

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th October, 1970.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.45 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J. P.; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J. P.; (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Social welfare; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C. M. G., M. A., (Leader of the Hon.):

Hon G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Communication and Works); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P. Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J. P.; (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of

Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs)Mr W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. H. B. ST. JOHN. Q. C. LL. B.; and Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY,

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I mention to hon. members that we are hereby the courtesy of the Hon. President of the Senate whom I approached because our Chamber is not yet ready, and he very kindly consented to give us the use of this Chamber on this occasion.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that in your very high office you be at the gun on this occasion but I may notify hon. members around this Table at this time that I understand that the renovations in the Other Place have not been completed, and you, Mr. Speaker, and those concerned should have known in advance so that members would be in a position to know where they were coming today. I knew this only by seeing in today's paper that the Lower House was going to meet in the Senate Chamber, and I was a bit concerned about coming to the Senate to sit to conduct the people's business for the reason that some time ago there was a bit of arrogance displayed by one of the Chambers when members of the House of Assembly took it upon themselves to encroach upon the province of the Upper Chamber, and Mr. President of the Senate wrote a letter castigating the members of the Assembly for their behaviour. You, Mr. Speaker, at that time apparently did not know or pretended you did not know.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I did not pretend I did not know.

Mr. CRAIG:

I said you may have pretended, Mr. SPEAKER I did not pretend I did not know.

Mr. CRAIG:

However, Sir, it might have been out of ignorance of not knowing what was going on when Government members of the other side led by the Prime Minister came to this Chamber and had lunch. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR Surely, this is irrelevant.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

I rule that this does not arise on this occasion. I note the hon. member's point that he was not aware until today that the House would be meeting here. The point is made.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, after a recess, I believe we all start off with a level head. Do not allow any member of the Government side to try to push anything down your throat. I think it is bad manners on the part of the Leader of the House to try to stop me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has made his point, but he may not continue to make his speech now.

Mr. CRAIG:

You did not tell the Minister on an occasion that he could not make a speech when he spoke for almost two hours on a point of order, but on this occasion I am to be stopped. I have been treated with discourtesy by not being notified in advance that we were meeting in the Senate Chamber. Now you are telling me it is not relevant.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has made his point.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM SIR GRANTLEY ADAMS

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 9th October, 1970, which I received on the same day. I will ask the Deputy Clerk to read it.

Tyrol Got, Codrington Hill,

St. Michael.

His Honour the Speaker, 9th October, 1970,

House of Assembly, Bridgetown, Barbados,

Dear Mr. Speaker,

It is with the greatest possible regret that I write you this letter. I am forced to resign my seat as Junior Member in the House of Assembly for the Constituency of St. Joseph and do so herewith. I shall be obliged if you will place this letter of resignation before the House at the earliest opportunity.

I have always considered it a great honour to have sat and served in the General Assembly of Barbados to which I was first elected in 1934, and my resignation is dictated solely by considerations of ill health and the strictest medical advice.

I should inform you, Mr. Speaker, that I am making known to my colleagues and to my constituents later on this afternoon the fact of my having sent to you this letter of resignation.

Yours sincerely, Grantley Adams.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In accordance with Standing Order No. 65 - Resignation of Members - I can assure hon. members that I am satisfied of the authenticity of the letter purporting to come from the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and I am perfectly satisfied that it is a genuine document. I note the receipt of it and it will be noted on the Order Paper, and at the next meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No. 65, the matter shall be the first Order of the Day, and I so direct.

Mr. J. M. G. M ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if this is the correct time, but in view of the fact that we have shifted to this Chamber today, there are members of the public who normally turn out to be accommodated in the Other Place, and I am to wonder if it is at all possible in the circumstances for some seating accommodation to be provided for as many as can be accommodated, rather than having them outside on the stairway waiting about.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We did not ask the President of the Senate for permission to bring in extra chairs or benches, and I understand that more than the normal number which are in here for a meeting for the Senate are present in the Gallery this afternoon. I feel that this is only a temporary measure and we may only have to bear with it for today; and I do not think that today's meeting is likely to be a very long one.

Mr. HINDS:

What we have got to guard against is allowing the general public to believe for a single moment that we are holding a secret meeting and keeping them out, It is a meeting of the House of Assembly and that is why I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, to make it humanly possible for members of the public to come and hear and see the public's business conducted.

Mr. SPEAKER; It cannot be regarded as a secret meeting because the Press is present,

Mr. HINDS; I appreciate that a section of the Press is present, but even that may be a section that the Government can control,

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, in as much as you said that there are more chairs than the normal amount when the Senate meets, it means that you have brought in some more already. I am wondering if you could increase the amount.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not in a position now to recommend that additional chairs be brought in because the meeting is in progress, and we must continue this meeting.

MESSAGE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I have in hand from His Excellency the Governor-General Message No. 4/1970, which reads as follows -

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has been pleased to accept an invitation to visit Barbados from Thursday, 22nd until Sunday, 25th October 1970.

2. The attached Programme has been arranged for the visit. It will be noted that it is proposed that His Royal Highness should visit the Chambers of both Houses of Parliament on Friday 23rd October at 10.00 a. m. when members and officers of both Houses and their wives will be presented to him.

A. WINSTON SCOTT Governor-General Government House.

BARBADOS 13 October 1970. (M. P. 4535/1/1) 2. 55 p.m..

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement on damage arising out of flooding..

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, before we go any further, am I to understand that the Leader of the House or the Government members do not want members of the public in here this afternoon?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not think one can understand that.

Mr. HINDS:

What is their objection to members of the public being seated in here? There are chairs not being in use at the moment; why try to keep the public out? Who has something to hide?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not see that there is any attempt being made to hide anything.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement on damage arising out of flooding on 2nd October, 1970.

STATEMENT ON DAMAGE ARISING OUT OF FLOODING ON FRIDAY, 2nd, OCTOBER, 1970

Excessive rainfall was experienced in Barbados from the early hours of Friday morning October 2nd, 1970 resulting in flooding in many areas of the island. The main damage was caused by rising flood water, and this damage was greatest to personal possessions - bedding, clothing, furniture, stoves and other miscellaneous household effects. Damage was also sustained to roads, bridges and buildings in some parts of the island. Many persons were rendered homeless as a result of the flooding and three persons suffered death by drowning.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear the hon. member. If he cannot co-operate, I cannot co-operate. Would the Leader of the House be so kind as to repeat that last paragraph?

Mr. SPEAKER:

If members would remain silent, they would hear.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

He is not coming forward with the best Oxford accent.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Would the Leader of the House just read the last paragraph?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Many persons were rendered homeless as a result of the flooding and three persons suffered death by drowning.

Detailed Reports are appended below-

2. HOUSING

The Barbados Housing Authority has carried out a survey and has reported on the extent of damage to houses throughout the island, both privately owned and those on the Authority's Estates. Reports to date indicate that as regards private property, the parishes of St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Joseph suffered the greatest damage. However, there was no significant damage to any of the units owned by the Authority.

Damage to private property may be summarised as follows: -

(a) ST. MICHAEL - 33 houses affected.

In Emmerton Lane two hundred and five (205) houses were flooded. The extent of damage is still being assessed, but it is known that in many cases all household effects have been destroyed. In Hall's Road six (6) houses have been destroyed, and sixteen (16) extensively damaged. In Deane's Village, Bridge Road and Jones Gap area three (3) houses have been destroyed, and ten (10) houses have been severely damaged. In Constitution Road three (3) houses have been damaged - one (1) extensively.

Other areas e.g.: Spruce Street, Vine Street, New Orleans, Greenfield, Passage Gardens, experienced severe flooding. In some instances household effects have been destroyed or badly damaged. The extent of damage to structures is still being assessed.

Fifty (50) recently completed houses of the Barbados Housing Authority at Silver Hill, Christ Church have been allocated to those families who had to be evacuated from the flooded areas. In addition, it is proposed to allocate a part of the recently acquired land at Lodge Hill, for re siting of those houses at present in flood proven areas.

RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

Some difficulty has been experienced in securing suitable sites in St. Michael for resettlement of houses situated in hazardous areas. However the Physical Development Plan has allocated some forty-seven (47) acres at Wilkey, St. Michael, for this purpose. Investigations are also underway with a view to securing additional land off President Kennedy Drive for the construction of multi-storey housing units. This should serve as a solution to the present problem.

(b) ST. ANDREW - Seventy-three (73) houses affected.

Five (5) houses have been destroyed, eight are extensively damaged, and sixty (60) need to be re sited due to soil erosion. Damage is concentrated chiefly in the Baxters and Lakes districts. Families from eleven (11) of those houses which have been damaged beyond repair or destroyed will be housed in Prefabricated units on lands at Shorey Village.

(c) ST. JOSEPH - Fifty-four (54) houses affected.

Four (4) houses are extensively damaged, and fifty (50) more need to be resited due to severe soil erosion.

Families from twelve (12) houses destroyed or damaged beyond repair will be rehoused in prefabricated units to be sited at Lammings. All other houses in eroding areas will also be resited at Lammings.

(d) ST. PETER - Twenty (20) houses have been reported damaged. The extent of damage is still to be assessed.

(e) ST. JAMES - In Holetown two (2) houses were damaged, Nineteen (19) houses in this area were flooded resulting in twenty-six (26) persons being declared homeless, Some of these persons found lodgings with relatives and friends. The Trents area was heavily flooded, and a fallen tree damaged a private residence,

(f) CHRIST CHURCH - In St. Matt has twenty (20) houses were flooded, The extent of damage is still being assessed.

(g) ST. LUCY - Two (2) houses have been slightly damaged.

Many families in St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Joseph although not suffering the loss of their houses, experienced considerable damage and destruction of personal effects, household articles, items of furniture and clothing.

The following is a survey of this damage with estimated costs of repairs, and reconstruction: -

3. ROADS AND BRIDGES

(a) ST. JOSEPH AND ST. THOMAS

(i) Dark Hole - Upper Parks to Seniors - landslips. Road closed . \$ 25,000

(ii) Road to Airy Cot - Blunt's Road to Highclere - road openings - \$ 6,000

(iii) Miscellaneous landslips & road openings as follows: -

Bloomsbury Road Highway E, Clifton Hill

St. Bernard's Village

Coconut Grove

Lower Parks

Springvale

Cambridge

Applegrove (thru Christie Village off \$ 45,000 Shop Hill)

Dunscombe to Mt. Misery (off Canefield House)

Guardwell - St. Thomas

District Hospital -cracking of building

(b) ST. ANDREW

(i) Coggins Bridge

Bridge intact - damage) _ \$ 20,000

to approaches

(ii) Bridge South of St. Andrews Church (near Dr. Smith) abutments and slab destroyed - \$120,000

(iii) East Coast Road (Lakes Bridge) Bridge intact -

damage to approaches - \$ 10,000

(iv) Thompson's Bridge, Bax -ters Bridge intact - dam -age to approaches - \$ 30,000

(v) Miscollaneous Landslips & road openings

Babylon Road Morgan Lewis - \$ 10,000

(c) SOUTH EAST DISTRICT (CHRIST CHURCH, ST. PHILIP)

(i) Miscellaneous road openings

Top Rock off Maxwell Main Road

Kendall Hill

Kendall Hill Tenantry Roads 15'000

St. Lawrence

(d) ST. MICHAEL

(i) Canewood Bridge

Existing dam breached - \$ 80,000

(ii) Miscellaneous road openings

Belle Road

Highway E, (near St. Matthews Church) \$ 15,000

Highway 3 above Water-ford

(e) ST. JOHN

(i) Glenburnie (road impassable)

Consett Bay \$ 15,000

Coach Bill (road impassable)

CITY DISTRICT (St. Michael & part of Christ Church)

(i) Roundabout Roebuck Street

Resurfacing etc. - \$ 15,000

(ii) Miscellaneous road openings

Pine Hill

Carlton Road (Brighton) \$ 3,000

Brighton

4. DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS

Fairchild Street Market Cold Storage

Enmore wall (Corner of Martindales Road and Collymore Rock)

Queens Park - wall collapse

Sewer line to sea from Ministry of Health building Lazaretto - wall collapse

\$8,000

5. It will be observed that the total estimated cost of damage and repairs amount to \$417,000.00. This is a preliminary estimate and is subject to greater detailed investigation and design of structures. An assessment of damage to Plant and Equipment (lorries, trucks etc.) is being made. A great deal of damage has been effected at Country Road Depot where a stock of cement, furniture and effects has been lost. An assessment of this loss is being made.

Funds are available from Head 35 Item 85 Extraordinary Road Damage Materials \$100,000. Some expenditure, however, has been incurred on this Item with current works in hand.

Offers of assistance in the form of personnel and equipment have been made from various sources, both private local firms and individuals and from foreign Governments.

6. WATERWORKS

During the recent flooding, pipeline throughout the island has been damaged. Cost of repair of such pipeline is estimated at \$10,000.00. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department has indicated that in view of the heavy rains experienced, further land slipping may occur within the coming days thereby increasing the estimate of \$10,000. The Ministry of Health in co-operation with the Waterworks Department has carried out extensive analyses of the Island's water supply and has discovered no danger of contamination.

7, SHIPPING AND FISHERIES

One Police Launch was lost and one destroyed. The estimated replacement value is approximately \$100,000.

One large two-masted schooner (privately owned) which recently arrived in the island from Denmark has been grounded on the beach adjacent to the Hospital Jetty at Bay Street. Efforts to refloat this vessel have so far been unsuccessful.

Nine (9) fishing launches and four (4) small tenders have been destroyed. Their estimated value was \$21,000.00 but the replacement value may be considerably more. Eleven (11) launches have been damaged and the estimated cost of their repair is \$12,300.

8. AGRICULTURE

There was serious erosion and leaching of soil throughout the country especially in open lands planted with vegetables. The hardest hit area was the Scotland District but damage to land reformed by the Soil Conservation Board has been minimal.

Apart from the damage due to soil erosion, heavy losses were suffered by vegetable growers and poultry farmers. These losses were more concentrated in the Christ Church and St. Lucy areas. The attached Appendix gives details of damages to sugar cane, food crops, vegetables, animals and poultry. The loss of animals may be under-estimated since our livestock owners have not yet reported.

9. RELIEF MEASURES

Government immediately instituted measures for the relief of those persons who were affected by the flooding. A number of schools were put at the disposal of those families who were rendered home less and who could not immediately be accommodated elsewhere. The Barbados Regiment also provided accommodation at St. Ann's Fort.

On 9th October, 1970 there were five (5) Relief Centres in operation accommodating approximately fifty (50) persons at most. These centres were:

St. Ambrose Girls' School and Westbury Junior School with very few persons in occupation; St. James Social Centre, with two families (approximately eight (8) persons) in occupation; the Drill Hall, Garrison which is housing approximately eighteen (18) persons, and the Nazarene Church, Horse Hill in St. Joseph with a family of nine (9) in occupation.

Meals were provided throughout by the School Meals Service. In addition to the above some fifty (50) persons, mostly residents of the St. Matthias, Canevale and Halls Road areas have been accommodated in the Silver Hill Housing Estate in Christ Church.

10. A central collecting depot has been set up at the Headquarters of the Barbados Regiment and

distribution of a number of articles mostly mattresses, for the immediate relief of persons who suffered loss was undertaken. The Social Welfare Department is responsible for supervising this aspect of the relief operation. The manpower is supplied by the Regiment.

11.A Central Emergency Relief Fund under the trusteeship of the Financial Secretary, the Chief Welfare Officer and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has also been set up to receive donations from Governments and from interested persons overseas. Contributions received through the Barbados Missions Overseas will also be paid into this Fund, which will be for relief of private cases and not for government purposes. Another Fund has been set up through the initiative

REPORT ON FLOOD DAMAGE DONE TO CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Note: A few Coconut, Breadfruit and Mango trees reported lost, especially in the Scotland District.

Parish

Soil Erosion

Sugar Cane

Roots Crops & Fruit Crops

Vegetables

Cattle, Pigs, Sheep

Poutay

Christ Church

Severe

-

-

23 3/4 acres lost involving 35 farmers

1 goat

350 layers

St. Philip

Not severe

A little pushed over

10 acres onions 1 acre mixed vegetables

St. George

Severe

A few holes

3/4 acre

2 1/2 acres

-

St. John

Not severe

-

Very slight

4 acres

-

St. James St. Peter

Severe on open land

Slight damage

1 acre yams

9 acres

;

St. Thomas

Severe on open land

20 3/4 acres damaged or uprooted

11 1/4 acres

1/4 acre

St. Lucy

Severe on open land

17 acres damaged 3/4 acres destroyed

-

6 acres onions 6 acres mixed vegetables (8 1/2 acres cotton)

;

1,612 layers |

St. Michael

Not severe

Slight damage

1/2 acre yams

8 1/4 acres onions 3 acres mixed vegetables

600 birds

Sub-Total

17 3/4 acres

13 1/2 acres

82 1/4 acres

1 goat

2,562 birds

Scotland Area

Severe in St. Joseph and parts of St. Andrew: 50 Landslips involving 35 acres

44 acres

8 3/4 acres (Mostly bananas)

2 3/4 acres

1 cow 6 sheep

TOTAL

61 3/4 acres destroyed

22 1/4 acres lost

85 acres lost

1 cow, 1 goat and 6 sheep: lost

2,562 birds lost !

of local business firms and individuals. Two Government officers have been co-opted on the Committee which has been set up to administer the distribution of the proceeds of this Fund.

12. Government will be introducing measures from time to time in an effort to normalise the situation as rapidly as possible and has decided that, with the exception of the gratuities which will be paid to old persons, no expenditure on Independence Celebrations should be undertaken this year.

13. From the foregoing it will be observed that no time has been lost in providing remedial action wherever necessary. Government wishes to take this opportunity to thank members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Barbados Regiment, Barbados Fire Services, the Officers of Barbados Housing Authority, Religious and Voluntary Organisations, Government officers and private citizens too numerous to mention, who, although not members of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation, rendered valuable assistance during the critical period. Government also wishes to thank and encourage all those who made donations and who have promised to subscribe to the Relief Emergency Funds. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would ask hon. members not addressing the Chair to observe the Rules, please.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Rules, I have given notice of a Resolution, but it may be necessary to amend it now that we have been given the figures. I refer to the Resolution relating to the damage done by flooding on Friday, 2nd October, 1970. I now give notice of that Motion. It should now read

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the Statement laid in this Honourable House by the

Leader of the House re the flooding which took place in this Island on Friday, 2nd October, 1970.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have received from the Accountant General Accounts and Statements for the month of July, 1968.

I also have to inform hon. members that I have received a letter from Mr. J. Milliken of Messrs. Pannell Fitzpatrick & Co. offering himself for re-appointment as Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for the year commencing 1st July 1970, under Section 4 (7) (1) of the Act (1943-15) at a remuneration of 125. 3. 15 p.m.

LEAVE FOR CLERK OF HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have received a letter from the Clerk of the House dated 13th October, 1970, which reads as follows

-

"I hereby make application for three months' leave of absence with effect from 1st November, 1970".

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Clerk be given leave of absence as from 1st November, 1970.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that. As hon. members may know, the Clerk of the House now occupies a position which will be terminated when the new organisation of Parliament comes into effect under which Parliament will have a Clerk of Parliament and two Deputy Clerks. We have been informed, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Clerk has not for many years taken long leave of a recreational nature. Again, as hon. members may know, he has not been re-appointed to the new post under the new dispensation. He is a man of 48 years who would reasonably be expected to have a number of years' service before him, had he continued in his present post. Many of us will feel that his position in the House of Assembly was one that called for a great deal of work, one that called for twenty-four hours' vigilance in performing the duties of Clerk at difficult times. Whatever may be said of Mr. Cumberbatch, those of us who saw

him at work when work had to be done cannot deny that at times when he was really being pressed, his work was taken home at night and was done early in the morning, and he was at all times on call as Clerk of Parliament.

I have great pleasure in supporting the motion which would give him a long period of leave in which to recuperate from his labours, and in which indeed to recuperate from what members may readily imagine is the shock of finding himself at this stage out of work and unemployed.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion of the Leader of the House and in support also of my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas who seconded the motion. I must say that I welcome the hands of democracy which I feel must always prevail. I am aware of the fact that the Debates Committee is responsible for the appointment of the Clerk. I too was more than shocked to know that Mr. Cumberbatch finds himself in the awkward position of not having a job. I have only been in Parliament for four years, and I must confess that he has been a great help to me as a young member of Parliament, and I can say this also of my colleagues when they first entered Parliament. I am sure, Sir, that experience plays a very important part in the everyday routine of parliamentary activities, and, although I welcome those people who are appointed to the post - and I am quite sure they are competent - it is regrettable, and I emphasise, this, that Parliament and you, Mr. Speaker, are going to be in a very awkward position, because you know, Sir, that on several occasions you had to call on the vast experience of Mr. Cumberbatch to assist you in your deliberations. I am sorry that Mr. Cumberbatch has not applied for six months' leave, because as my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said earlier, he only had sick leave over a period of years, and I am sure it would take him three months to get over the shock of knowing that after eighteen or twenty years' service in this august Assembly, he is without a job. For most of us, when you are at the top you are a giant, and when you are at the bottom, you are pushed around.

Mr. Speaker, I can only wish Mr. Cumberbatch the very best, and sincerely hope that in spite of whoever may have some ill feelings toward; that gentleman, In the not too distant future he will find himself in a position where he will be able to command a salary of \$1,000 a month, and would probably not find himself in a position to be pushed around by those who were in authority when he was Clerk of this House, I wish Mr. Cumberbatch the very best and sincerely hope that the new staff of Clerk and Deputy Clerks will come very often to your rescue, Mr. Speaker, when you find yourself in an awkward position that we so often know you find yourself in. I am confident that they would not have the wealth of experience to draw upon, and you yourself will not be in a position to be looking left or right either to the Government or to the Opposition, but will have to draw upon your colleagues' experience to make decisions that will control Parliament in the manner in which we are confident it should be controlled. I express the views of my colleagues on this side.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, as the person who moved this motion which was merely a formal motion, I deliberately refrained from making any comment in extension of the motion. I do not make any now. I will say that, since the Clerk is still a servant of the House, there will be an opportunity for the House to thank him for his services when he is retiring on that day. I feel it would be appropriate, I shall certainly take the opportunity to express the feelings of this side of the House.

The question that three months' leave of absence be granted to the Clerk of the House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

The Customs Duties (Atlas Umbrella Manufacturing (West Indies) Ltd.) Order, 1970.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

The Customs (Warehouse Rent and Charges) Notice, 1970.

Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for four months ended 31st July, 1970.

Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for five months ended 31st August, 1970.

The Quarterly Digest of Statistics for the quarter ended 31st December, 1969.

Accounts and Statements for the months of July to December 1968 prepared by the Accountant . General.

The Customs Duties (Banks Barbados Breweries Limited) Order, 1970.

On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the following: -

The Public Officers' Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1970. 3t25 p.m.

Hem, N. W. BOX1LL:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Housing Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1969.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Nineteenth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Natural Gas Corporation for the period 1st April, 1969 to 31st March, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

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.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at Fairy Valley in Christ Church for development by the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance, I beg to give Notice of the following Resolutions:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$616,008 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1970-71, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 4 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$600, 272 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1970-71 Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1970-71 No. 5 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Resolution to approve the expenditure required to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1970-71 Part I-Current of the Port Department as shown in the Schedule to this Resolution.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the Financial Year 1970-71.

A Bill to repeal the Rate of Interest Act, 1754.

A Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act, 1963 (1963-48).

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947 (1947-20), Also to state that Replies Co Parliamentary Question No, 58 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, No. 123 asked by the hon. Junior member for St. Peter, and No. 124 asked by the same hon.

member are ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to affirm the Shops (Special Provisions) Order, 1970.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the a Resolution to approve the amendment of the note to Item 2 of Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology in Part II -Capital of the approved Estimates 1970-71.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, in respect of the Money Resolutions. I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with these Resolutions.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 110 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter and No. 101 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James are ready.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Sugar Workers' (Provident Fund) Act, 1968 (1968-54).

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. Joseph; his notice.

Mr. SMITH:

WHEREAS paragraph 13, subsection 2, of the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Act, 1968/54, has not fully met the requirements of all retired sugar workers, and now most of these people are experiencing great hardship; AND WHEREAS the families, friends and well-wishers of these retired sugar workers also meet with grave difficulty in feeding and maintaining these old people who have previously given of their best to this country; BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to consider amending the said Act so that more relief or better financial assistance can be given to these retired workers.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the statement laid in this Hon. House by the Leader of the House re the flooding which took place in this Island on Friday, 2nd October, 1970.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C, TUDOR; Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the Financial Year 1970-71 be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. Speaker, I want to make Just one point. If we are to be called upon to do this I feel that the time has come when the Government, in preparing these notices, should print enough copies that members of the Opposition could have them and be able to follow the proceedings carefully. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Do not let the hon. member interrupt, please; the hon. member has made his point.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I would like you to bring this to the attention of the Leader of the House because he would have more respect for you than he would have for me, and from that point of view, to ensure that we in the Opposition could follow what is happening, I would like to have more copies printed and circulated. I am not in here as a joke, or as anybody's fool. I do not care what has happened in the past; I want to know what is going on. I am not in here as anybody's yard-fowl, and next week unless a copy of the Notice Paper is put in my hand, I am going to talk on my motion and on every first reading. 3.35 p.m. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the House is addressing the Chair.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, much as I regret the necessity for a bye-election, I think that, when we have one, some hon. members want to get out in the field of battle. That is all I can put it to.

Sir, this is a Notice Paper and it is primarily a Ministerial Document. More than one Minister will have a copy of it because more than one Minister will have things to lay or to give notice of. This is not a Document to be circulated to hon. members on the other side. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. junior member for Bridgetown observe the relevant Standing Order!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, he knows the procedure for Bills being laid and Bills being considered. The hon. member will see the Bill in any case when it is printed. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY If you stand up there and read three pages, how the hell do you expect me to understand what you are doing?)

Hon. Members: That is unparliamentary!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the hon. member to keep cool. This is a Ministerial document; he can have it

by courtesy, but he cannot have it by right. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY Let me have it.) I cannot accept that. This is a Ministerial document which embodies all the measures the Ministers want to put to Parliament. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY This is a Ministerial document, and it was given to the Press before members of the House have seen it;) It should not have been given to the Press.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, what is before the House?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the matter now before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is nothing before the House now. The hon. Leader of the House moved the First Reading of the Bill; the motion was seconded, and there was a discussion on it.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member resume his seat?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Yes. On a point of order...

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the House is is addressing the Chair, and I will hear him only now.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, we have already disposed of the motion that the Bill be read a first time, and there is absolutely nothing before the House at the moment. The hon. junior member for Bridgetown merely craved the indulgence of Your Honour to speak. We said "Aye" and the records can show that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. This is a matter which relates to the Rules of the House. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY There is nothing before the House.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is your point of order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I have risen on a point of privilege. Are you listening to me, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege I have risen on is....

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, what is a point of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is now making the point.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for the City pointed out to you that he had a copy of the Notice

Paper and he said that he get it from the Press. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY I never said that.) In future the Press should not be given Notice Papers until they are laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That point has already been made.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Sugar Workers' (Provident Fund) Act, 1963 (1963-48) be now read a first time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to repeal the Rate of Interest Act, 1754, be now read a 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 a Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act, 1963 (1963 - 48) be now read a 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 a Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947 (1947-20) be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now time for Private Members' Business.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I understand that there are Questions the Replies to which the Hon. respective Ministers have indicated are ready. There are five Questions, I understand, and I would suggest that you defer Private Members' Business for the moment for the purpose of allowing these Questions to be taken. I am moving that as a motion. 3.45 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I think that if this motion is accepted as it has been made, it will be against the Rules of the House. I think that certain Standing Orders would have to be suspended for this motion to be put.

Mr. SPEAKER; I do not at all disagree with the hon. member for St. Andrew, but as I understand it, there was some arrangement between the Government and the Opposition on this matter,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Agreement does not amend Rules.

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

On a point of order, what is said is that the Chair should not accept a motion, the effect of which may be to amend or suspend any Standing Order except by notice or with the general assent of the House which Your Honour said could be made by one vote

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 14 be suspended.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken until 4.15 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION re BUYING OF TENANTRIES

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 58 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

Will the Government, now that it is the declared policy of the Government to repair private tenantry roads, consider the advisability of buying the same tenantries for the benefit of the people concerned?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"It is not economically feasible for Government to purchase tenantries at this stage. It is however the policy of Government to do all it can to improve the standard of amenities available to residents in tenantries as well as to encourage tenants to acquire lots within the tenantries and landlords to sell lots to tenants. "

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

As a supplementary, has Government considered buying plantation tenancies?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Oh yes, whenever it is economically feasible.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Has the Government done any study as to the feasibility of buying any tenancies at a all?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

We are always keeping these matters under review,

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Will the Minister state what tenancies Government considered?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

All that are under review,

Mr. SMITH:

If the tenants have half the cost of the particular area they are occupying, will the Government consider the advisability of assisting them?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Of course this would be an arrangement according to special circumstances; but if that were the case in any part of the Island, certainly the Government would consider it favourable.

QUESTION re STREET LIGHTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 101 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

1. Is the Minister aware that the streetlighting in Baywoods and Orange Hill, St. James leaves much to be desired?

2. Will the Minister remedy this defect immediately?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"Provision has already been made in this year's Estimates for street lighting in the districts mentioned.

QUESTION re BUS SERVICE

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 110 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister; -

Is Government aware that passengers travelling from Bridgetown by a bus owned by the Transport

Board and leaving Bridgetown at 11 o'clock nightly are charged full fare to Speightstown, St. Peter, but the said bus ends its journey at Mullins Road junction, leaving the passengers stranded at this point?

Will Government seek to remedy the situation without delay, by causing the said bus to end its journey at the Sand Street Bus terminus?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"A recent survey revealed that the continuation of this service is no longer necessary and the matter is being kept under review."

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister in a position to say whether his survey concerned people and buses?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member asked about the number of passengers the frequency of the service and the time of night the service is operating.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister in a position to give us any details of the survey?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker the General Manager of the Transport Board has commented as follows -

"....This unscheduled journey offered by us as a service to hotel workers and the tourist industry terminates at Gibbs' in St. Peter and all passengers using this service are made aware of this verbally and by a supplementary sign showing "Gibbs".

"The reasons for operating this service are as follows:

(a) there was need for transportation for hotel workers to Bridgetown from the hotel area extending to Gibbs' in St. Peter;

(b) the Paynes Bay 11.00 p.m. bus could be used to earn additional revenue on its return journey to the Depot in Bridgetown without incurring additional operational expense by the use of an additional bus. 3.55 p.m.

"This service was designed for the benefit of hotel workers travelling to Bridgetown as it was felt that in most cases workers from these hotels who lived in Speightstown would be within reasonable walking distance from their homes. However, a constant watch has been maintained to assess the growth of demand for the extension of this service or the implementation of an 11.00 p.m. service to Speightstown and to date there has been no indication that there is enough demand to warrant a late night (11.00 p.m.) service to Speightstown, bearing in mind that late night services on long routes would extend our operations past midnight involving not only Drivers and Conductors but Supervisory staff also, thus incurring operational expenditure above normal.

"I wish to point out that the fare to the destination "Gibbs " is the same as that to the destination "Speightstown", just as it is the same to the stage pole at Retreat, the fare structure being 6\$ for one stage or any part thereof.

"The distance from Gibbs' to Speightstown is approximately 1 1/2 miles and the number of passengers who continue the journey on foot from Gibbs' to Speightstown have seldom exceeded six and are generally no more than four. Recent surveys indicate that only one passenger uses the service to Bridgetown regularly and it is now obvious that the service should be discontinued leaving the normal 11.00 p.m. service to Paynes Bay".

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware that since these Questions were asked, the bus service to Gibbs' has been withdrawn and that it now terminates at Porters Factory?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

No, Sir, I am not aware of this, but the General Manager of the Transport Board mentioned that the extension service in question has proved to be uneconomical and is not serving the purpose for which it was intended.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware of the fact that passengers who travelled from Bridgetown and were made to disembark at the Mullins junction were people who not only lived in Speightstown but who lived as far as Six Mens and Ashton Hall, and some at Mile-and-a-Quarter; and further, that some of these are domestic workers who work in the Christ Church Hotels and depend on this service to get them home?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, since the Minister's survey did not reveal all of this, is the Minister prepared to accept it now as a fact that the survey is not complete? Would the Minister be prepared to investigate it further?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, there is a limited time when the Transport services of this Island close at night, and that time is 11.00 p.m. Unless something is drawn to the attention of the concessionaires which would require an extension of these services for a longer period, and depending on the number of people using these services, it would be uneconomical and we just could not do it. If as Minister responsible for the Transport Board there was a regular demand on any particular route at those hours at night, I would see that the passenger get the service; but it would be an economical service if there was not a regular amount of passengers travelling.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware that the Transport Superintendent, Mr. Clarke, met me and told me that I should have got the people to write a petition and that I should not have asked the Question in the House of Assembly?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not regard that as a proper supplementary.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware of this, that Mr. Clarke met me and told me I should not have brought this Question in the House of Assembly, and that it is a direct result of my Question that the service was..

.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a proper supplementary.

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister aware that the people to St. Petty are suffering?

Hon G. G. FERGUSSON:

No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HINDS:

Dots the Minister care about the people to St. Peter?

Hon, G. G. FERGUSSON:

I care about people in general.

Mr. HINDS:

Will the Minister carry out a further investigation to see if people in St. Peter art really suffering as a result of the termination of this service?

Hon, G. G. FERGUSSON:

I have already carried out an investigation and I have read to the hon. member the report I have got; I cannot carry it out myself.

Mr. HINDS:

Since the Minister did not even know that the service had been withdrawn and that it now terminates at Porters, is the Minister satisfied that he has done everything possible on the subject?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, from the time the hon. junior member for St. Peter tabled the Question, I have investigated the matter, and I have read verbatim from the file the report I have got from the Manager of the Transport Board.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

As a supplementary question, would the hon. member say now that he will investigate the matter, an elected member for St. Peter having made a statement on the floor of this House?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will.

Mr. HINDS:

Will the Minister investigate what caused the change of the service that it now terminates at Porters instead of at Mullins?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 123 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister -

1.How many of the names appearing in the official list of candidates for entry to Queen's College at the beginning of the academic year 1970 - 71 are names of persons who did not (a) sit Part 11 or (b) secure a Pass in Part 11 of this year's Common Entrance Exam?

2. What are the names of those persons who did not sit the Exam at all, but are still listed for entry to the College; and what are the circumstances in each case?

3. What are the names of those persons who failed Part 11 but are still listed for entry to the College; and what are the circumstances in each case?

4. 05 p.m.

Hem, J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

1, (it) None, (b) None.

2, No such person was listed.

3, No such persons art listed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, there are several supplementary Questions to be asked, and I am suggesting that we defer the matter until next week.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I agree that the supplementary be deferred, and the Question will remain on the Order Paper.

We will now proceed to Question No. 124 also standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter at page 8, right hand column.

SCHOOL-LEAVING CERTIFICATES

Mr. HINDS; Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister: -

1, How many pupils attending (a) Senior Department Schools or (b) Comprehensive Schools were awarded:

(1) the School-leaving Certificate referred to in Circular 71/59 at Sec. vii? or

(2) the new Barbados School-leaving Certificate, at the end of the 1969 - 70 School year? '

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

1. The certificate referred to in Circular 71/59 at Sec. vii has been replaced since 1965 by the new School Leaving Certificate.

2. Certificates were awarded as follows in 1970 -

(a) Pupils of Senior Departments of Primary Schools 200

(b) Pupils of Comprehensive Schools 200

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister is in a position to tell us what relation this 400 bears to the number of children leaving these schools?

Hon.. J. C. TUDOR:

I can give you the number of children who sat the examinations. Now, 2, 390 pupils wrote the examinations and the number is broken down as follows

Comprehensive Schools .. 1, 551

Senior Department Schools, etc. 839

Mr. St. JOHN:

What is the average age?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

The average age would be about 14 years, 9 months.

Mr. HINDS:

The pupils pass the same subjects as those taken in the G. C. E. Is the Minister not concerned with the fact that out of the 1,551 children from Comprehensive Schools who have taken these examinations, 200 only have passed? What is being done about this matter?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I am concerned about the matter, but I think the hon. member ought to know that, in competitive examinations in which there are certain set standards and proficiencies, the students are rated according to the standards. For an examination like this to be worth its while, then the standard would have to be high enough for a certificate based on the examination to be of any value. The subjects taken are as follow

English

Religious Knowledge

History

Geography

Nature Study

Music

Drawing

Domestic Science

Hygiene.

Mr. HINDS:

What would be the average age?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

In the other schools the average age would be 15 plus.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Is the Minister satisfied with that ratio?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I would not like to say that I am satisfied - (Interruption) - I am not conversant with this matter now, but I think that in the A streams of the Comprehensive Schools the standard of work would be rather higher than the others, because the A streams take the G. C. E. and the Associated Examinations. I believe that the pupils from the Comprehensive Schools who write this examination would be from the B and C streams. I believe that the A streams would write the G. C. E. or comparable examinations.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Would the Minister agree that subjects such as metalwork and woodwork should be included?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I know that English is a compulsory subject, and I suppose in time they will make certain Arts and Crafts also compulsory. I would accept the hon. member's view about vocational subjects. 4.15 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Would the Minister tell us if the list of subjects he has read out are Secondary School subjects?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes, I would think so. They are subjects taken by pupils in the 11 - 14 or 11 - 15 age group at Secondary Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

And they are taught free to the pupils. How long have these children been getting this free secondary education at the Senior Department Schools?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

For as long as I can recall. Certainly we have had Comprehensive Schools since 1948, and this examination is, I believe, the 1968-69 one.

Mr. HINDS:

Is it not true to say that we have had free secondary education in Barbados from 1959?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Not in the Grammar Schools.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not regard that as a supplementary.

Mr. HINDS:

But it is a question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

All questions are not relevant on every occasion.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown, and it is to resume debate on a Resolution requesting Government.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this motion has been disposed of.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, it is No. 1 on the Order Paper and it is to do with the Housing Authority. We want to talk about it.

I beg to move that Order No. 1 be taken. Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have to be satisfied that there is no error.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

I received my Order Paper, I questioned it, and was told it was correct.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am sending to have the matter checked on.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I moved that Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business be taken now and it has been seconded.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I cannot entertain the motion unless I am satisfied that this is properly on the Order Paper. I have sent to have an enquiry made.

Mr. CRAIG:

I have made a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It cannot be put unless I am satisfied that the matter has not been disposed of. I have certain recollections about it, but the records will prove.

Mr. CRAIG:

The public of Barbados is well satisfied that there are a lot of irregularities at the Housing Authority.

Mr. SPEAKER; I am informed that this is an error on the Order Paper, I understand that this matter has already been voted upon and disposed of. It is a printing error, I do not know who is at fault, but it is in error and the matter cannot be dealt with.

Mr. CRAIG:

This is no light-hearted approach to this. I have an Order Paper which says that Order No. 1 is to resume debate on a Resolution re the Housing Authority.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This cannot be proceeded with. It is an error on the printed Order Paper, and I can hear no more on this.

The next Order Paper of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to resume debate on a Resolution re the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of the Minister of Finance for the Fiscal Year 1970-71.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, we are not ready.

Mr. SPEAKER; The next Resolution stand in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, and it is to resume debate on a Resolution requesting the Government to amend the National Assistance Act so as to give the National Assistance Board full powers over the administration of public assistance.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I did not leave home to deal with any of these Resolutions today. I left in a hurry and I left my papers behind and I never expected we would have got so far, knowing that we were not too comfortably seated; otherwise, I would have sent for them.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member asking leave to defer consideration of this for today, and does that apply to No. 4 also?

Mr. SMITH:

That applies to all in my name.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, at the request of my new Leader, I would rather not do this this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is asking leave to defer Order No. 5, and leave is granted.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this Chamber is not equipped to accommodate a debate like the House of Assembly, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be deferred,

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

4.25 p.m.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Our position is quite clear, What we do not want is that we adjourn for a date and then representations are made to Your Honour that we have to come back, because none of us can plan our work if that is done. Matters relating to the relief of the flood victims as we 11 as other matters must be dealt with, and we much need the money to assist the flood victims.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment, I do not know if hon. members know that Your Honour and the President of the Other Place have been invited by your counterparts in the Island of Bermuda to attend the 350th anniversary celebrations of the Bermuda Legislature. As I understand it, Your Honour and Mr. President leave this Island next week to participate in these celebrations and I thought that this House and the Other Place should note the occasion by a congratulatory message for it, and I have consulted with the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition and we have found a formula which is as follows

BE IT RESOLVED that this House offer its warmest congratulations to the Parliament and people of Bermuda on attaining the 350th anniversary of parliamentary Government."

If the hon. member would not mind, I am suggesting a slight amendment that we put the word "representative" where the word parliamentary" appears.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say briefly in moving this motion that while, of course, we are extending a courtesy, there are certain aspects presently in Bermuda to which none of us would agree. That country still enjoys restricted franchise, and that is a stage which Barbados has not yet reached. I am afraid that they have not yet begun to think like us, but nevertheless it is an important thing for them to maintain the Legislature for some time and it is on that I think we can congratulate them.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Before that is seconded, I want to ask the hon. member if it should not be "representative parliamentary Government'.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, while we on this side are indulging in this exercise as the usual Commonwealth Parliamentary courtesies which are exchanged on an occasion such as this, I think the terms of the suggested amendment indicate quite clearly that certainly in this part of the Caribbean we abhor many of the aspects of the system of representative Government which exists in Bermuda, and we would hope that now there has been increased contact between the people of Bermuda and the people of the rest of the Eastern Caribbean, the concept of full Parliamentary Government would soon be established. In that vein I second the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 12 noon, I do not really wish to detain the House, but I must draw the House's attention to something which I think is of interest to us all, Hon. members would remember that when we last sat as a House we left the Table in our Chamber - the horseshoe around which many generations of the General Assembly sat, I myself was very disturbed to learn yesterday - and I am sure all other hon. members will share my indignation - that that Table, without the appropriate authority - because up to now I cannot trace who gave the direction - has been removed and has been dismembered and cut up, and by no means all in one place, Nobody in this island outside of the General Assembly of Barbados has the authority to dispose either of that Table or of any property of this House which is always under the direction and in the custody of the current Parliament, and nobody - literally nobody - neither the Government, Minister, Civil Servant, Engineer, Overseer, Foreman or ordinary member has any right to dispose of the property of this House, and certainly has no right to vandalise the Table like this. I cannot find words to express the disgust and anger that such a thing has happened, and I hope that the House will wish to take not only note of it, but to do something about it.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I think that this is in truth and in fact a real contempt of the authority of this House, and I would feel that this is a matter where we should appoint a Committee under the Chairmanship of you, Sir, properly represented to investigate this matter and submit a full report as to the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of this Table to this House at the earliest opportunity. 4. 35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This we will support.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I would nominate two from this side, Mr. Speaker can be the Chairman, and you can nominate two from your side. I nominate the hon. senior member for Bridgetown and myself.

An Hon. MEMBER:

He will not attend the meetings.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I will come because I came here and asked questions about the matter, I understand that Mr. Speaker is here every day and he should know something about the matter, I do not think Mr. Speaker should be the Chairman, because we are going to summon him to give evidence, I came here,

asked questions about this matter, and I was told that the Speaker is here every day. Could these things disappear without Mr. Speaker knowing about them?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am here every day, but the people work at night and until 2 a. m., as well as on Sundays, when I am at Church. The members of the Committee will be

Mr. Speaker

The hon. senior member for Christ Church

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown

The hon. senior member for St. Peter

The hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, we must have an agreed time allocated to deal with the flood situation. It is necessary for us to have at least two hours to deal with it. There are a number of matters we would like to raise, and we would like enough time to deal with them. We feel that the machinery is not working fast enough and, in the meantime, we would like the Government to submit a report on what is taking place by next Tuesday. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY Make it three hours.)

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to accommodate the hon. member. We will agree to have a 3-hour debate on the matter next Tuesday, but we would also like to proceed with as much Government Business as possible. Mr. St. JOHN Yes, I agree with that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 20th October, 1970 at twelve noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.40 p.m.