniforms to the staff of the markets....

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

It now being 2 o'clock p.m., this sitting is automatically suspended until 2.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m.

On resumption:

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time, and I have been advised that the answers to Questions Nos. 123 and 125 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St Peter are ready.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Question No. 123, this was for the purpose of supplementaries, and I am really not in a position now to continue, and ask permission that it remains on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It would be helpful if an intimation is given to the Leader of the House as to supplementaries.

QUESTION re TRANSFER OF CHILDREN FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN 1970-71

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 125 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

1.What number of children who will be transferred from the Primary to the Secondary stage in education at the beginning of the academic school-year 1970-71, to: -

- (a) Senior Departments or Schools;
- (b) Comprehensive Schools;
- (c) Government-maintained Grammar Schools; or
- (d) Government-aided Private or Independent Schools?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

"In respect of category (a) the Senior Departments or Schools 2,165; in respect of category (b) Comprehensive Schools 2,501; in respect of category

(c) Grammar Schools 715; and in respect of category

(d) Private or Independent Schools 1,093. This makes a total of 6,474."

Mr. HINDS:

With regard to category (a), has there been any increase in the number of Senior Departments or Schools?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I am afraid I cannot answer that question on the available information I have on this file, but it may be of interest for the hon. member to note that the following numbers relating to the transfer of children from the Government Primary Schools to the various types of secondary schools are as follows Grammar Schools 478, and to aided private schools 402, and to the non-aided private schools 95. I cannot give him at the moment any information on whether or not there has been an increase in the Senior Department Schools or in senior schools.

Mr. HINDS:

In other words, do you still have 46 of them or more or less?

Mr. SPEAKER:

As to the question "Do you"?

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if there are still 46 or more or less. 2.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I think there is still that number; this is not an area of educational activity in which there would be an increase in the number of senior department schools, the policy is to build more comprehensive schools as rapidly as possible and therefore reduce by that extent the necessity for senior departments or senior schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that 46 senior department schools have an intake of just an average of 300 less than the seven comprehensive schools, does the Minister not see the necessity for upgrading the number of his primary schools so that they will also have senior departments?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I would think that given the same facts, the proper policy would be to build and establish more comprehensive schools.

Mr. HINDS:

What is Government's policy in this respect of building comprehensive schools, particularly in the northern parishes of the island?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

To establish them. Mr. HINDS When? By 1971?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Certainly the hon. member knows that we have recently announced the construction of one in St.

George, and I believe that before that is even halfway through we should start on another one somewhere in the north; this is already declared policy. There is also one for Christ Church, I am reminded by the hon. member on my right.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not advised that there are any other answers ready, and in view of that, the time has now arrived for Private Members Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Under Private members' Business the first Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition and it is to resume debate on a Resolution re damage resulting from floods of 2nd October, 1970. When this matter was last discussed the hon. senior member for St. Peter had concluded his speech when Private Members Business came to an end.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there are any other hon. members on that side who wish to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition exercises his right to final reply, is there any other hon. member who wishes to make a contribution to this debate?

Mr. St. JOHN:

If any member of the Government who has spoken already would like to speak again and bring us up to date, I would be very glad, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

As I understand it there is no intimation to me that any other hon. member who has not yet spoken.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the wishes of the Committee I have asked for additional information and progress reports from time to time. I have got this only recently and I have not had the opportunity nor the chance to read it and I do not intend putting it in until I have read it myself to make sure that what is here is true, and have it verified.

Mr. St. JOHN:

This is of such importance, Sir, that I would really like to deal with it today, but I do not mind deferring it. I really feel a considerable amount of agitation on this matter, and I do not mind deferring it provided that we agree to deal with it at some time today. People are butting around still, and this is very important; we can defer Private Members' Business.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to move that Private Members' Business be postponed until 5.30 and that Government Business be now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On motion of lion. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the appropriate Standing Orders were suspended in order to deal with Government Business until 5.30 p.m.

2.45 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 8

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When the Committee was suspended the hon. senior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I was saying that the expenditure on maintenance and equipment had gone up since the Estimates we re approved and an additional tractor is also being operated on grassland schemes from this year. Expenditure to the 18th September in respect of grassland is \$7,793.

The sum of \$71,268 is required to supplement these items of expenditure under Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology. The amounts voted have proved inadequate due mainly to rising costs of items supplied and to the increase in wages of employees in 1969.

A bill for \$1,812 for supplying uniforms for the staff at the markets during the financial year 1970 was submitted too late for payment from the provisions of that year and the amount had to be paid this year. It is, therefore, necessary to seek the supplementary provision of \$1,812.

With regard to Item 107 - Upkeep of Equipment -the cost of maintenance particularly in respect of spare parts has been extremely high and in some cases the cost has been twice the amount estimated. Of course, this is a matter over which we have no control. Expenditure at the 18th September was \$3,114.

I hope that I have been able to cover the ground fully.. If hon. members will look at page 77 of this year's Estimates and follow the Explanatory Notes, they will be able to see the position.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, anything dealing with agriculture today is urgent, because in our view the Democratic Labour Party Government has adopted an attitude to agriculture from the very beginning, and it is exemplified by the attitude of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has no use at all for agriculture in this country, and he says he does not want to see a blade of cane growing in this country.

Today the agricultural industry in Barbados is in a serious state of crisis. Report after report is coming out saying that, unless Government decides to give the industry a boost now, we will soon be in a position where we will not see any agriculture in this country. The Ministry has been warned that the cost of things has been rising, and requests have been made to the Government to use the Price Stabilisation Fund in order to give the industry the necessary shot in the arm. Unfortunately, up to this day this Committee cannot get anything positive on this matter from the Government.

Mr. Chairman, the sugar industry is in trouble; growing of crops is in trouble; the cattle industry is in

trouble; the vegetable industry is in trouble, and what is worst of all is that the Marketing Corporation is not working properly. I include under agriculture the question of fish fanning. Look at the attitude taken by this Government in relation to the shrimp industry; Now, 500 people who were employed in the shrimp industry are now fearful of their future because a bogus company was allowed to come here and operate. It was a company that had no capital. The company was formed by a lot of front men. You had people in it like Procope and so on, but there was no money in it. The workers have not been paid during the last two weeks, despite the fact that the Government said they would not have lost a day's pay.

Mr. Chairman, the position is that agriculture is of great importance to the economy of Barbados. Read any document written about tourism and you will find that agriculture gives the tourist industry a stimulus. For years agriculture was the mainstay in this country and some 20,000 people depended on it. The sugar industry is in a rather difficult position at the moment. Next year you will have to take the question of mechanisation into consideration, but the Government will not make use of the Price Stabilisation Fund.

I am sorry the Prime Minister is not here to hear what I have to say. As a result of the rationalisation of the Sugar Factories and the forming of one company, there will now be a transfer tax of \$1 million and the Government will not do anything in the matter. The land is being cut up, and I understand that applications have been made. 2.55 p.m.

The pressure is so great in the agricultural industry that people are adopting the device of applying for town planning permission to cut up land and sell it, and anybody who has anything to do with planning will know that there is application after application. I feel that is a bad thing, and our Party feels so strongly on this that we would not be giving any permission. We are going to pressure for refusal to grant permission, because the same speculators who used to sell salt-fish want to come into the game now and trade with agricultural land; and it is not for the purpose of creating any agricultural community or farming community. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: You -are talking to the converted.) Now that the horse is out of the stable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. senior member for Christ Church still addressing the Chair?

Mr. St. JOHN:

Perfectly. I am asking the question now that the horse is out of the stable. If you feel that the permission is being granted for agricultural purposes, I will say that Ruby has just got permission to cut up. I know you grant permission to cut up in four acre lots. The Cove has just got permission. The basic

position is that the Government has got to decide in its mind what is its policy in relation to this matter. The Congo Road just got permission. I want to say that even if permissions are being granted, the Town Planner should have power after a review by a board to fix the price of agricultural land in this country, otherwise what are you doing? You are not allowing the land to be used for the purpose for which it is ostensibly sought for because the price of land basically is so high that no body can buy any acre of agricultural land for \$4,000. Nowhere in the world can you do that. It is a farce to talk that. I am very concerned about this, and we have to have a full dressed debate on town planning problems in this country. The land is cut up for development purposes and no roads, electricity or water services have been demanded, because people have been getting \$3,000 or \$5,000 an acre and not putting in roads and electricity. That means you are manufacturing problems for yourself. The political pressures are going to be so great that you cannot resist them. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members not addressing the Chair will observe Standing Order No. 29(6), and those hon. members who want to speak shall rise and if called, speak.

Mr. St. JOHN:

This is a very serious problem. You represent an agricultural area like I do. I see applications made from estates which traditionally people used to associate with good estates in Barbados, and I enquire and find that the returns they are getting now are not sufficient to pay their bank interest. I really feel that the Government should decide to make a clear-the-air statement. Check with the Workers' Union, check with people who work in the agricultural industry and with the Sugar Producers' Federation and they will tell you that what I have said is true. You should know it yourself because you run Graeme Hall and Greenland and there is the Agricultural Development Corporation. We have not had the accounts from A. D. C. yet, but we know what the results will be except for a few areas in St. George's Valley which is a primary producing area. The vast majority of the rest is in a serious condition. What is your policy? I know the Prime Minister's policy. He believes he would like to see tourists all over Barbados, even although the report has warned that if you have whole sale tourism like that and you do not supply some of the services, it means that you would only be getting 5 cents or 10 cents to the dollar, because your import content is so great. I want a straight answer from the Government on this. What is the position about peasant holders who as a result of the flood lost their fertiliser and crops? I have written letters in connection with some in Christ Church, but there are other areas which have been affected. There are other areas which suffered from water damage where the top soil has gone. They will need seeds, fertiliser and a little help. They have not got any money.

Mr. Speaker, I am not dealing with the shrimp people. I will bring a separate Resolution on that. I merely want to hear the Government's view on this. I see they are voting money for the Seed Store. You should try and give some of them free, otherwise at Christmas, carrots will be \$1.50 a pound and tomatoes \$2.00 a pound. The trouble with some hon. members is that they do not know anything about land. Carrots do not reach that price in Barbados, but the farmers want to live like anybody else. They

want a motor car too. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

All hon. members have their chance to speak.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Peasant farmers feel they are entitled to a proper standard of living, and the only way you will get agricultural farming developed in this island is if it can pay comparable wages, otherwise people will not go into it. We want an enlightened policy from the Government to help re-organise and improve the productivity and pay better salaries, and money is such in Barbados that nobody is doing anything for nothing.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, the notes to this Addendum are so vague that I had to listen attentively to the Minister, because I myself was going to question some of the things I see here, but the Minister has given a very good explanation of some of the things. In his remarks he spoke about an additional tractor. 3. 05 p.m.

The tractor service at the Ministry of Agriculture, especially in the rural areas where it is needed, is very bad. Complaints have been made and there seems to be no improvement, but I again am making another complaint here because I have suffered, and others in St. George and other areas have also suffered. Their money has been paid and they have been promised the service, but sometimes the extent of the time is published and still they do not co-operate. I would like the Minister to see to this because you have to pay your money first before you get the service. There are people with local tractors who applied, they charge more than what the Government is charging, yet we who would like to support the Government on this issue find it very difficult to get a tractor to get our lands cultivated in time. This has been going on for some time, and I do hope that something will be done about it at the earliest opportunity. About the flooding, I have been made to understand that the Ministry sent out people from the various Government farms investigating the loss of crops and soil, but in St. George, I know a few peasants who depend on these crops for a livelihood and they have not been investigated. They are not far from Groves where the gentleman lives, and their carrots and beets have all been destroyed; this is something unprecedented, but I do hope there will be some sort of support given to them, as suggested, either by way of seed or even fertiliser, because we have heard and we realise that vegetables are very scarce today. We of the Government are asking people to make diversification of crops a possibility, and in this venture I feel that those people who have suffered loss should get back some of their loss either by fertiliser or seed. Those are the points on this particular Resolution which I thought I would like to bring to the Minister's attention.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairmen, I am sorry the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is not in his place. He made a very spirited and lengthy plea, and he outlined the grave position as it has been put to him by planters and peasants in this country with regard to agriculture. It need not surprise the hon. member to hear from me that only yesterday a delegation met me at my Ministry and every single point that he raised, without any exception, have been outlined to me in very great detail, so I am now in a position to tell Your Honour and this Committee that I am aware of the desperate plight of agriculture in this country. Hon. members may not know that in July of this year agricultural workers received an increase; during the last Estimates, I think some members were worried about these workers, but planters have been telling us for years that in England agriculture is very highly subsidised, but I do not think that we can afford to follow an industrial country like England prorata, and the time has now come, and I have already told my Cabinet of the serious situation with which we are now faced.

The hon. member touched on the cutting up of lands ostensibly for agricultural holdings, and not two months ago a great land developer came to me asking for permission to develop land for agricultural purposes. What I have found out that these developers do, they come to the Ministry - they do not necessarily come to me, they come to the Chief Technical Officer - and they apply for sub-division of lands for agricultural development, they may get the permission and they let the land run fallow for one, two or three years and then they go to Town and Country Planning and get permission to sub-divide. I know that hand in hand with the boosting of a healthy tourist industry we have got to supply certain foods, and that is the easting policy of my Ministry, The Prime Minister is, not in his place to defend himself, but as for me I do not regard the Ministry of Agriculture as any symbolise, I am as serious in this business as any other hon. member would be, and I am out to help the people of this country. Some of the experts in this country thought that the recent floods would have exterminated the grasshoppers, but this was not the case. My Ministry has to work hand in hand with the development of this country, tourism, industrialisation, etc. I would now like to touch on the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

At this time I do not think the hon. member can touch on the Barbados Marketing Corporation because there is nothing in this Resolution on the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Your Honour allowed the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to touch on the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

As soon as I intended to stop him he stopped.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Thank you, Sir, I will deal with it at another time. I have got in touch with the Chief Agricultural Officer and I have asked him to give me an overall estimate as to what he thinks we will need to assist the people as far as seed and fertiliser are concerned. Hon. members might have noticed me making \$ sign to a stranger, but he was here to assist me and that stranger will provide me with the figures. I will inform my Cabinet of the extent of the losses, as far as my Ministry has been able to gather, with regard to the loss of seed and fertiliser. 3. 15 p.m.

I will get the figures for you. I will ask every member of this House who is in touch with peasants in his constituency to encourage them not to make a mockery of things. I know that some people are using this disaster to do a lot of things. The Government is willing to assist those who are the losers - especially the poor peasants - so far as seed and fertilisers are concerned. I have been dealing with this matter for some time and I know the position.

The hon. member for St. George referred to incompetency in the operation of tractors. Many complaints have been made from time to time that peasants applied for the service of a tractor and it arrived too late. Only yesterday I was discussing this matter with a delegation in my Ministry. The trouble is that everybody wants the tractor at the same time. Our tractor system is involved in extension service in Lancaster and other parts of St. James. There are not enough tractors in this country. If we could get a few peasant co-operatives that would be a great deal of help.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with that, but I know that in St. John a Peasant Co-operative bought a tractor. The members of the Co-operative were promised a remission of the duty on the vehicle, but up to now they have not received one cent. That sort of thing is causing a great deal of trouble.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for raising that point, and I will raise it in the proper quarter. I am not expected to know everything. I am sure that we have all benefited from the discussion on this Resolution.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry; I believe that the Resolution for \$600,000 has already passed all of its stages. I now beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and re-solved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read the first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read the second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 10 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SPENCERS PLANTATION

Mr. S'PEAKER:

Order No. 10 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House and it is to move the passing of a

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at Spencers Plantation for the purpose of erecting a Radar Station.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to obtain approval for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Spencers Plantation. It is about 2 acres of grassland or thereabout, and it will be used for the purpose of erecting a Radar Station.

I do not know that there is any question to be asked about this.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass. Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, why do not the Government acquire the whole of Spencers Plantation instead of coming here acquiring two acres at a time? 3. 25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is useless every year coming and acquiring piece of this land. I think the Government should acquire the whole area and widen the road from the Airport to St. Philip because all the "S" bends need straightening. If you have to acquire Spencers, why not acquire it and finish?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister may speak with leave.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I have no objection to the Hon. Minister speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, -hon. members will remember that in the first instance 90 acres were acquired some time ago for which payment had not been made until comparatively recently, and this is the second time that an acquisition of this sort is being sought. We have acquired the greater part of Fairy Valley, but there is some substance in the suggestions made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in that Spencers is right in the heart of the project as far as the Airport is concerned, so that biting off a little piece for this purpose and a little piece for that purpose does not seem a tidy way of going about it, and it may be a good thing if Government could consider acquiring the balance of Spencers so that the matter can be expedited and the roads done also.

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

THE BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT BANK (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 8 is the next Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act, 1963.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House seeks leave to take charge of Order No. 8 standing in the name of the Rt. Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Leader of the House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amending Bill is to provide more liberal interpretation of the small retailer business which appears under- Section 7 of the Standing Act, and to extend the loan facilities to a small business and not necessarily restrict its facilities to retail businesses, especially now that under the new Public Health Regulations certain alterations are required of small business premises to bring them into conformity with the Act - barber shops for instance -and it is felt that some facility ought to be made available for capital to be acquired to make these necessary improvements, and we think the Bank is of course the best avenue for this purpose. Also of course the purpose of the Bill is to raise the authorised capital which is set out under Section 8 from \$3 million to \$10 million dollars.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am in favour of this, and I would really like to say that the Bank do have staff or an agency set up to advise potential applicants of small businesses as to how they must set out their applications, because many people in this field and sphere of business in Barbados are not familiar with the method of presenting what they call the projection of feasibility study. I know that in this Island there is what one calls joiner shops, and I know many good ones which would like a loan to buy some mechanical equipment, but when they go in and ask, they are completely confused by what they regard as red tape to get the application. I am not suggesting that a loan should be granted without a study, but I feel that if you are going to reach out to the people who need it, then you should have an agency or staff set up within the Bank itself for the purpose of Spending some time and setting out the application.

Secondly, in an institution like this, I want to warn the staff of the Bank that when they reply to people and reject their loans, people feel that they are entitled to reasons why they were rejected, and if the Bank wants to keep its good name, it would be well advised in its reply to set out what the Bank feels is wrong with the project or what is the reason why it is rejected, otherwise accusations are going to be made against them. I have seen one myself and I was astonished by the tone of the reply. All it said was "your application is hereby refused." What good is that to a person who has put in an application which he regards as a personal thing. You should be able to tell them that the feasibility study is not sound; but when you are dealing with applicants, they are entitled particularly if they are Barbadians, to know what is wrong because they may be able to make alterations and make another application and get the money. It is to help Barbadians get a better stake in the economic development of this country, and they must not be discouraged.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the points made by the Leader of the Opposition are very well taken. As a matter of fact, both points which he has raised, that of assistance in making applications and stating objectively the reasons for the refusal of such an application where there is a refusal, I think Should be taken together. I however wonder whether the Bank is necessarily itself the best agency in helping people to process. It seems to me from my experience for instance of some International Banking institutions that they go as far even as to give you a grant to help get your application in order, but they do not like to have anything to do with it because it comes to them in the end and it is probably a bit embarrassing if they assist you in filling it out and then from another point of view, have to turn it down. 3.35 p.m.

It would probably be better for an agency which is not going to process the loan to assist in the projects, and hence the Bank would look at it from the point of view of looking at a properly processed application. The next point is that reasons should be given. There is of course a tendency - I do not know why it should be so -in all semi-governmental agencies to be as terse as possible when they are going to refuse permission or refuse an application, and to be extremely verbose when they axe going to accept or grant it, or even when you hear the word "yes" you do not know the terms and conditions under which the "yes" has been given. I think they should look at these things, although I am reminded that the Bank staff - although it is at the moment very small - is always at the disposal of applicants with respect to their applications. This to me is alright so far as it goes, but if there is to be a quick handling of applications it ought not, I think, to be incumbent on the Bank staff at all times to be giving assistance which some other agency might well do themselves.

In respect of reasons for rejections, I am advised that it is not the policy of the Bank, or indeed of most statutory corporations, to disclose the reasons for unfavourable consideration, but I can see that in a case where someone applies for a loan to develop a business you might help him to make a second and proper application in the future if he could be told just why, without perhaps going no more deeply into it than is necessary, just why Ms application has failed in this particular instance. After all, it seems to me that the reason for refusing, if it is a good reason, is as much part of the feasibility of the study in the application as anything else, and if he could know why he has been refused this may help him to put a subsequent application in a better form. It certainly should not mean that his case is so serious or so hopeless that he cannot be told at all what is wrong with it; a man might apply for a loan and has, not set out very clearly what his collateral is likely to be, and if the people responsible for making the loan are not convinced that the security which be is offering is either of the best or is adequate enough, this is a reason for refusing, but they should let him know that that detail has not been more clearly set out. I accept the hon. member's suggestions and I will certainly pass them on because we want to make this Institution really the financial Institution of the small business people, no matter the nature of their business, and therefore in order to facilitate them, we have got to make it easy for them to transact their business with the Bank.

I should also tell hon. members that discussions are under way with the Inter-American Development Bank with the aim of expanding the staffing at the Bank, and when this is done there will be a separate Loan Officer who will be entirely responsible for dealing with applicants and help them to put their applications in proper form.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill.

On motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the hon. junior member for St. George was appointed to act as Chairman during the temporary absence of the Chairman of Committees Clause 1 to 3 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR; seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

3. 45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Hon. members, the House is not in recess and it has not been suspended.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1970

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Bill of Exchange Act, 1907, so that Saturday should be classified as a non-business day for the purpose of the Act to permit the closing of Commercial Banks. I think hon. members already know what is the purpose of this BUI. It is really to facilitate the general public by permitting banking hours on Friday to be extended to afternoon banking so that Saturday should be free. I do not know that there is anything more I can say on this matter. The banking people suggested this; it has been agreed to by the commercial people, and it is to this extent that we brought the Bill here.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, why should girls in the Banks be asked to work from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.? They work on mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. When they work on Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon; they will have to work up to 3 p.m., and they will go on from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Are you sure they will stop working at 6 p.m.? The girls at the Banks are human beings. Our people must learn to go to the Banks early on mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. If the Banks will not be open on Saturday, then I think they should close at 4 p.m. on Friday. I do not agree with opening the Banks until 6 p.m. What time do you think the girls will leave the Banks? I do not think the Minister has discussed this matter with the bankers. Are you going to wait until 6 p.m. to change a cheque, and then somebody comes along, breaks your hand and take away the money? I think six o'clock is a bit dark nowadays, and I feel that four o'clock would be good enough.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The main purpose of this matter is to facilitate the working-class people in getting their money changed on Fridays when they are paid. The Banks will now be open on Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and then from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In the circumstances, the people employed at the Banks will have Saturday off.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

What so it of nonsense are you talking about the working-class people? Those people are paid in cash, and they do not have to go to any bank to get a cheque changed. I agree with closing the Banks on

Saturday, but I do not agree with opening until 6 p.m. on Fridays. 3. 55 p.m.

I do not like this idea of keeping these girls until 6 o'clock. If you keep them until 6 o'clock, do you know what time they would get out? I agree with giving them a five day week, but they are not going to get out of the Bank until 8 o'clock. The hon. member can bear me out that if a cent is short or over, nobody can leave until the books balance. I would like the hon. member to assure me that they would not work after 6 o'clock. I agree with opening at 8 a. m. and possibly going through until 3 o'clock, but this idea of facilitating the working-class people is a joke.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the Managers of the Commercial Banks have for some time been giving serious consideration to the question of Saturday closing. They have now reached the unanimous conclusion that such a step is desirable for the following reasons

1. Recruiting and retention of staff.
2. The trend towards Saturday closing is increasing in other sections of the business community.
3. All major foreign exchange markets, for instance, London, New York, Montreal, Toronto are now closing on Saturdays;
4. Some countries in the general area already have a five day banking week, and others have the matter under consideration.

On purely practical grounds 1 and 2 above are of most concern to the Commercial Banks. In the growing economy of Barbados the Banks are very conscious of the need to attract and retain good staff, and in this competitive situation it is felt that a five day week will be of great assistance.

You must take it that the Banks must have consulted their staff.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member said on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I have to explain my point. Mr. SPEAKER Not on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

To compensate for the loss of banking time on Saturday mornings, it would be the intention to offer banking services to the public for an equivalent amount of time on Friday evenings from say 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock p.m. or Thursdays if Friday were a public holiday. This it is felt would cover adequately the need of people who are unable to do their business during the normal morning hours.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I just point out in view of a point of order that under Standing Order No. 28 (a) no member shall interrupt another Member except by rising to 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. No point has been submitted to me for decision, therefore it is invalid as a point of order; but the House, I gather, wanted to hear the hon. member, and he has therefore been afforded the opportunity of making a second speech.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I rose on a point of order and the hon. member gave way because he said he wanted to hear. I suppose you could have ruled then and I would willingly have sat down. I am merely trying to assist the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I did rule then.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

It is unfortunate that the ruling should be on the hon. member who has just sat down, because there are so many people who take advantage of a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member speaks with the voice of authority.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am worried about opening the Bank so late in the evening.

You may have a case of an old lady going to cash a cheque from the Provident Fund, and coming out of the Bank tying it up in a handkerchief to put in her basket and somebody comes along and robs her of it. By 6 o'clock at this time it is usually dark. I agree with the five day week and extending the time, but I do not think it should be up to 6 o'clock. I would like the Government to register its approval of the five day week and the extension of the time on Friday or Thursday if Friday is a holiday, but not until 6 o'clock. 4. 05 p.m.

If anybody goes in there at 6 o'clock they cannot get out until 8 o'clock.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of explanation, what he is saying is not true, they work on Friday evenings from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock and finish.

Mr. SPEAKER:

A member who has already spoken may rise on a point of explanation to explain some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

At 6 o'clock the Banks are closed and the people go home; whatever has been left there on Friday evening at 6 o'clock will go over to the Monday morning.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Do you mean to tell me that the Bank is closed at 6 o'clock and the tellers leave? Whom are you talking to? You are not running a piggy bank like you, you know. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

The behaviour of members not addressing the Chair.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

As I said, I agree with the five day week but not with closing the Bank at 6 o'clock. I would prefer to have that done at 4 o'clock; what more business would you have to do after 4 o'clock?

Mr. CRAIG:

I agree with the hon. senior member for the City. If you are going to open until 6 o'clock you are going back to the old system. The Minister in an explanation stated that at 6 o'clock the Bank will finish its work and the Clerks will leave, but I am under the impression that this 6 o'clock means that the Banks will be closed to the public at 6 o'clock. As the hon. senior member for the City said, if you go into the Bank at two minutes to six to cash a cheque the Teller would have to cash your cheque and then balance her cash before she thinks of leaving, and it would mean that she cannot get out of the Bank until 10 o'clock. Do you mean to say that if she has \$1,000 at 6 o'clock she will just push it in a drawer and leave it till Monday morning? I do not agree with that. I believe that the Minister is talking about the Development Bank, because as it is now when they finish work at 12 o'clock they do not come out of the Bank till 6, or 7 or 8 o'clock, and when the Inspectors come they have to work sometimes for six or seven hours overtime, so I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this would just be reverting to the old system.

I believe that many of these business houses in Bridgetown should open much later on Fridays and close on Saturdays; because you find that you cannot get a full day's work out of your staff when they go to lunch at 12 o'clock and have to hurry their lunch down and go from store to store to purchase things because everybody closes at 4 o'clock, but if the stores were opened till 9 o'clock the Civil Servants and the Bank Clerks would have an opportunity to do their shopping. This happens in all the big countries, but when you find people who work in offices in Bridgetown having to run from store to store and getting back to work late the Prime Minister criticises them and calls them a bunch of lazy so-and-sos. I am only showing you the contempt they have for the people they have around them, the Prime Minister says that they should not have lunch at all, they should be like him. However, Sir, I support the idea of having the five day week, but I really cannot agree with people working from 9 o'clock to 6 o'clock; I do not agree with this.

Another thing is that some of the girls live in the country and you have to think about the transportation problem. This is a matter which the Cabinet has decided on, but I am not in favour of it at all. The Minister of Community Development said it was simply to facilitate the working class man, and on the other hand the Minister of Housing is saying something else. I will agree with the five day week but we should review the whole set up and allow the people to go home at 4 o'clock. 4.15 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the purpose of this legislation is to create a 5-day-week work. That is the primary object of this Bill. It is felt that the staff at the Banks have no proper opportunity to shop if they have to continue working on a Saturday. I am in agreement with the idea of a 5-day-work week, but what I am not in agreement with, is the practice of some Banks in preventing their employees from joining a trade union. Even if we agree to this 5-day-work week, there is no way of controlling the number of hours the people will be called upon to work. You can pass Board Street at night and see the girls working in the Banks. I am sure those girls will have to work for about 45 or 48 hours. Why do they have to work in the Banks until seven and eight o'clock at night?

Mr. Speaker, if you read the history of trade unions in relation to the Banks, you will find that it took years and years before the Banks decides to recognise trade unions. The girls are afraid to join trade unions. It is no question of prestige nowadays. The basic fact is that the Government must do something about the matter. (Asides.) We know all about the Constitution, but we also know what a hard fight the unions had in America. Why cannot Frank Walcott get members of the staff at the Banks to join his union?

Sir, in developing countries like ours we have to protect our people from the exploitation of some of these people. I would like to see the Government pass a Trade Employer/Employee Relations Bill stating that it shall be illegal for an employer to insert any clause in a contract indicating that a clerk should not join a trade union. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is covered by the Constitution.) Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister to show me any Act in Barbados that would make it a criminal offence. Do not let us be facetious on this point, because we are dealing with a very important matter. The Constitution sets out certain norms and standards, but that in itself cannot make certain things illegal. You pass an Employer/Employee Relations Bill and say that any such inclusion would make the contract void and that you will charge an offender \$500 for breaking the law!

Mr. St. JOHN:

Basically, they want to say that Saturday is not a working day and that will give the staff an opportunity to shop. Do not let us get the idea in our heads that this is any paternal view on the part of bankers. They will still keep the people in the banks at night. The Government should introduce legislation to protect the people who work at the Banks, because that is an area into which the trade union cannot get. The girls feel that because they are working in a Bank they should not join a trade union. On one occasion the teachers felt the same way. The Kiaki King says that you must affiliate with a large organisation in order to get solidarity power. Within the 5-day -week, what are the hours that the Banks propose to have their staff work? Will it be 10 hours or 50 hours?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I, perhaps, would be a lone bird if I attempted to oppose a 5-day week. It is coming to Barbados in due course, but from what I have heard, particularly from the Leader of the House and the Minister of Health, it makes me feel that the Chamber of Commerce and the Commercial Banks and big business are running the Government of this country at the present moment.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Only two days ago I refused to see the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the Banks' desire to facilitate their staff. From what has been said here this afternoon, I am of the opinion that the Commercial Banks of this country could very well relieve the unemployment situation. We have quite a number of persons with the required of "O" levels and "A" levels who could be employed at the Banks. It is high time that all of these Commercial Banks review their staff structure. If it is a case where members of the staff cannot get time to do their shopping, then the Banks should employ more staff and make sure that the members of the staff are given a half -day each week to do their shopping. What we need in Barbados is more shopping hours. We want our commercial houses to be opened for longer hours, but there must be no question of overtime. It will be necessary to employ a new staff and the work could be done on a shift system. We have enough boys and girls here to do any amount of work. So far as the question of experience is concerned, if we had to go to the University for it several of us would not be businessmen today.

4. 25p.m.

What we have got to look at is this: are these people really employing enough people percentage-wise when you look at the unemployment situation? It is not true that the Banks are thinking so much in terms of its staff that they want to see them get these hours for shopping. Nothing could be further from the truth. What we have seen is that they have put up these proposals to Government, and believe me, Sir, from what the two Ministers who spoke on the matter have said, they have come blindly before the House with the proposals because they have come from the Commercial Banks. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW Do you disagree with the five day week?) I am not disagreeing with the five day week, but are we saying that they can do more by employing more people. You have heard many a complaint that when working a 5 1/2 day week or six day week many of the staff are in the Banks at 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock at night.

Mr. SPEAKER:

My attention has been drawn to the fact that there are not nine members present.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

May I ask that the bell be rung?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will certainly comply with the hon. member's suggestion as soon as we return to the Other Place.

A quorum teas obtained.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we do not want to prevent the Banks from computerising their accounting system or whatever it may be. We do not want to throw our people out of work, but they must review the structure of staffing and see what can be done to relieve the unemployment situation. We have institutions that the Government boast of setting up for the purpose of training staff in accountancy. I refer specifically to the Barbados Community College. Are we to understand that even at this stage the Community College cannot provide a qualified enough person to take his or her rightful place even on the bottom rung of the ladder of the Bank's staff in Bridgetown? If we are to have these extra banking hours on Fridays or Thursdays, there is evidence that the Banks ought to acquire additional staff and not put the extra strain on staff who had been toiling throughout the day. The number of hours has been pressed by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. We would like to know exactly how many hours a member of the Bank's staff will be required to remain on the Bank's premises within that five day period.

Now we are being told that this five day closing is being introduced for the reason of recruitment and retention of staff. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any Bank in Bridgetown has lost a single member of staff because that member had to work on Saturday. The Bank should pay the people a better living wage. What you will find is that the Bank is prostituting what we might call the false prestige that the staff enjoy, and they do this by making the staff members work overtime, but they never pay them for overtime until after 6 p.m. The Bank is telling you that you now have a lot of coloured staff in prestige jobs, but they will pay the prestige price by serving the Bank from 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. for nothing, and only after 6 p.m. will overtime be paid. We appreciate the fact that in any institution such as a Bank there would have to be a few executives who would have to put in overtime to carry on until such hours, and even if you use a very frequent shift system there would be "an overlocking of officers,

but with all these qualified unemployed people who could well fit into the Bank's staff structure with a minimum of training, let the Banks start a wide training scheme, recruit more staff and stop these foolish long hours of overtime, because after people have put in an honest day's work, they are tired and only too glad to go home. Some of them would object to being called upon to do overtime, but they are afraid they would be pinpointed and the first mistake he makes, out goes he; so they work overtime, but under duress. It is not fair to people that these conditions should obtain in the Banks when you have numerous young men and women roaming the streets of Bridgetown with G. C. E. certificates at "O" and "A" level, and would be glad for an opportunity to fit into the staff structure of the Banks. I do support the idea of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that there could be no question of the Banks introducing this five day week to accommodate the working class people. 4.35 p.m.

What we would like to hear, Mr. Speaker, from the Leader of the House or from any Hon. Minister on that side is exactly how many hours these Banks are going to be pinned down to keeping their members of staff on the premises, and when will overtime being. If possible, we Would like to insist on these Banks to cut out overtime by employing more staff.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Prime Minister has caught my eye first.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Then I will speak after the Hon. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, as I understand.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the hon. junior member for St. Thomas nobody in this House?

Mr. SPEAKER:

He is the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would say that his shirt caught Your Honour's eye first, but as I understand it all hon. members are agreed that the Banks should work a five day week to facilitate the general public. There is some divergence of opinion as to whether they are facilitating their employees or not, and I too would not like to be dogmatic on this, but I think the main point which has been made is that if the staff of the Bank does not utilise it, it is their own fault, but they should not be expected to work after normal working hours unless they get overtime. We have been given the assurance by at least one Bank Manager, as I understand from the hon. member for St. Thomas, that when the Bank closes at 6 o'clock to the general public the employees would not be expected to remain on the premises after 6 p.m. in order to balance books or anything of that kind, but what I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, is that I am quite willing to write to the Bank to say that the House is of the opinion that if people are kept on the premises after 6 o'clock on evenings they should be paid overtime, and only if they intend to work. As far as working at night is concerned, we have adopted the International Labour Organisation Convention which deals with the employment of women, children and nurses in an Act of 1938, and the I. L. O. convention states that women should not have to work after 10 o'clock in the evening. All I can tell hon. members is that we are dealing with the five day week and if they do not protect themselves by joining Trade Unions they should be protected against exploitation and we will take due note of that. I do not think there is any need for anybody to say anything more.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee, on the Bill Mr. YEARWOOD) in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by lion. C. E TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that. Hon. N. W. BOXILL Mr. Speaker, ...

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now I got up to address the Chair and you deliberately overlooked me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not so, I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I withdraw that, but it is my opinion. The next thing is, I would hate to think that I will have to join forces with those who think that the Chair is not impartial.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I am speaking on the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That has already passed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have the right to speak on the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That has passed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I addressed the Speaker before the question for the third reading was put.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The third reading has been duly passed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Then you have ignored me for the second time within less than ten minutes and I do not intend to be ignored in here. I was elected in here.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is not entitled to speak on anything, there is no motion before the House. 4.45 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I can speak on the Third Reading, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Bill has been duly passed and its passage has been duly recorded.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The question was put while the hon. member was on his feet, and I do not agree with that. This is damn foolishness; this is nonsense. I am not going to sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am speaking on a point of order, because there is an infringement of the rights of an hon. elected member of this House. This is all nonsense. The hon. member was addressing the Chair, and the Speaker should not have put the question. I would not sit here as an elected member of this Chamber and allow that sort of thing to take place.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not accept that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You are partial.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must withdraw that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I will withdraw it, but it is true.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has not withdrawn it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

This is all nonsense.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no withdrawal of anything if the hon. member says he withdraws it, but it is true. Will the hon. member withdraw it?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I will withdraw it and bring a Motion of no confidence in the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must sit.

Hon. A, DaC. EDWARDS:

I will sit, but I do not have any respect for you in doing that. The hon. member was elected like anybody else.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I was addressing the Chair on the Third Reading of the Bill.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Third Reading of the Bill be recommitted.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas is on his feet addressing the Chair.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker is reading, so I cannot address him. (Asides.)

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am entitled to a certain amount of privilege in here.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking on the Third Reading of the Bill. I am extremely shocked to hear that the Clerks have said that the Third Reading of the Bill was put before I started to address the Chair.

Mr. St. JOHN:

That is not true. The basic fact is that Mr. Speaker ignored you, and you cannot get up and speak now;

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

To show you how inherently dishonest you are.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

You cannot.

Mr. St. JOHN:

You have no guts otherwise you would have told the Prime Minister to sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I must ask the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to withdraw the remark that a hon. member of this House is "inherently dishonest."

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I am going to withdraw that, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member called me a little boy, and I consider that remark offensive. I am asking him to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not unparliamentary.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, are you ready to hear me on the Third Reading of the Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Third Reading of the Bill has been duly passed, and I shall hear no hon. member on the Third Reading.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I have evidence to prove that I was on my feet before the question was put.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Third Reading has been duly passed and has been so recorded and will so appear in the Minutes.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking that the Third Reading of the Bill be recommitted. As a matter of fact, I am seconding the Motion already moved by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that the Third Reading of the Bill be recommitted. 4.55 p.m.

The question that the Third Reading of the Bill be recommitted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am reiterating what I said earlier on the floor of the House when this Bill was being discussed. I discussed this with the Manager of the Royal Bank and I particularly asked him.....

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, there is more than one Branch of the Royal Bank in Barbados. I would like the hon. member to say which Branch so that we can have this straightened out.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, there is no such thing as the Royal Bank. I want to know what the Royal Bank is.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

You can try as much as you like to interrupt. You do not have any manners.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I object to that. The hon. member told me I have got no manners. He must withdraw those words.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Only if I say so. The hon. member must sit.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I object to the words, and it is not only if you say so. I heard them and other hon. members heard them.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is not a case of the hon. member saying they must be withdrawn.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am saying it is unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is the hon. member's opinion.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Is my opinion contrary to yours about what I am?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must sit and remain seated while I am standing. If it is the opinion of the Chair that the words are offensive, the Chair will say so. It is not the opinion of an hon. member of this House unless that hon. member is in the Chair.

Now what are the words to which the hon. member is taking objection?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The hon. member said I have no manners.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the hon. member said of another hon. member that that hon. member has no manners, that is a remark which might be deemed to be insulting and offensive about a member of the House. I must have behaviour in the Gallery, else I shall have to take notice of it.

I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that and proceed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

What must I withdraw?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That the hon. member had no manners.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, did you hear me say that? Do you mean that if somebody tells you I have flown to New York, then I have flown to New York? You said you did not hear and now you tell me I must withdraw.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will get the official report.

The official record does not say that a reference was made to any hon. member as I understood it. What the official record says is, and the hon. member was on his feet when he was speaking and therefore was addressing the Chair when he said it - "You can try as much as you like to interrupt. You do not have any manners."

Was the hon. member referring to the Chair? Hon., N. W. BOXILL: Not in the least.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, if Your Honour said that the hon. member was on his feet and could only have been addressing his remarks to the Chair, what are you asking the hon. member?

Mr. SPEAKER:

He was therefore not directing his remarks to any hon. member around the Table. The hon. member said he was not addressing the Chair and I make allowances for the weakness of Barbadians who use the word "you" instead of "one" loosely.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, am I to understand that you are a Barbadian?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. senior member for St. Thomas proceed. 5.05 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Just to get the record straight, I was told by the Manager of the Royal Bank that the reason for this is to get work finished from Monday till Friday until 12 o'clock; on Fridays the cashiers will do their tallying between 12.00 and 3.00, and then they will open from 3.00 until 6.00, and at 6 o'clock they will just put away everything and return on Monday, because the 3.00 to 6.00 work will go on as if it was done on the Monday.

What I would like to support is the statement that the senior member for Christ Church made; I think he made a very pertinent point, because I am fairly closely related to the Banks in that I have relatives working in the Banks and I know that sometimes they have to work until 9 o'clock in the night and sometimes after. I pointed out to the Manager that it would be hard for these girls, especially those who have to go down the Harbour for a bus, that anything could happen to them, and he gave me the assurance that everybody will be able to leave at 6 o'clock.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I am very sorry I have to rejoin this debate, but there are so many of these Bank Clerks that as soon as they begin to work in a Bank they feel themselves very much above the others. I cannot agree with the hon. member saying that a Manager of a Bank tells him that in case they have to work from 8.00 a. m. until 3.00 p.m., and then between 3.00 and 6.00 work again and 6 o'clock they just put away everything. They have been putting away things from 12 o'clock and still were notable to leave the Banks until 6 o'clock, so I do not see how they will be able to stop work at 6.00 and leave at 6.00 as well; what I think the Manager meant is that they will close to the public at 6 o'clock. Do you mean that when Colton Enterprises go in to clean the Banks everything will still be there while they are cleaning? The Banks work from 8.00 to 12.00; at 12 o'clock they close to the public and they have to make their cash up, balance their books and everything else, and you are saying that on Friday evenings at 6 o'clock they will leave all these things over and then Monday morning they will come in and balance their books? In my opinion they will then have double work, because they will have to balance the work that was left over from Friday and will then have to start on Monday's work, and this will probably mean that they will have to close at 6 o'clock on the Monday as well. I think the Minister can take care of himself by sheltering under the Royal Bank, because he did not say that it was the Royal Bank of Canada.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Sir, I mean the Royal Bank of Canada; do you mean that I would come in here and lie to you? Do you doubt my veracity then?

Mr. CRAIG:

I will never doubt the Hon. Minister although there are some Ministers on that side you have to doubt.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Sir, the hah. member cannot make that statement.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not deem that to be unparliamentary.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I doubt the Hon. Minister was a boxer, but I believe that he is a Minister of the Crown.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL. On a point of order, I doubt the hon. member did not pay his debts.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, there are some people who believe in character assassination, and he could not be referring to me because there is a law and if you do not pay your debts you can be locked up; he will have to mean the Leader of the House. I said that I doubt the Minister, do you mean that you have never yet told a lie? I am under the impression that the Minister misunderstood the Banker, I do not really believe that the Banker would have told him that at 6 o'clock on Friday evenings they finish work and just rest the things one side until Monday; when the messenger comes in before 8 o'clock on Monday mornings which will be before the staff arrives, and if anything is wrong they will blame the messenger, so it is utter nonsense, he does not know what is going on. The Prime Minister tried to shut him up and I thought he would have kept himself out of this debate, because I do not understand how a Minister can get up and say that a Bank Manager told him that this will obtain; what I believe should happen is that this should be a matter to be dealt with by the Trade Unions, and the Bank Clerks should get up and let the Bankers understand that they are not going to work after 6 o'clock, so that they should close to the public at 4 o'clock. He is not prepared to reason, he has no sense of reasoning now. I know that if they close to the public at 6 o'clock many of them will have to sleep in Bridgetown because many of them who live in the country areas cannot get home unless they have a motor car. 5. 5 p.m.

The whole structure, as far as the Minister is concerned, is completely out of context. He does not understand what is going on. At least he has a better understanding of housing than the former Minister.

With regard to the white-collar worker, let them define what is a white-collar worker.

hon. senior member for Christ Church has challenged the Prime Minister to introduce legislation to control the operation of the Banks. Apparently the Minister misunderstood the bankers.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

HOB. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business, and I beg to move that Private Members' Business do now resume for one and a quarter hours.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 15 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Item No. 15 is now the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION re STATEMENT BY Mr. BURNHAM REGARDING Mr. GARY SOBERS

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that I have to withdraw this Resolution. I am seeking to do so, but I would also like to explain to my colleagues on both sides of the House the reason why I am about to take a step of this nature. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has to make his Motion, and then ask leave to withdraw it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I beg to second the Motion.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I said that while I was seeking leave to have this Resolution withdrawn, I would like to make an explanation. I have not yet moved that it be withdrawn. (Asides. ? Do you think I came in here on a box cart? Why do you not keep quiet, if you do not know what is going on?

Mr. Speaker, this matter, as you know, sparked off what one could consider to be a international controversy. It reads:

To move the passing of a Resolution re a statement attributed to Mr. Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister of Guyana, with regard to Mr. Gary Sobers.

It is regrettable that I have to take this stand, and I appreciate the feelings of my colleagues on both sides of the House. I discussed the matter with one of them today. Although I am going to withdraw the Resolution, it is regrettable that a Prince was forced to apologise to a commoner or commoners. I make reference to Linden Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister of Guyana, the political know-all, and Senator Frank Walcott who is responsible for the controversy which surrounded this young champion.

Mr. Speaker, I have my own personal views on that issue which is now gone, and I hope once and for all to be ever forgotten. Whether Mr. Sobers erred innocently; whether he set about to do something to bring black and white together, only time will tell. No one took objection at the beginning when he decided to go to Rhodesia to play cricket. If Mr. Ash had succeeded in going there to play lawn tennis, then nothing would have been said about him, but the little boy from the- Bay Land, who has made history - history that no Prime Minister has ever made has been reduced to nothingness. What bothers me a bit is how people like Mr. Forbes Burnham can ask for an apology from Mr. Sobers? The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House made a half-baked statement, but it was not in defence of Mr. Sobers and it was not something against the positive statement made by Mr. Burnham. Mr. Burnham said: "Apologise, or you would not be welcome in these territories. " 5.25 p.m.

Almost everything we have fought for to bring the Islands of the West Indies together was almost shattered at the expense of a young man who has made a contribution to that great old summer game. The all coloured club of which you are a member has also made a contribution to the West Indies also. The only thing that the Prime Minister of this country said is when he wanted to attack the B. B. C. because they allowed a man like Ian Smith to laugh at Sobers. Not a single statement was made in defence of this young man except a half-baked something put together by the Hon. Leader of the House. Let us not fool ourselves about this. I have brought this Resolution though Mr. Sobers has been forced to apologise. He is not a man like the Burnhams, the Shearers and the Barrows crying out to let us come together so that Carifta would not go down the drain; but I was one of the people who was prepared to go to Kensington with a fork and dig up the pitch if Lloyd was allowed to come here and work for a dollar.

Mr. Speaker, instead of looking after the workers in Roebuck Street who are still getting \$14 and \$15 a week, Senator Frank Walcott started this by castigating the prince of the West Indies by asking what he is trying to prove.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will remind the hon. member that the conduct of Members of either House of the Legislature shall not be referred to except upon a substantive motion.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I am going to refrain from saying Senator Walcott. I am going to say Walcott so that you will not take me out of my stride. It is a matter for you to determine if I mean Clyde Walcott or Keith Walcott. It is regrettable to see that Walcott, rather than championing the cause of people like Sobers can set about to reduce him in the eyes of the world. Bobby Simpson came to Barbados and pushed down photographers and not a single word was heard about it. This was a white man pushing down some black boys; but now you look at a man who has made a contribution to the West Indies and to the cricketing world and ask him to apologise for making his own personal decision. I should like to know from Burnham to whom he should apologise. If he said to the West Indies, I would say to him that he should apologise to Barbados for allowing Luckhoo to bring down stolen votes from Shepherd's Bush for him. People who had died years ago had their names on the register for the sake of retaining him in power. (Asides.)

I always believe in discipline, and if the Leader of my Party is asking me to speed up so that he can speak on something, I shall do that. Over there you have to sit down and cry. When you could not go to Cummins' funeral, you cried. After you wrote the speech to the Canadian Governor-General, you had to cry; but over here it is real real man.

Sir, I would like to finish on this note:

"For when the One Great Scorer comes To write against your name,

He marks - not that you won or lost -But how you played the game."

I think Mr. Sobers can have within him a feeling of happiness to know that I would be satisfied beyond a shadow of a doubt that whatever he did he did in the interest of all West Indians and black

people and the cricketing world as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion has not been seconded.

Mr. CRAIG:

If I am seeking leave to withdraw this, while I am not challenging your authority, I have not got to get a seconder.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I said it has not been seconded. Mr. CRAIG What has not been seconded?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The passing of this Resolution. Therefore there is nothing to withdraw; it automatically falls and disappears from the Order Paper.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would not try to match wits with you, but it can only fall after three months.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It has been moved and not seconded. The matters which disappear from the Order Paper are those which have not been moved and in respect of which no transactions have been done.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the hon. senior member for St. James is asking leave to withdraw the motion which was on the Order Paper. It has not been put to the House to see whether the House is willing to grant leave; so you cannot call another Order.

Mr. SPEAKER The motion has not been seconded,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The motion does not have to be seconded. The hon. member got up and spoke and then asked leave of this House to withdraw the motion. Nothing has to be seconded.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

That is correct. The hon. member asked leave to withdraw, and it is for Your Honour to see whether the House will grant leave or not.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, this is not to appear that I am informing the Chair. A proposition has to be debated? therefore the moving and seconding is to get it debated. When that debate is through, the proposer gets leave to withdraw if he so desires. If he so desires and declares that, the Presiding Officer puts it to the Chamber that this motion be now withdrawn, and that is the end of that. Otherwise, as long as the conclusion is reached on that matter, it simply disappears from the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is my ruling and that is my view. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, I want to get this matter straight. Length of time in here does not mean that you can pontificate on Rules. I sat in my chair and heard the hon. senior member for St. James ask leave to withdraw the motion. It has not been put to us whether leave will be granted, and that has got to be put before anything else.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as I understand it, the hon. senior member for St. James moved a

motion, but it has not been seconded, so it falls to the ground. 5.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is my view and that is my ruling. The question now is that Order No. 1 be the instant Order of the Day.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I was on my feet when you were putting that question and was addressing you. You saw me and you put the question; I think you are carrying this too far.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have ruled that Order No. 1 be the instant Order of the day; does the hon. senior member for Christ Church desire to proceed?

Mr. St. JOHN:

Yes, Sir, but I would like to proceed in order and regularity. Since we spoke on this Resolution I had the benefit of reading a document which was circulated setting out the flood damage. I will make checks myself in my area in connection with the relief measures, but it will be remembered and here I ought to correct an impression that was given outside - when we spoke in here at the beginning of this Resolution, I thought that anybody who was present could not have got the impression that we were critical of any individual Welfare Officer or of the Welfare Department. The Resolution itself was couched in terms for the purpose of discussion and for the purpose of suggesting to the Government that the existing procedures were not of the best. Nobody made any attack on individual members, but the Advocate - the most dishonest journal in the West Indies - still saw fit to publish a headline that members of the House attacked the Chief Welfare Officer; nobody attacked any individual in here on this Resolution. The whole point we were making was, that the existing procedure was not of the best, and we were trying to get measures introduced which in the future will speed up the period of time between when the disaster occurs and when the actual relief is granted. Again, I have been checking and I have found out that I was justified in this because even today there is some difficulty in granting relief to the people who have been investigated and this is a month after this disaster occurred. There are some people who have not even got bedsteads, stoves or the immediately necessary items of household equipment which were lost. I notice that no money has been passed for giving relief to these people, and as I understand it what is being used to provide this relief is the money which has been collected at the suggestion of the merchants in Bridgetown. I understand that a Committee has been appointed to do its own investigation and this investigation has already been done by the Welfare Department.

I feel that a month after the flood, people who have lost bedsteads should by now, have received immediate aid, but they have got nothing. Do you mean that it takes so long to help just 700 people? I would really like to hear up-to-date information on this and I would be willing to give way to the Hon. Minister to hear what he has to say. I feel very strongly on this, and it seems to me that Government is waiting to see how far the amount of voluntary contributions go before they throw in theirs, and I would prefer that attitude to be changed. If you take a look at this Report which is now being circulated, at item 14 you will see that the articles actually delivered up to the 2nd November, 1970 fall far below the estimated requirements.. I think the figures shown here and what the people in my area have been telling me, differ greatly, and I think a new investigation has to be carried out. I am not criticising any Officer on this, when I am ready to criticise an Officer I will do so. 5.45 p.m.

Government redtape is too much when it comes to the question of dealing quickly with these people. This is an emergency and certain things should be relaxed so that the people can get beds and so on. The basic point is that the people whom you have already investigated should have been dealt with immediately. I have not yet had an opportunity to read the entire Report, and I would like to hear from the Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in compliance with the request of the House and of the Cabinet, I have attempted to have this Progress Report submitted, and I thank the Ministry for so doing. Our Welfare Department is here to assist me as well as one of the co-ordinators of this Progress Report.

Organisation:

The Welfare Department in co-operation with the Barbados Flood Relief Committee continued to service this operation.

Personnel:

(a) Co-ordinators:

Major S. Headley, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr. Clyde Gollop, Chief Welfare Officer.

Mr. Stanley Chapman and Mr. Collis Blackman from the private sector.

(b) Field Work:

Officers of the Welfare Department, Clerical Staff, the volunteer sector including, Lions, Jaycees and others drawn from the general public through contact with the Barbados Employers Employers Confederation.

The Regiment continued to serve with a token handful of men. They assist in providing transport and labour during working hours.

Mr. Speaker, the light is so bad in here that I do not have any intention or desire to hurt my eyes any more. I will, however, read one or two salient items.

Relief Items:

Relief has been so far almost entirely in the provision of mattresses and stoves. Accessories to sleeping, pillows, sheets and pillowcases, provided in ratio to mattresses.

Applications covered a number of needs which have not yet been scheduled for distribution: - household effects, clothing, school requisites, tools, house repairs, crops and livestock. It is proposed that these be dealt with as far as possible after the basic needs for sleeping and cooking have been attended to.

In so far as the country districts are concerned, investigations have virtually been completed. (Asides.) I take it that the hon. member is making reference to household items like mattresses and so on. I am dealing with the Ministry of Health and not with the Ministry of Agriculture. I am not the only Minister who has to give information here regarding the flood. I am dealing with my Ministry alone.

Country districts:

Investigations in the country districts have virtually been completed. Deliveries of the first bedsteads, tables and chairs were made during this week. This follows the earlier distribution of mattresses and miscellaneous effects before the Fund operated.

Is there anyone here representing St. James?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the eyes of the Hon. Minister are bothering him so much that he cannot see me?

St. James: The Trents area received substantial delivery of mattresses and stoves during the week. This area is more or less covered in this respect.

St. John still has a few cases which were not wholly flood victims.

Christ Church: The St. Matthias area and environs received early attention. There are a few cases to be completed. A number of persons are included in the Silver Hill situation. The schools are in such a bad state that we are sending people to Silver Hill.

With regard to the proposal by the Voluntary Committee on the operation of repairs and re-housing needs, I take it that the Minister of Housing will deal with them. I do not want to encroach on anyone's portfolio.

Proposal by Voluntary Committee:

The Barbados Flood Relief Fund Committee at its last meeting discussed a proposal by the Chairman, Mr. S. Chapman that at a point where the basic needs are reasonably met, the Committee should consider proposing to Government to entertain the Committee's offer of resiting a given number of houses. 5.55 p.m.

The articles actually delivered up to 2nd November, 1970 were: Double mattresses 374; single mattresses 212; 3/4 mattresses 29; sheets 609; pillows 1,038; pillow cases 970; stoves 145; saucepans 2; double bedsteads 4; single bedsteads 8; chairs 26 and tables 9.

As far as the approximate requirements are concerned, these are: double mattresses 400; single mattresses 300; 3/4 mattresses 50; stoves 150; single bedsteads 30 and double bedsteads 30.

The original estimates may not have been accurate, but no censure can be levelled at the Ministry or the Department. Mention is made in paragraph 16 by the Chief Welfare Officer to the effect that the deadline should be 7th November in order to complete delivery, but I think that is too soon and would like to change that to 30th November to give a reasonable time. I will try to co-operate and give a more detailed statement and have an opportunity to vet it more carefully.

Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY rose.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I will give way.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

There is a very important point I must raise. Throughout the reports I have seen, no criticism has been levelled against the Chief Welfare Officer. As a matter of fact, although people are still coming in, I think the Department is doing a very good Job but it is difficult for the Welfare Officer to do a job if you

send people who are not Welfare Officers to do this job behind them. The Minister knows this is happening, and this gets people dissatisfied over the thought that it is felt that they are making false reports.

Now yesterday was a month that we had the flood. The incubation period of enteric fever is something like three weeks in the low lying areas where you have cesspits. This is the cause of typhoid borne by flies. There is a cesspool emptier which when I left the administration of Local Government, was still working, and I think this should be used in all the low lying areas. I refer specifically to Halls Road, Chapman Lane and New Orleans which were flooded out. This should be used immediately. I am surprised to see that the Medical Officer of Health has not raised it at all, because these pits are still full and over-flowing with flood water and faeces which is dangerous to health. There is still that stench from pits, and I repeat that the incubation period for typhoid fever is not over and you might still have an outbreak. I would suggest to the Hon. Minister that steps be taken to go into these areas and use the "cesspool emptier so as to protect the health of the people in the area as well as others. You are not doing them any favour.

As far as I am concerned, there was no truth about anybody criticising the Welfare Officers, and the Advocate was wrong when they used the big headline. These officers have been doing a good job, but they must feel hurt if you send people behind the people you have appointed to do the work. They have been accustomed to doing this, and when you send people who are not acquainted to check behind them, it is an affront. The Minister should look into a matter like this. Flood relief is given by the public and should be used for this matter, and you should not allow this sort of thing to happen.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask a question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is not a matter of asking a question. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave way.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of elucidation. I have heard the Minister of Health give us a breakdown which he said was not an accurate estimate. We can appreciate this. Of course one month has gone by, but we are not going to crucify the Ministry of Health for the way they carried out their programme. I also heard the Minister of Agriculture when he debated earlier a Resolution which he had before the House; but I have not heard any statement so far from the Minister of Housing in connection with any of the houses which were badly damaged and what is the position of those people who are still homeless. I know of two or three

case in St. James Where people's houses have been swept away, and there is one in Constitution Road which is hanging over, as well as one in Halls Road. I would be grateful if the Minister in charge of Housing would say something so as to ease our minds and let the public know what is the position, because many of these houses have been damaged beyond repair, and the owners are not in a position to repair them and are still sleeping at families which can be a bit inconvenient for them. I would be grateful if the Minister would tell this House what is the policy of his Ministry in relation to the housing programme for those people who have found themselves in this very unfortunate position.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, the position is quite clear. As far as the Ministry of Health and Community Development is concerned, they are trying their best to bring relief; but as far as the Ministry of Housing is concerned, it remains indifferent to the fate of those people who are homeless, for up to now there is absolutely no policy in relation to what help the Ministry of Housing is going to give either in the form of supplying prefab houses or putting back some of the houses in the Halls Road area. 6.05 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if I am allowed to speak.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I will give way.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

It is not a point of giving way, I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, if you rule it is no point of order I will resume my speech. As I was saying.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point of order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The hon. member said that my Ministry has done nothing for the people.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, with great respect, you know what a point of order is, and I ask you to call on him to make a point of order, and do not be weak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I could never be as weak as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. St. JOHN:

It is manifestly clear that everybody thinks you are.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the hon. member is making a point of order, let the hon. member make his point of order and I will decide if it is valid or invalid.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I was waiting for you to ask the hon. member to withdraw those remarks. The point is that the hon. member said that the Ministry has been dragging..... (Asides.) Why do you not go home and sleep? You do not contribute anything to these debates.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member make his point?

Hon. N. V. BOXILL:

The hon. member said that the Ministry of Housing has done nothing for the people (Asides.) He barely got past.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point of order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

How can I make it when I am being interrupted and you are sitting idly by and doing nothing about it?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am trying to help the hon. member.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

What I was saying was that what the hon. member said is not true, because we gave houses at Gall Hill, and the pre-fab houses we had we have given to the people already and we are trying to get more pre-fab houses in order to give as many people as possible.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I know that is not a point of order, and I still say that the Ministry is indifferent, and I quote from the report "The operation of repairs and rehousing needs to be clearly mounted after a policy has been decided." The report says you have no policy, and when the senior member for St. James was speaking I gave the hon. member an opportunity to get up and say what he wanted to say, but he wanted to wait and rise on a bogus point of order. He knows no procedure at all in spite of the fact that he went in here two sessions. The position is this; areas in Christ Church and St. Michael have been affected, you can still pass Constitution Road and see a house across the road. In 1955 when you had the hurricane, within a short space of time all those houses were removed and this Government, with its...

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not correct.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am not giving way because it could not be a point of order, I have not broken any of the rules.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will both hon. members sit? Standing Order No. 28 states

"No Member shall interrupt another Member except -

(a) by rising to 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; or..... "

May I point out that in respect of other members to whom the Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave way,

they had previously spoken and they rose on a point of elucidation in respect of what they had previously said in previous speeches, and this is a question now of a point of order in which an hon. member may only interrupt to direct my attention to the point which he desires to bring to my notice and submit to me for decision.

Mr. St. JOHN:

As I was saying, the.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Am I allowed to make my point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member, if he is making a point of order, must not merely say "a point of order", but he must say something to direct my attention to a point which the hon. member desires to bring to notice and to submit it to the Chair for decision. It is not a question of elucidating anything.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have nothing to elucidate, this is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point of order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

The point of order is that the hon. member said that in 1955 when we had Janet that the houses from Halls Road were removed.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

Will Your Honour rule?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Sit down, you just do not know the rules. For the whole afternoon you have been breaking the rules, and you must be taught. I say that the Ministry of Housing has been indifferent, and the report says it is indifferent and I can prove that it is indifferent that today ten, twelve or fourteen houses damaged, and with a genius as its Minister it cannot up to now state that the Ministry has a housing policy; the report says so. You only have to pass Halls Road, Constitution Road and other areas and you will see that the Ministry of Housing are dragging their feet, because the Minister no doubt has to go up there, measure it himself, design the house himself and do everything in relation to it himself. 6.15 p.m.

The worst Minister you have ever had is the one you now have as Minister of Housing. It is cruelty to the people. They decide to help the people by sending them a lorry to put back houses where they formerly were. This sort of treatment has been meted out to the people because there is no political advantage to be gained in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make this clear. I know that housing is bad. Today the Minister of Agriculture gave us an assurance in respect of agricultural damage, and I hope that we will also get assistance in the other areas as envisaged in the Report sent in by the Chief Welfare Officer. School books, uniforms and clothes are badly needed, and the people should be assisted as soon as possible.

As he says, we have brought this Resolution just for the purpose of initiating a debate, and we have brought it so that we can bring to the attention of the Government the position in respect of the several areas. I want to hear what the Minister will say in his reply.

As the hon. senior member for St. James has said, we have been threatened. I am disappointed at what is happening at Trents. Many houses have been washed away at Trents. (Mr. WE EKES: Time has expired.) What is happening to that man? No mention has been made about the damage done to Cane Vale, Christ Church. I know that up there people's houses were flooded; there was water covering an area of about seven to ten acres of land at the back of Graeme Hall; the water went through several houses, and so on. There is an old, retired manager of an estate whose house was flooded up to 5ft. in water. You can go there now and see the water mark I also know that two people have been flooded out completely.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the fault of the Social Welfare Officer; it is the fault of the Committee, because the Committee has decided to investigate again the work done by trained investigators. The Government should decide in its own mind to spend its own money now rather than wait on this Committee to do things. (Asides.)

Mr. Speaker, now that some people are living in bungalows, they have forgotten the days when they used to live in chattel houses. I sincerely hope that by the 30th November the totality of the damage will be arrived at, so that the Housing Authority, the Housing Department, the Social Welfare Department, and so on, will be able to submit a proper Report. I notice that there is a discrepancy between the beds and the mattresses. Some people who have mattresses could only be sleeping on the floor.

With regard to single bedsteads you seem to have 8 out of 40. (Asides)

Hon. N. H. BOXILL rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I point out that the hon. member has exercised his final right of reply. A Minister may only reply under Standing Order 27(2), which states

"A Minister may conclude a debate on any motion which is critical of the Government, or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer."

In my view the Resolution before the Chamber is not one which is critical of the Government, or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, in view of the fact that investigation will be closed on the 30th November, I thought the hon. Mover of the Resolution would have asked to have it deferred in order that we may be able to submit the final Report.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has not so decided; therefore, I will put the question that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think this concludes our business for the rest of this day. 6. 25 p.m.

I believe that hon. members know the words of Mr. MacMillan "that both sides intend to bivouac on the encampment for some time." Now, Sir, the word has gone out from both headquarters that no prisoners would be taken and that the enemy is to be slaughtered to the last man. This will take some time to do and in consequence of this, I think hon. members on both sides would wish to get away from this place to the battle field.

I beg to move, and I have consulted the Leader of the Opposition on this - that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th December, 1970, at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion, I should just like to know from the appropriate Minister, fortunately the Leader of the House, what information he has that all the files on the investigations carried out into the Cave Shepherd fire, the D. V. Scott fire and the Fogarty fire have been stolen from within the police compound. I do not know if the Minister has any information on that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

None, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th December, 1970, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6. 28 p.m.