

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th October, 1970.

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

PRESENT

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 House); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J. P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P.; His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; and Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY.

prayers were read.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I have a letter from the General Manager of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which reads as follows -

October 19, 1970.

The Hon. Speaker of the House of Assembly,

Public Buildings,

Bridgetown,

Barbados.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask your permission for C. B. C -T. V. and Radio Barbados to broadcast live the proceedings in your Chamber during the visit of Prince Charles on Friday, October 23rd.

An early reply would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

IAN GALE,

General Manager.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I have also received the statement and Accounts from the Accountant General for the months of August, September and October, 1968, and there is also a letter on file from Mr. Phillips, the Accountant General, who states "In accordance with subsection (3) of section 16 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964, I submit to you for. laying before the General Assembly the attached Accounts and Statements for the month of November, 1968."

I have also received from the said Accountant General Accounts and Statements for December, 1968.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, of the following Resolutions

Resolution to grant the sum of \$168, 159 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. 6 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

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 Reslution.

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.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice 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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to the Resolutions for \$168, 159 and \$491, 655 I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House in Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with these two Money Resolutions. The third Resolution is an abstract one and does not need Committee of Supply.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. CRAIG:

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

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House deplore the Statement attributed to Mr. Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister of Guyana, to the effect that because of his Cricket Tour to Rhodesia Mr. Garfield Sobers, Captain of the West Indies team, will be unwelcomed in Guyana in the absence of an apology."

QUESTIONS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. junior member for St. George.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works -

Will the Minister treat as an urgent priority in his lighting programme the provision of street lights in rural areas of the country and especially along (i) the public road leading from Salters to St. George's Church; and (ii) The public road leading from St. Helens through Market Hill to Jericho, St. George?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that there are no recreational facilities whatever - either by way of playing fields or social amenities - for the district of St. Judes, St. George?

2. Will the Minister treat the provision of same as an urgent priority?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the residents of Bairds Village and Daniels Land, St. George suffer acute inconvenience especially during periods of heavy rainfall owing to the bad state of disrepair of the roads in the said villages and lack of adequate water facilities?

2. Will the Minister rectify these defects without delay?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that there is no play ground nor suitable Assembly facilities at St. Judes Mixed School St. George, a school of over five hundred pupils?

2. Will the Minister see to it that such facilities are provided as soon as possible - if necessary by acquiring compulsorily lands adjoining the said school for the provision of such facilities?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 for the remainder of today's sitting. Hon. members will remember that we gave an undertaking last week in Private Members Business that Private Members would have sufficient time to debate a matter of some importance - the statement which was issued on behalf of the Government in respect of flood damage - and this will necessitate a lengthening of Private Members time. I therefore, in accordance with that, beg to move that those Standing Orders be suspended.

Hon. E. C. TALMA:

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

Messrs. WEEKES and St. JOHN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

In accordance with Standing Order No. 65, the first Item of the Day is under Private Members Business, and it deals with the resignation of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the resignation of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph be accepted by this House. In moving this motion, I think that all members of the House heard of this event with concern and with some regret. 12.25 p.m.

The hon. member, whose resignation we are considering today, has been part of the public life of this Island for more than a generation. He has had in public life a significance which was great enough to be attractive - both by way of support and certainly, in some instances, by way of condemnation and criticism - to the interests of the majority of citizens of this country. He came into public life at a time when the franchise was not what it was now, and when, perhaps, the principles of political development and social progress were certainly not as wide as they are now.

He entered this House at a period in the life of this country when the plantocracy and powers-that-be, as they were referred to in those days, ruled the roost. He did not exactly come to this House as a neophyte; he had proved his ability as a barrister and as a journalist outside, and when he came into this House it was certain almost from the beginning that he would make a mark on the public life of this country and that he would be positively identified with that movement of people which started before his time and continued up to now.

I do not suppose that there is anybody who has sat in this House with him, whether in the latter days or before, would, deny his qualities, although I know that those of us who in later days disagreed with him on certain matters could still respect his wide experience and his contribution. As a public figure he commanded great loyalties and at the same time commanded great attention, and this, I think,

is a measure of his significance as a person and a public personality.

There is no doubt about it that as a Party leader he was a strong and commanding figure, and those who were at his side gave him all the loyalty and assistance possible; but certainly those who for various reasons have differed from him differed from him because they disagree with him on points of policy and not because they thought he had lost his position in public life.

I think that in accepting this resignation some of us have done it with some regret. I, personally, regret it because when you have been in Parliament for sixteen years, and a figure you have known, disagreed with, fought with and with whom you are familiar, departs from the scene, you must feel it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would be, of course, improper for me to speak other than how I feel at the moment. I speak as a member of this House, and I have had the privilege of being associated with him in public life. I have to say for myself that when we parted in politics - I have fought many political battles against him and has never at any time been bitter or ungracious about the matter. I noticed, with considerable regret, that when he returned to this House at the beginning of this Session he had lost a lot of his customary fire and vigour. I am happy to think that in the last few months when he was a member of this House, he and I enjoyed the most proper relations - I would not like to say warm, but our relations were proper. There was no reason on my part to have other than proper relations with him.

There is so much that the historian will say and write about him when a proper assessment of his work

is done. I think that all of us who have served with him in Parliament and in public life will remember his positive points. The things he believed in he fought for, and he had a grasp of constitutional realities which, I think, may not be surpassed by any of his contemporaries, and certainly by few of us who succeed him. He is happily still alive.

I think that if his career had been different, or if he himself were to have an opportunity to re-assess his own contribution to our political life, there will be certain things that, I believe, he would like to see otherwise. What I am particularly referring to is the fact that, despite all of his other qualities, he genuinely could not believe that a person could disagree with him in good faith. I think that is, perhaps, the one thing that has separated me from him.

In any area of political consideration you must remember that people are not alike and, if you have to part there is no reason to think that the decision to go to another political Party is motivated by anything other than sincerity. I think he should have realised that, no matter how bitter - politically - two people may be, yet it is certainly possible for them in public life to disagree with one another and differ very firmly while recognising that the disagreement is in good faith. Apart from all this he made a contribution to our public life and he has assisted us in our political development.

I do not suppose that his temperament or his interests gave him an opportunity to grasp the social and economic movements of our time, but he certainly understood certain things and had a sound knowledge of constitutional development and saw that social and economical development was possible. I think his greatness lies in the fact that he believed in democratic Government. He was one of those people who had an outstanding belief in democracy and he was able to guide us to constitutional progress. No man is able to fulfil all of his missions in his time. One man does a certain amount of work and other people will take over. 12. 35 p.m.

I think the House would certainly wish that in the circumstances he could have taken leave of us in a perhaps more diplomatic fashion, but nevertheless I am sure that the House wishes him well and certainly would hope that he would soon be restored to his customary good health and vigour, and that those years which may still be given to him may be years of greater fulfilment, though perhaps in a less exalted or even less political capacity. In sending our best wishes to him, I think the House would like to remember also the things that he was interested in outside of public life and politics. One of my first memories of him certainly is being a wicket-keeper of a First Eleven match of Spartan versus Empire - one of those old battles that would make the Vietnam war look like a Sunday-School picnic and he behind the stumps perhaps made sure that Spartan did not lose either as badly with Sir Grantley or as badly as the umpire often felt. He had interests out side of public life, and I think this was probably what made him so significant a figure. The best politicians, I believe, are those who are more than politicians - as journalists, sportsmen and controversialists. Some of us are old enough just to remember the long

drawn-out and equally savage battles which he fought with his pen on the question of divorce nearly forty years ago. All of this he has done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those who came into public life only recently, who only know him as a Leader of the Opposition or perhaps at the time of his greatest personal disappointment when the Federation collapsed, cannot possibly have known of his true significance. I myself will not refer to him in public life ever again, because since he has retired there is no reason for me to concern myself with his politics. I leave that to the historians and those who do not feel the significance of this momentous event in our history, and therefore in moving this motion I wish him -and I would like to associate with these wishes his wife, a kind and gracious woman who has stood with him and by him and shared all his efforts, success, and his failures for perhaps forty years, and to wish her with him all the best, and to congratulate her on her steadfastness, and to hope that they have many years of retirement, and that this experience is rather different from the experience encountered by the Ancient Mariner - "Like one, that on a lonesome road doth walk in fear and dread, and having once turned round, walks on, and turns no more his head. " (Cheers).

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to second the motion made by the Hon. Leader of the House and to congratulate him on his speech. I am perhaps one of the persons here fairly qualified to speak especially on the early work and services rendered by Sir Grantley, as I happened to be one of his lieutenants in the early days and was very close to him for quite a number of years. Unlike my colleague, the Leader of the House, I have taken a few minutes off and made some notes as I wanted to make my speech accurate for posterity, and with your leave I will try to read them.

It was during my term of articled clerkship in the Chambers of the late James Christopher Gooding, Solicitor, in Bridgetown, that I became intimate with Sir Grantley Adams (then Mr. G. Herbert Adams). It was in 1937 that the riots came along, and in 1938, when my principal died, Sir Grantley was good enough to take me in his Chambers, and I read there for two years. I was reading in his Chambers at the time of the riot and served not only as lieutenant and bodyguard, but everything else to Sir Grantley. For that reason there is a certain amount of closeness between us.

It was during 1938 also that the Barbados Progressive League was born, and Sir Grantley Adams was the first Vice-President. He then became President and I had the privilege of serving as the first General Secretary both of the Barbados Progressive League and the Barbados Labour Party. The Progressive League was the parent body which founded the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers Union, of both of which organisations Sir Grantley was the founder and leader for many long years since 1940.

I had the privilege of assisting in the organising and laying the corner stone and setting the entire machinery in action from 1938 to 1942 when I first contested a seat under the banner of the Barbados Labour Party for the parish of St. James. This was, however, before woman suffrage and before adult suffrage; so like that, although I won by popular vote on the outside, I still lost by not being voted to the inside. There was nearly a stampede and riot, but riots do not get anybody anywhere. There was no Black Power then. Then came the Bushe Experiment for which Sir Grantley was responsible -this was from 1946-1948 - and, strangely enough, Barbados was selected, through Sir Grantley to a great extent and through the generally high standard of education of the average Barbadian, as the experimental ground for conducting the Bushe Experiment, because they felt that if the politicians in Barbados could hold and carry through the work and perform the services, then it was fitting to bring in full internal self-government not only for the West Indies, but for the African possessions. So Barbados had that honour, with Sir Grantley as the Leader of the Government. In that sphere I had the honour to serve as a semi-Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Law and Public Works.

The majority of us in Parliament today owe a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Grantley for his yeoman services in the political life of Barbados and for the numerous constitutional changes which have occurred during his term of office as Premier and Leader of the House of Assembly. His work will always be remembered in the political arena as long as there is a Barbados.

His contribution on the economic front was not, however, quite as formidable. It is true he was mainly responsible for the formation of the Barbados Workers' Union which protects the economic interest of the workers and of workers generally, and the establishment and building of the new Deep Water Harbour and the Seawall Airport Terminal buildings etc. These by themselves are wonderful achievements; but the general economic condition of the vast majority of people remained static until the Democratic Labour Party Government took office in 1961, and the present Prime Minister and his Cabinet got down to work out economic plans for the progress and growth of the country through the Economic Planning Unit, the Central Planning Committee, the Tourist Board, the Industrial Development Corporation and the Agricultural Development Corporation, to mention a few of the Statutory Bodies and Corporations we have today. 12.45 p.m.

Much more could be said of the contribution and the beneficial work of the Democratic Labour Party, but we are not here for that purpose today; we are here to congratulate the invaluable services rendered by Sir Grantley to this country for over 40 years. He had the courage to come out when others were afraid to show themselves. It is not a question of ability alone; it is courage. Sir Grantley has made a valuable contribution, and I fully recognise the able, worthy and unequalled support and assistance which his charming lady and able wife has rendered to him and the encouragement which she gave him during all those dark years when people were afraid to be seen around him. I can only now wish Sir Grantley and Lady Adams many long years of peaceful retirement, and trust that the Lord will spare him

to enjoy his last years in good health, and that Barbadians will always remember that Sir Grantley made the biggest contribution during the last few decades.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that in some places my speech will be termed as hypocritical, because it is only a mind of that sort which will think so. What I am going to say now is what Sir Grantley has done; I am not going to say anything that he has not done, and if it is the truth it could never be hypocritical. Most of us here in this Chamber know him by seeing him, and knowing the work he has done; but I as his colleague for the last, say, 36 years when I was running around with him, can tell you of his honesty of purpose, his courage and forthrightness, and I can say that his forthrightness is responsible for my presence here and for everyone of us being here today, because there was a time when he tried to get his kind a little further, also his professional friends and others in, and he did not succeed. They made a promise but when the time came to travel up the hill of Golgotha he had to turn back; they would not be crucified for poor barefooted people and he had to come forward for people like myself, and other people like Mr. Cox, Mr. Husbands and Mr. Mapp - people like us who could die because we did not have anything to leave; so he went forward and made history. We made history along with him because he could not do it alone.

I can remember during those dark days when it was blood and fire and he had to put up a good fight; in other words, he was fighting money without a cent, and I can remember he said to me one day: "Sonny, if I did not marry the woman I married I could not stay in politics" because in those days there was no money or anything else to entice or encourage anybody. It was not as it is now where you will find a lot of money-catchers; there was nothing at all to encourage you. You came out of the Chamber the same way you went in, and at election time you still had to put your hand into your fob pocket. Those were the dark days when he was not getting anything either; his colleagues from the legal profession were doing all and he could not raise two jobs in one month because he could not attend to them and the cases were always being put off. But he was fighting for the people of Barbados, and he is responsible for almost everything that has been done in this country. He has done a good job, a job that none of us will ever be able to do the way he did it because he did it without material. All that is being done now is being done with help and the wherewithal, but in those days he had nothing and he fought a battle without ammunition and won. That is it.

I know that it was not his intention to throw the sponge in as he threw it in now, but the same thing that caused me to go caused him to say: "I am finished and I am not going to fight those who are conniving against me". They said that he was too old and that he wanted to hold the mantle for his son and they were not going to sit under him. They planned that at the next Conference they would move a Resolution to ask him to back down, but it is not fair to him after doing such a good job. It would have caused any person to say he is finished. Sir Grantley wants to see the Labour Party live; but if he had just tried to put up a fight to show those rattle snakes that they could not get him out, it would have caused only trouble; yet he still put them in trouble by leaving as he did. After doing so much for people

they do not recognise it, because whoever talked knew it, and they kicked him in the pants by talking. Careless talk costs lives; sometimes it can run a long distance. Only a few weeks ago that gentleman had to put it in the newspaper that he is going to fight, and last week he refused to fight. Anyone would know what was happening at the time and what caused him to do that at the time. 12.55 p.m.

Everyone would think about what has been happening at the time and what caused him to do it then and what caused him to do it now. When your own dog bites' you, you are well bitten. It is regrettable; I am ashamed; I am astonished -I would not mind if they had done that to me or to somebody else, but they should not have done it to that gentleman who has done so much for Barbados.

I sincerely hope that he will live as long from now as he has been in politics in order to see what is going to happen. I am not going to say what is going to happen, but I hope he will live long enough to see everything. He is going to say: "I am sorry that I left when I did." Might can triumph over right. At the next Annual Conference they will have votes to do most things. I do not think that he deserves what has been done to him. Do not think he has not heard of the plans. You cannot do things today and think that they can be kept in secret. I am sure that all of your plans will come to light. Anyway, I am very glad that he did it in the way in which he has done it. He has done everything peacefully and nobody can blame him. Let the young people carry on. They say that he is old, but without experience the youths will still be in trouble.

Sir, a doctor once told me: "Smith, if I had the experience before, that I have today, I would have saved several of my patients. " You must have experience even to drive a motor car, and that is why I am saying that we will never be able to replace him. Let us think of what he has done for the people in those black, dismal days. Regardless of who gets into power nowadays the Government, will be starting off without weight and on a sound foundation. Perhaps the Government might start off with 75% lawyer sand the others will be professionals, but when he started off he was the only lawyer and some of us had to support him.

Sir, the young people do not know about what we have been through years ago. If I am unable to stand up straight for half-an-hour, then they should hold me up and let me carry on. They should prop him up and let him carry on and let him remain in the forefront. I am sure that would be better than me rely saying that he is too old and cannot stand up. No schoolmaster in this world can put commonsense into a child's head. He had everything: commonsense, honesty, courage and everything in his favour.

Sir, when you read something from a book and learn it by heart and then use it, it is not your commonsense. It is the commonsense of the writer of the book and if he makes a mistake you will also

make the same mistake. When you have your own common-sense, things will work right. I say that a very good man, a splendid man, one that we will never be able to replace, has left us and I sincerely hope that he will live long enough to see what is going to happen in this country.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in accepting the resignation of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph - I am sure that there is no Party Whip and, consequently, I have an opportunity to express my feelings not only as a politician, but as a citizen. In I was glad to hear the Leader of the House pay tribute to a man who deserves it. Throughout my 25 years in here and the year si have spent in the Vestry I have had to fight Sir Grantley, but it was always an interesting fight. Although I am getting on in years now, I feel that Sir Grantley' s resignation from this Chamber will be a great loss to us. -The experience which he has will be of great value to many a youngster in this House.

As I look around, I see the Leader of the House, the Minister of Health, the junior member for St. Philip and the senior member for St. Joseph have paid great tribute to Sir Grantley. As a matter of fact, only the senior member for St. Jose phis senior to me in this Chamber. One night I attended a meeting in St. Joseph held by Sir Grantley, 1 saw a woman about forty years of age and she said: "Adams? Adams? Before Adams came, if I worked for two hours and the rain fell, I would not get paid for what I had done. " She walked up and down the road while she was talking. She also said "When Adams was in charge of things, the man I lived with used to sleep in flour-bag trousers, but today he can sleep in pyjamas. "

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Grantley built the foundation for others to work upon. He built a solid foundation. I hope he will spend a happy retirement and that his dear wife will continue to be at his side during his retirement as she has always been during the long years that he has been in public life.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in associating my remarks with those of some of my colleagues who have addressed you on this Resolution, I would like to start off by saying that one can only consider Sir Grantley Adams' contribution to this country in relation to our present-day society. Iam not in a position to speak of his constitutional policies; I am not in a position to speak of his battles which he fought in the newspapers of that day; I am not in a position to speak of what an outstanding man he was, neither am I in a position to say how good or how bad he has been. I have only been associated with that gentleman during the past 9 years. When I first joined him, I was a bit astonished because people outside the Party told me he was a very ruthless man. While in the inner circle, I discovered that he was a man with a pleasant personality - firm, and not necessarily ruthless.

It may be that in those days leaders we re always 'referred to as ruthless when they had a tendency to

be firm. There is only one sad note which has been struck here this afternoon, and I think it is regrettable. It was a note from a person who has associated himself with Sir Grantley for over a period of 34 years. Rather than paying tribute to the work done by the man, from his remarks one can only conclude that Sir Grantley's resignation was not one of his own free will, or it was not a resignation advised by his doctor, as was pointed out in his letter to Mr. Speaker. 1.35 p.m.

I would not like to say that & man is in a position to say or do things above his limitations, and I am quite sure that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph spoke well within his limitations. Sir, when the pundits find the time off to go into the archives, it is my children and your children's children who will realise what a valuable contribution Sir Grantley made to this country.

Sir, I joined the Barbados Labour Party eight days after the Party lost the Government - pot the election - and I did this out of feeling because I attended a political meeting held by the Barbados Labour Party at that time in the Market Square. I remembered a crowd of young men headed by a chap by the name of Carl Kennedy who is now living abroad, and there was I very concerned with this young group which was changing "we want Sir Grantley". I felt then that this was a crowd I should have been with for the purpose of chanting: "We want Sir Grantley", and I almost came to blows that' same night. As a matter of fact, I had to move out in a hurry before the Police came, because when Sir Grantley Adams came on I found there was dead silence and I heard the hymn "Abide with me, fast falls the everside". Tears almost came to my eyes because I did not know at that time that this was a crowd that had come to heckle Sir Grantley, and it dawned upon me that when you have to go, the road is rough; to remain at the top, it is just as rough; but people are always happy to pull you down.

This evening however, Mr. Deputy Speaker, tributes are paid to persons when they die and when they retire, and Sir Grantley Adams has found himself in the happy position that with all that has been said in here this afternoon, he can look back with a degree of satisfaction and say that even his greatest detractors have had a good word to say of him, I believe, Sir, that he can say to himself that he has not been able to do all, but he has tried very hard to do most. He can be likened as in this book by F. A. Hoyos. He was once referred to by the Leader of the House and Senator Frank Walcott as 'the Lord's Anointed, ' as 'Moses'. He was refered to as the 'the black Messiah', but as we know there can be differences of opinion, as the Leader quite rightly says, which lead us to anger. I would like not only for the remarks made by the Leader of the House and by members on the other side this afternoon to be recorded, but I would like them to show their appreciation for Sir Grantley now that he is alive by naming one of the outstanding monuments in our country the Sir Grantley Adams Airport, the Sir Grantley Adams Medical Centre or the Sir Grantley Adams Seaport. I think that if such a thing was done, Sir Grantley would then be satisfied deep within himself that the contribution which he has made to the country has not gone in vain, and that even his greatest detractors realised what he had done.

We face within a few weeks a bye-election for his seat. If God gives me health and strength, I give the warning that if you need no battle scars, do not come in. We are prepared to allow the name of Sir Grantley Adams to remain forever and ever until we have beaten the people of St. Joseph, and I warn those who are not prepared to sit at the dinner table not to come in. It is not going to be an easy battle. Some of us can speak with a degree of satisfaction because for years we have been associated with him.

As I said earlier, I find myself in a position not to say much about his entire career, but I since rely hope that God will spare me the time when I can sit back and read more about the man who can only be likened to 'the Grand Old Man of Barbadian politics. I think that the most fitting words for him should be:

"Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime; And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time."

I am sure that the footprints of Sir Grantley Adams will be ever on the sands of time in this country.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to pay a public tribute to all members of the House for the manner in which they have accepted this resignation, and for the speeches they have made about Sir Grantley Adams. I knew that sooner or later the contribution which Sir Grantley Adams has made to Barbados and to present-day society in Barbados would have to be recorded by the other side, for in my last ten years and since I have joined politics, I have spent a considerable period of my time in trying to put the record straight as to the contribution which Sir Grantley has made to this country, so that today we now have it unanimously agreed on all sides that his contribution has been outstanding, and I can go so far as to say that I am satisfied that the public regard him as a true national hero of Barbados. (Cheers). I would hope that at some time in the near future some honour, some recognition would be given to this universal feeling in Barbados. I do not regard this as a matter of Party politics. I am the one whose lot it has been to succeed him in office in the political Party to which he belongs. 1.45 p.m.

I think it can be truly said that whatever attempts have been made to use me as a means of a collision with Sir Grantley Adams, I have always steadfastly resisted this; therefore it was a matter of considerable pain to me that today in these proceedings references could have been made by one who was hitherto associated in the intimate Councils of the Party, and suggestions have been made whereby the impression could have been given that Sir Grantley's resignation came about not as a result of a voluntary act on his part, but as a result of a manoeuvre by others who follow in his footsteps. The only person to whom that indirectly points is me, and I must use this occasion to say that I categorically deny

it and I treat it with the contempt it deserves.

It was only a month ago that I was informed - and I was one of the first to be informed - that Sir Grantley Adams' health had deteriorated to such an extent that it was causing his doctors serious concern. No one else, not even the senior member for St. Thomas knew at that stage; and my view always was that I was the last person to feel that we would have the House of Assembly in this session without Sir Grantley Adams being a member of it. His contribution in the constitutional field and in the political field has always been outstanding, but there has been a tendency by many to underestimate his contribution in the economic field. I think that future historians will record that the experience of underdeveloped countries has always been that popular economies cannot achieve economic change without catching hold of the implements of change, mainly the political and economic structure. That is the motivation, as I understand it, for Parliamentary Government; it is the motivation used in developing societies to Independence in order to capture the totality of legal and political power, so that that can be used to change the economic and social structure. It is in that light that we must judge the performance in the economic field; it is in that light that we should remember that in 1951 adult suffrage was brought in, in 1956 full Ministerial system was brought in and in 1961 Cabinet Government came to this country.

If therefore, the efforts appear to many to have been concentrated upon the constitutional and political form, it must never be forgotten that it is only by getting hold of the constitutional and political form that the present Government was able to keep the little manipulation that it has.

I regard as the high water mark in the economic achievement of Sir Grantley Adams and his Party the bold decision that was taken to build a Deep Water Harbour in Barbados, the decision to expand Seawell Airport to jet length and the decision to pass the laws relating to the establishment of a Development Board and a Tourist Board in this country in 1958; these are the means and the instruments from which any economic progress in Barbados that has resulted has come.

I think that it is relevant at this stage, particularly for the young people, that a few words should be said about the Barbados today in the racial sense as compared with the Barbados when I was a schoolboy in the 1950s. Today I look around and I see that the Civil Service is completely Barbadian and West Indian; people today are appointed to positions on the basis of complete equality, upon the basis of considerations other than colour. This was not always so in all the departments of Government in this country; but before the introduction of the Ministerial system in this country people were appointed on the basis in which colour played an important part. Nowhere is it more significant than in the private sector, for I remember, when I was a school boy in the Sixth Form at Harrison College in 1950, Barclays Bank in Barbados came to Harrison College and recruited the first two coloured people who were ever employed in a capacity other than a menial capacity at Barclays Bank, and when I say

"coloured every Barbadian knows what I mean.

I think that today one of those boys, Mr. Cadogan, is now in the Head Office Department of Barclays Bank and holds a senior position. From the example set by the Civil Service, it could be proven quite sure-

nessfully that people other than those with any colour are competent to administer and to enjoy certain positions of responsibility; there can be no argument against that. I have always said, and many people disagreed with me, that the contribution of the Labour Party to Barbados has been such that when the so called American black nationals come to Barbados they cannot evoke the same feelings as they can in America because we have gone through that revolution from the 1930s on; they are now going through the revolution that we have passed through.

There is also one other significant fact which I think is important, and I remember it closely because it occurred not too long after I came back to practise in Barbados. I remember that racial feeling was still at its height in Barbados in those days, and the last vestige of racialism in education we had was at Codrington High School, when so great was the turn of the tide in Barbados, and a new conception of a complete and absolute equality that when the Advocate newspaper in an editorial attacked the Government on the Codrington High School and called for a reversal of policy, not one person dared to go forward and oppose it. 1.55 p.m.

All of this took place against the background of the development that was introduced by Sir Grantley. The most significant thing about it is that it was achieved without bloodshed. This is a great achievement, and great credit should go to the sense of leadership provided by Sir Grantley at that time.

Sir, in all fields of life in Barbados his contribution has been marked. He is a true national hero, and I am happy today to say that, with the exception of one discordant note, this House of Assembly has been able to pay tribute to him in a manner befitting him, without prejudice, to the magnanimity he deserves for the sterling contribution he has made to this country.

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

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I respectfully beg to move the following address

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

The House of Assembly has the honour to inform Your Excellency that a vacancy has occurred in the said House by virtue of their acceptance as of 20th October, 1970, of the resignation of Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, C. M. G., Q. C., B. A., D. C. L., (Hon.), M. P., the junior member for the constituency of St. Joseph in this Island."

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Accordingly His Excellency the Governor-General will be informed, and I now ask the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to present a copy of this Address to His Excellency the Governor-General.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that. The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. On resumption.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 be the next instant Order of the Day.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re FLOOD DAMAGE ON 2nd OCTOBER, 1970

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Statement was made on the 13th October by the Leader of the House in connection with the flooding which took place in Barbados on the 2nd October, we in this House felt that it was our duty to introduce a Resolution asking the House to take note of the Statement in order to initiate discussion on the flood and the relief measures that were being carried out by various agencies, because some of us, in whose constituencies a number of people were effected, felt that the machinery that had been established by the Government was not providing the relief fast enough to meet the requirements of the people affected.

Now, the Statement which was laid must have been a Statement provided from the early reports of what had occurred, because certainly in my area in Christ Church the situation at Harts Gap, Dayrells Road and other areas affected is far more serious than was set out in this Statement. I have no doubt that when another member of the Government speaks on this Resolution he will be able to tell us that there are now more up-to-date statistics on the matter.

I think that one of the lessons we have learnt from this flooding is that the machinery which Government has to deal with disasters, whether hurricanes, floods, or otherwise, certainly on this occasion did not work in the manner in which it used to work in the past. I have been a member of the Hurricane Committee in Christ Church for a considerable period of time. In the 1955 hurricane we worked in the Oistins area. On this occasion, after the reports, I turned up at Oistins Police Station, and I was surprised to find that although that was the Centre where members of the Committee had to work, I was surprised to find nobody else there. I was also surprised to find that the machinery which was set up did not appear to be functioning.

The Minister of Education had requested the Police earlier in the day to see that a number of Centres were opened, and in consequence of that request a number of Schools were opened. I want to draw to the attention of the Government some of the problems which the Police at Oistins had in administering the instructions which were given to them from the Ministry of Education. If this is an example of what occurred in other areas, then I would hope that remedial steps will be taken immediately so that in the event of a disaster the machinery will be able to function smoothly. 3.05 p.m.

Now a list of names was sent to the Police at Oistin setting out instructions, and setting out the Centres within their administrative area, and the most remarkable thing was that the names of the people who were in charge of the Centres were not on it. It seemed to have been assumed by the authorities that somebody at the Police Station would know the addresses of these people; so that they were presented with a long list of names, but neither the names nor the telephone numbers were on it. It may have been assumed by the compilers of the booklet that the Police Sergeants in their political area would be aware of the large number of people living in that area. The second thing we found was that in connection with the schools, the tendency has been for the Head teachers in charge of the schools to be appointed Chief Wardens. This may have been a good policy in the past when you had your Headteachers living in close proximity to the schools, but on this occasion we did not get some of the schools opened because the Headteachers were in other areas, and the most vital information we had to get was to try and find out where the people who kept the keys to the school were so as to get hold of the janitor to get the school opened. This is a very serious defect, and I hope that in the future not only would the principle of appointment of the Wardens of Centres be changed and you insert that the practice be that people who are appointed as Wardens live in close proximity to the place where the school or the particular Centre is, but also that if you are appointing Headteachers, you must remember that they are changed from time

to time. Some of them were out of the Island, and we did not know-neither did the Police know-who were the people in charge of the schools. Thank heavens, the waters receded in the roads faster than we had anticipated at the beginning, and the opening of Christ Church Parish Church and the Christ Church Boys School was sufficient to take care of the forty people who had to be moved because their houses were threatened.

Now a more glaring omission, in my opinion, was what happened with the Ministry of Agriculture. As I understand the booklet-be cause I read it- the responsibility for supplies is in the Ministry of Agriculture under the scheme of emergency that has been established. On this occasion nobody could find out who was the Chief Supply Officer for this area. Nowhere in that booklet, and how ever in the information in the Police Department, was there anything to indicate who was the Chief Supply Officer. Now we had a problem because we went and made a statement quite clearly that the Ministry of Agriculture was in charge of these supplies, and we tried to get in touch with some from the Ministry, but unfortunately communications had broken down and we could not get past the St. Lawrence Exchange, and as a result on the night in question when the sub-wardens came, they had to go and let the Police bring people to these Centres, but because the headmaster was away, there were no supplies, no lanterns no lamps, and what is vital, no blankets were there, and we had to put benches together and people had to stay on the benches; so there were no emergency rations. I always understood that at each Centre there was a minimum of emergency supplies, but nobody knew where they were. I do not know whether they were at the school or not; so that it seems to me that if the area where I had immediate access to was representative of what occurred in the Bridgetown area, and what occurred in St. Andrew or the other areas, then the whole question of your emergency machinery needs a complete re-organisation in the light of practical experience, and I would like to appeal to the Government on this matter. When it comes to disasters, this is not a Party matter at all. When it comes to disasters, I feel that the people should be picked on the basis of proximity to the services which they are supposed to render and on the basis of their suitability at the time to give immediate help to the people who are affected. There is nothing that can create more panic and cause more trouble than when something like this occurs and people are put together at the Centres and find that they cannot get access to immediate supplies.

Now the second point I want to raise in connection with this is that the liaison which used to be in existence when you had the Local Government should be re-established. Now the Clerk of the Council used to be in charge as coordinator for the area, and it was his responsibility, certainly in the Southern Area to see that the Hurricane Committees for which he was responsible was functioning. I do not know who does that now. I heard that it was the Welfare Officers who went to see this. I defy any Chief Welfare Officer, whoever he be, to be able to coordinate all the hurricane machinery throughout Barbados. Let us not fool ourselves. The people who were Clerks of the Council in the past were people of great administrative experience. There were three people, one in each Local Government area. They knew the people in the area because they were in touch with them. I defy any Chief Welfare Officer, standing in Bridgetown, to know who are the people who can effectively help in a hurricane in Christ Church or anywhere else, and I do not see that he can delegate his powers down to individual Welfare Officers in the parishes, because the quality of Welfare Officers in the parishes is completely different from the quality of men whom you had as Clerks at the various District Councils; so that wants revising.

I do not mean that the Chief Welfare Officer is not responsible to the Ministry, so to speak, but you have to divide this thing into convenient zonal areas and see that you have people of administrative ability and previous experience as to what has taken place. I do not see why people who worked in other aspects in the Central Government or anywhere else outside cannot be coopted for the purpose of coordinating these hurricane provisions. 3.25 p.m.

Now, Sir, it is also obvious to me that in areas like Christ Church we would have in future to think in terms of providing emergency relief for boats. We have to think about providing some sort of machinery for getting boats up quickly, and I think in the hurricane season we would have to reserve an area somewhere which should only be used in certain events, because I saw about forty people trying to beach two boats and they just could not get it done; both of them are seriously damaged.

We also have a more serious problem, and that is the problem of determining the damage and getting help to the people quickly. I remember in the 1955 hurricane that immediately after the disaster occurred investigators turned out and relief came. I would say that there was a time lag on this occasion certainly in my area-in some cases, of 48 hours. That could not be right, because on the last occasion, what we did in the hurricane was that as soon as people came into the centres their names were taken by the Warden, and as soon as communications were established the Wardens were able to send down the names of the people in the Centre so that the people had the names of those who were affected and investigations could be made as to the extent of the damage. On this occasion they had to send out and investigate the people first before they could get relief to them; that is a topsy-turvy way of doing things. I think the proper measure of relief is that you do not start off by saying that you have to investigate the number of people to whom you should give relief; you should give relief and then investigate to see whether you should continue it. The flood damage to people's homes was serious and it cost a lot; but before we get on to that there is also another point I want to make positively clear. A lot of the damage that was done by flooding could have been prevented in Barbados, had the machinery not been abolished for ensuring in the Public Health and Highways Departments that the usual customary annual cleaning of suck wells in Barbados was carried out.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is not strictly correct because the problem of finding somebody to clean a suck well is like trying to find somebody to go to the moon, and you can find somebody to go the moon easier. We have not stopped it; we just cannot get the people.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point that I was making was that I remember when we were in Local Government, every year a gentleman called Mr. Nicholls at a certain time used to go around and tell us when we had to start our programme of suck-well cleaning. Is the Minister of Health telling us that

today because they cannot get people who will do it in the same manner in which they did it in the past that it is beyond their ingenuity to devise a scheme by which suck wells could be cleaned? You can buy electrical equipment that can lower men in the wells, and I am positive that if it is done on a tender basis area by area, you will find somebody who will find the men who would do it. It is a very serious thing because the sucks in Christ Church we re not cleaned in the last year, not even on the Government's A. D. C. Plantation. At the time of Hurricane Janet in 1955 the water from Graeme Hall Plantation reached Top Rock Road through the houses and flowed right along there, and there are five or six wells in that area; but nothing was done about them. The obligation to clean the wells was always on the Local Government, but the truth of the matter is that the attempt to centralise these service has resulted in a decrease in the standard of efficiency and the administration of these services.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for Christ Church that only a few years ago the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Communications and Works, during the rainy period, carried out certain services cleaning of the dams, ravines and suck wells prior to the beginning of the rainy season, and this has been done before Local Government had been abolished. I agree with the hon. member that most of the blockage was caused by old mattresses, old boxes and onion crates which blocked the wells and the gutters, and the people do not pay enough attention to this sort of thing.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Sir, I was able to observe this thing at close quarters. I was able to observe the work that was being done at close quarters, and I have no doubt that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Communications and Works carried out this work, but the point is that in Local Government every year it used to be done. The basic point is that we ought to benefit from the experience of what has occurred and we must tighten up and improve our machinery. Nobody knows when these disasters will come; we must have machinery to ensure that these wells are cleaned annually; they used to be cleaned in June and it looks like a sensible time to do it, but we have got to do it annually. 3.25 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

What the hon. member has overlooked is the fact that you cannot get people to do this kind of work today. Today the people are getting a lot of money, but it is difficult to get them to do this type of work.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Sir, the hon. member who was the Minister involved is now saying that since it costs more money it must not be done.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I never said that, I am saying that you cannot get people to do the job. You cannot get people to learn trades nowadays. You cannot get people to go into the wells and clean them.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

Sir, it is a good thing that we have had this debate, because it is becoming increasingly clear to us that the people who are responsible in the Ministries for directing policy on this matter feel that this is a matter beyond their ability to solve. The hon. member says that you cannot get people to do that type of work any more and, therefore, it cannot be done. I have complained in here repeatedly about the fact that Maxwell Road flood at the slightest shower of rain. I have asked a question in here about the wells up there, and I have pointed out that houses were built on the water course.

Sir, the Engineer that they have in the Department is costing the Government more money than anybody else. The basic point is that the Ministry of Works has to decide in its mind that it needs a drainage policy for Barbados and that the traditional method of drainage by way of sucks and wells must be resuscitated temporarily. It must also ensure that the wells and sucks are cleaned at a particular period of time and are working efficiently. These are, in my opinion, some of the agonizing factors. The gullies were not cleared regularly; you can find old car bodies all over the place, and serious steps will have to be taken in dealing with this matter. I would certainly like to have an expert opinion on this matter. How is it that the wonderful Barber Green has skinned off in the manner in which it has done, like icing on a cake? I would like to know whether there has been an explanation on this matter. There must be; and, if there is, I think that this House and the public should be entitled to the benefit of that explanation. People are being encouraged in these developments to use Barber Green as a method of protecting their roads, and increasing use is being made of it. If the Government knows why the Barber Green cakes off after a volume of water has gone over it, then I feel that the specifications should be changed to ensure that this does, not happen any longer.

Sir, I have seen developments in areas where people have not yet started to build houses, and yet the roads were covered during the recent rainfall. The Ministry of Communications and Works cannot resist the political pressure of people demanding that these roads be handed over to the Government. Of course, the taxpayers will have to foot the bill after the developers have made the money. The developers have turned from selling salted fish to land, and they have treated these developments in the same way as they have treated the selling of salted fish. I feel that a change in road specifications will have to be carried out very soon.

I can only draw to the attention of the House what is happening in my district. I am satisfied that today

there will hardly be more than 5% of the people who have been affected that have been investigated in relation to the damage done to their homes, because a lot of names that I know of have not been channelled to the Welfare Department. A tremendous amount of damage has been done to agricultural crops, and I understand that some of these peasants have not received any relief. In Christ Church crops were washed away, and I think that the Government, as a matter of policy, should indicate its willingness to pay these people some measure of compensation for the damage the flood has done to their crops.

I initiated this debate because I know the constituencies of other members were affected, and; want to hear the attitude of the Government in relation to the damage caused to agricultural produce by flooding. I feel that relief should be given to these people. They have suffered a great loss and something should, be done to help them. I also feel that the efforts those" peasants and others have been making in order to diversify agriculture in Barbados should be encouraged. There is no doubt in my mind that when these disasters occur, the Government should try to rehabilitate the people and compensate them for the damage done to their crops, because a disaster is something beyond their control.

Sir, I have no doubt that members, who represent other constituencies, will be able to bring to the attention of the Government the problems that affect them. I feel that the whole machinery for administering relief has to be changed, and the Government should pay careful attention to the matters to which I have referred. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in seconding the passing of this Resolution, there are one or two matters which I feel it my duty to bring to the attention of this Honourable House. The Hon. Mover of the Resolution has made mention of the time lag between which relief began to reach those who were affected by the flood, and I am to say that the situation surrounding the time lag is much deeper than the deepest waters of the flood, because you will find that there are senior Civil Servants who are ready and willing to state that throughout their Departments and throughout the entire Service they are afraid to function and to do what they know is right for fear of being criticised and abused, and what we do know is that in the City of Bridgetown where a considerable amount of suffering was experienced, as in St. Joseph and St. Andrew, and in St. Peter to a much lesser extent, than other areas, much of the machinery at the hub did not get into top gear until after the Prime Minister had emerged from where he had become water-logged during the flood. In the meantime people were paddling in canoes. That is not good enough in a country like this.

We have heard, seen and experienced ourselves that there are Civil Servants and people who serve the Local Government and who serve even on a voluntary basis. People came forward and rendered yeoman service in hours of stress or strain without looking back. We have got to get rid of the situation where

even in a flood an organisation cannot go into operation to relieve people who are suffering until the Prime Minister puts in his appearance and gives instruction to do this or that, and then begins to insult people about not giving old clothes and a lot of stupidity. What we are concerning ourselves with, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the relief organisation is only an organisation in name. There were no rations provided anywhere, no preparation made anywhere; but what you will find is that we have not until this hour begun in many cases to admit some of the glaring facts that have contributed to the flooding in some of the areas that have been severely affected. In my own constituency of St. Peter, at Rose Hill and the Mile-and-a-Quarter area, there was a considerable amount of flooding. Some people suffered damage, lost some of their growing crops, furniture, beds and what not. If you examined the cause, you would find that in most areas where the Waterworks Department had been laying mains, it so diverted the natural course of the water and threw it on to people's land, and a situation was created of which people had never had any sort of experience throughout their many years of living on these spots.

These are conditions which we are asking the Government to investigate, and we are asking Government not to investigate them as I personally have seen the type of investigation being carried out in the City of Bridgetown where the Government wilfully looked for people whom they know are bitterly opposed to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown Public Health Inspectors - and sent them out to the Bull's Alley area and Emmerton Lane to investigate what damage had occurred to people. But how did they carry out their investigation? Whether or not the people they knew are favourably disposed to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown suffered damage, their report was: "No damage". I had to call back Mr. Shepherd, a Public Health Inspector in the car M. 208 and ask him to go and investigate some cases. By this time the people had gone because they are people who will shout "Mr. Mottley this and Mr. Mottley that." That is the way they carried out their investigations in Bridgetown. We are urging that you do not carry out a political investigation throughout the Island in respect of this matter. You can make all the politics you like, but for God's sake, do not make politics out of the lives and sufferings of the poor people of this country. Flooding is a serious matter. While all the people had to be rescued from drowning, the Prime Minister, the Head of this country, was sheltering from Brittons Hill to Kampala hosting a concubine to emerge from there to go to St. Mary's Church demanding entry, when the people, glad to return to their homes, had long before left and gone home, while a man reeling like a drunkard demanded entry to the closed doors of St. Mary's Church. They could not answer them because nobody was at the Church.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember the case of Christine Keeler well, and I wish to God that the people of this country would muster within their bosoms the same type of respect for a Government and demand that respect from any Government that we find so necessary to maintain and preserve such as remained after the Christine Keeler affair in Britain. 3.45 p.m.

I need say no more on that, but what we are saying here is that there is no doubt that the machinery that has been put into operation -.... the Police have not been asked to receive notification from people in the districts of the damage that has occurred; that is what was done in the past. Police Stations in the past

took reports from the people, and they went around and saw for themselves the damage that had occurred in the various areas and reports were submitted. But apparently the Police are not now to be used as politicians; so it is much better to use the Housing Authority's machinery and to go around making a mockery of the entire situation. I have seen in my own constituency touts and pimps of the Democratic Labour Party running around taking stock and making estimates of what it would take to repair the damage, and they are doing this for only those who are known or thought or suspected to be the supporters of the Democratic Labour Party. That is the trouble; they are doing it for everybody who suffered damage, and that is wrong.

It is a national disaster that has befallen the people; do not make it a political disaster as well. The whole idea of the matter is that whoever suffered loss or damage to growing crops, domestic animals, furniture, household fittings, clothing, whatever it might be, we feel that an accurate assessment, a total and careful assessment should be taken of it. Let us look for a single moment at the Statement of the damage which has occurred, and what you will find is that in this whole Report, the report on the parish of St. Peter covers less than two and a half lines and all it says is: "Twenty (20) houses have been reported damaged. The extent of damage is still to be assessed." I wonder when the assessment will be completed, and I wonder when the figure of 20 will be removed and the accurate figure of the amount of people who suffered damage to their homes will be released and made public. We are not concerned with 20 people who for job security purposes, or holders of a badge or card be longing to the Democratic Labour Party, - for our part they could die; all we are concerned with is that if you live in St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. Joseph, the City of Bridgetown -wherever you live you live in Barbados and if your house suffered loss in any respect, the true and accurate picture of your losses should be recorded and presented in this Hon. House for discussion. We are asking this Hon. House to give very careful consideration to whatever is to be done and we hope the Government will consider in a very favourable way the plight of these people whoever they are, wherever they are They are Barbadians and that is our chief concern.

As regards the Health Centres, perhaps some people might be saying the flood or the hurricane is passed, and we do not expect another this year; but who knows? What we are saying is that whenever it is done, things that we experienced on the last occasion we would not like to encounter again. You just think of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the people did not know where the Hurricane Relief Centres-were; they did not know where to go, and we were blessed by the fact that all that happened to us happened in broad daylight. This, to my mind, is a very stark reflection on the kind of organisation that we have experienced in hurricane relief this time, and my information is that there are some other areas where we have got to call Town and Country Planning and their activities and effect very serious and careful examination. 3.55 p.m.

Sir, we have to be satisfied that Town And Country Planning permission to develop an area is not in truth and in fact creating hazards. These people should not have been made to suffer flood damage to the extent of which they have been made to suffer. Now, the disaster occurred since the 2nd October; 18

days have gone by, and it is time that we should have had an up-to-date report as to the full extent of the damage done. We hope that something will be done in this direction.

We appreciate the expression of the Prime Minister and what he has said about things being an act of God, but we know that certain things have been activated by the actions of men. We are asking the Government to recompense the people for whatever damage they have suffered.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my constituency there was flooding. Most of the water flowed from St. Thomas, St. George and the other parishes into Chapman Lane. I do not think that a political football should be made of the disaster, and it is unfortunate that the first person who tried to make it into a political football was the Prime Minister. I regret that he is not here today to hear what I have to say.

Sir, what the Leader of the Opposition has said is absolutely correct, (interruption.) Mr. Deputy Speaker, will you call on those wild people to stop that noise or ask them to leave; As I was saying, the first person to make this disaster into a political football was the Prime Minister when he made designedly false and reckless statements over the news media about the situation in the City.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know whether he can say that of an hon. member. The hon. member should not have said "designedly false and reckless statements".

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

They would have to be designed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I am sure the hon. member is conversant with the relevant Rule.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

If the hon. member feels that I should withdraw the word "designedly, I will withdraw it. I will now say "not by accident" instead.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

In that case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has not changed the situation. If you accuse an hon. member of making false and reckless statements not by accident, then you have not changed anything.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I have already withdrawn the word "designedly", and I am saying "not by accident" instead. If I said that the Prime Minister made false and reckless statements not by accident; it would mean -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

It would be an improper motive. If you say "not by accident" it will be equivalent to what you have said before. I would prefer you to withdraw the remark.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw the remark. The Prime Minister made statements over the radio which, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the majority of the people in this country, are questionable. I would have liked the Prime Minister to be here today to hear me say that I have broken the school again. I refer to St. Mary's School. I suppose the Prime Minister had heard that I had asked the Rector to come down in the hope of getting St. Mary's School open.

When I reached Bridge town I saw Mr. Batson, who trains people how to swim, swimming in the water in Mason Hall Street and trying to assist the people. I also saw two boats bringing people from Chapman Lane to safety. I did not take a chance to go into the water, but I drove around in my car rendering what assistance I could. Rev. Hatch and the junior member for the City went into the water and did what they could. The Rector came to open the church and the lock had to be broken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at 9.30 a. m. I was called out, and I asked the junior member for the City to leave his wife and join me in assisting the people in Chapman Lane and so on. 4.05 p.m.

We got people into the Church on Friday about 10 o'clock, and one person said that if this flood had occurred between 9 o'clock and morning a lot of people would have died. Between 6 o'clock and 1.30 p.m. we worked getting people out of this area. What is surprising to me and what is most disgusting is

that when in the evening the rain abated, it was Dr. Carter who came there and asked what we needed most and I told him what people wanted. People left their homes wet and some of the children we re naked. I said that the most we needed would be some food, warm clothing and blankets. The stupid Prime Minister, stupid and ignorant in this respect -Barbados only came to life in 1961 - had it to say that nobody wanted old clothes. The Marine Hotel gave something like 50 beds, Rollock brought blankets and the Leader of the House brought curried chicken and rice, corned beef and biscuits. I am not going to blow my own horn. There was thought that nobody wanted corned beef and biscuits. The members of the Government should talk to the Prime Minister and tell him not to go haywire like that. I commended the Leader of the House when he came with corned beef and cutters and cocoa, and he saw that there was a quantity of good clothing which people wanted. I know what hurt the Prime Minister. When the people from the Radio Station asked these people questions, they said they were waiting for Mr. Mottley to bring them so-and-so. I do not make a football out of things of this nature, but the Prime Minister should never have said that people did not want old clothes. I commend the Leader of the House for boosting it up after, because he knew that people wanted to have things.

While I am on my feet, I want to say that there were a lot of people at St. Mary's Church. I remember your being there to give me a helping hand, Mr. Deputy Speaker; so the Prime Minister should never make these statements. This was a flood. On the Saturday morning, naturally the people tried to get to their homes; nobody chased them out of the Church, and the Church was closed and locked, and the Prime Minister made a wilful statement that they went there, the Church doors were locked and nobody could get in. He should not make these reckless misstatements, knowing they would be hard to believe by anybody, that Ernest Mottley was at the Church and he could not get in. Only a 'barrow' would do that, not even a sow. I am sorry he is not in his place. I was there until about 11 o'clock on the Friday night and so was the Leader of the House. I will tell you this as far as C. B. C. is concerned. If you are in Barbados or a Barbadian and you do not know Mottley, you do not know anybody. A man who got a job here walked up to me and asked me my name and I told him I was the senior representative and I had a right and a duty to be there. He apologised and I spoke with him. He left me and went to an old lady. He left her and went to the bottom of the Church and saw the Junior Member for Bridgetown, and from there he saw another old lady. These are people who said they wanted Mottley to bring this and that. C. B. C. brought what I said, cut out what the hon. junior member for Bridgetown said. What do you call that? Why make a political football of this?

A lady from New York telephoned me and said she heard about the disaster, and she was willing to raise some clothing to send for these people. The Leader of the House knows whom I am speaking about. You still have a lot of people in Barbados who -want clothing for children to lie on. I told her_ to send them to the Social Welfare Officer. People brought lovely things that could be used. I will tell. you where this thing broke down, because the Leader of the Opposition has not said this. On Friday, the very day of the flood, I spoke with a Senior Welfare Officer. If I go further you will possibly know her name and try to spite her. She said that she had been to the Centre and was told that it was not an emergency, and was prepared to go anywhere on oath and say it. The rains stopped on Friday and a state of emergency was declared on Saturday. Did you not declare a national disaster and say that all volunteers must come to the Drill Hall and be prepared to sleep in?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

On a point of order, no state of emergency was declared.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

You said it was a state of disaster.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

No state of emergency was declared. There was no public announcement, but we did refer to a disaster. There is a distinct procedure for declaring a state of emergency.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I apologise for that. Isn't it a fact that the various news media were told after the last scare one evening about a hurricane, -the time when there was the breaking of a school, and the Leader of the House can tell you why I broke the school - not to bring over anything? Why was attention not drawn to the fact that they were expecting this flood? Did the Meteorological Department not know about it? Was it just a depression? Tell us why. There was a complete breakdown and the whole system broke down. The Leader of the House knows that there was not a searchlight at St. Mary's School, or a lantern. There was not a First Aid kit at the School. The Leader of the House brought corned beef and biscuits, but he must remember next time not to bring corned beef unless he has onion and pepper. 4.15 p.m.

One thing the Leader of the House will tell you -and you can justify this too, Sir - is that there was a tremendous amount of children in there with beds made up all over the Church. I think the Leader of the House should thank the Rector of the Church for all he did because he did not only open the Church; he went out to see what else he could do to help. Under these circumstances, therefore, I do not think that we should make a political football out of this; up town in Spruce Street and in all those places, members of the Democratic Labour Party were helping out other members of the Party. The Government started to give out some beds and they have a gentleman called Commissar Layne and some others telling people they could not get anything because they belonged to Mottley. You ought to be ashamed to make a political football out of this human disaster.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I object to the hon. member saying these things because I sat on a Committee with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, and all the Officers involved from the Ministries of Communications, Health and Agriculture, and I would like to state he re emphatically that at no time did we give instructions to do this sort of thing. Mr. Gollop was on the

Committee and his Department looked after the delivery of the goods by the Regiment. If this was done it would have to be done without any of us ever knowing anything of it. I would not be a member of any Government or in association with any Party that would play politics with the welfare of the people who suffered damage in a disaster. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I repeat that if it was done, it was definitely beyond the knowledge of any of us.

Mr. HINDS:

Who selected Lonnie Shepherd to go into Chapman Lane investigating?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

It must be you.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

This is a national disaster, and I am going to put it straight now; how many members of the Opposition were consulted? I know that the Leader of the House would consult me on certain matters privately, but how many members of the Opposition were consulted? I do not ask you to put me on any Board; I am going to come out and do my duty as I feel I should do it in my constituency. I drove to St. Ambrose School and got some things for the people up there; the idea of the corned beef and biscuits was not so big a thing because the Leader of the House brought the corned beef at half past nine, and by ten o'clock people were in the Church and the School, and around 11 o'clock they said they had had nothing at all because they did not even have time to make tea. The \$250 a month you give me I think I could spend it to help people in times like these when there is a national disaster. Of course we had six cases of corned beef, biscuits, some grog to keep the people warm, sardines and all sorts of things; but these did not come from the Government or the Housing Authority, and I think that this is what you give hon. members extra money to do. I would bet you that the hon. member for St. Andrew was doing the same thing for his people in St. Andrew, and this is why the Prime Minister talked about biscuits and corned beef and said that the people did not want any old clothes, that they graduated from that since 1961. I think that was very stupid coming from a man who could get up and deliver such a brilliant speech at the United Nations and could still be so small-minded and petty, so narrow minded that he has to get up and say all these things. There was a time when he himself would have been glad to receive old clothes.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am in a position to tell you more about the flood damage than anyone here because I was in it from the beginning to the end. First I must say that this was the greatest rainfall that I have ever witnessed in all my life, and I think that we should give God thanks that it was nothing worse and that we did not get the wind along with the rain. Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Friday, 2nd of this month, when the river burst its banks and rushed through my home, my sister, my two sons and her sons were in

grave danger. When I saw the water rise up across my veranda and move away the other people's homes and then my sister's home, and my car was swept away, then I knew my life was threatened and I can say that this was one of the times when I saw Barbadians respond to the need of their neighbours because they acted like brothers and sisters in this disaster in coming to one another's assistance. No Government can stop a disaster like this, but we can all do what we can to help when it occurs. 4.25 p.m.

We have to be in sympathy one with another. What we are here to do today is to improve on the Government's policies so that in the event of another disaster of this nature we would be in a better position to deal with it. We should give God grace for being here today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, after the Water had abated, I saw the Minister of Communications and Works, people from the Drainage Department, and a few members of the Opposition. They as well as all sorts of people came to see whether I was still alive. I am very glad to see the manner in which Government responded to the people in my area in St. Andrew. The same day in which the people lost their homes, houses were transported and erected in the same area almost immediately. Food and clothes were brought to St. Andrew, and the Government certainly responded quickly. The homes, crops and animals owned by certain people were swept away. My car was swept away. I saw refrigerators in the water like boys.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has put up a good argument with regard to the question of having a yearly team to look after the cleaning of wells so that the water could run off freely. I feel that we should have some sort of machinery for cleaning these wells properly.

With regard to the Barber Green roads that were washed away, I feel that that sort of weather would have washed away any road. I know that when a road is surfaced with colas it is much stronger than when it is surfaced with Barber Green; but when you Barber Green a road it is much smoother. In the case of a flood, the Barber Green road will certainly be washed away. It is true that schools and houses were flooded. I prayed to God and asked Him to save me to help my people. I am sure He heard my voice and the water abated. We should endeavour to advise the Government on way and means of taking off such a large amount of water. We should cut down some of these trees that are now blocking our tunnels.

Sir, I have no criticism to make of the Government. We are all sisters and brothers, and I hope we will never have another flood of this nature. Let us try to improve on what the Government has done, so that things will be better in the future.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, after hearing a comprehensive address from the Leader of the Opposition, the senior member for Christ Church, and one from the senior member for St. Peter, I have just heard a report of what has happened to the junior member for St. Andrew. I understand that he was by - passed by the Minister of Youth and he complained vehemently about that. (Asides.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my constituents suffered a bit of damage by way of flooding, but not to the extent to which other constituencies were flooded. In 1966 there was flooding at Trents due to a wall that was put up at Discovery Bay which changed the course of the water and that was responsible for something like 5ft. or 6ft. of water flowing into the road. Even when the Minister of Works went there there was still about 3ft. or 4ft. of water. I say that it was a reckless and vicious decision when the Ministry of Home Affairs allowed a wall of that magnitude to be erected there in order that the guests at Discovery Bay could have privacy and thereby endanger the lives of the people who live at Trents Village. It is not necessary to have a heavy rainfall in St. James in order to make these people suffer from flooding. In St. James the rain water comes from the hills in St. Thomas and floods the area at Trents Village.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I received a Reply to a Question asked in this House and it was to the effect that a 12-inch tunnel would have been constructed which would have diverted the water from Trents into the river south of the hotel. That is either an engineering error, or an error on the part of the Government for not paying careful attention to what I had said on the last occasion.

Now, there is a little truth in what the hon. junior member for St. Andrew said just now, and it is that the Government should concentrate on proper drainage and the proper cleaning of the walls regularly. If you were to look at the Estimates, you would observe that there is only \$79,790 approved for the purpose of drainage, cleaning of wells, dredging of rivers, and so on. 4.35 p.m.

I hope that Government will use a greater sense of responsibility and bring down a bigger vote for the purpose of taking care of these drains and wells. As far as St. James is concerned, I know for sure that no one at Governmental level came there until the Monday. I think the Minister made his first appearance on Monday. I am not putting any blame on him because it is a new Ministry for him. The Police Department were conducting the affairs, and therefore he was not in a position to see the damage done to those people in St. James. I played the role which I knew I had to play, and I am quite sure that when the Minister got there he was told by the people that their senior representative had taken care of them up to that time. No wonder the Government Party cannot find a suitable candidate for the election in St. James. It is regrettable.

As far as the giving out of things was concerned, I must agree with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that it is regrettable that we are still saddled with a Prime Minister who sets about to make such-reckless statements especially at a time when there is adversity. I recall very well that Mrs. Violet Coppin of the Indramer Guest House asked me about St. James, and I told her that there were about eight families who had lost 'part of their household belongings, and she said she had some things which she had brought from the United States, and there was a four-burner kerosene stove which she said she had used for about two years and which she said she would give to the people of St. James, and to my great surprise, when I pulled up with a pick-up which I had rented to take away these clothes and the kerosene stove - and when I saw the stove I was thinking whether I should ask her if I could put it at my restaurant in case of an emergency - she told me she was very sorry she could not give these things to me because she would be going against the desires of the Prime Minister who said that people did not want old clothes. I think the Prime Minister was speaking in the vein of not giving out clothes with patches, because I have a seventeen year old son who is about six feet tall, and you would be surprised to know the number of coats, pants and shirts that he has because he has outgrown them. You cannot look at it in any other context. Of course, there are Prime Ministers and Prime Ministers. We are unfortunate to have one of the type we have; so it is useless making reference to what he has said, because we have heard so many things from him that at times even his Ministers would like to walk out on him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Works to put a small drainage in that area in Trents-not only for when there is a heavy rainfall-so that the people in that area cannot be flooded out. Often in St. James you have trouble with the water coming down on Maple playing field and there is not the tide that is responsible for it. I spoke with a woman who said she was living there for sixty-three years and they have always had water coming there, It had a course which would put it in the river; but from the time the wall was put up by Discovery Bay Hotel for the purpose of the privacy of the hotel guests, any time you have a burst pipe, the water is locked in and cannot get out and the people are disturbed. I am appealing to the Minister to use his high office, and not think this is playing politics; you can never tell what will happen again.

I have a criticism to make of the Meteorological Office and I believe this must be coupled with Radio Barbados. On the very day, the newscast they gave on the situation was enough to allow anyone to go to bed that night without any concern. They said there would be showers with a possibility of thunder in parts of the Island, and went on to say there would be wind up to 40 miles an hour. They did not say anything more; I do not know for what reason. I remember that some time ago Rediffusion brought over a news flash about a similar situation, and the Government put out a release that any such report should only come from the weather station at Seawell Airport. One would remember reading a letter in the Press by Mrs. Iris Bannochie who made it clear that she could not understand how her barometer was reading 29, and as such she knew the re was going to be a heavy rainfall and there would. be a disaster; so Government must carry the blame for the vague newscast which came out from their Radio station.

Government boasts of the specialists they have in their departments, and one would have thought that you would not have had a situation developing as it did. Then the Prime Minister made the silly comment and said things because he is high and mighty, castigating organisations like the Red Cross, the Jaycees and Jaycettes, the Lions and the Rotarians for their efforts in assisting the people of Barbados in a time of crisis; and when he asked Barbadians not to accept old clothes and told people to give the shirt on their back, I would have liked to ask the Prime Minister, if he had seen Sir Grantley Adams in the water, whether he would have taken off his shirt and put on Sir Grantley Adams' back. When he set out to chastise the mercantile community by making such bitter statements at a time like that that the merchants are going to make more out of this than anybody else, it is true that the people who have lost their houses have to go and buy materials from the same people; so they would have to be better off. But even in this hour of need, the same hard-hearted capitalists, the merchants in Bridgetown whom the Prime Minister plays with, still came to the people's assistance. He talks black in the day and sleeps white. I heard the hon. member say that he made a very brilliant speech on the radio. He made a rather impractical speech. This is not the first time it was said at the United Nations; so I do not see the brilliance of the speech. It was just another free trip for himself and Senator Walcott. 4.45 p.m.

When one sits back and considers that the British Government sent up the Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home and then look at Barbados and see they sent up the Prime Minister and Mr. Frank Walcott, that is a big joke. It is just like when they sent up the senior member for St. Joseph; to do what? Just a little water came down and they have decided that there will be no celebrations this year; yet when you heard the Budgetary Proposals presented to Parliament earlier this year, you would think that the only time in the world Barbadians have ever been able to eat and drink was since this Government came into power. The hon. members on the other side have taught Barbadians all they need to know about corruption.

You cannot look at people when we are in great need - people who devote so many of their hours to sit on Committees to work out what is best for some charity organisations - and abuse them; when a person decides to abuse the Deaf and Dumb School-and the only thing the Prime Minister of this country can get up and say at one of the darkest hours is not to take any old clothes you will understand what type of man he is. I heard an hon. member say that the Prime Minister delivered a brilliant speech at the United Nations, but I do not agree with this in the least; I did not hear anything so brilliant in that speech. I know that the Prime Minister can deliver a very brilliant speech when he is attacking the Civil Servants, but sometimes the Civil Servants really deserve the blows he gives them. If you want to hear something very brilliant that the Prime Minister said, I can tell you that Doctor Elsie Payne of St. Lawrence left the comfort of her home and was trying to get down to Queen's College to open the building so that people might be able to take shelter there, and the Prime Minister said that there were a lot of big, lazy people who did not want to come out and assist; this is the type of behaviour that you get from a man in to whose hands the future of this country is placed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude with these few words. I do not believe that you will be sitting

on that side on the next occasion but I sincerely hope you will be in here.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have sat here for quite a while and listened very carefully to the comments of the hon. members on the other side. From the remarks made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I can say that there is a lot that he has said that is true, and I would like to tell him that we have appointed a Committee for the very reason he has pointed out. The Ministry of Home Affairs had an exercise carried out in Bush Hall which involved the Fire Brigade and people thought it strange, but these things can happen in this country.

There is an old adage in the tropics with regard to hurricane and the hurricane season which goes like this:

June, too soon;

July, standby;

August, come it must;

September, remember;

October, all over.

and we usually accept the full moon in October as the all-clear signal. In a hurricane there is always one of two things that occur; either the northern semicircle is larger than the southern semi-circle or the other way round. This was not a hurricane because winds must reach a speed of at least 75 miles an hour to be classified as a hurricane; but from the time you get a low depression and a centre is formed, then you can stand by to see how fast it will increase. Water-carrying clouds are very often attracted by the height and formation of land and this is something that a Radar Station can detect-and it can change its course according to the height of mountains, and this is why countries like Antigua always suffer from low rainfall. This is one of the unforeseen circumstances that do not occur very often in a life-time, and with Hurricane Janet where we had more wind than rain, this was one of the instances where we were on the west side rather than on the windy side.

There is something else that people in Barbados will have to pay more regard to, and that is the sudden change of the weather at the change of the moon.

I believe in getting down to the source of what is causing the trouble, and we had several meetings with representatives of the Overseas Missions; and one of the things that my Ministry has asked to form is a survey to be carried out by somebody from the United Nations of the entire system, because we have our high lands in the middle of the country and these taper into the sea on the west coast; therefore you will find that the highest levels are always the points that receive the heaviest rainfall. Few people realise that most of the rain fell between five and ten o'clock in the morning, and this excessive rainfall was something quite unusual. We on this side are quite prepared to learn and we can see now some of the things we should have done before we had this flood. Just a few days before the flood I was in Speightstown, and I did not feel happy about the situation down there as far as the drainage system is concerned, and I do not accept as justified the criticism made against the Government that we are playing football with people's lives in a time of disaster. I would like to state here that there is nothing that could be further from the truth; if anybody was playing political football, they were doing it beyond the knowledge, wishes or desires of any person on this side because there is no one member on this side who would aid anybody in carrying out something like this. 4.55 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when people start to talk about politics I usually forget them. So long as you are a member of the community and you are in distress, I do not care for whom you have voted. As a Minister, it is my duty to help the people who supported my Party as well as those who did not support it, but more so the people who supported it. That is what a smart politician would do. Any person who went around with our Party and used the tactics referred to by the hon. member would be doing more damage than good to our Party. No person who was distributing clothing should say that only certain people who supported the Government would get assistance. I should like to show hon. members on the other side of the House that we intend to help everybody. We have already taken action in that direction.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church has said that some school teachers who are Wardens lived far away from the school and were unable to come down to open them. We have already decided that a school teacher who does not live in the area should be assisted by a Deputy in the area who could take the necessary action. It is known that communications in certain areas were completely cut off. Now, I am responsible for Communications and Works, and I could not get in touch with my Ministry and other Ministers. If I wanted to converse with the Leader of the House, I would have had to walk to his home.

Sir, next year, even if it is an "Intercom System", we must have something to communicate with other people. I rang the Telephone Company on several occasions to have my telephone fixed. One Sunday morning I was in Speightstown and it was impossible for me to communicate with my Ministry. I told the people at the Telephone Company that it was necessary for me to keep in touch with my Ministry, but I got no results. It was only on Wednesday morning that, within 10 minutes after I had abused them, I was able to have my telephone working. My Permanent Secretary and the members of my Department

had been completely cut off for several days. I know that water was all over the place; people could not get to the schools to open them, and I agree that it will be necessary to have Wardens stationed as near as possible to the areas of which they are in charge.

We have learnt a lot from our recent experience. We will have to give serious consideration to the removal of trees and other obstructions that can form a blockage of water.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, will the Minister tell us something about the people not knowing where to find the various Centres?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when there is a hurricane it should not take long for people in any area to find churches and schools, etc. We will have to store emergency rations and so on in future. Meetings are being held in the months of July, August and September with the Police Department. I now have to pay special thanks to the Fire Brigade, the Police Force, and the people who went around giving assistance during the recent disaster. In a very short space of time I was told what damage had been done in the various parts of the Island and we were able to take immediate action. I can say that the Police did a very excellent job. The people in the Agricultural Department who had jeeps were able to go through the water.

In Fontabelle I saw about 4ft. of water. It was the first time since 1919 that I have ever seen boats there. The Harbour Master had made a list of the people who owned boats and were prepared to use them during a hurricane for the purpose of saving lives.

Mr. St. JOHN:

What happened to the Police launch?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

The "Hawk" was supposed to be at its mooring, but they have not been able to find it. I believe it has gone down. Between 9.30 to 10.00 a.m. a boat came in off the Police Pier and it brought in other boats. The boat came in on its own, but other boats were flooded. There was an excessive high tide, and Bridge Road was also flooded.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to find out from the hon. member if it will be the policy of the Government to assist fishermen in replacing their boats. 5.05 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

It would have to be the policy of the Government, and I think you would have precedent for it when one of the Police launches can come ashore and one cannot be found.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I asked a direct question and the Leader of the House said "Yes". I want to find out from the Minister if the answer is 'yes'.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

The valuation of the launches lost has been included in the statement, and this includes fishing launches. Some of the launches came ashore from 10 o'clock until 4 o'clock as the wind was from the south-west. There was the burnt-out schooner at the end of the Pierhead that was completely smashed. There was no wind during the period of the rains. We had winds not exceeding 40 to 45 miles an hour during the night and in the morning at 5 o'clock when the schooner "Mars" came ashore. The other launches would have been flooded and some have not been found. I presume some have come in in the back-wash by Barnes and we will have to do some dredging to find them. The lee-shore of the Island was protected.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister knows that 13 launches have been known to be damaged.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, now that we are on fishing boats, only this morning it was drawn to my attention that the water dredged out the sea at Tent Bay and fishermen find it difficult to cross. They would like the place levelled.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I would not mind if the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would rephrase his question relative to the

channel at Tent Bay so that I can get it clearly.

Mr. SMITH:

It was drawn to my attention only this morning that the water dredged out the sea just where the tractor pulls the boats up, and fishermen are finding it very difficult to cross and to get back in. It needs levelling. At the same time you can make a thorough investigation with respect to the damage done there.

Sir, with regard to the Hurricane Relief, I am very sorry to hear that it has broken down, because during the time of the Vestry and Local Government we formed a Committee and divided it up in parts so that every parish had its own Chairman, and we used to meet around February or March and would invite other people such as Managers and Bookkeepers to the meeting to go into the matter and make the necessary appointments so that, should anything take us with our pants down, we would already have had it lined up, and each Chairman would get in touch with the Wardens of the areas and they would be able to come out. We used to leave the lanterns and equipment at a particular site so that we could pick them up from there; but as far as I was hearing just now, it does not appear to me as if any of that service is being done now to help the people. You must have your lamps trimmed and burning so that people will not suffer. Nobody has called on me lately to go into the matter. I was Chairman of my particular parish and no one has called on me since the abolition of Local Government, and I think that rather than Government putting it in the hands of the Welfare Department, they must revert to the old-time religion because that is the best religion. You should see that a Committee is set up in each parish comprising Schoolmasters, Schoolteachers, Managers, Clergymen and so on. I can nearly call all the Centres. You should try and get that working again; otherwise nothing would work well. You cannot put everything on the Civil Servants. I always say I do not like putting so much power in their hands.

With respect to those who suffered in St. Joseph, as representative, I did not wait for the Government to call on me; I called on the Sergeant in charge of District "F" and he was very co-operative. He was out all the time and gave me reports which he also sent in. The police at District "F" worked hard and thoroughly, and next day I called on the Minister with a jeep from the Police Department and we went out through the parish. I think it is the duty of every representative to call on the Government to have something done as I did, rather than waiting on the Government. The Government was very co-operative with the people in St. Joseph, not me so much, and I hope they will see that the necessary things are done early, not later than March or April, and get everything trimmed and burning.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, unfortunately for me I was out of the Island at the time of the flood, unlike the hurricane in 1955 when I was here. I was attending the Pan American Health Regional Conference at which the Regional Director General was re-elected among other things. I have here a Report as to the

measures taken by the Welfare Department during that period and I will read a portion of it. (A VOICE Read all.) I will circulate it.

Many of the flood victims took shelter in Churches, Schools and Private Homes. Temporary accommodation was also provided at Headquarters of the Barbados Regiment which housed particularly residents of the St. Matthias - Harts Gap area, and those who took refuge in the first instance, at St. Mary's Junior School and Westbury Junior School. Later some of these persons were removed to the Silver Hill Housing Area in Christ Church and others returned to their homes.

Investigations into the losses of those who suffered through the recent flood were started on Saturday, 3rd October, 1970, and are continuing up to the present time. 5.15 p.m.

The nature of the investigations included only the very urgent necessities such as - housing, food, clothing, blankets, mattresses and stoves.

4. Food and clothing were distributed at the above mentioned shelters as well as at the Salvation Army Headquarters, and food received from the School Meals Centres. Clothing was also distributed by the British Red Cross Society (Barbados) Branch. Clothing, blankets and towels by the Welfare Department at their Headquarters.

5. Mattresses, pillows, pillow-cases and stoves provided by the Committee of the Barbados Flood Relief Fund have been distributed to some of these cases that have been investigated. There are many more cases being investigated.

6. For the purpose of Relief and Investigations within the scope of this Department, serious flood damage has been localized in the following areas:

St. Michael:

Halls Road, Constitution Road, Nelson Street, Chapman Lane, Roebuck Street - Harmony Hall, Bridge

Road, Bank Hall, Bush-Hall, Goodland, Brandons, Deacons Road and Farm Housing Area.

Christ Church:

Cane Vale, St. Matthias, Harts Gap, Kings Village and Dayrells Road.

St. Andrew: Baxters, Lakes, Shorey Village.

St. James:

Trents, Thorpes, Hole town. St. John: Sherbourne, Edgecliffe.

St. Joseph:

Sugar Hill, Spa Hill and Horse Hill.

It is to be remembered that many requests have been received from persons in all Parishes for help in respect of repairs to their houses which were damaged by the incessant heavy rainfall.

7. The following shows the number of homes visited and distribution:

Total number of applications received to 19th October, 1970..... 674

Total number of applications to be investigated at 19th October, 1970 30

DISTRIBUTION:

**MATTRESSES
PARISH DOUBLE SINGLE 3/4 STOVE**

St. Michael 104 59 12 31

Christ Church 25 16 6 17

St. Joseph 2 1-2

St. Andrew 4 4-3

St. John 7 2 11

St. James 5 5 10 7 Housing Authority 20 7-24

TOTAL 167" 94 29 85

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, am I to understand that there was more damage in St. John than in St. Andrew? Even the junior member for St. Andrew spoke of damage to his house.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This is really the relief which was given by the Welfare Department; it is not a statement of the damage as such.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the mattresses that went to the Housing Authority went to accommodate the people at Silver Hill.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, do you mean no relief went to St. Peter at all? Nor St. Lucy? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR You leave that.)

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Transportation of material is provided by the Barbados Regiment and distribution made by Welfare Officers.

8. Compiling of New List: A more detailed list of further loss and needs in personal effects is now being prepared. These include utensils, crockery, cutlery, furniture, clothing, school uniforms, school books, housing, house repairs, etc.

9. Allocation of Staff to Date:

The Chief Welfare Officer is the Co-ordinator, and I know he has been assisted by Major Headley, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; then there are two Executive Officers, one at Headquarters and one at the Regiment. There are 27 Field Officers.

It is to be noted that all Welfare Officers, including those now under the Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs, and four Public Health Officers from the Public Health Department are engaged in investigations. All the Stenographers and a Clerical Officer were occupied with sorting, typing lists and dealing with applicants who came to the Welfare Headquarters.

Later one Clerical Officer from the Registry and two Stenographers from the Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, joined the Welfare staff. However, in this second phase of investigations it appears that a larger unit should be organised to embrace the service organisations who have expressed a strong desire to help in this work. 525 p.m.

"Meanwhile, the usual work of the Department has to be carried on. Any further rehabilitation to be done concerning household and personal effects can be covered by the Welfare Officers in St. Philip, St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. George and St. Thomas, but in St. Michael, St. Andrew, Christ Church, St. John, St. James and St. Joseph, there is a need for a higher concentration of field staff.

Deliveries:

Each Welfare Officer in charge of delivery has a book in which is entered the name, address and quantity of material, which in turn tallies with the storekeepers account. On delivery the recipient signs the Welfare Officer's book.

Miscellaneous:

"Note has been taken of those persons who have reported loss and/or damage to livestock, food crops, refrigerators, pianos, fish pots, radios, sewing machines and tools. Some of those items constitute the main support for their live hood."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will promise to go into this matter and have the Report brought up to date.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, will the Minister be so good as to give us a breakdown in relation to St. Michael?

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I should like to know why nothing has been allocated for St. Peter. The Minister had promised to say something about St. Peter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The only reference I have about St. Peter deals with interim relief. It states

"Meanwhile, the usual work of the Department has to be carried on. Any further rehabilitation to be done concerning household and personal effects can be covered by the Welfare Officers in St. Philip, St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. George and St. Thomas...."

Mr. HINDS:

Has the extent of the damage in St. Peter been assessed?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am, afraid I do not have that information.

Mr. HINDS:

Is this an interim Report?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It is an Interim Report. As the result of the laying of the Statement last week, I tried to get as much information as possible.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the Minister saying that, 19 days after this disaster, the people who are responsible for assessing the damage done have not been able to do so?

Mr. HINDS:

For what does the Minister want the Regiment?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The Army was called out to assist in the transportation and distribution of goods. I will have this document circularised as soon as possible. The question of the parishes which have not been dealt with today will be dealt with later. I will discuss the matter with the Social Welfare Officers.

Now, when Janet struck Barbados I was the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, and I saw to it that about one dozen trucks of food were sent to the Southern Parishes. I was not here on this occasion when the tropical depression struck Barbados and I do not know what was done. I am sorry I was not here to give my assistance.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people were taken care of from the very afternoon. We were interested in getting in detail what action was taken by the Ministry of Housing in the absence of the Minister of Housing who was not in the country. Several houses that were allocated but riot occupied at Sugar Hill were put into immediate use. People not only from Christ Church, but from St. Michael were put into about forty houses. We took care of people from the Cave Hill area and so on. The people were given mattresses, and the Housing Authority will take care of the repairs to the homes of some of the people who have been affected. In St. Andrew several people were accommodated in houses that were made available. In Belleplaine - (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY How many houses were given to people in Belle plaine?) I think about two. Eight houses were provided in Lakes and Shorey Village to accommodate the people who were homeless.

Mr. CRAIG:

Can the Minister state whether the eight houses were provided by the Government?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The houses were bought. 5.35 p.m.

Eight houses were bought by the Government. There were three two-bedroom houses and the remainder were one-bedroom houses because the people affected were single persons. It was said that the damage was greater in St. Andrew. Some people lost their homes and some lost part of their homes, and they were adequately supplied. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: What about St. Joseph?) Action has already been taken in respect of removing houses from the flooded areas, and the Authority is now planning to assist.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I remind hon. members that there are no microphones and the Reporters are finding it very difficult to hear?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Assistance is being given. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY How many houses did you give to the people in Chapman Lane?) We came from Christ Church to St. Andrew and now we are dealing with St. Joseph. Action is being taken to repair the homes of those persons which were affected. There are some houses that cannot be repaired and houses are being provided for them. A decision has got to be taken as to whether they should make part payment for the houses or whether they should be given outright.

The hon. member wanted to know what is happening in Chapman Lane. Everyone is going to be taken care of. Some people from St. Michael have already been given houses. Some have been moved to Silver Hill, and provision is being made at Lodge Hill to rehouse them, whether by providing prefab houses or trying to get the house under construction completed swiftly, or to house them at Thorpe's where we have houses and where land is available. The question is the availability of land, and Government has already taken a decision that land will be made available to rehouse some of them at Wildey; so the people who have been adversely affected housing-wise are going to be taken care of. We appreciate the fact that we could not take care of all who lost their homes, but we have made temporary provision for them and hope to have the situation redressed. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: What steps are being taken to widen the tunnel?) There has got to be a complete survey of the Emmerton area and a drainage system put down. We have got to have engineering advice as to what is the best approach to arrest the problem there.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I am a bit concerned about the Minister saying that eight houses went to St. Andrew the following afternoon which he said were given at Government expense. The Minister of Housing was out of the country. Do you mean that the Cabinet met the same evening and decided to give those houses? I would like the Minister to give us a further explanation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

This is St. Andrew and the people there are properly taken care of.

Mr. CRAIG:

The Interim Report from the Minister of Health said that nothing was given to St. Andrew, and yet the Minister of Youth can say at this point that eight houses were carried to St. Andrew the following evening at Government expense.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The hon. member is lying. I did not say that eight houses were carried there the following afternoon.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I am on my feet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister is on a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would not ask the hon. member to withdraw that. The Minister of Health said here in a reply to a question by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew that there was nothing ready for St. Andrew up to this time, while the Minister of Community Development is telling us that eight houses went there the following evening, and when questioned at what level, he said at Government level. I would like to know if the Cabinet met the same day and a decision was taken to give St. Andrew alone eight houses, and now nineteen days after St. Peter has not got a single one.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answer is simple. In the first place I never said they were sent the same day or the following day. Secondly, contrary to the views of the hon. member who spoke and some members on the other side, the Housing Authority is not run directly by the Minister. The hon. member spoke of the Minister being out of the Island or the Cabinet having not met. There is a Board, there is a Manager and there is administration, and there was a Minister acting. Senator Brathwaite was acting Minister of Housing. But the whole point is that the people of St. Andrew were flooded out of their homes and had to find homes. We had no record of people's houses in St. Peter going down to Six Men's Bay, but we have a record that people in St. Andrew nearly lost their lives by having to go into Lakes River to drag out people who went into the river as a result of the flood.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I appreciate what the Minister is saying. I wonder how many houses were given to the people in St. Michael.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said we have on record that the people of St. Andrew were flooded into the river and people having to go to bring them out. These people were drawing up in a 2 x 3' rat castle in Belleplaine. We had a situation in St. Andrew where on the Friday night of the flood, nineteen people were living in a two-bedroom house.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I asked the Minister how many houses were given to the people in St. Michael

who lost their homes also. I know of one house that a man in St. James lost; yet eight houses were sent to St. Andrew in a couple of days' time.

Hon A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member can ask all the questions he likes; I am still going to make my point. 5.45 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that on the night of the flood 19 people were drawing up in a small two-bedroom house at Baxters where seven families lost their homes. There is the situation in St. Michael where you had places like the Drill Hall, St. Mary's Church and School and the like; food was provided for these people; you had houses available at Silver Hill, in the Pine, in Christ Church and other areas in St. Michael and its environs.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, would the Hon. Minister say if in this Report it says six houses were completely destroyed in St. Michael in the, Halls Road area? Would the Minister be able to say if anybody in that area was supplied with housing?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, six people lost their homes in Halls Road and Bridge Road; only a fool would think that you would take up a house and put it back in Halls Road where these people lost their houses. There were a few places in St. Michael to resite houses.

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

On a point of order, is the Minister saying that houses were taken to put back in flood areas in St. Andrew, but not in flood areas in St. Michael?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not one house has been replaced on any flood area in St. Andrew. People who had sentimental value attached to the land they had at Baxters have been denied the privilege of putting the house back at Baxters. I can refer to Mr. Ward who has land adjacent to St. Saviour's School and there is danger that the house can be burnt because there are canes all around it; he has asked that his house be put at Baxters and he is now living at Belleplaine Housing Area until a suitable site can be found for his house. We have the Shorey site agreed upon for housing; currently the Town and Country

Planning Office is having second thoughts with regard to the Shorey site, but we have had to make other arrangements for these people. Part of the land will ho Id water and a second look is being taken as to whether we should not resite the houses at Hagatts or by St. Andrew's Church or acquire land from a private individual to rehouse these people. (ASIDES))

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I hope all hon. members will observe the Standing Orders.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I never went any place and took \$3,000 for a man and gave him only \$300. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY You would keep the \$3,000 for yourself.) I am not a lawyer; I have never represented anybody; I never went to the Electric Co. and took \$3,000 from anybody and gave them only \$300.

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

On a point of order, I have obviously offended the Minister and therefore he is hitting back at me, but the difference between the two of us is that it is true he took the house, but it is untrue that I have ever taken money from the Electric Company for anybody. I am sorry I of fended the Minister because I think I have hurt his feelings.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the cap fits him, he will have to draw the string.

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

I am accustomed to hearing this all the time; the Minister has no right saying something when he knows it is untrue. The Minister has no right to walk about and pay Eric Sealy to say the same things.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I know why certain people.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would prefer hon. members to stick to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been asked..... (Asides)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Standing Orders of this Chamber have not been suspended.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was asked why is it that the people of St. Andrew got houses and the people of St. Michael did not get any. I was able to see to it that the people of St. Andrew got houses because the people of St. Andrew did not have any place to live and there was land in St. Andrew on which houses could be placed. People in St. Michael who had spots available - and it did not begin yesterday; since last year people who were living in houses that were not suitable for human habitation were taken into consideration by the Housing Authority and given houses, and it is from this very programme.....

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister would tell me whom the Housing Authority bought the houses for.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let them continue; the point is that as long as I represent St. Andrew, the people of St. Andrew must be properly looked after; and if houses are to be given, I will see to it that the people of St. Andrew get some of them.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, am I to understand from the Hon. Minister that he is going to see that the people of St. Andrew will be taken care of at a time during the flood when there are other people in this country to be taken care of as well? Do you mean that a Minister of the Crown was only looking after the people of St. Andrew and not the rest of the country?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The answer to that is "No", but I am a representative of the people of St. Andrew first, and a Minister next. 5.55 p.m.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, hon. members have already had in their hands a written Report from my Ministry on the damage reported up to date. We have carried out many investigations. As a matter of fact, I do not think I can tell Parliament that our investigations are completed. As the Report states at paragraph 8, page 5

"There was serious erosion and leaching of Soil throughout the country especially in open lands planted with vegetables."

Vegetables took a good beating, and much fertiliser has been washed away. In these two respects the Ministry is prepared to do all that is possible to rehabilitate the losers. Much damage was not done to sugar cane on this occasion. Last year we had a lot of cane fires. (Asides)

"The loss of animals may be under-estimated since our livestock owners have not yet reported."

Poultry also took a good beating, and I think that something like 2,500 birds were lost.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Sir. Does the Minister have any further report?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Reports are coming in.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister knew that he was coming to this House today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I see two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rose on a point of order. I should like to know what report has come into the Ministry of Agriculture since the first Statement was presented to this House. It is marked indifference on the part of the Minister to come to this House today without an up-to-date report. He is telling us the same thing that was told to us on Tuesday last.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Your point of order is made.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I am not going to reply to questions on my feet. If hon. members want to have questions answered, then they will have to table them in the proper manner. I will not be jumping up and down like a puppet!

Mr. HINDS:

We will not have to tolerate that too long.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know the Rules of Parliament, and I am going to tell hon. members that they must learn them, too. If they want replies to substantive questions, then they will have to ask them in a proper parliamentary manner. Now, officers in my Ministry are out in the field collecting and collating the necessary data in order that I may make a Report to my Cabinet and the House of Assembly.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The time being 6 p.m., the time for Private Members' Business has expired and the House now reverts to Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy 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. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 5 be now taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item No. 5 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, and it is to move the Second reading of 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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of the Bill standing in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1970-71) ACT, 1970.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill in respect of the Financial Year 1970-71. This amount is covered in the several Resolutions which have come before the House and is now embodied in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a 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. Deputy 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 without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

6. 05 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, this is your Committee and I think you have the right to give permission. I am wondering if I might remove my coat because of the discomfort in here.

The Preamble was postponed.

Clause 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

The Preamble was called and passed.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think hon. members are feeling the inconvenience of the heat. They are not unanimous on whether they may seek permission to divest their clothing, but we certainly are unanimous in asking Your Honour whether you would direct that the windows be opened even if the air conditioners are kept on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Leave is being sought to open the windows, and if there is no objection, leave is granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 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.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 4 Head 2 - Service Commissions - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, under Head 2 - Service Commissions - provision is being sought in respect of Items 12, 13, 18 and " - Unestablished Staff, payment of Passages, Police Service Commission and Stationery. I do not know if hon. members wish any explanations other than are found here; if so I would be

pleased to give them.

I beg to move that Head 2 - Service Commissions - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I want, first of all, to direct the Committee's attention to the question of the Police Service Commission. I am sorry that the Reporters cannot hear me, but nonetheless I am glad to see that members think of the convenience of other people. They are not thinking of the convenience of members. I want to make it clear that I cannot speak any louder and if the Reporter wants to hear me, hon. members will have to keep quiet. I do not care if the Reporter does not hear me; it is up to you. I am not talking any louder to strain my voice.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

All hon. member swill observe Standing Order No. 29(6). Let the hon. junior member for Bridgetown proceed.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman. Item 18 deals with the Police Service Commission, and the Note reads -

"To meet additional expenditure re suiting from the recent increase in the rates of fees payable to the Chairman and Members of the Police Service Commission and to cover the increased cost of incidental expenditure connected with the work of the Commission." 6.15 p.m.

I really wonder if the Commission is working at all because the position is that there are a number of vacancies existing at the rank of Inspector level. I believe that there have been two sets of promotions since these vacancies existed and there is no apparent reason why these vacancies have not yet been filled. I think if we are to have in Barbados an efficient Police Force - one would like to feel that the Police Force is indeed an efficient Force - then if the morale of the Force is to be maintained, 1 should

think that vacancies such as these should be filled with haste. It cannot be fair to the members of the Force like Station Sergeants who are likely candidates for promotion to realise that you have two sets of promotions of Sergeants etc. - one even being appointed to the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent level - and you do not appoint the Inspectors to fill the vacancies; I know for a fact that it is changing the morale of the Force at this stage.

Quite some time ago, the House passed money for the training of a Fingerprint and Ballistic expert, and there is a case now in which the Government has had again to bring a Handwriting expert from England; yet absolutely no steps at all have been taken to train a member of the Barbados Police Force in fingerprinting, handwriting etc. I think that if we are to stop wasting money in bringing down somebody from England we have got to train our own people.

The other point is the question of the female section of the Police Force. I believe at the moment it stands at either eleven or twelve, and I think the Government should seriously consider increasing this section. I believe that they do all the juvenile work and look after female prisoners, and the time has come when the Government must seriously consider the question of increasing the female section of the Force, and I should hope that, in increasing this section, they find it necessary to have a female Inspector heading this section of the Force. I think that the only way you are going to create incentives for young women in this country to join the Police Force is to provide sufficient promotion opportunities for them and I will ask the Government seriously to consider this.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make mention of one small point in connection with Item 18 - Police Service Commission. I think the time has come when some attention must be paid to having a number of Policemen as well as Customs Officers trained in detecting dope. From what I can gather, a lot of the crime that is being committed here is being committed by people who are taking dope, and I think I am right in saying that quite recently it has been discovered that a number of persons admitted to the Mental Hospital have been persons who have acquired a taste or liking for 'pot'. We feel that there is no point increasing the salaries of your Police Service Commission because it is not going to make it more efficient unless these things come to the attention of the Commission and steps are taken to bring them into effect. One thing that is missing from the explanatory Note is that we ought to be able to know, to my mind, how much was being paid to the Chairman and to the members before for each meeting, and how much it is intended that the increases should bring them to. If any light can be thrown on these matters we would be happy to proceed.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I should like to avoid the impression that the hon. member is singing a solo on this matter. I, too, feel that under the present conditions it is not necessary only to pay them more money, but what we want to

get is a Narcotic Squad trained from the Police Force and from the Customs Department to be able to tell when people have certain drugs. I listened to a lecture a few nights ago by a doctor at the Mental Hospital, and he made it clear that a number of persons being admitted to the Mental Hospital today have been taking all sorts of drugs. It is not only to save some of these young people from this. If you go into some of these places you will hear that at these various night clubs and places like that they use a lot of drugs, and I think the Government should do well to make a note that the Opposition is very much in favour of training Officers of the Police Force and the Customs, and this should be done - and done immediately. 6.25 p.m.

We should not wait any longer. You can go to the hotels and clubs and find young people doling out the stuff. There are quite a number of young people who are prepared to join the Police Force and undergo courses in order to deal with such matters.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Sir, the hon. junior member for Bridgetown raised the question of training policemen as experts in finger-printing, handwriting, ballistics, and so on. I do not know how many cases we have coming before the Courts every year which would require expert advice or expert detection. Of course, I believe that we have people being trained in these things already.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter asked for a breakdown in the fees paid to the Chairmen and members of Service Commissions. I cannot find the information at the moment, but I should like him to know that in recent months there was a Cabinet decision to increase the fees payable to Chairmen and members of all Statutory Boards, and I believe the Service Commissions have been included in this matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Sir, the Minister has come to ask for money to pay Chairmen and members increased fees as a result of a decision by the Cabinet. Am I to understand that the Minister has come here without the appropriate file?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Sir, I did not say that; I said I could not locate the information. Hitherto the Chairman of the Public Service Commission was paid at the rate of \$30 a meeting.

Mr. HINDS:

We are not concerned with the Public Service Commission; we are concerned with the Police Service Commission.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Sir, \$30 was for the Chairman and \$15 for ordinary members, but they will now get \$40 for the Chairman and \$20 for the members. The question of training is being considered by the Government.

Mr. HINDS:

With regard to the increase in fees, will the payment be retroactive? The Explanatory Notes do not say anything about the matter.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

It will certainly go back to the beginning of the financial year.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Are you going to increase the female members of the Police Force?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I will take up the matter with the appropriate authority, but I expect that they will have this in mind.

The question that Head 2 - Service Commissions - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - Ministry of Finance - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Sir, the sum of \$25,000 had been provided under the Current Estimates, but the sum of \$14,504 had been spent by the end of August, leaving a balance of \$10,496 which is considered to be inadequate to cover the expenditure for the remainder of the financial year; therefore, a supplementary provision in the sum of \$11,000 is required.

I beg to move that Head 9 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I thought that the Minister would have had something to tell us on this Item, particularly with reference to paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Note which reads-

"In addition it is proposed to recruit on a temporary basis an officer to serve as a Senior Valuation Officer, who would assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Valuation List....."

We would like to hear something about this officer. What are the terms of his appointments? What experience will he bring to this office and so on? We would like to know exactly what progress we would expect to see in this Department in the future. 6.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR; I think the hon. member knows as much as I do, and, I dare say, a little more about it. The position is that it is proposed to increase the number of this establishment by one. Bringing in a Senior Valuation Officer is intended to leave the Commissioner of Valuation and the other staff, more or less, free to concentrate their efforts on the new valuation system. They have discovered that this new system is demanding greater and greater attention, and by creating this post we are allowing the officer who is to fill it to supervise the other Valuation Officers. The Commissioner of Valuation and the supporting staff would be free to concentrate their efforts on the system.

Perhaps, while I am on this point, I might give the Committee a breakdown of the projected expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. There will be two Valuation Officers, two Clerical Officers, three Draftsmen, four Technical Assistants and one Senior Valuation Officer. Of course the commitments for the whole financial year would be \$26,040, you deduct the unexpected balance of \$14,504 and you get the amount now of \$11,536. That is a breakdown of the projected expenditure for the rest of the financial year.

Mr. HINDS:

For how long a period do you anticipate recruiting this senior officer to keep the Valuation List? You will recall that from your notes there was a period of waiting on certain maps during which members of the staff were idle but were still paid. Was there any Laying-off during that period, and if not, why not?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I do not think I could give the hon. member that minute detail. I do know, of course, that there was a time when certain equipment which was required did not arrive in time, and consequently work which was projected at the time could not be done; but I am informed, however, that Government would have an obligation to discharge to people whom they have employed and who were not working through no fault of their own. If the Government had to pay them, this is only right.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister is in a 'position to tell us if, during this period when these officers have nothing to do for Government but we re still being paid, they were engaged in private enterprise at the same time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I would not know that. They would tell you; they would not tell me that. If you wish the House to know they were engaged in private enterprise, the House is doubtless willing to hear it. I did not know it.

Mr. HINDS:

Will you investigate it?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Certainly.

The question that Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - stand part, teas put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 73 - Customs - teas called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 24, it appears that, as set out here, drawbacks were increased under the Petroleum Amendment Act in this year's Budget on Petroluem Distillates except kerosene from 31.3 cents to 37 cents. As set out here, the current provision was based on 31.5 cents so that the balance would be insufficient to cover the expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. This is no more nor less than a Budgetary adjustment.

I beg to move that Head 13 - Customs - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

You are trying to make right here what went wrong at Budget time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

We are trying to amplify.

The question that Head 13 - Customs - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 14 - Inland Revenue - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, we are asked to supplement Item 22 of this Head by \$50.

I beg to move that Head 14 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 16 - Data Processing Unit - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I think the Committee will remember that a Civil Establishment Order was laid for the setting up of this Department. This is now provision for furniture and equipment.

I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 21 - Civil Aviation - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 21 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 26 - Ministry of Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 26 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that. 6.45 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I think I might draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that the Minister of Home Affairs last week said that there is now an opportunity for persons all over the Island who so far have not registered, especially those who have come of age since the registration was done, to get their names on the register, and I hope hon. members are aware of the time limit, particularly the young people for whom the qualifying date is the 31st October.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, there is one very regrettable feature in this new exercise, if I should so call it, and it is that the Chief Registering Officer in each constituency sets up an office within the constituency almost in every case at his home, and all those persons entitled to be registered have got to present themselves at the Officers homes. I believe that if the fullest use is to be made of this business, that is, if everyone who is entitled to be registered is to be registered at this time, something by way of a directive would have to be given to the Chief Registering Officer at Verona so that he would pass it on to the Registering Officers of the various constituencies that they can set up offices at various points within the constituencies, and by letting people know in advance of the time they would be able to meet them at that particular point. These offices are opened between 4 and 6 p.m. on week days and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and we have just another 13 days before it is completed.

One must bear this in mind, that many of the people whose names are yet to be registered are working class people who leave their places of work, in many cases, well after four o'clock on evenings, and that some of them would not be able to reach their homes until very near six o'clock, and it is these people who are being asked to go to register between four and six o'clock. My feeling is that if these officers could be told that it is lawful for them to go in the various areas within the constituencies and set up temporary offices and meet the people there, I am sure that they would get much more work done and many more people would get registered and all of us would feel happier when it is all over.

As for photographing, some efforts are being made to photograph some persons who have not taken advantage of the facility in the past, and the method that is now being employed - that is, taking a camera into a village where it has never been before and inviting people to go there - is not the answer and it certainly does not answer the case as is made out by the Hon. Leader of this House in explaining a similar situation when complained of earlier this year, because if I understand it correctly, the Minister then said that a piece of equipment was being imported which would enable the photographers to go to the homes of the aged and infirm and photograph them there without any inconvenience to themselves. What I know has been done so far in the parish of St. Peter, does not answer the case at all because it still leaves the aged and infirm in their homes drawn up. If other members of the family would even try to help them to reach the Centre which has been set up, it is not during the daytime that the camera is available to these people; it is during the evening hours and the night; and our electric system has not yet reached into all the premises as we would wish to have them and, as I know, the Minister would have them reached in Pie Corner and so on.

Something more has got to be done; it is not merely a case of voting money here for the registration of people; you have appointed these officers to set up an office and people have to travel six, seven or eight miles, and the hours during which they must reach these offices between now and the 3rd of next month. or something like that - that time is too limited. For the Registering Officers to do a good job, it

would have to run over a three or four month period.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I think the hon. member is voicing sentiments which would be accepted by all of us. What we are doing now we are doing under the present law; we are working hard at consolidating the Representation of the People Act and we hope to get it enacted before the end of the year. We have to act under the provisions of the present law which sets out certain periods within which the registration has to be done. I still think it is possible for the Registering Officers in the constituencies to do a little more than they are perhaps doing because we pay them a travelling allowance, and I never hear of any of them going around anywhere. Only yesterday I happened to be sitting in at a meeting between the Minister of Home Affairs and the Chief Registering Officer at which all the points raised were reviewed and the Minister gave specific instructions and directions which, if they are adhered to, would enable the Registering Officers to move around certainly more rapidly within this period and get the registering done 6.55 p.m.

I have a personal opinion about something which we might try, and I will suggest it to the Minister concerned. It is this: even now when photographs are taken it should be possible to have the people registered at the same time. I think some officer from the Registrar's Office would go to the place where these photographs are taken and register those who ought to be registered on the spot. I understand that they found out that some people have been photographed who have not been registered. Even if their pictures are taken, they cannot be sent back to them because their names would not have been registered. There should be some system whereby people who are photographed and are not registered could be registered on the spot. Perhaps people could be asked to swear that a photograph was taken in the presence of John Jones and so on. I think that would be one way of getting both the photographing and the registering done. That should not prevent the Registering Officers from moving around in the various districts registering people who want to be registered.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, there is a little problem arising, I understand, in the case of persons who are registering for the first time. They have to sign a master card, and I think that is one of the difficulties which confront the Chief Registration Officer. I think some system should be devised whereby the Registering Officers should be given these master cards and the people should be allowed to sign them.

Now, we thought that everybody whose name was on the register to vote in 1966 ought to have had his name transferred to the new list this year, but that is not so. I have travelled in my constituency and I have found that in many cases people who had voted on a previous occasion in 1966 could not find their names on this year's list. I can say that some of the enumerators made a mess of this registration. They were paid 50 a head for registering people, and I would have to be convinced by God Almighty himself that they were not paid \$1.02 by somebody else not to register certain people. I cannot see how some of

them could have gone into a house where there are seven people, register two and leave five unregistered. (Asides) I am referring to what has taken place in St. Peter. I am referring to people of the first order living in certain houses in the parish. An enumerator meets a wife at the end of the gap; he registers her and tells her to tell her husband that he will come up and see him later. The enumerator never goes back to that area and five or six people in the same gap have never seen him. All of these people are now waiting to be registered.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that some members of Parliament and candidates who are interested in the election cannot afford to transport all of these people to the Registering Offices. We cannot do anything, about the matter now because it is too late. If we find that time is against us, then let us improve the machinery as best we can in order to get as many people as possible registered. I want to impress on this Honourable House that the people are becoming increasingly concerned each day about their right to exercise their votes, and I am asking hon. members to think of ways and means whereby as many people as possible will be placed on the register. I am appealing to the Leader of the House to let the Minister of Home Affairs know how concerned we are about this matter, so that he can put his machinery into full force.

Mr. Chairman, I know that every member of this House, as far as finance will permit him, will endeavour to get as many names as possible on the register. We want to fight to win the Government, and the members on the other side of the House want to fight to retain the Government. Let us give as many people as possible an opportunity to choose whom they want to serve them.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I have had a look at the Registration List and I am aware of major discrepancies in it. You will find a husband and wife living in the same house; the husband- is registered but the wife is not registered. 7.05 p.m.

There were also people who were on the register last time who are not on this register and they are still alive and in the same area, I believe that the only attack that can be made on this is if you concentrate on the whole area as your registration area, because if you give a person a job and he is stationed at a particular place, people will go to that person, as people are not going to stay at home and the officer will get fed up and not go back. In addition, I feel that where these people are situated are not necessarily places which are collection points for the population. In Christ Church Mr. Owen Smith is the Registration Officer and he lives in Maxwell Road, and people have to walk from Lodge Hill to Maxwell Road to get their names on the register. It seems to me that this must be tied in with the photographing, and there should be periods in each of the polling districts in which a concentrated effort is made to re and then to catch anybody who wants to come for a photograph and check whether or not he is on the register. The particulars can be taken and subsequently checked and the people put on the

register. That is the only way it can be done, and I hope that the reforms that are introduced bear in mind the fact that the polling unit is of significance to people in Barbados, as many people tell you they are registered because they voted at St. Patricks or in Silver Sands at the Girls' School or at St. Matthias School. If you carry your Registering Officers and photograph units there, people will go to these Centres where they have been accustomed to go in the past to vote, and they associate in their minds registering in that area without associating vote counting in one area.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister a question. He said just now that there are 124,000 people registered, and I wonder if he would be in a position to say how many have had their photographs taken. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR Hardly half.) Then you can see the danger to the electorate. Under the electoral pattern that you must have a photograph and be registered, it means that there are only 62,000 persons who can cast their votes in the entire country. I wonder if the Minister would be in a position to give us a breakdown of the photographs taken in the different constituencies. As the hon. junior member for St. Peter said, we are looking forward to fighting our opponents with the hope of capturing the Government, and the other side would be looking forward to fight us to retain the Government. We could go in at even odds if we have material at our disposal to fight each other with, and therefore Government must pay some attention to this very unfortunate situation.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church made a very interesting point when he said that in one house one person was registered at one place and another person was registered somewhere else. I have seen a register with my wife's name spelt "Braig", and she was in a very awkward position on the morning she went to cast her vote because her correct name was not on the register. The Clerk was very sympathetic since her address was "Maxwell" and the number she gave was correct, and he realised that there was a typographical error and instead of the name appearing as "Craig", it was "Braig."

I wonder if it is practical for the Government to use the Mobile Cinema when it is doing its routine work of showing films to set up some kind of Centre so that when people come out to watch the cinema, they could also ask people who have not registered and who have not got their pictures taken to come at the same time and have this done. It is only a suggestion and I think the Leader of the House is as uneasy about the situation as we are on this side, because it might be 60,000 persons in St. Michael alone that have taken their pictures and 2,000 in the other parishes. This is a very dangerous situation, and I hope the Minister will not let what I say fall on deaf ears, but will take it into consideration and see what can be done about this problem.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I have something to say on this. I see here that you need \$55, 400, and the Note says that this amount is required to meet additional expenditure as a result of the increase in wages and

salaries of employee sand also as a result of the engagement of additional staff in an effort to expedite the revision of the Register of Electors and the production of Identification Cards.

I believe the Government means well in getting this thing done. Now I am going to deal with the country districts first. Let us take the constituency of St. Lucy. Have you got a sign on the place saying that the Registering Officer is there from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.? Can you tell me if any officer's car carries a sign? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No.) Are you aware that a notice came out in the Press and it was said over the radio that the Registration Officers are there between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m.? And are you aware that agricultural workers in St. Lucy Christ Church and other parishes work until 4.30 p.m.? What time have they got to register? This is as good as denying them the right of registration. I am not saying you have done it wilfully, but you should make things to suit people if you want them to register. I saw a notice saying that the officer in Christ Church had been changed and that another had been appointed, but no district was given. How can people possibly register? We all would like to see them registered, because when they register we do not know for whom they would vote, but there is no sign telling people where they should go. There are eight areas and Registration Officers in St. Michael, but people do not know where to go and register, and I counsel hon. members - and members of the Cabinet ought to see this - that the rank and file should be registered - the agricultural labourer, the carpenter, the mason, everybody. Do you mean they must do this between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.? 7. 15 p.m.

Take a carpenter, a mason or anybody working at a plantation. Do you mean they must attend between 4.00 and 6.00 when they get home from work at about half past four? Some of them have to go home and start to cook; why make it from 4.00 to 6.00? Have a little sympathy; let us have a look at this and change it. Government can have signs painted and erected at the homes of the Registering Officers so that if you change a person you can have the signs moved about. When I was younger and I really wanted people to register I would get a van and go around and shout and tell it out and then I would see that they go to register; but how do you know the man is going to be home at 4 o'clock? I sat in my office and when I saw this I said to the junior member for the City: "You had better register these people."

On the question of the pictures, you are not going to get one person coming out of a field sweaty and in his working clothes to go and take a picture because a picture is something that will last for life. I will vote for the money, but I will suggest that the first thing you should do is to get a big sign on the houses. Another thing is, why do you not send around the people to register the people? I hope you take what the Opposition has said and work on it. I will bet that since you put the notice in the Press you have not got a dozen. They do not have to sign their names and therefore you can get somebody to make out a list of names and I (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members not addressing the Chair.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am addressing the Chair and I am making a point. I am saying that they have not got to sign, and if the Registering Officer is your friend you can carry some names to him and get them put on. If you have 70 or 80 from Hillaby, Chalky Mount, St. Simon, this is something which must be looked into. What difference does it make whether the Leader of the House has said that they should go to them? There is a boundary in St. Lucy, 60 people go up and say that they live at Crab Hill, Cave Hill, Pie Corner and various parts of St. Lucy; how does he know if they live there? Therefore, any prospective candidate can take up the names and carry them to him the same way; is that right or wrong? I agree with the Leader of the House that the thing to do is to go to the people; otherwise I can quite see anybody having 60 or 80 names written down and saying that that is the amount they want registered.

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

I regard registration of the electorate as rather a favourite subject, and despite all the stories that I have heard from hon. members, perhaps I could make their hair turn on end if they could hear some of the things I have discovered. I have every elector in St. Thomas on a card index and I was astonished, when the last record came out, to discover that in one electoral district the enumerator had left everybody in the register -even one or two who had died, and should have been taken off the roll. I had to ring the Chief Registering Officer to tell him that there was one elector in Redman's Village whose funeral I had attended over a year before. Unless he knew that the elector was not living there, he left on everybody. Another enumerator who was needed in St. Thomas, I believe, because he was a member of the D. L. P., was a most efficient man because he went about in Welchman Hall, and all the people who should have voted at Clifton Hill but who round themselves voting at Airy Cot, he took all their names off the list but did not send them over to his colleague in Clifton Hill who was registering the other side of the road. It seemed to me he went through the list with a fine-toothed comb and they ended up by not being registered at all. I am not saying anything the Minister cannot check because I actually sent my index cards of those electors along to the Chief Registering Officer. I have not seen a new preliminary list yet, but I expect that he had the matter examined. 7.25 p.m.

With reference to the remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I think that a part of "the trouble in the registration procedure is the lack of knowledge on the part of many of the officials. They do not know what they have power to do. I saw the Chief Registering Officer at St. Thomas Social Centre a few Sundays ago. I also saw a lady from Hillaby who has been trying to get on to the St. Thomas Voters List before 1956. I saw her speak to the officer; she asked him to have her photograph taken, take her name and tell her when they were coming to register her. He told her to go to St. Michael where she was previously registered and ask the people there to send her photograph up to him so that he could lawfully register her at Arch Hall as from this week. I do not know if he was unhelpful, but I certainly think that a proper training course should be given to Registering Officers.

Sir, I was told that they were going to put a Registering Officer next to every photographer so that the Registering Officer could register every person who was photographed. It could be done under the present legislation. I think that an effort should be made to assist old people at the Infirmarys, instead of telling them to wait until they start taking pictures again. I have had to use two vehicles to drive people from the Infirmary in order to have them registered. All of these things need straightening out. Hon. members are going to find that very poor registration was done in St. Joseph. My preliminary investigation in St. Joseph this week is that over 20% of the people are not registered. Yesterday evening I had to ask a large number of people to go to Mr. Banfield and get registered, and I hope they have done so.

Mr. Chairman, the young people are better enumerated than adults, because the enumerators go around and take their names when they are 15 years of age and in due course they are then automatically placed on the list. I made a check of the young voters and found that their names were on the list, but over 30% of them cannot be found in St. Thomas today. Some of them have gone to the States and so on. So long as the names of young people are given in when they are 15 years of age they will be registered automatically when they attain the age of 18.

Mr. Chairman, what I am suggesting as an urgent matter is that the Government should consider the appointment of enumerators who would be prepared to sit in photographic Centres to register people not only at the Registering Office, but at the photographic Centres. It is a terrible thing to have your picture taken and then find out that your name is not on the list. They refuse to take your picture if your name is in another parish.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I, too, can say that there are a number of people who have their names down and are now waiting to have their photographs taken. I have promised them to discuss the matter with the Chief Registering Officer. Like the senior member for St. Thomas, I can put my car at their disposal as soon as I know where to take them. I think the Government ought to do something about these voting booths. In St. Bernards you have a booth on the right side and people who live on the left have to go all the way to Blackman's School to vote. That sort of thing is causing great hardship to the people in the surrounding areas. Why should a man who lives on the right vote somewhere else? Some people have to go to Springfield and others have to go to St. Joseph to vote. These booths were badly laid out from the beginning. You have to travel from St. John to St. Winifred's School to vote and so on. I know that these hardships cannot be remedied in time for the bye-election, but they can be remedied in time for the General Election.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know much about St. Andrew. In Hillaby you have to drive through Turner's Hall and on to St. Simons in order to vote. I know about all the parishes in this Island. There is great Hardship involved in this matter, and I feel that the people who live at Fisherpond should be able to vote in St. Joseph. 7.35 p.m.

I hope that the hon. member who is in charge will see to it and get the matter rectified. It is too hard on the electorate.

The question that Head 26 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part, 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 progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

On resumption.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Head 28 - Police - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, this provision is to defray the expenses of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force if they have to appear in indictable cases. It includes the sum of \$1,500 which are the expense of a famous case which arose on December 7 last year in which three members of the Constabulary were charged, and the Commissioner of Police said that \$2,000 would represent the expenditure which may be called for if similar cases had to be gone through for the rest of the financial year. This explains the sum of \$3,500. The Cabinet has already approved the sum of \$1,500 in respect of the case I have just mentioned and the \$2,000 as suggested by the Commissioner of Police to meet any similar contingency between now and the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 35 - Ministry of Communications and Works - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, this provision is requested as a result of a policy decision we took early this year to standardise travel expenditure of school children during this financial year and afterwards. The policy is that in respect of those children who travel one stage where the fare is less than five cents, there should be no increase, and where the child travels on two or more buses belonging to one or more concessionaires, the total fare payable does not exceed ten cents a day, that is, five cents from home to school and five cents from school to home. This policy is now in operation, and the Transport Board, the Rocklyn Bus Company and the Elite Bus Company between them carry the execution out. There had been in the early stages some snags which had to be smoothed out, and if the Minister were here he would have been able to report that most of these difficulties have been covered.

Hon. members might perhaps like to know a breakdown. For two terms the amount due to the Rocklyn Bus Co. is \$74,841, to the Elite Bus Co. \$70,899 and to the Transport Board \$156,328, making a total of \$302,068, and to that is added 10% for contingencies, \$30,207, making a total of \$332,275. In addition, the Ministry has asked for a safe and a steel cupboard to the cost of \$650 and \$92 respectively, and the purchase of tickets is \$323,275, making a total of \$333,017.

I beg to move that Head 35 - Ministry of Communications & Works - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the Minister of Communications and Works is not in his place, because I would like to know firstly how much money is owed to the Rocklyn Bus Co., the Elite Bus Co. and the Transport Board to date for what they have done to the moment. 8.25 p.m.

In other words, the system has been in operation for more than a month and you should have by now an estimate of the number of children travelling on each route per day, and consequently per week. If you were to relate the figures of the amount of children who have so far travelled per week on each of these routes, you must come to the conclusion that you are not now asking for enough money to carry you to the end of the present financial year. You must, also bear in mind that there is a vacation period, and you must tell yourself that you are not now, asking for enough money, that this estimate here has been rushed carelessly, arrived at carelessly, because you had to satisfy the concessionaires that you are really doing something; but you have, in truth and in fact, not made any sort of comparative note because even the concessionaires themselves, particularly the Rocklyn and the Elite, did not know that so many children had been travelling by their buses until this, present system came into effect.

As for the tickets, there is to my mind considerable inconvenience that is being caused to the children. What I am saying is this, that the tickets should be sent to the schools and the children should be able to buy them at their respective schools. If a Headteacher is not capable of disposing of one hundred or one thousand tickets to his pupils and accounting for them to Government, he is not fit to be keeping a school, and it is wickedness and foolishness to be having the children running all over the bus stand to get school tickets within limited hours. We have got to have a system whereby you either recognise a school as fit and proper to have people's children attending or you do not, and if that is so, each school should be entrusted with this task. You should know how many tickets are likely to be disposed of within a reasonable time during a month, and at the end of the month you could have an Officer to go round and collect the money; but it is stupidity to have children running around to buy their tickets.

Nobody for a single moment wants to decry the efforts of the Government in providing this subsidy - if we should call it a subsidy - to the bus fares, but we want the Hon. Leader on the House and the Government to understand that we are going to let the people know that they are taxing them to the tune of over \$333,000, as you say, to pay these same bus fares that you are supposed to be subsidising, and what you are doing is still taking people's children from Pie Corner in St. Lucy and causing them to be travelling into St. Michael to be educated, to receive something which we maintain they could "very well receive in St. Lucy if you knew what to do; but we will teach you in the process of time. The Leader of the House in introducing the Resolution was at pains to tell the Committee that some of the difficulties have already been ironed out. That is true; but what of those difficulties that yet remain? I am to wonder if, now that the Minister of Communications is in his place, he is in a position to tell us of those difficulties that need to be ironed out, because it is very well known that Government has got as far as it has got with able assistance from the Elite and the Rocklyn Bus Companies, because those two companies loaned Government the expertise to get the scheme going when such expertise was not forthcoming from the Government's own Transport Board, and I am to wonder what the Minister has got to say about the difficulties that yet remain. I would certainly like to hear it now; I suppose the Minister has been told that an enquiry into the present indebtedness to the Rocklyn and Elite Bus Companies is being made to the 19th October.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, a very vital point was made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter pertaining to the selling of these tickets. When he mentioned that this could easily be dealt with by the various schools, I think he said this because he realised the difficulty which many of these school children find in purchasing tickets at the various depots. I am in full support with him on this, and I think the Minister should take it into consideration. My prime concern on this occasion is the difficulty which many of the school children still find in getting to school on mornings. 8.40 p.m.

When the Government was in the Opposition it was always very critical of the Government of the day for not providing adequate transportation for school children. I was almost terrorised one morning while looking down from my business place in Christ Church and seeing school children standing for about two hours waiting for transportation to Government Schools.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to find out from the hon. senior member for St. James whether he is referring to the matter in general, or if he is making reference to a particular area.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate the hon. Minister's point. I am not speaking about recently, because I am aware of the fact that the buses are not working up to maximum strength at the moment, I am referring to a period before the flooding of the roads. Many school children still find difficulty in getting to school on time as a result of the inadequate transport facilities provided by the Government. I should like the Minister in his reply to tell us how they arrive at the number of buses placed on the various routes to transport school children.

Mr. Chairman, some of the children who live in country areas have to get up at 6.30 a. m. in the hope of getting a bus at seven o'clock. If the children do not catch a bus at seven o'clock, they will not get another one until eight or nine o'clock. The people at Orange Hill have been complaining about this matter. Only yesterday morning I had to take two boys to Foundation School at 9.45 a. m., because they could not get a bus. There is no bus travelling along Bishop's Court Hill to go in the direction of Banks Brewery, and it is a fact that school children find some difficulty in travelling on buses carrying adult passengers. I am speaking on the information the boys gave to me yesterday morning. I know that the Minister, who is in his new office, will be in a position to tell this Committee the reason why school children still find it difficult to get to school on mornings despite the fact that they now have a larger fleet of buses than we had in 1961 - 1966. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, when the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was the Minister of Communication and Works, he said that there were twenty or thirty buses on the road and a number of them were unsuitable. I should like to know what efforts the Government is making to provide adequate transport for these children.

Mr. SMITH, Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the Minister's attention that some time ago I asked the Government a question relative to the students at the Cave Hill Campus. I was told that some students were experiencing great difficulty in getting there because they had no transportation. When a bus dropped them at Black Rock or at the top of Cave Hill those students had to walk a long distance to get to the Campus. I was told here that it was not economical to put a bus on that route because very few students would make use of it. However, I was promised that the Government would go into the matter again.

Sir, when it comes to the question of education, we cannot think in terms of making money. We have to think in terms of spending money on educating children. If there are only three children to use a bus, I feel that one should be sent to the Campus during the opening and dismissal periods in order to take children who need the bus to and from home. I can see that it is the policy of this Government to bend over backwards in order to help educate children. You cannot think in terms of s. d. when dealing with education: you must not help the children one way and not the other.

With reference to the question of selling tickets in schools, I take it that the Headmaster is not going to take the responsibility for keeping the tickets and he will pass it on to one of his juniors. Now, money is involved in this matter, and, if there is a shortage, would he be in order to stop the money out of the salaries of those teachers? When they made application for the job they were not told that they would have been responsible for the sale of tickets and the money therefrom.

Mr. Chairman, I can see the hon. member's point, but there is a building in Independence Square where the purchase of warrants for goods can be obtained and it might be possible to make that building a centre for the sale of bus tickets for school children. Another centre could be put in Speightstown. If that is done, the people from the Northern end of the Island and those coming to Town would be able to obtain their tickets without any difficulty. It is not fair to ask a teacher to sell bus tickets and be responsible for the money.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, when we set up a kiosk in Independence Square, we employ somebody to sell things and there is a shortage of money, then this House will still have to vote the money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is not a point of order.

Mr. SMITH:

At the moment the people in Independence Square are responsible for the shortage of money. Teachers are not ticket sellers; teachers were appointed to teach children and not to sell bus tickets! When a teacher should be teaching children, his time may be taken up selling bus tickets. 8.50 p.m.

I do not know about the school meals and how the matter is handled, but I know from a business point of view that these people are not ticket" sellers. What are you bringing the teaching profession to now? Are you going to call on the teacher to sell tickets? He is not going to be satisfied with that, and if there is a shortage, are you going to call on him to pay it? You should find other ways and means of making it easier for the children to get the tickets other than in the schools because it takes time. These tickets can be sold in the Bridgetown bus terminal and at Speightstown in the North, but you should not call on the teachers to do this, because I know what can happen. Shortages can occur that would not be their fault. They may make wrong change or give out tickets and not receive the money, and when it is checked it will be short, and if you do not make somebody replace it, it will always be short. I do not feel it is fair to ask the teachers to be ticket sellers.

Mr. Chairman, I would be glad if the Minister in charge would see to the running of a bus at the appropriate hours for attendance at and departure from the Cave Hill Campus to accommodate the pupils, because parents have complained to me that because of the distance, when the children get out of the bus and the rain is falling they get soaked coming either from the Black Rock end or the Cave Hill end. It would be good if the Government could put a bus at the disposal of these children.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, speaking for the children in the parish which I have the honour to represent, I have noticed an excess of children travelling on the buses daily. I consider this to be a very serious matter. In many cases you get the children waiting for the buses and very often the buses cannot carry the number of children. My opinion is that we need more buses. I do not know how the Ministry will go about it, but I think in the interest of the general public that the Transport Board should have more buses so as to

accommodate these children.

I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Joseph when he says that you cannot expect the teachers to sell the bus tickets. The teachers are presently dealing with the school meals, and to waste their time with the sale of these bus tickets must hamper the education of the children because the teachers would not have the time to deal with the: children and to teach them their lessons. You cannot expect the teachers to look after the school meals and now ask them to look after the bus tickets also. It is my opinion that you should have additional centres for the sale of these tickets; but there is money involved, it calls for bookkeeping, and if you are going to take a teacher away from performing his duties to look after the sale of bus tickets, and then be responsible for the amount of cash, I fail to see how he would be able to render efficient services.

I do hope that the Transport Board will find it possible at the earliest opportunity to increase the number of buses not only for the children but for the general public. There are certain districts in which buses should travel. I have seen people who have to travel approximately a mile to get a bus, and when the rain comes these people are compelled to get wet. These are the problems we have to deal with, and I am suggesting and appealing to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to do his utmost to see that the number of buses are increased not only to accommodate school children, but other passengers as well.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I witness daily the scramble that takes place, and the strain on the transport system which arises as a result of the lack of educational planning which has taken place in this country. I believe that sooner or later someone has got to grasp this nettle in his hands. I have been to many countries of the world which value freedom of choice as much as Barbadians value freedom of choice, and the only answer to the whole school problem in Barbados is zoning of schools, but it will mean that schools in each zonal area will have to have equal standards. The perpetuation of the existing system places a tremendous disadvantage upon young children who have to travel long distances. They are deprived of the opportunity to participate in the full activities of the school; they are deprived of the opportunity of staying at home for longer periods in order to get to school in time. I know that education is the subject which I regard as my sphere of activity, but I know there are children who leave Christ Church to go to Alexandra in St. Peter, and I know there are children who leave St. Lucy whom I meet at the junction of Oistin Hill every morning in an "L" car, and I know there are lot of children going to Foundation School from St. Lucy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Members not addressing the Chair must please observe Standing Order No. 29 (6). 9. 00 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I really do not believe that today we ought to feel that education is the issue that it used to be in 1956 or 1961. It could not have been; otherwise the Government would not have delayed the building of the Secondary School in St. George for the period of time in which it did, because I heard the Hon. Leader of the House say in 1962 that that school was going to start within a matter of weeks. A complete review of our areas of demand for education - and I say this \$335,000 that we are spending now, if you continue this for five years you will see that the cost will be millions of dollars - and we have got to do something about the selection system. I have relatives in Canada, and if they live in a school district they cannot move their child out of that school district and take it to another school in the school district next door. If they do that, they forfeit the right, under Canadian Legislation, to Further Education. This is logical if the standards of all the schools are to be equal.

I cannot understand how Comprehensive Schools are dealt with in Barbados, because an area like Christ Church with a large number of feeder schools is an area which is crying out, particularly in the lower districts, for comprehensive education. There is a large number of children who go to Water Street, St. Lawrence, St. Matthias, and when they leave these schools they have to go to Parkinson or Springer Memorial. The other thing about this is that there is no bus connection across the hill over Rendezvous, so that if they come from Lodge Road side they have to get off at Wildey Corner and walk up across the road. I have had a long talk with the people at the Transport Board about the availability of plant, and as I understand it - and I have no reason to doubt them on this point - even if we vote the money tomorrow morning they cannot get the buses, because in Great Britain productivity is not what it used to be, and the demand for the buses is so great that every area is allocated. They are in that unfortunate position.

We have to have a crash programme in relation to this, and I warn the Government that they are allowing a situation to develop where because of the demand they are allowing people to use a substitute system of mini-buses, and you will never be able to stop it. The answer to this is clear. The Transport Board should now as a crash programme run minibuses themselves; you have got to decide in your mind now that you have got to run an alternative service, and the best area to start with is with the school children. It happens at Presentation College and it happens at Mapps College. It is sensible thing to me that the Government has got to decide that this is an emergency programme; this is a straight question of a situation which you have got to face up to. Certain utility services should only exist on a monopoly; a monopoly brings centralisation, and it brings a degree of standardisation which helps cheapen the cost, and the Transport Board has got to make a decision. I know they cannot get the buses as fast as they want; they have buses 27 years old working in Barbados. On the other hand, go to the other West Indian islands and see that there is one thing the Japanese have done for us, "they have produced a vehicle which is suitable for our roads and they operate wonderfully.

It is time the Transport Board run the school bus service on that basis, because they will definitely be able to cope with it; there are ways and means of solving this problem. I am paying for this; all of us are paying for this. I have discussed this matter fully and they told me that according to the Union every bus must have a driver and a conductor; what Union could be so unreasonable today in the context of the fact that you cannot get the buses? I warn you if you allow these mini-buses to operate you will never be able to get them off the road in future, and it is time for the Transport Board to have a flexible fleet based upon the various types of transport that they themselves have got to provide. I say that this is only a crash programme; but in the economics of planning in this country for the future you will see that someone will have the guts to say that education as such has got to depend upon proper planning criteria and that the only criterion you have in this country is equal schools in equal geographical areas.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to the hon. members on the other side, especially the Leader of the Opposition. With regard to the bus ticket service, the only solution that I feel my Ministry could use is the solution of selling the bus tickets at the schools. If the school teachers in a country feel that they are the easiest common denominator or if they think that their job is to teach and teach alone, that is regrettable. I am not one who would agree that teachers' sole function in a school is just to teach children; it is equally as well in the welfare of the child if they have any interest in the community, and when people subscribe to this idea I do not agree with it. 9. 10 p.m.

My Ministry is responsible for communications, transportation, and so on. This is an educational problem, and I think that the Education Department should do every thing possible to contribute to the welfare of the children. I refuse to accept anything from anybody to the effect that teachers should not be asked to sell these tickets in order to help the children. How long would it take during the lunch period for a teacher to sell tickets? At the moment tickets are being sold, but no provision is made for anybody to sell them. The people in the Ministry have organised the sale of tickets at many points, and they have tried to facilitate the children in obtaining tickets. The only place where you can sell tickets now would be in the school itself. At present we are selling tickets as follows:

Monday Fairchild Street and Princess Alice.

Wednesday - St. John Mixed School; Presentation College; Lodge School; Holy Innocents; Alleyne School; Thursday - Foundation School; Christ Church High School.

Friday - Alexandra School; Coleridge /

Parry School.

These tickets are sold by people outside the Department of the Ministry of Communications and Works. This is merely a temporary measure but as the Minister responsible, I am not satisfied that this is the proper way in which to deal with the children.

Sir, at the beginning of the term we had to do something in order to get things off the ground. I am working with the Ministry of Education in the hope of finding a solution for this matter, and I feel that they should accept some of the responsibility.

Now, the hon. junior member for St. Peter asked a question relating to the transport system. Unfortunately, I cannot tell him the amount, but I can tell him what we have received from the sale of tickets. The funds from the sale of tickets are deposited every two days. Now, \$28, 407. 23 was paid in up to the 17th of October from the sale of tickets.

With reference to the transport system, at present we have 95 buses at the Transport Board. Last week we had 25 buses less than the normal amount required operating during peak hours. It will take about 47 buses to take children to and from school in the morning and in the evening. More than half of our buses are engaged at peak hours conveying school children, and this matter is under consideration. The Leyland Company are so involved in filling big orders that they would not feel any financial impact if they did not have to supply us with vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, there are several problems to deal with. We cannot even get a chassis on which to build a bus. We will have to give early attention to this matter; otherwise the system will collapse suddenly.

Mr. St. JOHN:

As I understand it, you have some old buses with widened bodies which are licensed to carry 31 people. I understand that the Toyota bus can carry 31 passengers.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, the maintenance as well as the upkeep of some of these old buses is far beyond what it will cost to build new buses. We have about 35 to 36 of these old buses. 9.20 p.m.

We require a great amount of buses with an annual build-up, not just one or two every four or five years. We need about ten each year. It is the maintenance cost that is killing the Transport Board. If you take new buses and amortise them over a period of time, and then take what it costs to maintain them, it is actually ridiculous. I would like to assure the hon. member that I am giving it very close attention. I happen to know that you cannot get the buses, and we might have to use small Toyota buses in St. Michael as a solution to the problem. I have seen these small Japanese buses operating in Curacao. and Venezuela and they give very good service; so I will give great consideration to what the hon. member has said because I know the problems of the Transport Board.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has not been able to throw much light on many of the questions I asked. I want to ask some more questions. One very important one is this How do you propose paying the concessionaires? I understand that you collected \$28, 407. 23 up to the 17th of the month from the sale of tickets. Do you propose paying these people monthly, bi-monthly or what? One has got to bear in mind, particularly in case of the Elite and Rocklyn Bus Companies, that they have had to invest money in these tickets. They have had to borrow money from Banks and have to pay interest on it. Even when you pay them some of the money that is voted here, they are not going to be

. paid any interest, but nevertheless they have got to. pay interest to the Bank for the money they borrowed. Consideration has got to be given to paying these people quickly, either by the month or something of the sort.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, as soon as the money is available after it is passed, we can then pay the Transport Board, the Elite Bus Co. and the Rocklyn Bus Co. the money we owe them, and I suppose arrangements will be made to pay them on a weekly or monthly basis for their tickets. As I said, this is the only means the Ministry had to getting it off the ground for the opening of the term, and I should say that the bus companies contributed considerably in organising and getting it worked out, because it started with a lot of complications with the travel tickets. As the hon. member said, you get children travelling from St. Lucy to Lodge School passing through Bridgetown on the same five cents' ticket and taking a bus of another concessionaire to wherever they are going. We in the Ministry appreciate the help we have received from the other bus companies in getting this scheme off the ground, and I can assure the hon. member that as soon as we receive the money, all the concessionaires will get theirs.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have tried to find out if the Minister would have any information as to the number of children that are now travelling weekly. Now there is one thing that has happened since the ticket system

came into operation, and it is that there are still a few children who have not been able to take advantage up to this moment of the assistance that is being offered, because at some of these schools the children were told to bring their school fees from the second week, and the parents have not been able to find the school fees and have had to keep the children from school.

Now the Minister was not present when I made the point that I am satisfied that he has underestimated the amount of money he has asked for here, because from the figures which I have before me that he owes the Transport Board, the Elite Bus Co. and the Rocklyn Bus Co., knowing the amount collected to the 19th of this month and the number of children that are now travelling, the bus companies are more or less satisfied that the estimate as to what is required is not adequate to the end of the financial year, and we firmly believe that it requires a re-examination. We would not like the matter to be held up because we would like the concessionaires to get their money as quickly as possible since they are waiting on it, but there is some thing that did go wrong in the matter.

The question that Head 35 - Ministry of Communications and Works - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 39 - Ministry of Education - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 23, this provision is required to implement the policy of increasing the value of the bursaries not given to pupils attending the Approved Independent Schools The other provision is to do with our commitment to the University in respect of the Faculty of Law, and the general subvention which this Government is committed to as a consequence of the recent meeting. I am willing to answer any question.

I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, there are only two points I want to raise. 9. 30 p.m.

In the last three to four months a considerable number of teachers in the Independent schools have come to me making representation over the fact that grants are given for Graduates or experienced teachers in these schools and they do not receive the salary scales to which they are entitled, and I would like to have a "clear the air" Statement on this from the Government. I would like to ask the hon. member this question; is it a fact that if you are a Graduate in the Independent-aided Schools, part of this grant is supposed to be given or that you should receive equal pay if you were in a Secondary School? If that is so, what machinery does the Government have to ensure that these people do in fact so receive the grant? This is an extremely sore point, and I wish the Government to know that there is a great amount of dissatisfaction among people who are teaching - I am not singling out any particular school - in the Independent Approved Schools because the teachers themselves feel that they are not getting what the Government intends them to get, and I think it is a great breach of faith to the House if we vote money here for a specific purpose and the administration of this money is so lax that there are people who can divert the purpose for which we have voted the money. It is a very serious matter.

I would like to know, too, whether the principle also applies to teachers other than Graduates. As far as the University of the West Indies is concerned, there is a feeling in the Law Faculty that Government is not giving the students in the Law Faculty the same aid that they have given the students at Cave Hill in the Division of Arts, Social Science and Natural Science. I do not know what the policy is. As I understand it, this Government says that once you are a Barbadian national you get your tuition fees paid, but I understand that it does not apply to Law. I know it does not apply. I feel that we should have a Statement on this because apparently some people seem to have got the impression that just as Government pays tuition fees in relation to a degree in Arts or Natural Science or any of the other Degree courses that are offered there, that Government should pay the same in relation to the profession of Law.

I understand there is a serious crisis at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica in relation to the Medical Faculty, that there is a notice in circulation in the Medical Faculty that as a result of the

decision of the Government not to send more money to the Medical Faculty this year, many students who are sitting their second M. B. examination - and there are about 110 of them taking this examination - unless something is done very soon, it would mean that after you have sat this examination you will not be able to get into the clinical studies for your Final M. B. Money was promised so that they could enlarge the intake of people to do their second M. B. and it was recognised that you would have to expand your clinical facilities. I know that notices are up on the Board, and they are having Faculty meetings about it now, and that students who are taking this examination in March are in a serious state of disarray, because even if they pass their second M. B. there is no guarantee and

they have to start applying to the Universities or Hospitals abroad. It is a very serious thing; I do not know how delicate negotiations are, but this is a very serious thing because if they do not have enough clinical facilities to cater to their third year students, they will find themselves in a lot of trouble. This is a matter on which I would really like to hear the Government.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, this Vote to the Item causes me some concern because it states that the allowance payable in respect of Exhibitions tenable at Approved Independent Secondary Schools was fixed at \$25 per term in 1965 when the policy for assistance to these schools was devised. At that time the fees charged by these schools ranged from \$20 to \$80 per term. The fees payable during the academic year just ended ranged from \$80 to \$125, and the proposals for increases effective from September, 1970 indicated that the range of fees will become \$35 to \$150 per term. The first thing that strikes me is that between the years 1965 and 1970 the school fees have gone up by almost 100% from \$20 to \$80 per term to between \$35 and \$150 per term. 9. 40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the first thing that struck me on reading the Notes to this Resolution is that in the space of five years the maximum fees payable per term has increased to almost 100%. If one were to take a close look at the Independent Approved Schools one would find that in the period 1967 to 1968 there were about 16 of them. One can clearly see from the very nature and existence of at least 10 of these schools that they are filled with children from working-class homes. Now, the Ursuline Convent, St. Winifred's, etc., by their very nature and existence cater to children from the middle-income group and the other 10 cater to children whose parents are from a different walk of life; therefore, one finds that a situation has developed in Barbados where certain people who are now called upon to pay an increase of 100% in school fees within a period of five years are the very people who cannot afford to pay for their children's secondary education.

Sir, I say that the time has come when the Government must take a close look at these Independent Approved Schools. These schools are exploiting the people in this country, and they are not providing valuable educational service. It is a joke to expect a child going through these schools to get a job in Bridgetown. Whatever the educational set up is in this country, our educational system is still geared for 19th -Century education and it is not coming to grips with our requirements. (Asides) I do not expect the Leader of the House to say that the 19th-century era was a good one. He was the first Minister of Education in the first Government, and I believe that it is due to his lack of an educational policy that the situation which we find today has been allowed to continue.

Sir, this Government, after ten years in power, has failed to provide a proper educational policy. It is not a question of merely building schools now and then. It is necessary to have an overall educational policy to deal with the educational requirements of this country. As the Leader of the Opposition has

said, the first question is that of zoning school children. (Asides.) Some members of the Government are shaking their heads, but what are they doing about the situation? If you are afraid to tackle our educational problems, then we on this side will not be afraid to tackle them in 1971.(Asides.)

Sir, it is because of the lack of an overall educational policy that this situation has been allowed to grow in this country. It is a situation where people who are not qualified to obtain certain jobs in Bridgetown have decided to open schools. This system of allowing people to open schools and call them High Schools has to be reviewed. We can no longer allow the masses of this country to be exploited. I do not care which political Party they belong to; it is unfair to allow them to exploit the masses of this country, particularly in the field of education.

If one were to look at any of the Reports issued by the Ministry of Education on the 16 Approved Schools one would see the position. There was a teaching force of 309 people and 74 only were trained teachers. That sort of thing cannot be accepted by us. This Government says that it is a Socialist Government; some members of the Government talk about giving people free education and about the number of places provided in the Grammar Schools, but the Government has not provided sufficient places to meet the demands of this country. Do not talk nonsense about having no funds. How can this Government spend the amount of money it is spending on overseas representation and then talk about not having funds to do this and that? It means that the Government has its priorities wrong. The Government is spending \$3 million on overseas representation and it does not want to provide more places for the children in this country. Nobody who attempts to think of Socialism could ever put his priorities in this way. (Mr. WEEKES: Funds;)

Sir, it is strange to hear some of the utterances coming from some members in this House. I should like the hon. member to go to any part of St. Philip and tell the people that he is in favour of the Government spending such a large sum on overseas representation rather than providing secondary.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I never said that the Government has no funds. I said "funds". 9.50 p.m.

We can only spend a reasonable amount, because the resources of the country cannot afford more.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

The hon. member may be true in saying that we cannot spend more on education, and it is for this

very reason that it should be spent wisely and you have to have a proper sense of priority. It is far wiser for the Government to concentrate on the education of the people of this country rather than squander money overseas. When I was in New York I slept in the house of the Ambassador, and it shocked me to believe that a country of the size of Barbados could have a house furnished in that manner. Before you get in the house you step on carpet and throughout the house there is nothing but carpet. Are you telling me that the Government is really spending that money wisely overseas and leaving the people of this country uneducated? This is the sort of mentality you have in the Democratic Labour Party. It shows that they are bankrupt of any sort of progressive ideas, and that the sooner November 1971 comes, the better for this country, because it is quite clear that they are now incapable of handling the problems of Barbados in 1970. They are just spending money here and there without any proper planning. You must have a proper planning to ensure that you get the maximum service from your money.

With respect to the sixteen Approved Schools having twenty-four per cent of qualified teachers, can you imagine that a Government could publish a Report saying that they have three schools operating which do not have one qualified teacher? That is a situation that this Government allows to exist in this country. These people should be brought before the Court for obtaining money by false pretenses. This cannot be fair to the taxpayers.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, would the hon. member state what he means by "qualified"?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Whatever the Ministry of Education means by "qualified", I mean by "qualified", because I can only go by the Report issued by the Ministry of Education.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the point I am trying to establish is that in this Report the word "qualified" does not mean that the people are not certificated, but that they do not have an Erdiston Training or Teacher Training at the U. W. I. or some other place. A teacher with a higher Certificate is not a trained teacher nor is a teacher with a B. A. degree. I think we should get the record straight. What the Report means is that the people have not had special Teacher Training.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at it this way: there are teachers, there are certificated teachers, there are qualified teachers and there are trained teachers. A teacher is considered qualified if he goes to Erdiston for training or if he has had special training at the U. W. I. or some other University and gets a Teacher's Diploma. You have the elderly people in these schools with Rawle training, then you have those with

Erdiston training.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I can hardly hear the hon. member who is addressing the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Hon. members will remember that, in order to accelerate the training of teachers, this Government reduced the time in training for teachers at Erdiston from two years to one year because we saw the need for the training of teachers; but even then it was represented that a year's training was not enough to equip them with the training they should have, and this is not a situation which is peculiar or unique to Barbados. This is the situation all over the world where there is a shortage of teachers just as there is a shortage of nurses and doctors. I do not think, therefore, that it is fair to press that point unless we look at it in its true perspective. Obviously this is happening because they are not specially trained, but it does not mean they have not got a Higher Certificate.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Let us be realistic. You are either going to have trained teachers teaching people or you are not going to have them. You cannot have them overnight. You did not come into power overnight, but you have been in power for nine years. Are you training enough teachers to meet the demand of the population? How many people in these Independent Schools are really trained? If a man has a Higher Certificate, is he a trained teacher? (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS No.) Either you are going to have a system in which you will insist on people being trained or you are not going to have it. What is the purpose of having some teachers trained and others untrained? Of course you deliberately refused to pay teachers properly. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR I do not know that.) You would not know because the best thing that ever happened to this country was when they removed you from the Ministry of Education. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. junior member for Bridgetown still addressing the Chair?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Yes, Sir, as soon as hon. members keep quiet,

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will the hon. senior member for St. James please refrain from these loud asides? 10.00 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

As I was saying, this whole idea of just saying because a person has one or two Ordinary Level subjects that he is a trained or qualified person is a joke. If you look at the situation in these Independent Schools, a lot of the people do not have more than two or three subjects at Ordinary Level; so it is wrong to allow these schools to exist, exploiting the people of this country. You have a situation where in five years' time school fees can go up by almost 100%, and if the Government was providing places for Secondary Education themselves this could not happen, and these Independent Schools are only existing because of the failure of the Government to provide proper places for people reaching Secondary School age. If the Government had overall planning, this sort of situation would not exist. I would like the Minister of Community Development to say if the majority of his children do not come from the country districts in this country and if they do not come from working class homes. When I say "working class", I refer to the agricultural labourers and people in a similar position, and it is these people who have to pay this \$150 per term - which would clearly show that this Government is allowing a section of this community to obtain money by false pretences.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to get the record straight. I think there is undue criticism levelled at the Independent Secondary Schools. Nobody in his right senses in this country would say that the Independent Secondary Schools have not made their contribution to Secondary Education in this country. Even this year the student of the year at the University of the West Indies was a Federal boy; so that is another school that has made its presence felt in this country. Let us go ahead. There are about 70 Private Schools in this country; there are some with 20 children and some with 100. What I am saying is that a lot of those schools are not Approved Schools. Why is it that Government is taking time out to approve some of them and the others are not approved? Before a school can be approved in this country, it must satisfy the Ministry of Education that it has a certain amount of class room area per child.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I heard the Minister say that there are 70 Private Schools, but this list only shows 19 Approved Schools.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am not saying that all the Private Schools are Secondary Schools; there are some 16 to 19 of them that are approved, and before these schools are approved they have to satisfy the Ministry of Education that there is a certain amount of classroom area per child; they must satisfy the Ministry of Education that sanitary arrangements are provided in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Health before they can be approved. They must also satisfy the Ministry of Education that the teachers are of some quality and are qualified to teach in these schools, and this is why many of them that have

applied for approval have not yet been approved. They must also satisfy the Ministry of Education that there is adequate playing area for the children. Every year these schools must send in a report to the Ministry, of Education whether they are placed in the waste paper basket or not; but there are a lot of questions asked every year by the Ministry of Education. They must also satisfy the Ministry of Education, before approval is granted, that they have been able to gain a certain average percentage Passes in subsequent public examinations held by approved Examination Boards. For example, a school must have been getting Passes at the most difficult examination to write, and I refer to the London General Examination, which is more difficult than the Oxford and Cambridge Examination. Its syllabus is wider; for example, in the easiest subject -Scripture -where in the Oxford and Cambridge you do St. Mark's Gospel and the first half of the Acts, you have to do the whole of the Acts plus all the Synoptic Gospels and the entire life and teaching of Christ. In English Literature you might do two books on Shakespeare and some other prose or verse of some sort; you have got to do three or four for London General because the syllabus is much wider and there is a lot more work involved in preparing a child for this examination. The point is that most of the schools write the Oxford and Cambridge Examination because they shy away from the London which is a more difficult examination than the Oxford and Cambridge and because the Oxford and Cambridge Board would only allow them to write their examinations after they are approved by the Ministry of Education. 10. 10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, before they are approved by the Ministry of Education they must satisfy the Ministry on the points I have mentioned earlier. They take the London Examination twice a year, but they must satisfy the Ministry of Education that they have attained a certain standard in school. Last year there were 16, but others may have been approved subsequently. It is not fair, therefore, to say that the schools are exploiting people. I am referring to the Approved Schools.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to allay the fears of certain hon. members on the other side of the House. Let us look at the system of education in this country and at the results obtained in the Secondary Schools in this country. Look at the results of the Common Entrance Examination and see what is happening. The cream of the children will go to Harrison College, Lodge, Queen's College and then you will step down the ladder and send a few to St. Michael's, Combermere, Coleridge/Parry, the Alleyne School, and the remainder are sent to the Comprehensive Schools and so on.

I am saying that the hon. member is making an unwarranted attack on Independent Approved Secondary Schools. I know that the little Private Schools get those children who are considered to be outcasts, or the children who cannot benefit from a Secondary education. (A sides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

While a member is addressing the Chair, all other members must be silent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for the City said that these Independent Approved Schools are exploiting the people Now, it will cost not less than \$500 a year to send a child to Harrison College, Combermere or Coleridge/Parry. You expect the Independent Private Schools to do a similar job, but in many cases some of them do a better job than some of the schools in which \$500 a year is spent on a pupil. Now, five years ago the children were charged \$20 a term and since then we have had two salary revisions. Teachers, Nurses and Stenographers have had a better break than other Civil Servants. The hon. member should not criticise the assistance rendered by these schools.

Mr. ELLIOT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I was criticising the fact that the schools assisted are not properly staffed and are not worthy of the assistance they are getting. The majority of the staff should have at least a Higher School Certificate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Nobody with a Higher School Certificate will go into a Private School in this country and work for what he would get as a beginner in the Government Service. Any boy who goes to the Federal High School, the Modern High School or the Washington High School with a Higher School Certificate is getting a better salary than he would have got if he had entered the Government Service. I am saying that the salaries of teachers have trebled and more than doubled.

Now, the basic salary paid to a boy with a School Certificate is \$160 a month to start with, and for every subject he gets an increment. For English he gets a double increment. If he has a Higher School Certificate for every subject at Advanced Level he gets a double increment. If a boy goes to a school with 5 subjects at "O" Level he starts off with \$190, and if he has three more subjects at Advanced Level he will start off with \$250 a month. If you want to attract that type of boy to teach in a Private Secondary school you will have to pay him more than \$250 a month. A few years ago a boy would work for \$130 a month, but he will not work for that nowadays.

Mr. Chairman, it is not fair for the hon. member to say that because some schools we re charging \$5 a term five years ago and they are now charging \$35, they are exploiting the people. The expenditure is certainly greater than before. With reference to the results of examinations, I can say that when a boy goes into a Private Secondary School, the teacher has to use a lot of midnight oil to take him up to School Certificate standard. The job of a teacher in an Independent Approved School in this country is much mo re difficult than that of a teacher at Harrison College. 10.20 p.m.

The hon. member can criticize as he likes, but I am giving the fact. Now I want to answer the question raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church about payment of the teachers. First of all, the Ministry does not pay any teachers in any Private or Independent school. It tries to encourage the school to get the best qualified staff, and gives a grant towards the best qualified whether certificate-wise or Trained Teacher, and it does not pay for a Graduate, either. The grant given to the schools in respect of the qualifications of the teachers is far below what is paid to a Graduate in this country. They give up to the maximum of what a teacher would get when he left Erdiston before the last salaries revision, which was \$360. I want to tell hon. members that at some of the Independent Schools some of the people on whose behalf the grant of \$360 is given were receiving far in excess of that \$360. The other point I would like to make is that the Government makes a subvention towards the payment of the teachers in the schools in respect of the qualifications of those teachers submitted by the schools to the Ministry of Education. Obviously the school is going to submit the best qualified teacher or the teacher with the most experience. Twenty-four per cent of the 309 teachers you talked about are not young teachers who went to Erdiston and came back to the schools, but are old retired teachers. That is the only type you are going to get. Most of these qualified teachers are teachers that you could not send into your Fifth Form because some do not have a Secondary Education. They had Rawle training, but did not go to Secondary Schools. They may have left school at the age of 15 and started to teach and came up the line. When you talk about teachers not receiving the salary, they are retired people and the assistance is given to help the school so that the school can use that money to the best advantage. What the schools have been doing is keeping these people in the First Form where they do half a day's work because most of them are 65 and 70, and they do not pretend to have the energy of a youngster. How can you give them a better salary than a person who has a School Certificate? The Government has seen this and has established the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Say what you like, it is not fair to criticise them.

Mr. Chairman, many a boy today holding high office in Government or in the banks is the product of a Private Secondary School. Your humble servant is a product of a private school that is now closed, one called the Regal School in Welchman Hall. I think that that school has made a contribution to this country even if it only produced me. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Reporter would not be able to write if this noise continues.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have answered the question of the qualified teacher.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I just want to put one question to the Minister. He has given from his personal experience of what happens at the Secondary Schools. What I would like to find out from the Minister is whether it is not within his experience that the majority of children going to these Secondary Schools are the children of the working-class people.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member got up before I finished, but I do agree that the majority are of working class people.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister also agree that for a domestic and an agricultural worker to pay \$450 a year for one child is really far too expensive?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Do not answer that yet I heard you say that children are sent to Harrison College, Queen's College and other Government schools and the dregs are sent to the Approved Secondary Schools. How is the selection done for schools like Mapps and Presentation College?

Hen. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Parents are told that their child has qualified for a Bursary and asked to signify what school they would like to send the child to. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY That is not true). Mr. Chairman, I am saying what I know happened. If something other than that happens, that is beyond my knowledge; I am not responsible for it. On each form the parent is asked to indicate his preference of school. If a child says he wants to go to Presentation College, he is sent there, obviously because the parent would be willing to pay the extra money for that child. The Government would pay \$25 as it stands now - and \$40 after this Resolution is passed - and the parent would pay \$80. I want to point out, however, that the schools that charge \$80 and \$150 are not those that cater to the children of the working-class people. The maximum that is charged by the other schools would be \$55 per term which is charged at the Modern. Before the revision Presentation College was charging \$70; I am not sure what they charge now. 10.30 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am sure if the Hon. Minister checks, he will find that there are three choices given, and it is not generally known by children that among the choices you can pick the Independent Government -aided Private Schools because very many people put down all three Grammar Schools. Many people would have taken the subsidy if they live in the Christ Church area, for instance, and send their children to Mapps; but they put down all Government Schools.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

This is most strange because the whole procedure, at least up to 1966, was that when a child qualified for a Bursary you sent a list to the parent of all the Independent Schools and asked them to choose one.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, these are the schools that cater to the working-class group and these are their proposed fees

Schools Proposed Fee

Christ Church High \$45-50

Community High \$50

Co-operative High \$48

Federal High \$45 - 50

Industry \$35

Lynch's Secondary \$45

Modern High \$55-60

Seventh Day Adventist Secondary \$36

Unique High \$40, 48, 54

Wakefield High \$50

Washington High \$45, 50

I have just called the small ones that cater to the people in the group specifically mentioned by the hon. junior member for the City. Here now are the other big schools.

Schools Proposed Fee

Codrington High \$75-100-125

Mapps College \$150

Presentation College \$80 - 100.

Schools Proposed Fee

St. Gabriels \$65-70-80-

100

St. Winifred's \$90 - 96

Ursuline Convent \$100 - 110

120

You can see that any school to which the average working-class man's child goes, the highest a child pays at that school is \$60 per term. The point that I am making is that you are spending over \$500 per annum on a child at Harrison College; how can you expect a child in either of the other schools to be educated at less than \$200 a year and given proper education? It is not fair, if you are spending over \$500 a year on a child at Harrison College, Combermere and these schools, and the Private School is charging less, to expect it to do the same job.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Would you admit, therefore, that the Private Approved Schools have become aware of the need for educational facilities in Barbados and are exploiting this need?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I want the hon. member to know that if he takes a glance at the statistics for the past ten years he will see that the Approved Independent Schools have done better than some of the Government Schools; even at Advanced Level, five years ago at least, all the Private Schools got better results in English and History at Advanced Level than Harrison College. Take a look at the Modern High School and the Federal High School. It is not fair to say that those schools are exploiting anybody; it is fair to say that they are providing a much needed service in this country, and they ought to be congratulated for the service they have given to this country.

Now I am dealing with the recognised schools in this country, not those that spring up like mushrooms overnight. There is many a boy in the Civil Service today holding a high office, and only last week in the list of promotions boys from Harrison College and Combermere were promoted to the post of Tax Officer. There are more people working in the Service from Private Schools than from the Government Schools; has the hon. member never heard of Doriel Beckett or Esther Archer?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

You see, the people from the Government Secondary Schools are receiving a better education and getting the better paid jobs with the Airlines and in commerce, and those with inferior education which they received at the Private Secondary Schools go into the Civil Service.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Even the post of Chief Education Officer is held by a product of a private school, the Barbados Academy.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Let the hon. member say how many children leave the Private Secondary Schools every year and what percentage of them are being taken up in private industry. If you look at the Civil Service in the upper grades you will see that the majority of them come from the Government Secondary Schools; they go out and get a degree and come back at the administrative level while the other boy is still at the bottom.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I said earlier that the cream was taken off and sent to Harrison College, Lodge, Combermere and the other schools; therefore you will have to accept that the Private Independent Schools are still providing a service. 10.40 p.m.

These schools provide people for the higher echelon of the Public Service; so somebody has to provide for the other group. If some of these students come in with a School Certificate, they will start at the bottom like everybody else. There will always be a need for these schools in this country, and I know that they are filling a gap.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that these schools are filling a gap. Will he agree that they are only filling a gap because of the lack of the Government's educational policy?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot bulldoze me into agreeing with any nonsense. You will find Private Schools all over the world. You will find Private Schools in the Metropolitan countries, but the hon. member is getting on as though Barbados was discovered in 1961; He is acting as though he thinks his Party could have done more for education in this country. They had it for years.

Mr. St. JOHN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I challenge the Minister to state the 17 years.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

They had a say for 17 years, but they had the Government officially for 15 years. Look at the advance education has made under this Government. Can you expect the Government to provide more school places? Look at the amount spent on education by the present Government. This Government has done what that Party said could not possibly be done. There is no alternative to this Government, so far as education is concerned. Do not try to drag a red herring across the trail.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a useful and interesting discussion on this matter. I think that hon. members will understand the information they have been given with regard to the educational policy of this Government. Even if they are able to take over the Government in the 21st Century, they will not be able to do better than this Party has done in its educational policy.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister whether he would admit that the reason Independent Schools came about was due to the lack of a proper educational policy on the part of the Government. He spoke about the Metropolitan countries, but he has not said anything about Barbados. I say that the Independent Schools are exploiting the people in Barbados. When you compare the amount of money paid to the University, even at the Law. Faculty, for one year, you will see how unfair things are.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the University is subsidised by the Government, and it receives grants from certain

organisations. Private Schools do not get grants from organisations. I have never seen more ingratitude than I have seen dished out today to Private Schools by a person who is supposed to be a spokesman of the people in the City and they ought to have given him a mandate to come here and congratulate the people for what they have done.

Mr. Chairman, when I used to be a headmaster, the hon. senior member for the City would call me and say: "Edwards, there is a poor girl at the Nightingale Home who has ability and you must help her. " Many of them are now working at the City Council, in the banks and in other places. This is what I call ingratitude on the part of the hon. member. The hon. senior member for the City will tell you that on several occasions he has called upon me to help people who could not afford to educate themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I am referring to people who could not have gone into a Private School during the regime of the Barbados Labour Party. You will find an Acting Assistant Secretary in the Ministry and other people who could not make the grade in some of those schools, but they turned and entered Private Schools and made the grade. Such people would have been looked upon as outcasts under the regime of the Barbados Labour Party, and they had to depend on Private Secondary Schools in order to obtain their Certificates. When the Headmaster at Harrison College said that no good could be done for certain students, they came out and made good in other Secondary Schools. 10.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the only person in here who is not convinced that the private schools have made a contribution is the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, quite unlike the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, because the senior member will always admit that had it not been for the Private Secondary Schools in this country, a lot of people who are today somebody would still be down.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

There are two things I want to say to the Minister. The strength of his argument does not depend on the loudness of it. Secondly, Sir, I do not like this selection of persons from a school. I would give way to the Minister if he could give me a list of persons who entered school, went right through and left and are qualified today and what positions they hold. Just taking out this person and that person is not good enough. Certain people would succeed, no matter what school they attend; so you should not take one out of 400 or 500 and try to justify the existence of the school. These schools cannot be justified anyhow, because when you look at it, it is \$180 a year being paid by an agricultural worker, and there are some times three or four children coining out of one home. The position is, Sir, that these schools are being run like a commercial business in Bridgetown. This idea of telling people that you are providing educational facilities is a lot of rubbish, as far as I am concerned. I know of the existence of some of them and I know the finance of some of them, and they are run on a profit and loss basis. Somebody cannot make a living out of something else; so he starts a school and exploits the poor people of this country. Let us get down to the true significance of the Minister's own statement. He said there are

sixteen Independent Approved Schools, and he also said there are 70 Private Schools in this country.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I have made it abundantly clear that the schools concerning which I spoke were the schools approved by the Ministry.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Let me ask the Minister this question. If as the Minister says they have nineteen Approved Schools.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

These 19 Approved Schools have been ringing in my ears for nearly eighteen times - which certainly happens to be breaking Standing Order No. 36 (1).

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

What am I repeating?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have been hearing about 19 schools and sixteen schools from the hon. member repeatedly.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

You do not understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I do understand, and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw that I do not understand.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I withdraw the fact that you do not understand. The Minister said there are 19 Approved Schools. You did not hear the point I was making, but you want to stop me from saying it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I say it is repetitious.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

What is repetitious about that? (A VOICE You cannot quarrel with the Chair.) You cannot tell me that I cannot quarrel with the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If the hon. member gets on in this say, I will have no alternative but to ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

It would not be the first time or the last. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I would like to do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Well, do so.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

If hon. members will keep quiet. What I am saying is simple. The Minister said there were 19 Approved Schools and went on to say there are 70 Private Schools. From his very argument of the existence of schools other than the Approved Schools, hon. members will see that the Government is allowing schools to exist in this country that are not up to a certain standard, and therefore over 50 schools are allowed to exist at a very low level and are exploiting the people of this country. That is the point I am making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That point has already been made by the same hon. member, and if the hon. member proceeds for another few minutes and cannot find anything new to add to this discussion, I shall ask him to discontinue his speech under Standing Order No. 36 (1).

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I respect you; I will not argue with you. But have you heard me mention 70 Private Schools today?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member is addressing the Chair, he must not be walking around as if he is on a political platform. He has to face the Chair and have some respect in here.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Sir, we are dealing with education and the only contribution the Minister can make is a statement like that. (Interruptions.) You will tell me that I cannot talk, but you will not call hon. members to order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock tomorrow, 21st October, 1970.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

10. 58 p.m.

On resumption.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

HEAD 39 - Ministry of Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When this sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was about to address the Chair, but he is not now in his seat.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether Government has had an opportunity to check on certain things. A lot was said yesterday about the functions of Independent Approved Schools. There is no doubt in my mind that these schools have made a contribution to education in Barbados, but I think the point we should not lose sight of is the fact that they are making a contribution in an area which is really an obligation on the Government. I agree that two distinct types of schools can be discovered from an examination not only of the school fees that are paid in relation to one type vis-a-vis the other, but also of the fact that one can look at the background of the children who attend both types of schools.

Mr. Chairman, I had hoped that by now the Government would have seen that every time it opens a Comprehensive School, the number of children attending the other schools has a tendency to drop. It would seem to me that the building of Comprehensive Schools and the provision of more places for children will be the answer to this problem in order to prevent people from being dissatisfied with what takes place in some schools. There are still, I would say, a small proportion of parents in this country who feel that their children should not be educated at the State Schools, and I would hope that the Government would attack this matter boldly and set about building more Comprehensive Schools at a quicker rate than the rate at which it is building schools nowadays.

Sir, I have gleaned from the speech of the hon. Minister that there is no doubt about it that 90% of the children who attend these schools cannot benefit from the academic type of education which the schools give. If that is the case, then we should not allow all of these children to take that type of education when the teachers in the schools know that 90% of them cannot make the grade.

Mr. Chairman, I have had a discussion with the Principal of one of these schools, and I share his view that the Government should endeavour to provide technical education in these schools. I refer to subjects such as Geometry, Drawing, Domestic Science, Woodwork, Metalwork, Elementary Electronics, etc. It is in these areas that he feels the Government could provide help to the schools. They would then be in a position to widen their curricula from which the students would be able to benefit greatly. There is no point in having the teachers of these schools directing their energies towards an intensive tuition merely to bring a small number of boys up to academic level.

It is not impossible for a human being to sit down and devise a selective system which takes care of the various kinds of development in children. Some children develop so quickly that others look like idiots; some develop between 16 and 19 years; some develop between 17 and 18 years, and some develop later. I think the policy of the Government should be to provide and give assistance to this alternative type of curriculum. This is something that is causing a lot of heartburn to certain children.

Now, there are technical wings for Woodwork and Metal work. About fourteen technical wings we re given to the Government by A. I. D. as long ago as 1960. The contract was awarded in 1960 and they were constructed in 1961. It is agreed by all educationalists that little use has been made in the schools in which these wings are situated of the career possibilities which these wings should encourage. I am told that children who manifest a great interest in this type of education - it does not matter the kind of background from which they come - are only allowed to do three years of that type of work, and when they reach Third Form around the age of 14 or 15 they are cut off from pursuing that course up to G. C. E. level. That is not good enough because there are other examinations to be taken after that stage.

Mr. Chairman, the same Headmaster told me that he would like to see an arrangement worked out whereby a curriculum could be devised so that Independent Schools could team-up with the Grammar Schools and allow children to go over and continue their studies. If that were done, greater use could be made of these facilities, and children who had a talent in that direction would be able to do a full course up to G. C. E. level. That is why some children who get 5 subjects in the G. C. E. are reducing the school population.

Sir, the hon. member has given statistics in this House. If a plan could be devised in relation to what has been said around this Table, then I think a larger number of children would benefit from this type of education. Secondly, we are going in for industrialisation in this country, and we have to intensify labour. We have a tourist industry, and one of the greatest sources of revenue for people in a country concerned with tourism is to encourage tourists to buy arts and crafts made locally. In all of these schools such subjects as Commercial Art and so on should be taught. The U. S. A. have granted scholarships to people in this country. Several people have gone to the U. S. A. and done Arts, but it seems to be regarded by certain people in Barbados as a second-rate curriculum.

Mr. Chairman, a boy or girl can leave school with three subjects and get an advanced education in other schools all over the world, because it is recognised that certain courses can carry them in that direction. 3.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we are still forcing too many people along these academic lines, and I would be happy if this matter is rectified.

Finally, do not let us fool ourselves. The Trade School that has been established is only a palliative, and the 400 children that are in it are just a drop in the bucket of trying to solve the matter. It is very insignificant in relation to the demands of Barbados. You do not need one Centre; you do not need 500

places; you need 5,000 places, and you need them not at Centres in Bridgetown. You cannot get a child from St. Philip, Christ Church or parts of St. Lucy to come to that Centre; so you must have three of these Centres in geographical areas in relatively close proximity. There is a wide variety of areas, in my opinion, where the Government can use this assistance to channel these Independent Schools into fields which they know are useful in Barbados because we are only fooling the children, fooling their parents, and bringing up a body of frustrated young children who are being forced to take this type of academic education because their parents do not wish them to be at home, and would like them to be under supervision until they reach sixteen or seventeen, and we are not really catering to them.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I think it was in 1962 when the present Government - I think the Leader of the House was then Minister of Education proclaimed that it was contrary to the policy of Government to have Government-aided Secondary Schools. In other words, the then Minister of Education set out as Government policy that education at the secondary level was to be free for all. Quite conveniently the Government turned its eyes on its ten Grammar Schools which were then Government-aided and made it possible for education at these institutions to be free to the children entering the rein, but the Government then in its wisdom, looking on the other side of the fence, came up not with Government-aided schools, but with Government-assisted schools, and they ended up with 17 of them.

Now we do not for a single moment oppose any assistance given to the 17 or 18 Approved Schools, but what we are insisting on as from this moment is that the demands of the children make it imperative for Government to set about immediately approving more schools as quickly as possible.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the Government does not refuse to approve schools that have attained the required standard laid down by the Minister of Education; so if the schools reach that standard, they are automatically approved. There are schools that had been applying for approval for years that did not reach the standard, and as soon as they reached the required standard laid down by the Ministry of Education, they were approved. I do not think it is right to say that the Government should set about approving schools, because it is no point approving something that has not reached the required standard. The hon. member may ask why does Government not close down the others; but if it does, "they would be the first to say that we closed them down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Education has set out on paper what are the required standards, but the Ministry's own schools do not measure up to these standards. There is a little truth in what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said, but the whole truth of the matter is that application is made and there is too much bungling in the Ministry of Education to determine what are the accepted standards. One would have thought that if a proprietor of a school knows that there are twelve conditions set down with which he must comply if he wants approval, he would certainly try to adhere as closely as possible to those twelve conditions. One would also have thought that attaining those twelve conditions would make approval automatic, but there is a lot of turning and twisting around. There are schools that made application and were inspected and re-inspected, and then somebody else had to go and carry out another inspection while the applicant went on waiting. As the Minister said, there are schools that have been applying for years, and we are saying that they have met the set standards for years, but have not been able to get approval and one of the conditions not written is partly political.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, this is not true. There is no private school which has applied and has met all the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Education that is not approved. If the hon. member can bring one case where a school- has met all the conditions and has not been approved, I will resign my seat immediately.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, threats of resigning a seat do not mean anything. Let the Hon. Leader of the House who was Minister of Education get to his feet and deny that schools have applied that have met the conditions laid down and have not been approved.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do deny it. 3. 20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

And I will tell you this, if the applications were made between 1962 and 1965.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

On a point of order, I know of no school which met all the conditions and which applied for recognition and was refused; certainly not during my period as Minister of Education.

Mr. HINDS:

I am not surprised at all, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister did not say that this school applied during his term of office; it would have been easier for him to have said so. Are we to understand that the people who keep these Private Schools are such nincompoops, are such novices that the Ministry of Education has set down certain conditions - and let us ask ourselves this. These conditions that are set down by the Ministry - the Ministry would hardly ever require a school to meet conditions that it is known the school could not meet and when we bear in mind that there are already 17 or 18 that have met these conditions, what are we to understand? Are we to understand that all the others are such fools that they know they cannot meet these conditions and still apply? That is not the case; what we are saying is that some, including the Government Schools that have been granted approval, could not stand the examination and meet those requirements that the Ministry is now setting.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, if this were the case the approval would be withdrawn. The schools have got to send in Annual Reports and, as I explained yesterday, if they have dropped in any way in the standard set by the Ministry of Education, approval is withdrawn. I will give you an example; there is a school which was established in Collymore Rock and it moved to another part of Bridgetown. When it got there it was short of four toilets, that is, it had four toilets fewer than what was provided at Collymore Rock, and approval was withheld until the school had those four toilets. Although that school was approved since 1959, in 1968 it did not have the required amount of toilets to suit the number of children, and the point is that when a further approval was applied for, the new regulations asked for four more toilets, and until that school had provided the additional four toilets, it was not then approved by the Ministry of Education. It is not fair to say that some that have been granted approval could not pass the test now, because if they do not reach that required standard approval is withdrawn. They are given a limited time in which to measure up, and they do not measure up approval is withdrawn.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that the present method employed for inspection leading up to the granting of approval needs a considerable amount of reviewing. I am satisfied because I am closely associated with a number of Private Schools that have not been approved, as well as with some that have been approved, and I have done a lot myself to help some get approval. The Leader of the House is saying that I have done a lot to help some schools get approval, and this is true; I have done a lot in this respect. What the Government should do is to have a representative on the Governing Body of each school that is being assisted by Government; it happens in the United Kingdom and it happens in the United States, but in those places schools that are assisted get what you call direct grants, and not the way we do it.

There is further a necessity for the broadcasting of the curriculum at these schools. We say that the curriculum must be broadened with a view to enabling parents to have a wider choice when their

children go to take the Common Entrance Examination. It is not good enough to approve these schools and not make it known to parents that these schools have been approved, because it is not doing either parents, children or the schools any good. One would say it is the school's duty to make it known that it has been approved; the school has a duty in that respect as well, but I feel that there ought to be a register posted somewhere, and an Annual.

Report - we cannot depend on the Ministry of Education for Reports; nobody can depend on the Ministry of Education for Reports because the latest that they have turned out in 1970 is in respect of the years 1967 and 1968, still leaving the years 1963 to 1967 unaccounted for. 3.30 a.m.

This Ministry is not prepared to keep proper records, and we cannot rely on it to do anything. (An Hon. Member: It is too busy providing school places.) We are now hearing about a lot of school places, but those children who can get in to occupy them are leaving the schools and wandering about the streets as a disappointed and frustrated lot, having a warped idea of what the State and society owe them.

Mr. Chairman, our view is that the curricula at some of these / Approved Schools are geared to suit what the senior member for St. Andrew told us last night. These Approved Schools receive the outcasts or dwarfs because the cream is taken away. Since this is so, it would appear that we need Career Masters and Mistresses to visit these schools and interview children during the first week they enter the schools with a view to seeing what they are inclined to do so that a child would be trained to take its proper place, whether it is in woodwork, bricklaying, tilelaying and so on. A child can then 'grow up to be a master mason and demand a price for his labour. A child should be trained to take his or her rightful place and demand a fair price for his or her labour. The sooner the Government looks at things along these lines, the better it will be for all concerned.

Now, we have our Housecraft Centres where our girls attend and take courses in Domestic Science. We feel that enough is not done for these girls after they have taken these courses. You have girls who have received Grade A Certificates at the House- (Craft Centres working as domestic servants. I am not prepared to say the number of hours they put in by day and by night, but they are paid less than \$12 a week in Barbados. (Asides.) That sort of thing has been going on at Plantations in the parish of St. Peter. The only other avenue that is open to these girls, if they are single and have no children, is to go to Canada or the U. S. A. if they have an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that bogus contractors have used the office of the Labour Exchange in order to recruit people to work in the U. S. A.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I object to the statement made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. I refer to his statement regarding bogus contractors. Before the Labour Department allow anybody to recruit people in Barbados, he or she is checked out by our Embassy in Washington or the U. S. Consulate in New York. I understand that there are people operating unofficially in this Island without the permission of the Ministry of Labour, but I have not been able to trace them. Nevertheless, I have been told that people have offered to take others to the U. S. A. for \$400 or \$700. If the hon. member is talking about that sort of person, I can say that I understand that it is happening in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I think that three people have been given permission to recruit labour from Barbados; they all have a good reputation and are certainly placing people in the U. S. A. The only delay is the question of obtaining visas. We have people in Philadelphia and in New York working on this matter. The jobs have to be certified by some Authority in the U. S. A. When the jobs are secured the people concerned are then given visas to go to America. It takes nine months in some cases before some people can leave here and go to America to fill jobs. I do not agree that the people who have been given permission by the Ministry of Labour to recruit labourers are bogus contractors.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am asking the hon. Minister who has just sat down whether during his term of office his Department had permitted a woman from the U. S. A. to come to Barbados and use the office of the Ministry of Labour for the purpose of allowing Barbadian workers to go there and sign contracts. I am also asking whether it is a fact that, after the contracts were signed, the Ministry discovered that the contracts were bogus ones.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

I deny that.

Mr. HINDS:

If the Minister says that he does not know about it, I will allow it to pass. 3. 40 p.m.

The hon. member is saying it did not happen.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

What I am saying is that two women had been given permission in my time, and another lady, Paula Courtenay, who had been recruited from Philadelphia, was granted permission to come to this country, and as far as I am aware, the contracts are not broken.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, what exactly is the Minister denying; Could we be told by the Minister what he is denying because he says he knows nothing about this?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is the duty of the Chief Labour Officer to give a monthly report to the Minister on what happens in the Department of Labour. At no time as Minister of Labour when people were giving assistance to the recruiting of workers for the United States was I advised by the Department that there were bogus contracts signed. I have 100 per cent faith in the present Labour Officer, the officer who was there before and the one who preceded him, and on no occasion was I advised in any report that such a matter took place; and we get monthly reports from the Labour Department.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I will get on to something else. It is regrettable that there are not wider avenues open to our young women after they have received such confident training in Domestic Science at our Housecraft Centre. And despite hearing from time to time that the Ministry of Labour has found employment for X number of persons during the month, it is pretty sad when one has got to take the figures of unemployment for the particular period and attempt to relate these figures given by the Ministry. What we are saying is that in the same way you find our girls are leaving some of these Government-assisted schools yearning to become Nurses- but there again they have spent a number of years in school and have left without any certificates; or anything upon which they can pin any hope, judging by the standard of the Tutors and the Examiners who interview them before they are accepted for the Tercentenary School of Nursing or for our school at the Barbados Mental Hospital. I am not saying that the Private Schools are the only schools where children leave without Certificates, but what I am saying is that it is a very sad reflection on our whole educational set-up. We want the gearing of curricula throughout the Island at all our schools. We know that the U. W. I. has from time to time been asked to assist in matters of this sort, but we are not satisfied that the persons rendering their services are people who are sufficiently in touch with the hops, requirements and aspirations of the people with whom we are dealing - the dross type that are sent to the Approved Schools. We are hoping that in the not too distant future a very bold effort will be made so that we can project that at the end of the 1970-71 school year or 1971-72 school year, we expect to turn out so many in this particular field and that particular field, and can begin to search corresponding avenues in which to place some of these people, and not leave them to become despondent over a period of time by not having something to do.

Mr. Chairman, as to school fees and the amounts being charged by these various schools, we have heard that the \$150 and \$125 do not apply at certain schools, but it is about time that Government set about coming to grips with a situation such as this. Government must accept its responsibility to educate the nation. Private Schools must and will spring up; they will render service in their respective spheres; but these schools thrive because of Government's neglect in other fields. It is all right to charge \$150 per term, but some people have three and four children to educate. Where is the money to come from? Government must move to see that all schools are properly staffed, taking its own into consideration as well. 3.50 p.m.

We are not suggesting that you can walk about the streets and get staff, but since the University of the West Indies has come into existence, since the Erdiston Teachers' Training College has been in existence, we feel that we have the nucleus for training teachers, and since the future of Codrington College is somewhat in abeyance, Government must act to see if we cannot enter boldly upon teacher training in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, and using Codrington College buildings to help us in this particular respect. It might not on the surface appear easy; it might be a difficult task; but we still feel it is worthwhile trying. There is the question of proper staffing, and if some schools are to charge fees while Government is giving education free, but at the same time Government is prepared to subsidise those schools that are charging fees, we have got to standardise those fee-paying schools, and Government must move in this respect. if you see the staffing of these schools, you should know the type of result to expect; and if you know what result to expect; you know how far Government should go into it by way of controlling the whole situation.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to enter in this debate at all, although I have had a number of years in the teaching profession. There was a lot of sense and a lot of meat that we can take benefit from and advantage of in what the lion, senior member for Christ Church told us in Committee, and I understand very well all that the hon. junior member for St. Peter intended to let this Committee know, but I did not want to get up at all because the Hon. Minister of Trade has all the answers.

Mr. Chairman, it is no easy matter when it comes to Private Schools and the type of school that charges \$150 per term; in every country, barring a Communist country, no Government can deal with that effectively. We have been told by the Minister who knows, the Hon. Leader of the House, that the amount of money paid out for Bursaries remains constant; therefore if some members of the public elect to send their children to these schools, there is nothing Government can do about it. I can imagine a situation where some entrepreneur as a schoolmaster would charge \$300 per term and yet would have his school filled, while the amount for Barsaries as given by Government could very well remain constant. Private Schools in the United Kingdom, United States and Jamaica, which is nearer home, charge fees that we call exorbitant, and no matter what Government would give scholarships, the amounts could not be scoffed at, for these schools will continue to charge such exorbitant fee sand have

the schools reasonably filled.

I was on the Governing Body of Lodge School some years ago, and I remember making a remark about Codrington High School. I told the then Bishop of Barbados, now deceased, that no girl of my pigmentation could enter Codrington High School for girls. Today the situation is much changed because girls of not so white a pigmentation are being admitted to Codrington High School; you have the same thing at St. Winifred's and some others. The Government of Barbados could have no easy task in controlling the amount of school fees paid per term or per year when it comes to these schools. Do not let anybody fool himself; we are an agricultural community; we have a developing tourist trade. We are not really industrialised; we do not have any natural resources; but we do our best taking advantage of what we can get by way of personnel with expertise and money from international agencies, and we struggle, fight and wrestle for the best.

Education is a matter that is continually developing, and I see a lot of what the hon. junior member for St. Peter said. We are on the spot and we know what we want, but I would never like to live to see any country with a Government of expertise. I myself am no expert in education; I was a practising teacher; I tried to teach and I know what we are up against. It is not an easy matter to solve, and I accept the criticisms offered by hon. members of the Opposition. The Minister of education will hear what was said and will take cognizance of the contributions made by the hon. members. 4.00 p.m.

My colleague on my immediate left, who is not as far removed as a practising teacher as myself, has spoken quite confidently and competently on this matter. I have appreciated everything he has said. Everybody in Barbados likes education. Barbados is more educated than any other country in the world; Education in this country is free, and I do not regret that. I am a Democrat and I believe that everybody in this country should have a say. I also believe that the Opposition especially should have a say, whether I am on the side of the Government or on the said of the Opposition. I have been on both sides on more than one occasion. I pay my respects to the members of the Opposition when they are not haranguing us, but when they are haranguing us I have absolutely no respect for them. I have respect for them when they are saying things that will keep us on our toes. I must say on their behalf that today they have been contributing something to the debate. They have been talking intelligently and they have not been electioneering today. (Asides.) I am not the kind of politician who is always electioneering, and at this stage of my life I shall not do that. I do not want to pick out any individual, but I can say that what I heard from the hon. senior member for Christ Church and the hon. junior member for St. Peter was something good. I did not hear what was said by the hon. junior member for the City.

Mr. Chairman, I think today will be the last time in history when we will be sitting around a round table, and I hope that we will soon resume in our own Chamber. All that has been said by the Opposition I take in good grace and in good faith, and I believe that the person in charge of this portfolio will

reconsider certain things and meditate of them. I have not meticulously criticised what hon. members on the other side have said, but I hope that I will have more than one occasion in the future to congratulate members on the other side for their contributions to debates in this House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, my task has been made much easier by what has been said by certain hon. members. Some of what I would have said has already been said on both sides of the House. The Government's policy of assistance to Approved Secondary Schools was set out in a White Paper which was laid before this House in 1965, and paragraph the most significant aspect of that document is that the policy was to be reviewed in five years time. I can tell this Committee that the Minister of Education is at the moment reviewing this policy, but because of certain circumstances - (Asides.) The hon. member said that it was better not to rush the Bill through.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has thought it best to proceed with two things to increase the value of Bursaries and, as we did last year, to increase the number of Bursaries. (Asides.) An hon. member is asking me if I can give him a breakdown of the Bursaries tenable at the various schools. I think I can safely say that Bursaries are tenable at all Approved Schools. Despite the fact that the time for review is now - and it should be a general review instead of a piecemeal one for certain reasons which hon. members will appreciate, we have decided on two things last year: to increase the number of Bursaries from 1,500 to 2,400, which the House approved in the last financial year, and we are now asking to increase the value of individual Bursaries.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

You have 2,400 Bursaries and 700 are at the Grammar Schools. It means then that there are roughly 1,000 children who sat Part II of the Examination and did not make the grade.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes. As the Hon. Minister of Trade has explained, a large number of children go to the Comprehensive Schools and become the A stream of those schools, and those below that grade are taken over by the other schools. I was saying that the Minister of Education is at the moment reviewing this whole policy. I expect that the Ministry will take the trouble to set it out in the way in which it was set out for the approval of Parliament in 1965. It had to do with the revision of examination fees, permission to import duty-free bonafide machinery, the award of Bursaries, and soon.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt about it that the scheme has worked well, but it could not conceivably cover and resolve all of the problems that arose. First of all, the Ministry laid down a policy as to what

its standards are for a number of schools, and it has to stand by that policy. I think that certain rigid standards had to be adhered to in relation to these schools, and a certain amount of rationalisation had to be done in respect of our own schools so that they should not shelter under the privilege of being Government Schools and produce shoddy work. 4.10 p.m.

I also take the point made by the hon. senior member for Christ Church very well that we do not perhaps make as full use of the Industrial Arts Wings as we should. I am afraid he may not know this, but we are up against a certain dead-weight of professional opinion. I remember when I was thinking of this problem a few years ago, it was seriously told to me that the purpose of having Woodwork and Metalwork shops was not to produce any sort of vocational training, but that they should enable pupils to have what they called a good all-round general education. I never saw that then, and I do not agree with it now, but this was what was seriously said. The purpose of it was not to turn out Metal workers or good Wood workers, but to give them a good all-round education in much the same way as you introduce them to Biology, Spanish, English or whatever it is. When you get professional people feeding you this kind of advice, you can only override them on policy-which, I think, we have managed to do in this respect in that some of the Primary Schools in the areas adjacent to these Secondary Schools have in the last four or so years been using the facilities of the Industrial Arts Wings, The point is a good one that it should be extended to them, and I will draw this to their attention; but I really want to make the point that this is a policy which is now being reviewed. One aspect of it has been taken out because of the present necessity to help pupils meet these goals.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church asked two points in respect of the University. One I am able to answer, the other not. We have as a matter of policy decided that the priorities for the study of Law are not perhaps as great or pressing as for expertise in other fields which the University caters to; consequently we decided not to pay or subsidise except in a general way through the University the teaching of Law, and certainly not to award Bursaries or to pay the tuition and examination fees for this subject. We feel that for Engineers, Doctors, Accountants and Business Managers this would be justified, but we do not need lawyers in precisely the same way or to the same extent.

The other matter I tried to get some information on, but what I have got is rather sketchy. I have been told that with all these Doctors, doing their clinicals is not a problem that affects the Teaching Hospital of Barbados, but is partly a domestic Jamician situation which the Government of Jamaica and the University are trying to resolve; but my information is, and I am checking that out further, that so far as opportunities for Barbadian medical students to do their clinicals in our Teaching Hospital is concerned, we have not yet exhausted our full quota and there will be no hindrance or barrier to them, but that some problems exist in Jamaica which are of a domestic nature, and very serious, which the Jamaica domestic nature, and very serious, which the Jamaica Government and the University are trying hard to resolve.

The question that Head 39 - Ministry of Education - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 41 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare -was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving, the passing of Head 41, Item 190 - Tennis Courts -this amount of \$2,715 is a revote to pay outstanding expenditure in connection with surfacing two hard tennis courts at Lodge School.

Under Item 256, the Public Health Engineer's office is being set up on a bigger basis, and although we had voted some money, there are certain items of furniture which are necessary in order to put the office on a proper footing. The items include one filing cabinet, \$ 90; one drafting unit with stand and drawing board, \$320; one draughtsman's chair (adjustable for height) \$85; a roll of drawing material, \$29; sheet goston backing, \$750. The items are all there which the Public Health Engineer needs to set the office on a proper footing. We have advertised for a Public Health Engineer Assistant, but I do not think we have filled that post yet.

So far as the ex-gratia awards of \$2,618 under Item 256 C are concerned, during the last financial year Supplementary Resolution No. 79/69 was passed under Head 41 for the sum of \$12,850 to effect payment of ex-gratia awards to displaced agricultural workers in the former Northern and Southern District Councils. The necessary vouchers were prepared and sent to the Accountant General who issued them for payment, but at 31st March, 1970, five of these expenditure claims had not been cashed by the respective payees and were therefore cancelled by order of the Accountant General. There is no provision in the current year's Estimates from which this expenditure may be appropriately made. The names of the workers and the amounts are as follows: Mr. Charles Wiltshire, \$400.40; Miss Vera Trotman, \$572; Mr. Granville Franklyn, \$467.15; Estate of Gladstone Griffith, \$605.75; Miss Emiline Best, \$572, making a total of \$2,617.30. That is the basic information. If there is any more information, hon. members would like, I will certainly try to give it. 4.20p.m.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

On the question of ex-gratia awards, I want to draw to the attention of the hon. member the case of our mutual constituent, a gentleman called Mr. Mayers who comes from St. Patricks. He was recruited by the Southern District Council in 1959, he worked for ten years and is now 71 years old. Apparently he was recruited and went right through but is not eligible for any pension, but I understand an ex-gratia

award is suitable and I hope this will be granted. The senior member for St. James also has a similar case. But I want to deal now with tennis courts.

I am very glad to see the Government is granting this money to the tennis courts at Lodge School, but some time ago I raised the question of the general provision of tennis courts, and I asked why is it that part of Scarborough grounds could not be used for a hard court which would serve a large area the re, and why is it that a comparable centre could not be used in St. James. I see the Hilton Hotel built a tennis court one week, and four months afterward it was Abolished; so it does not take so much time. You, have the proper ground machinery and you are able to lay out a court, fence it round and have it fixed up, but we want somewhere where young children can go; if we do not provide facilities for young children, we are encouraging them to indulge in the pastimes of today, and everybody is not going to be able to get on a Saturday morning from Christ Church and St. Philip to the Harbour, and even if they do, it would be a waste of time because there will be a lot of people there before them; so there should be more tennis courts. We do not even have a Social Centre in Christ Church at all. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You will get it.) That is what gets me fed up and frustrated. From the time I came in to the House I was hearing this. The land was acquired about four years ago; so I do not know what the delay is.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

If the hon. member would give way, what has happened is that just as we were about to begin work on these Community Centres and playing fields, we discovered that the Labour Welfare Fund from which the money came to do these things was overdrawn by something like \$36,000, and we have not yet got the release from this year's sugar levy, or whatever you call it. As soon as we get the release we will start work on these areas; there is going to be a shortfall due to the heavy burning of canes, but I understand that the money will be released to the Government some time in November, and I promise the hon. senior member for Christ Church that as soon as we get the money released we will start the work.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the Minister who has just spoken has only recently been Minister of Sport; it was during my time that this was started, I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church about the policy of providing tennis courts. It is all right to get in here and talk, but very often there is no money. When you see the cane fires burning all over the place it means that there is no money. In so far as the Gall Hill Housing Area is concerned, the hon. member is no more anxious to get it than I am, and I am also trying to get one for St. Patricks. Negotiations for the Gall Hill area have been going on for about four years and the acquisition took place about two years ago, but the re is no money to level the land and do the work.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

I understand this question of the Rural Amenities Fund, but I really feel that in the context of today

Government has got to decide its priorities, and I feel that whereas in the past it may well have been all right to decide that you are going to tie your Amenity Department to the amount of money you get from the Rural Amenities Fund, today we have got to decide that the provision of amenities is a general charge upon the revenue of this country. It is important because Town Planning is not helping in this respect. Hon. members do not know what is happening with Town Planning; Town Planning is giving permission for developers to develop at an intensive rate of development, and large numbers of young children are being brought together, but no proper provision of amenities in the developments is taking place. It is an acute problem in my area; it is an acute problem in Regency Park. You go in Regency Park and you see children running up and down the streets; something could happen and you will have to decide in your mind that you will have to abandon the Sargeant's Village playing field and decide if there is some recreational facility which should take place there; but it is not big enough for anything else. In United States of America the regulations are very specific on this, and I brought down something on this and I will deal with it at another time. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I heard from the other side, while senior member for Christ Church was addressing this Committee, that there is no money to provide tennis courts. I should like to know whether there is not a "carpet" for a playing field in St. John to accommodate the playing of tennis and volley ball near the hon. junior member for St. John's house. From 1966 I brought a question in this House asking for a playing field in St. James. I took the hon. Junior member for St. Philip to Thorpes to show him where land was laid out. It would not have cost the Government \$2,500 to do the job. A playing field was put in St. John, but one cannot be put in St. James. Why?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the Gall Hill/ St. John playing field was talked about from 1952, long before the hon. senior member for St. James came into this House.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, the Gall Hill playing field was there long ago, but I am talking about the Barber Green courts that are now up there. New pavilions and so on have been constructed in St. John during the period 1956 to 1970.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

It is not finished.

Mr. CRAIG:

Are you taking part in the debate, Mr. Chairman? Do not involve yourself in this matter; You are the Chairman of the Committee, and it is your duty to keep order; you cannot get involved in this debate. Mr. Chairman, it is not a question of the Government not having money to do these things, but it is a question of fixing priorities to suit certain people.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in order to have the 12 communal baths built we had to agree to spend \$200,000 out of the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. CRAIG:

It is the taxpayers money. Cut down on your trips abroad; reduce the Heads of Governments' parties, and get some of the children off the street. Go down Westbury Road and you will see children playing tennis in the street. I understand that some of them are arranging Road Tennis Tournaments. Since 1956 nothing could be done for my constituency. Mr. Chairman, the land is there; I had to take my lawn mower up there; I had to go to the Harbour site where E. A. V. Williams is working and beg for an old net with holes in it so that people could play tennis.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is under the impression that I am still the Minister. The Minister of Trade is the Minister for him to deal with. I want to make it clear that during my term of office I saw the Gall Hill/St. John area done; the Gall Hill Housing Area was acquired for \$50,000; since then another one was acquired compulsorily, and one was acquired at Farmers. There is no money at the moment to do what the hon. member wants.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, it is not my fault that the Prime Minister shifted around his Ministers. He should know who is an honest Minister in the Ministries and whom he should watch. I was promised that it would have been done. Perhaps I will have to Barber Green the area. I know that they gave the fishermen a little shack. The Leader of the House told me "Lionel, have no fear; you can rest assured that I will have something organised". I asked the then Minister to accompany me to St. James. Four years ago we went and looked at the land, but nothing has been done up to now. For what are you waiting? You cannot stop me from getting by in St. James. (Asides) Why say that you do not have the money to do this when you can find money to do other things? I was the most amazed person when I passed through St. John and saw the Gall Hill set-up. If I come over to the other side, will you give it to me?

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I think I should advise the hon. senior member for St. James that Mr. Mayers does not belong to my constituency. I was assisting him to get an ex-gratia award. He was employed by the former Southern District Council; he was given a temporary appointment as a caretaker at Bath at the age of 59, and he continued to work until he had attained the age of 69 and, therefore, he was not entitled to pension. 4.40 p.m.

Since then the Scavenging Department is responsible for public baths and the head of that Department will now have to deal with this matter, search the records and recommend Mr. Mayers for this ex-gratia payment.

Mr. ST. JOHN:

On a point of order, I have investigated this aspect of it, and I am convinced myself that he would not get much progress unless he went to the Interim Commissioner and let the Interim Commissioner bring the matter up.

Mr. WEEKES:

I would also like you to know that I have discussed the matter with the Interim Commissioner and he has promised to do his utmost for Mr. Mayers. I want you to know that in this particular case I am not parochial. I consider myself as a representative of Barbados, and not of St. Philip.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I hate to prolong the debate, but there are just a few points I would like to make. The hon. senior member for Christ Church always contributes something to the debate when he talks. He said something which I have always been saying. When you have rural amenities like tennis courts, they tend to take youngsters off the street, and that is why we put street lights in the country areas because we cannot build Social Centres in all these areas. Far from serving their specific purpose, they are used as dance houses. We have therefore put lights in various areas where people can play dominoes and cards. (Asides) The hon. member cannot say a word because we have installed some 325 lights from Black Rock to St. Peter. I would like hon. members to stop being parochial when it comes to this particular point because it affects all of us. Barbados is my country. I have travelled extensively and I have made up my mind that I do not want to live anywhere else but in Barbados, and whenever I go out I will come back here.

Mr. Chairman, cane burning has been a source of trouble, not only to Government, but to the entire community, and that is why we cannot provide as many social amenities as we would like, because, as the Minister of Health has said, there are no funds in the Labour Welfare Fund which comes from sugar

cane. People think that when they burn canes they are spiting the Democratic Labour Party, but they are spiting the whole country, and I am thinking seriously about this bringing of people from other countries, because it has been pointed out tome that when a person comes here and lights the canes, he is nothing to do with the economy of Barbados. I am not saying that it is the St. Lucians who burn the canes, but we have to take another look at the matter because these people could not care less what they do. They make a quick dollar and go back to their country. They work for over \$1/2 million in about six weeks' time which goes out of the country.

The Hon. Leader of the House made a point which I have been considering for years. The hon. senior member for Christ Church said that the Town Planner is at fault. I am not saying anything against the Town Planner because he is my friend; but what I am saying is that in their planning and exuberance they seem to forget that they should provide playing fields, and as a result people have to play in the road, and that is why Government is getting lashes. We have laws governing these matters and I think we should get some school boys to go around and made sure that people who have permission to build are complying with the regulations. Today there are fifty persons in a parish who have contravened the building regulations. We cannot push the houses down; but nobody goes to check, and they build as they like. I saw a house built almost in the road and I have asked about it; but the man cannot now push back the house. In all seriousness, I think we need to tighten up on the regulations. They are not being enforced because the Inspectors apparently do not go around enough to see what is going on. As a Government we have to accept responsibility for something we do not know about.

What I would like to say to the hon. senior member is that it looks as if we will again have to take money from the Consolidated Fund just as we did in the case of tenantry roads. This was not done as a political gimmick, because I honestly feel that the people in the tenantries like anybody else voted for members of the House, and they are entitled to have some of the benefits of the country. There is no reason why we should have good roads in Hastings and in St. James and not in some of the areas in the back, but we can only do what the physical and financial resources can afford. I am sorry the hon. senior member for St. James is not here, because he raised a hullabaloo over the Gall Hill Playing Field. What I would like to ask him is, if he were in Government, whether he would do something for me in the Opposition before he did it for himself. We are politicians and we have to be realistic. The people elected us to rule and we are going to rule. However, I do agree with the hon. member that we will have to use money from the Consolidated Fund to provide playing fields and tennis courts because every parish should have at least one or two. This is what we are planning to do.

Mr. St. JOHN:

This is where you get frustration because you get these amenities in certain areas, but immediately above them there are none for the general area.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I agree with the hon. member, but he is not the only person being frustrated. We in the Government are frustrated because we passed laws to do things and they are not started and the money lapses. It is not that we do not know what we are doing, but we do not have the physical resources. We cannot get Engineers because they are like Specialist Doctors, and what we will have to do is to bring in Engineers as Consultants. We are not going to get Engineers coming into the Service when the firms offer so much money. 4.50 p.m.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have heard the speech made by the hon. senior member for St. James, but we have had a wonderful spate of burning last year which has put the Labour Welfare Fund down to nothing. I was very glad to listen to the speech made by the hon. member; we have had a spate of burning in this country this year, and when I went about St. Peter on the day of the flooding, I was in Boscobel and I was thronged by a crowd of young people pressing me for a playing field. When this Government realised the financial state of the Labour Welfare Fund, and I realise that we have got to have playing fields in certain areas, and in particular at Boscobel, St. Peter - I realised this when I heard individual members speaking on behalf of their constituencies - but nobody would have to be a Minister to realise this. The Prime Minister can make a Minister, but the people have to elect a member; therefore first things first. Every Minister has the same duty to his constituency as any other member of Parliament, but we have to do some hard thinking and some hard planning. Speaking as Minister of Agriculture, I know that the spate of cane fires has precipitated the imbalance of nature, especially in the parish of St. Philip. The rains have come, but that has not solved the problem. There are two extremes; so we will have the problem.

I do not intend to preach to Parliament because, we are not going to lecture to members in here. I would not be so conceited as to think I could lecture to this House of Assembly, but we can exchange ideas and put argument against argument. I know my place, but the position is this, that we have got to provide these services and these amenities. Mr. Chairman, let us tell our constituents the facts; that we have got to provide these services and these to tap before to provide amenities, because we do not provide manna any longer. There cannot be any electioneering with this; we have to be realistic and factual.

Sir, I am in agreement with all that the junior member for St. Peter has said about the amenities; only today a private source contacted me and offered assistance in providing a playing field in St. Peter, and I have to scrutinise it and see about the land if they will let him build anything on it without contravening existing regulations; but it takes time. I have never had it easy and I never heard I could win, but I am accustomed to hearing that I am going to lose; I have never won yet, but nobody can stop my colleague from addressing the Chair. We are a tolerant body in here; if we were not so tolerant, the hon. junior member could not retain his place so long. 5.00 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I heard comments about the parochial attitude of certain members. I am guilty of that because not only have I been sent here to represent the people of Barbados, but also the people of Bridgetown. If my constituents represent to me that they need certain things, then I think it is my duty to come to this House of Assembly and communicate the matter to the Government. I say that because I want to talk about certain representations which have been made to the Housing Authority regarding the provision of hard courts in Chapman Lane. I believe that they want a basketball court as well as a tennis court. These representations were made, I believe, by the Elks Sports Club through Mr. Chesterfield Morgan who runs the Club. He spoke with me regarding the question of obtaining hard courts for basketball, net ball and lawn tennis. I think it will be useful if the Government will investigate this matter.

Mr. Chairman, a team from the Elks Sports Club plays basketball, but the conditions under which they have to practise are not good. I am convinced that if they were given proper facilities in which to practise and play basketball, they could easily become one of the best teams in Barbados. I need not press or elaborate on the need for facilities for the people in Chapman Lane. I believe that Chapman Lane has more children than any other area in Barbados. When the hon. Minister was Minister of Housing he was taken to Chapman Lane, and I am sure he is aware of the need for such amenities.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, representation has been made in respect of flood- lighting for the basketball field, but I do not remember any representation made for hard courts. We looked at the playing field to see whether anything could be done to improve it, but we found that it was below sea level and that little could be done to improve it. Mr. Morgan told us that he had a tournament to conduct and he wanted floodlights on the field. At the time there was no vote in the Housing Authority to take care of the lights, but the matter is under consideration. I do not think it would be advisable to construct hard courts on that spot. If we were to put down Barber Green it would be washed away by the first flood.

The question that Head 41 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 45 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism Community Development and Youth Affairs - was called.

Hon, A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 45 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTILE Y:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if we can get some information from the Minister responsible for this item as to how far the arrangements have reached in relation to the setting up of the Prices Commission and the composition of that body.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Commission was established, and I believe it was published in the Official Gazette. There were two members from the Barbados Workers' Union, two members from the Consumer Co-op - -

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members and the Reporter at this end cannot hear you. (Mr. St. JOHN Political appointments.)

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Do not worry with the names.

The question that Head 45 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Annexed Estimates - (l) Post Office -was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Annexed Estimates - (l) Post Office -stand part.

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. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for \$616,008 do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

5.10 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 5 Head 102 - Communications and Worfes - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 102 - Communications and Works, stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

Head 103 - Health and Social Welfare - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 103 - Health and Social Welfare -stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, there is certain information we would like to find out from the Government. The note to this Head says that this Resolution seeks to provide the sum of \$500,000 to meet expenditure in connection with the construction of the Barbados National Stadium. It goes on to say that the increase in estimates of cost over the original estimate is \$310,175. We have never seen the plan; we do not know whether or not a written contract was awarded, and those are things we would like to find out. We want to know whether a written contract was awarded, to whom was it awarded, what was the contract price for the building of the Stadium, what was the estimated length of time for the building of the Stadium under the contract, whether the written contract provided that the Stadium should be finished by any given day, and if so, whether the contract provided penalty clauses if the Stadium was not finished by the given time. I believe that the question of penalty clauses for contracts not being concluded within a given time may be something which the Government should consider, particularly when they give to private enterprise the building of these things. We would like to see the specifications if the Minister has them with him, because it is beyond me how anybody could plan to build a Stadium and then come to the House of Assembly to ask for \$55,000 to install turnstiles and \$55,000 to install gates because it must be part and parcel of the architect's plan and the surveyor's estimate to take into consideration the fact that you are going to install gates and turnstiles at the Stadium as part of the original plan.

On the question of access roads, are we really to believe that engineers could design a Stadium without taking into consideration the whole question of access roads? I think this is a way of getting money out of the Treasury by false pretences, and so long as the Government allows engineers to treat them like this, they will continue to squander the taxpayers' money. No responsible Minister of Government would allow anybody to start building a Stadium unless he took into consideration the question of gates and turnstiles. I think the time has come when the House of Assembly, rather than improve money for Building these things, should insist that the plans be given to members of the House for us to see, because if the Ministers do not care about this, certainly we in the Opposition care about squandering public money like this, as something is bound to be wrong. You cannot have an estimated price at the beginning and then come back later and say you want more money to put in turnstiles and gates which are part and parcel of the very functioning of the Stadium.

With respect to the question of \$3,000 for the official opening, let me say here and now that I do not agree with the Government of Barbados in asking Prince Charles to open the Stadium. I think this is an insult to the people of Barbados. The only place in the Commonwealth in which this sort of thing can be done is Barbados. Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, the Government of Kenya opening a Stadium and

inviting Prince Charles to open it when they have people like Keino, a great marathon runner, to do it? Can you imagine a country like Brazil inviting a person other than Pele' to open their Stadium? We shout about national heroes, we criticise Garfield Sobers for doing this and that, and we do not respect him enough to invite him to open our National Stadium. We criticise him for going to Southern Rhodesia to play cricket; we say that as a national hero he should have more responsibility; but we find that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union who belongs to the Government Party can criticise Sobers for going to Southern Rhodesia, and yet this Government does not have enough respect for Sobers to ask him to open the Stadium. I think it is a lot of rubbish to ask Prince Charles to do it. What connection has Prince Charles got with this Country? 5.20 p.m.

While I am on the subject of Sobers, let me say this. I sincerely hope that this Government will stand up and support Sobers in anything, and I also hope that if Sobers is banned from Guyana, this Government does the same thing with any other players from the other Islands. If you have a lot of people talking about racial equality in countries, it is amazing when the existence of some of the other West Indian countries is based on racial inequality. I believe I am right in saying that my Party feels that this National Stadium should be named after the late Louis Lynch, one who has done perhaps more for athletics and other sports in this country than any other person, and I sincerely hope that on the opening of the Stadium Government will make an announcement that the Stadium will be named after Mr. Louis Lynch in order to commemorate the life of a man who has done so much for sport in this country.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there has been no more bitter critic of the financial planning of Public Works in this country than I have been, and I had hoped that after the experience of the Hilton fiasco and a number of other Public Works schemes in Barbados, the Government would have learnt that the methods of awarding the contracts for engineering works or architectural works left much to be desired, and that they would have improved their systems of operation; but I am sorry to see that in the case of the National Stadium, exactly the same thing occurred as in the case of the Hilton Hotel, and today we must prolong this debate, if necessary until the wee hours of the morning, until we probe to the bottom of this. Can you imagine, Sir, that you are spending your own money, you awarded a contract to someone to build before the details of the scope of the work to be done was agreed to? Can you imagine, Sir, that you would expect in your own business that you would be faced, before the contract is completed, with a 20% rise in the estimated expenditure which you were told your building was going to cost? Can you imagine, Sir, that you would spend your own money in a manner in which it is suggested that you are building a building which you hope in the future to get revenue out of and that your plans did not provide for a proper system of enclosure so as to ensure that the people coming in to watch the games were not able to get in free? This is a fiasco indicative of economic incompetent planning by the Government, and this is the second occasion.

It is significant that the Project Manager of this job is the same Project Manager at the Hilton Hotel and is the same Project Manager at Seawell Airport, The greatest gift from the gods that ever occurred in

Barbados is that the Caribbean Development Bank took Wason out of Barbados. This requires a very full explanation, and I am not waiting on any Public Accounts Committee on this; we want it tonight because I know a lot about the background of this. It was a fiddle from the word "go" and I say that Wason is the most incompetent engineer that ever held a Public Works post in the whole of the Caribbean area. He built a terminal building in St. Kitts and it fell down and had to be propped up; I know that is true. I say that his work in Antigua was the laughing stock of the engineers in the Caribbean; I know that, and I say that the Hilton Hotel was a national scandal riddled with corruption; and I say the National Stadium is exactly the same thing. I questioned the Minister of Finance about what he was allowing to happen at Seawell Airport where we are voting money and putting it under the same administration of Wason; I say it is a national scandal and the Prime Minister must be in cahoots with Wason. I am sorry the Prime Minister is not here. I want the Minister to explain this to us.

I can tell you the truth about the Stadium now. When the plans were first issued, they were in detail; a fiddle took place in the awarding of the contract to Rayside Construction Company which got into difficulty in the first stage of the contract. This difficulty was about the changing of the depth of the grades of excavation, and they decided to raise the level of the stands so as to get out of the problem of excavating the hard rock. All of this resulted in a complete change of plans because they wanted to ease Mr. Rayside. If you are awarding a contract to a man and you tell him he must excavate to a certain depth, if he meets hard rock that is his hard luck; he has to excavate to the depth you specified in your plans, -but he was eased because he is a friend of the Government. 5.30 p.m.

If it were another contractor he would have been asked to comply with the specifications. You could get a traxcavator and push it down. You have to get tough with these people because we hear members of the Government of this country saying that they cannot provide tennis courts in Oistins, St. Peter or St. James, but \$417,000 in additional expenditure can be provided for something else. Do you know how many playing fields you could have got in this country for that amount of money? Do you know how many houses could have been built for that amount of money in this country?

I will go further, Mr. Chairman. As the junior member for the City has said, do you expect grown men to believe that you would plan a Stadium in Barbados hoping that it would bring in revenue, and you would not put in your original estimate specifications and plans for gates? This is absolute nonsense; (Asides.) This is something that the Prime Minister should be conversant with. Of course, I know the Prince of the vagabonds in the Ministry of Finance. Is the Prime Minister going to allow another Statutory Board to get away with this, after what was done with the last hotel? After you have wasted a large sum of money at the Stadium, what kind of gates are you going to build at a cost of \$55,000? I know that in the Gold Coast in Ghana there was a Minister who had a gold bed. I suppose you will be having gold gates up there! Before we vote one cent on this, I should like to see the specifications for these gates that are going to cost \$55,000. The turnstiles are going to cost \$55,000; so you will need \$110,000 for gates and turnstiles.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

If you do a little arithmetic you will find that the figure is wrong. There is a typographical error here.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, the whole contract was a typographical error. I agree that landscaping, etc., may cost \$10,000 and it is not possible to put in the exact amount because nobody knows if he can use the same material for filling and so on. Was this done in accordance with the Robertson -Ward plans? No; it was done in accordance with another plan. Where are the plans for the National Stadium? Does any member here know that a puff of wind blew off a portion of the cover to the National Stadium a few days ago? This contract is so loosely drawn up that it is a contractor's dream. When you are dealing with these people you must make your architect pre-plan so that things will be reduced to a minimum.

Of course, Mr. Wason does not understand contracts at all. He will not remain one year at the Bank. If he is sent to Seawell Airport, a Resolution will be brought to this House specifically against the Prime Minister, and I will catalogue his failures from the time he entered the Public Service until now. I feel very strongly about this. We are not voting on this matter until the wee hours of the morning; we want all of the documents laid before us on the Table.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is with some regret that we have to approach a matter such as the National Stadium, which is intended to provide sport and entertainment for the nation, in an atmosphere, or manner such as we are doing here this evening. All of this is occasioned by the fact that it certainly is, in our opinion, not a straightforward approach by the Government in coming here to ask us to vote money without putting before us the relevant documents to which the senior member for Christ Church referred earlier.

Mr. Chairman, I have a document in my hand which states that the construction of the Stadium had been entered upon in 1968, and that the groundbreaking ceremony took place on the 14th December, 1967. In 1968 the construction of the 500-meter bellodrome was started. 5.40 p.m.

It was after all this was done that the idea then came that the Stadium should meet international standards, and the Prime Minister and members of the Government were approached and it was decided then in 1968 that an additional \$410,000 would be required to complete phase 1 of the project. One will agree, Mr. Chairman, that when we are asked this afternoon to provide a sum of \$500,000, we are well within our rights to ask how all this has come about. We have heard all sorts of explanations given for

the cause of delays from time to time, and it is now decided all so suddenly that since the Prince of Wales is to be in Barbados to perform this wonderful feat of declaring the Stadium open, everybody should put in a supreme effort to ensure that the Stadium can be officially opened by the Prince of Wales. We have got to make a supreme effort this afternoon to see that the money of the taxpayers will not be frittered away because of the coming of the Prince of Wales. He will not be used as a face-saver in a case such as this.

Mr. Chairman, we all agree that the Stadium is very necessary, and we welcome it. We agree it must cost money, and the members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce must be thanked for all they have done and are doing in this respect to provide us with a National Stadium with assistance from Government and the taxpayers of this country; but that does not give licence to the Project Manager or anyone else to give what we must insist on is a bogus estimate. We are told here that the increase of \$310,175 is an increase in the estimate of cost over the original estimate, but here in a document released by the Stadium Committee of the Jaycees, they tell you it is not \$310,175, but a straight \$410,000 that was decided on to complete phase 1. There is a lot more in it besides this. We want to see the contract, if ever there was a contract. We would like to see the original estimate that the Note tells us about. You cannot expect us to vote to increase the original estimate when you cannot produce the original estimate. When we see that the original estimate was reasonably spent, by all means we are willing to give you the additional money being asked for. The way the Jaycees tell us that the decision was arrived at to spend an additional \$410,000 on Phase 1 is not the way Government should go about this business. At no time did the Government think of telling the Junior Chamber of Commerce, when they invited the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance and his Cabinet, that at least the Leader or some member of the Opposition ought to be there to know what was going on because at some stage it would have to go to the Opposition. Instead, they met the Prime Minister and a decision was reached by them to spend an additional \$410,000 of the taxpayers' money, and you have decided to come here this evening with a Resolution. If the Prime Minister has it in his hip pocket, let him draw it tonight and let them have it; otherwise they would not be getting it by a vote of the Opposition unless we can see something to convince us that the framing of these Notes is not fictitious. In truth and in fact we ought to-be told whether there was an original estimate, and, if so, if it has been expended, whether the amount has been over-spent, and if so, by what authority you have done so.

Now there is an amount of \$22,000 for access roads. Any plan for the smallest building must have an access road, an entrance, exit or something, and in arriving at the amount of money the building is going to require, you must take into consideration the cost of building the same road to give you access to the building; otherwise the building cannot exist. 5.50 p.m.

Are you going to use a helicopter to get in and get out? How is it now that you have completed Phase 1 and you are now coming for \$22,000 to build access roads? Mr. Chairman, the same thing applies to your public address and sound system. There can be no doubt if the architects whose names are listed here Robertson - Ward, Gardener -Tomlin Associates, and all those people who were associated with the

building of the stadium, why is it at this hour that we are to be told that money is to be required to the tune of \$20,000 for public address and sound system? It could not have been expected in the drawing of the plans to get over the events at this Stadium without having a sound system and the public address system, so these are some of the things that would have to come first, you should not be looking about for money for these things now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I would like to be in a position to answer all the questions raised by hon. members. The affairs of the Stadium came into my hand only at the stage when this Resolution was asked for; so I have not been able to delve into the files to get the information you ask. I am going to answer the questions as clearly as I possibly can, but I think that in fairness to you, to the House, to the country in general and to myself, I should have time to get all the files on the Stadium and search for the information. You will notice that in my introduction I did not introduce it as I normally introduce my Resolutions; I just moved that it stand part. I think that in fairness to the House and everybody I should let this Resolution go over to next week. I move that further consideration of this item be postponed.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Two hon. members are on their feet; would both hon. members sit.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I am speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are two hon. members on their feet; both hon. members will sit.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I was speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I understand that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew rose on a point of order and I will not be challenged by any hon. member.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

The Minister can tell you himself he did not say so, because if he did I would give way.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

If the hon. membe would give way, and for the benefit of the hon. member, the hon. member asked for facts that I do not have, and I think in fairness to the House, I should have all my facts before I could reply.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I was addressing the Chair, and if anybody should speak, it should be myself.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, before you put the question I should like to draw to the Minister's attention a very important point which was made by the senior member for Christ Church, that the Government present this Committee with the contract. This is a very important point.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that further consideration to this Resolution be now postponed.

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

On the motion of Hon. J.C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. K.N.R. HUSBANDS, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply and the postponement of one, and Mr. DEPUTY

SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J.C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. G.G. FERGUSON, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

6.00 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 9 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item No. 9 is the instant Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Sugar Workers' (Provident Fund) Act, 1968 (1969-54).

SUGAR WORKERS' (PROVIDENT FUND) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1970

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a noncontroversial matter, as far as I am concerned. (Mr. St. JOHN There is a slight indiscrepancy; it should be Section 14 instead of Section 4.) That can be remedied. This Bill is to amend section 14 of the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act, 1968 (1968-54) to enable sugar workers who are entitled to benefits under the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966 (1966-15) to receive the full benefits payable under the 1968 Act.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I agree 100% with this Bill because the people in other areas of occupation who have private industry pension funds will get more money. What I am concerned with is that a large number of people are eligible under the 1968 Act; however, after a year's administration only about 1,500 people have been paid from the Provident Fund. A large number of people have been coming to me in connection with this matter. I asked the Secretary what is the problem, and he told me that they had been trying for the longest period to get an increase in the staff to process the applications. People have died without getting what is due to them. Do you know how much trouble it will be for their dependents to get the money nowadays? They will have to take out Letters of Administration. The Government should provide additional temporary staff to process the applications quickly.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

We are aware of the fact that there is need for more staff, but there is not the physical room in the Labour department for housing the staff. We have had long discussions on this matter. I think the hon. senior member for Christ Church raised this matter with me already and I explained things to him. Every Saturday I have a large contingent from my constituency coming to me. In my Ministry we are unable to get all of our staff into one room. We have not been able to accommodate our development staff in our Ministry.

Mr. St. JOHN:

We can solve this. All you have to do is to put a Labour Exchange in the Oistins area and one in the Speightstown area and prevent people from travelling such long distances to get to the Labour Department.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Sir, the point I am making is that we have done everything possible to assist the people. With respect to the Provident Fund, officers in the Labour Department are working overtime on the matter. Some time ago we came here with a Resolution to pay officers overtime. We have allowed them to work overtime in order to process thousands of applications. 6.10 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while we are dealing with this matter, I should like to draw to the attention of this House that there are certain Managers who are not cooperating with the Labourers, and consequently they cannot get the forms signed. In some cases some labourers have worked with three or four Managers, and the present Manager has to check back the records of the plantation, and daily people come to me complaining that the Manager says he has no time with that, he was not at the plantation at that particular time, and therefore he cannot help them. Some have brought the forms and asked me to sign them as a politician, but I have told them that this would never work with me. I think we have to go into this matter carefully and something should be done to assist these poor and, in many cases, illiterate people.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not officially allowed to speak again, but as a point of information to what I said, the problem is that this declaration has got to be filed. It is a statutory declaration in which you swear that the facts you have put down are true, and they are afraid to sign to this. They want you to say that the information is true to the best of their knowledge and belief. If they have to swear that the information is true and the Managers do not know the workers, then they are not going to swear.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we first started getting matters moving, forms were sent out to Managers at the various estates, but after those forms had been exhausted, I do not think a single Manager applied for more forms, whether or not all his workers had been served; and consequently workers have gone to the estates to be told that there were no forms, and that was the end of it. Some of them have not yet put in their claims because they do not know their rights.

One other point is that we have amended the Act, and I hope that all those people from whom deductions were made will be refunded the amounts immediately.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the hon. senior member for St. Philip has said is quite true, but what I believe has happened with a lot of these Managers is that they are annoyed because it is poor people who are getting the money. We cannot legislate for this. What I would like the politicians to do now is to appeal to some of these Managers. I know people in St. Thomas who suffer the same fate. The Manager says he does not have the time; he was not there during the period. I know an old lady who was in the Almshouse for nine months, has since come out and has not got her money. (Interruption.), I am saying you cannot speak after me because I move the Resolution.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

On a point of order,....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown has risen on a point of order.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

My point of order is that there is a submission by hon. members of the Government as to what Managers do and I believe every word they say. It is a serious admission that 7,000 people are involved and you should bring some law into operation to get something done.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

If you make this a law....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, this would not be a law to prosecute people. If you had a law saying "to the best of my knowledge and belief", that would finish the story.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we accepted that ever since. I was asking politicians to use their good graces in appealing to some of these Managers to help these poor people because we have passed a law. I should say that it is my intention to move a hut and put it on what was the tennis court at the Labour Department site. (Asides)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church that we have to look into this, but I want hon. members to give us their cooperation. We want these people to get their money. The Labour Department is cooperating to the best of their ability, but we know they need more staff, and I will move some into this small hut and see what we can do.

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

On the motion of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair, 6.20 p.m.

Clause I was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part; that the figure -."4" be deleted and the figure "14" inserted.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. N.W. BOXILL, seconded by Hon. A.DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. N.W. BOXILL, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

**RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE SHOPS
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDER,**

1970

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a simple matter. As we all know, about two weeks ago, when we had the flood, the shops opened all day on the Saturday; in order to make this legal and to regularise what took place, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE NOTE TO ITEM 2 OF HEAD
101 -
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PART 11 -
CAPITAL OF THE APPROVED ESTIMATES 1970-71**

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the passing of a Resolution to approve the amendment of the Note to Item 2 of Head 101 Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology in Part 11 Capital of the Approved Estimates 1970-71. Here hon. members will realise we are not asking for any addition to the vote; all we are asking for is change in the Note to Item 2, which reads "Provides for the purchase of imported animals including Canadian cows for the purpose of improving the livestock development in the island etc" What we are asking is to amend the Note which will now read "Inclusion of a provision for eight goats at \$150 each, 15 black bally sheep at \$60 each and provision for housing, fencing and irrigation for keeping 100 black belly sheep at the Six Cross Roads station, and \$6,000 for freight and insurance." I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the time has come when Government ought to carry out a survey as to the goat population in this Island. The goat population of this Island is decreasing very rapidly, and whilst we are importing bucks I am to urge upon the Government that it is time we get some does as well; this is no idle matter. Milk is what is foremost in my mind, and I do feel that if the peasants can increase their own milk production by keeping goats, it will help them considerably. 6.30 p.m.

I have one which has never bred, and it is giving me 51/2 pints of milk a day. The goat population deserves some attention because it is decreasing too rapidly. The Government should carry out a survey to see the position and give some incentive to people who are now keeping goats. Let us endeavour to keep our pedigrees up to standard. I think the Government now has a good chance to teach boys and girls something about animal husbandry. That sort of thing could create interest in the 4-H Clubs and so on.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Interruption) I am of the opinion that the hon. senior member for the City knows the sort of parliamentary procedure that one hon. member should extend to another. Getting back to the subject matter initiated by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I can assure him that my Ministry has been doing everything possible with regard to animal husbandry and the 4-H Club movement. We have a 4-H Club that goes on at the grounds of the Mental Asylum and exhibits certain things. We invite hon. member to come there once a year and see what goes on on the grounds of the Mental Asylum.

(Asides) The hon. junior member for the City should be there before the Minister gets there because he lives in closer proximity to the area. I am glad that this matter has produced so much enthusiasm. The Ministry is doing everything possible to facilitate the rearing of sheep, goats, poultry and so on throughout the Island. We are concentrating on the black-belly sheep in St. Philip. Some people believe that this species of sheep is indigenous. A thriving export trade is going on between Barbados and Jamaica.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 13 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item No 13 stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the expenditure required to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1970-71 Part 1 Current of the Port Department as shown in the Schedule to this Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge pf this Item.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Item. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection leave is granted.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE TO SUPPLEMENT ANNEXED ESTIMATES

1970-71

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution seeks the approval of a sum of money for the purchase of certain marine equipment for the Port Department. Hon. members will recall that in last year's Estimates there was provision under Item 66 for the purchase of a Band Saw and a Refrigerator for the Tug "Pelican." The equipment was ordered during the financial year but did not arrive in Barbados until earlier this year. We are now recommending that this Head be supplemented by the sum of \$4,187.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think this is a good opportunity to see what light the Minister can throw on the situation regarding the sheds, at the Port, the goods stored there, and the difficulty in having the goods removed. There is also a complaint that ships consigned to DaCosta & Musson, Ltd. are given the best berths, and ships consigned to other firms are placed at a disadvantage. It is not a case of choosing the best berths for ships according to the amount of cargo they bring, or whatever is the guiding factor; it is just a case where ships consigned to DaCosta & Musson, Ltd. must be given the first preference. I understand that Captains of other ships, the stevedores and other people concerned, have been complaining about this sort of treatment. In other words, the work is not done in any clandestine manner, and I feel that the matter should be investigated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is also the case of the storing of cargo in the various sheds. There is undoubtedly a lack of experience in dealing with this matter. I understand that in 1961 or 1962 we had the guidance of some officers who are no longer there, and I think the time has come when we need the supervision of an expert temporarily. If we have an expert at the Port for a short space of time to show the others how the work should be done, then they would be able to carry on efficiently when he leaves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as far as thieving is concerned, there have been instances where thieving has been of such a magnitude that it was thought better, apparently, not to enlist the support of the Police and to ask certain persons to tender their resignations. 6.40 p.m.

Nevertheless, all these things reflect on the good name of Barbados because in any case insurance claims and the like have got to come out. We are not in a position to say what the security personnel at the Port have reported; but we can say that all is not well there, and we would like to know that these things are remedied. There is some dissatisfaction among Shed Officers. There is still this unsatisfactory state of affairs where Customs Officers are being subjected to being searched by the Police, and these are matters which have got to be gone into by the Comptroller of Customs, as the men ought to be protected and given some rights. I would like to see these matters gone into with as little

delay as possible, because it does not become a Customs Officer to be himself searching people and then at a moment's notice, in the presence perhaps of the same people, he is subjected to being searched. We really do not know who is good from who is not good, but we do believe that in choosing an officer to serve at the particular Department there are lots of things that would be taken into consideration; so you should not put the type of officer that you have any reason to be suspicious of, and if you have reason to be suspicious of an officer, it would be well to have him removed from the scene of activity rather than have the disgraceful scene of an officer being searched at the gate. I would like to see these things remedied to protect the officer and uphold the integrity of his office.

On the matter of goods being stored in sheds, I have had the experience where goods have come here consigned to my business and the shipping agents did not notify me until the last day of clearance, and I was told by the shipping agents that it was just a matter of Courtesy that was being extended to me. I know that the Government itself has had to pay tax after the five-day limit. We would like to know what did go wrong in such a case. Was it a case that nobody was notified? I know what happened in my own case, and I believe it could have happened in the case of other people as well, but these are things which I would like to see remedied. I do not see myself going into the Court and asking anybody to give me back \$2.00. If the charge is so much for overstaying, I pay the charge and leave the Port. I would like to see these matters redressed.

It is good to see that the uniforms for persons working in the Port are being attended to, but we know that the Car Park Attendants are still walking about with big patches in their clothes. We would like the Minister responsible to have those things remedied as quickly as possible. I know that the appropriate Minister will see that Car Park Attendants get their uniforms. Similarly those who work in the markets as scrubbers and sweepers need their uniforms. They have been running me down, and crying out that they cannot get their uniforms, and when they see that the people working in the Port are getting theirs and they are not being attended to, they feel you are not doing justice to them. So I want all these things remedied as quickly as possible.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I myself have heard some of the comments referred to by the hon. member about the Port and about DaCosta and Musson usually getting the best treatment, but I cannot find any grounds for what is being said. The actually servicing of the Port is done on the 'first come, first served basis. There are certain cargoes for certain warehouses. With the exception of ships of certain tonnage, ships come alongside the ramp and although it may be long enough to accommodate big ships, it still is not the best thing for the Port. With respect to certain cargo such as cement, better cannot be done when tourist ships are on the east wing. When a ship comes in, the Port Manager assigns a berth to the Harbour Master who brings in the ship and the workers start to unload. I suppose the feeling that DaCosta and Musson gets better treatment springs from the fact that they give more work to the people in stevedoring. There is also Plantations Limited of which Mr. John Patterson is a Director, but I have never heard any official complaint from any of them in respect of the rumour I have heard. 6.50 p.m.

This is a very serious matter, and only yesterday I had meetings with Port Contractors and people in the shipping lines, and I have been worried to such an extent. I understand that there is an idea that we should stop any intransit cargo coming into the Port -something that I would hate to see in this country, because if we do that we will not only lose about \$150,000 in revenue, but this would decrease the amount of work available for the stevedores. When other countries are now asking about Deep Water Harbours, everybody will be interested in this, and it is a very serious problem. I agree with the hon. member; we have had ships outside within the last two or three days - a meat boat and a lumber boat were out there and when you have meat and lumber boats spending long periods in the Port, it is very serious indeed.

Last Year at Christmas time there was a big problem with all the Christmas goods being placed on top the old goods and the people at the Port had to work long hours overtime. We are congested now and this is not the period for that type of congestion yet; we have not started yet with any Christmas cargo, so you can see how serious it is. Last year we had to use the Sugar Bond; I know they have applied for the use of the Sugar Bond and they cannot use it this year because we have sugar left over in the Sugar Bond. Two days ago I paid a visit to a warehouse being built for the School Meals programme, and if the worst comes to the worst, rather than lose the intransit cargo I will have to see if we cannot rent that warehouse because I would hate to see intransit cargo go out of the Port because it is not so easy to get it back again.

We had a contract awarded for the warehousing of these goods, and then the people said they could not do it; so we have to go to tender again, which means that much time has been lost and it has set back things. We are sorry that we cannot get what we call a collapsible warehouse to help extend the facilities, but I agree with the hon. member that it is a very serious problem and one that requires immediate attention. As I said before, in the Christmas rush last year, we had to use the Sugar Bond, but this does not lend itself to the productivity of work because of the very poor ventilation, and the people cannot work as fast. Another problem is that you have different sets of cargo consigned to various people and it remains in the warehouse for quite sometime before it is removed; in some cases all the fresh cargo goes on the old cargo and the next problem is that you have to get rid of the fresh cargo before you can get rid of the old cargo, which by that time is not fit for human consumption. These are all problems that we have to surmount, but we have to devise ways and means to solve them. There is another problem I have discovered there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that is that a lot of old cargo in the warehouse should be dumped. I will ask the legal people to give me an opinion as to what we should do about it, because it is completely useless for consumption purposes. I have spoken to the Port Manager about this, and I have been very serious about it because I have seen cargo that is not fit for human consumption still stored in the Port, and unless the Health people come in and lay their hands on certain stuff and send it out to sea and dump it, it will cause some serious illness and things of that kind. My argument is that if it is not fit for human consumption and you bring in new stuff, it will get contaminated. I assure the hon. member that great consideration is being paid to the Port and what is

going on there.

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

7.00 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item No. 11 stands in the name of the 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 Fairy Valley in Christ Church for development by the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to the charge of this Item.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister of Health and Social Welfare is asking leave to take charge of this Item. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection leave is granted.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FAIRY VALLEY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of land described in the Schedule in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcel of land.

This Resolution seeks approval of 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.

The Schedule states: "All that certain piece or parcel of land part of the lands of Fairy Valley Plantation situate at Fairy Valley in the parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement 14 Acres 0 Roods 30. 541 Perches or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on all sides on lands of the Barbados Government or however else the same may abut and bound."

This land is being required compulsorily in order to be vested in the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation to be developed and managed in accordance with Government's Agricultural policy. The position is that a mistake was made by Mr. Gibbons, the Surveyor, at the time when Government purchased a portion of land. The Government has had possession of the land all along although not having a legal title to it. Apparently there was a misunderstanding between Oldbury Estate and the Surveyor, and Government was in possession of a portion of Mrs. Corbin's land. Instead of handing the land back to her, the Government has decided to pay her a reasonable price for it.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know of that error and the description of the area. I think that B. C. L. teams have been playing for years on a portion of that land and, now that a transfer is apparent, they have been forbidden from playing cricket there.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Let them write a letter to the persons concerned and the matter will be rectified.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before we close, I am asking leave to give notice of a Resolution which, through inadvertence, I forgot to give notice of yesterday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to give notice of a Resolution. If there is no objection leave will be granted There being no objection leave is granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon.. Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following

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 1 - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1970-71 No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next sitting to deal with the Resolution to which notice has just been given.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Will we be meeting in the other Chamber next week?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 27th October, 1970, at twelve o'clock noon.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.05 p.m.