

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1966 - 71

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THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th October, 1970.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q. C., F. Z. S., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Health and Social Welfare); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C. M. G., M. A., (Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P., Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour G. E. SARGEANT, (Deputy speaker); Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J. P.; Mr. H. R. St. JOHN, LL. B.; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M. A. and Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were read.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. HUGH GORDON HYLVESTRA CUMMINS, C. B. E., M. D.,
C. M.**

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, before the House commences its business, I regret to inform Your Honour and Honourable Members that Hugh Gordon Hylvestra Cummins, former Premier of this Island, former Speaker of this House and member of the General Assembly consecutively from 1940 to 1961, having served in a previous term of office, died shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

I should like in moving an address of condolence to say that the late Dr. Cummins as is well known was a member of the Democratic League, so that I came to know him at the very early stage of my existence. He subsequently became a founder member of the Progressive League and a member of the Barbados Labour Party, and I think I ought to say publicly that he was purely and solely responsible for my entering politics in Barbados, because at the time that I did so perhaps I had no political ambition; but it was entirely, I would not like to say largely, due to his persuasion and his frequent conversations with me as to my duty and responsibility to this community that I agreed to offer myself as a candidate for the parish of St. George in December, 1951, when I first entered this House. Everyone in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, will be aware that no one has ever accused me of hypocrisy. They ought to accuse me of not being a politician, but they have never accused me of hypocrisy, and that is why I felt myself constrained not to participate in any discussion on the passing of the Head of the Russian State or the former Prime Minister of Great Britain. When we come to make our tributes I can say without any danger of being accused of insincerity, that I regard him as a friend. Although subsequently, some six years later, I felt myself constrained to sever company with the political party of which he remained a member up to the end of his service with this House, I always retained a great respect for him, because at no time in his private life or in his public life was he in any way, vicious, vindictive or malicious, but preserved throughout the attributes and qualities of Victorian propriety, rectitude and integrity.

I was also privileged, Mr. Speaker, to be well acquainted with the late Mrs. Cummins who passed on

some years ago, and I am sure that it was due to her own fortitude and understanding that he was able to bear the whips and scorns of time, the oppressors' wrong and the contumely of men for so long a period until the late evenings of his years.

Dr. Cummins was born some 79 years ago in this country. He was born in the parish of St. James and educated at institutions, two of which at least I had the honour to attend, that is, at Combermere School and Harrison College, and later at Queens University, Ontario. His first election after several unsuccessful bids to the House of Assembly occurred on 10th December, 1935, in the days of limited franchise and where the side effects of long years of servitude have not been completely eradicated from the social, economic and political life of this country. It was very difficult for a professional man to try to challenge the institutions of the establishment at the time. People in the medical profession have it very easy nowadays, and it is significant that in those early days there were three or four members of the medical profession who were face to face daily with the sufferings of the masses of Barbados, one of whom of course was Dr. Cummins, who was prepared to redress these wrongs by offering themselves as political candidates. Your medical practitioners today are concerned more about terms and conditions of service than the conditions of life of the people of this country; so that the medical practitioners in those early days had to undergo great sacrifices. There were no lucrative fees for operations; they turned out at all hours of the night, they worked for practically nothing, and most of them died impoverished. Barbados is a much greater country for people like Hugh Gordon Hylvestra Cummins and the others who contributed towards our development and well being. Anything that has come after, of course, has been built up by their individual efforts and collective efforts in the Democratic League and the Working Men's Association, and no one can challenge that. It is true there are people who would like to wipe out the whole history of Barbados; they think that today is the beginning of creation; they would like to re-write all the books; they would like to rewrite the debates of the Legislature; they would like to set up a Ministry of truth in which only what they say would be preserved for posterity; but the contribution which has been made by people like Dr. Cummins must remain in the hearts and minds of the people of Barbados. I think that the greatest tribute I can pay to him is that even after he was deposed as a member of this House and as Premier of the country in 1961, I would still like to think that he was my friend, my old congenial family doctor.

Dr. Cummins was defeated - I may say this is a fate which other Heads of Government have suffered from time to time - but he returned to the House in 1940 and served until 1961. He was a Minister of Social Services in the Session from 1951 to 1956; he was Speaker of the House from 1956 until 16th April, 1958, and Premier of this Island from 1958 to 1961. He was awarded the distinction of Commandership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List of 1955; but there is another field, of course, in which he was extremely active and that was in the Local Government when he was Churchwarden of St. Michael from 1943 to 1944. So he did render very distinguished service to this country, and because he has rendered distinguished service to this country, not only I think must we pay him honour by the Resolution which I understand the Leader of the House will introduce, a Resolution of sympathy with which I heartily join, but I am sure that Your Honour will agree with me that a person of his distinction deserves a little more from this Chamber. The late Sir Frank Worrell, long before he was gathered to his forefathers, as a young man said that Barbados was a

country without heroes and it is an anti-hero society. I should like to think that in the political valhalla of this Island we will find a place for the late Hugh Gordon Hylvestra Cummins, and I am sure that Your Honour will approve of the step which I have taken, in that I have ordered that he be accorded a State Funeral in this country on Thursday. (Cheers.) 12.25 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Resolution

RESOLVED that this House place on record its deep sympathy on the passing of the late Hugh Gordon Hylvestra Cummins, C. B. E., M. B., a former member of this House for the parish of St. Thomas Speaker of this House and Premier of Barbados from 1958 to 1961.

BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his sorrowing relatives.

In moving this Resolution it gives me great pleasure to echo the words of the hon. senior member for St. John when he said that Dr. Cummins was a man of integrity, and those of us who had the honour of sitting with him in this Parliament will not only remember him as an upright character, but as a friend of everybody. Some of us during his Speakership had occasion to disagree with him, but certainly on his part this disagreement was less than on ours, and when we referred to him as the genial doctor, this name was given to him more as a compliment than as anything else because he never, except on rare occasions, showed any anger or frustration. He was a kind person to hon. members and he is remembered, or ought to be remembered in this country for something which perhaps means nothing to generations which have seen so much, but it is a very significant contribution to the public life of this Island. He is responsible for the removal from the Statute Book of this Island of the Located Labourers' Act which was more than anything else the last relic of slavery in this Island, and staked his political future and his reputation on that.

With all this his constituents had enough trust in him to return him to the House of Assembly, and he saw to it that this Act was removed from this country. I think his name ought to be associated with that more than anything else, and it is good that these things should be said of him because he was not only a decent man, he was a man of warm sympathy and had an interest in people, and if he did not show it as much as we would expect him to, there was no reason to suppose that it was not there. He had qualities which are always welcomed in public life and the willingness to do one's work according to the best of one's ability to be sympathetic to people and to serve one's own time in a generation as best one can. I think therefore in moving this Resolution that this House should show him the respect which is due to him, and I look forward to paying him the proper tribute then. I beg to move that this Resolution do now

pass.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution. I first met Dr. Cummins when in 1960 I became associated with the Barbados Labour Party, and I too can testify to his high sense of integrity. He was one of those of whom many people, particularly people of colour in Barbados, should be very proud for it was in the 30s that Dr. Cummins was part and parcel of the movement which set out to prove to all and sundry that people of colour in this country were people who were entitled to dignity -, who were capable of integrity and who were capable of service to their country. He was always fiercely proud of his race and for that I think it is a wonderful lesson which many young people today I should follow.

Despite his great pride and his achievements he still had in him the qualities to understand those who could be equally proud of their achievement. Dr. Cummins served not only the Democratic League, but the Barbados Labour Party and the Progressive League. He held the office of Premier of this Island for the period 1958 to 1961, and throughout his administration no one, even to this day, could ever point a finger at him. I heartily agree with the sentiments expressed that this was a man whom the nation should honour, and the Barbados Labour Party and myself will be happy to participate in any such tribute.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution so ably moved by the Leader of the House. My first recollection of Dr. Cummins politically was when I attended a meeting in St. Thomas and heard reference made to him that small boats should stay near shore. On that occasion I was surprised that Dr. Cummins had no rancour, he was not moved, and anything that was said did not stir him at all, but he steadfastly felt that he could go forward. 12.35p.m.

Sir, I have had a personal experience with him as being his guardian, and I was associated with him in the Local Government. It can truly be said of Dr. Cummins that whatever he lacked as a politician he was certainly a good family man, and he could be referred to in public life as an honest and upright man. Dr. Cummins was a man who felt that the Located Labourers Act should be removed from the Statute Book, and he lived to see it removed from the Statute Book in this country.

I had the honour of serving with him in this House whilst he was the Speaker and whilst he was the Premier. He was a man of great sympathy, and he like to help the unwanted. He certainly served this country well. If you look around this country you will find no greater man who was associated with politics than Dr. Cummins. He raised a family and that is an important thing for a man to do. While devoting his time to the people of this country, he still found time to raise a good family.

Sir, it is true that Mrs. Cummins had predeceased him. She was a real helpmate to Dr. Cummins even in this House. I have seen Dr. Cummins slightly lose his temper, but he would bear no malice. He was referred to at the hustings in St. Thomas on several occasions as a dog that was barking and could not bite, and yet he bore no malice against any one on those occasions. I think it can be truly said that we in this House ought to be proud of Dr. Cummins.

Sir, I think one of the speakers said that he went to one of the institutions of learning at Queen's University in Ontario and he did so in the hard days. I can remember that coloured people did not like to go there at the time. Once I was looking through an Official Gazette and I saw that a doctor, who was qualified and had graduated around the same time as Dr. Cummins at the same University, was given a job at our Hospital and Dr. Cummins had to send patients to him although he was never able to work at the Hospital. Despite all of this, he felt that he should give whatever help he could to the people of this country. I think he served until 1961 in this House. Even after he left this House he was not a bitter man, because on occasions when I spoke with him he always said that someone must carry on as he was getting down.

Sir, I am glad that the Government has seen it fit not only to pay tribute to Dr. Cummins but to give him the importance of a State funeral in this country, I am happy to hear that the Prime Minister is in favour of giving Dr. Cummins a State funeral, because the Companionship of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire is not enough to perpetuate his memory in this country. I think it would be fitting for the Government to do something in St. Thomas to perpetuate his memory. I know that he lived in Bank Hall for some time and that he had done a lot for the people.

Sir, I am never happy about saying things of people who have passed away, but I find it my duty to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join in paying tribute to the late Dr. Hugh Gordon Cummins, a gentleman with whom I have been associated for many long years. He was indeed a great fighter, a friend, and a champion of the poor people in this country both in this House and as a medical practitioner outside this Chamber. I remember very well when we, together with others, founded the Barbados Progressive League and he played a very prominent part in the founding of that organisation in which I had the honour of serving as the first General Secretary from 1938 to 1942. Dr. Cummins was one of the foundation members, and he was a man to whom you could always refer for assistance and advice when dealing with things relating to the Barbados Progressive League.

Mr. Speaker, we also served together in the Bushe Experiment. He was one of the semi-Ministers in the Bushe Experiment during the period 1946 to 1948, and I also served with him in that experimental policy. When the first Ministerial System was introduced in 1954, Dr. Cummins served as the Minister of Social Services until he was made Speaker for a short time and then he became the Premier for quite a few years.

Mr. Speaker, it is as a humanitarian mainly that Dr. Cummins will be remembered, because he was indeed a friend of the poor people in this country during his entire term of service whether he was a member of the House or not. So much has been said about Dr. Cummins and so much more could have been said about him. We all agree that he was a gentle man, an honest and trustworthy man and one who could really be called a friend of the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the members who have spoken, and to say that Barbados has indeed lost one of its best sons in the death of the late Dr. Cummins. 12.45 p.m.

It would be well if some of our politicians of today emulated the example which the late Dr. Cummins has left on the sands of time. May he rest in peace.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, this is very unusual, but what I am going to say is a bit paradoxical. Unlike the other speakers, I do not take great pleasure in joining in this Resolution. I am supporting the Resolution, especially one of this nature, but what I am going to say here today is an eye opener for the whole Chamber. The Prime Minister in his address made a very pertinent point when he referred to the late Dr. Cummins as one of the few doctors you could call at any hour of the night, and you were sure you were going to get him to come to you. I do not want to go too far back because it would make members of this Chamber think I belong to the old school, but I remember that years ago when Dr. Cummins first started to practise in this country as a doctor he was one of the people who had it extremely rough, because when he first returned to the Island people of colour were afraid to go to him, not that he was not a good doctor, but if he had to send you to the Hospital, you were not accepted. In order to get you to the Hospital, Dr. Cummins who was a qualified doctor had to send his patients to Dr. Skeete; so I can say that he has paved the way for a lot of youngsters today who seem to think that things were as they have found them. He made it in the days when he was considered to be an upstart to become a doctor, when people who were practising medicine in this country were not qualified. The reason why I am speaking on behalf of the late Dr. Cummins is because, and I have to say these things, he has paved the way for

the majority of us to be where we are today.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that I campaigned against him in St. Thomas and was successful, but this is the way politics go, I do not think he held it against me, and furthermore his children and I enjoy a friendship that is extremely good; so this would show there was no rancour. I would like to say to the youngsters who are finding things as amicable as they are today that I am glad that the late Dr. Cummins lived up to this - day when no matter what your colour, class or creed, if you are a professional man, especially a doctor, you are accepted for what you are. When he first came back to the Island he was not treated as a son of the soil. I remember distinctly that there was a man who used to live near to, my home by the name of Rollins, an old carpenter, and he went home one Saturday night after drinking, - rum must have been free at time - and as a result the man became unconscious and the only person who came to this man's attention was the late Dr. Cummins.

My reason for joining in this debate and saying what I have to say is that despite what may be said or thought of the late Dr. Cummins, I can say that he more than any other person paved the way for people like me to be where I am today, because as the hon. senior member for Christ Church and the hon. junior member for St. Lucy pointed out, it was somewhere in the 1930s that if an estate worker getting five shillings left and went to another estate for six shillings, the manager would enquire where this negro worker was, go to the estate, demand the money and then prosecute him, and it was the late Dr. Cummins who pioneered the repeal of the Located Labourers' Act. If he had done nothing more, he had given the black man some sort of dignity in this community. I remember only too well standing in Broad Street waiting for a friend who was working at Evans, when up came a policeman to arrest me for loitering. This gives you an idea of what took place in those days. This is no reflection on the youngsters, but when people today come along and find things as easy as they are and can congregate anywhere in Bridgetown, we all have to remember that Dr. Cummins in his own way has contributed invaluable service to this community during his period of office.

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

Mr. Speaker, since my earliest childhood I can remember the late Dr. Hugh Gordon Cummins, for as members may readily imagine, the close political association which Dr. Cummins enjoyed with my father Sir Grantley Adams was such, that acquaintanceship was naturally made early and maintained on a regular basis; and one of my earliest memories of hearing about politics was in the 1940 election when such persons entered the House as Mr. Wynter Crawford, Mr. Hugh Springer, Mr. Graham Gittens and of course Dr. Cummins re-entered after his single success in the 1930s. I believe that a search of the records of the House of Assembly will show in 300 years no such example of persistence as was shown by Dr. Cummins when year after year he fought against the vested and landed interest, and it was said, and not entirely humorously either, against a particular returning officer that it was of some significance that the only year in the 1930s in which he was returned was the year in which the particular returning officer had been on leave and another returning officer acted for him, and when the returning officer came back Dr. Cummins was once again in the political wilderness.

Dr. Cummins fought on behalf of the Democratic League under Dr. O'Neale, and after the Democratic League had failed in its early promise and died, he joined the Barbados Progressive League out of which the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union emerged; but his fight was a peculiarly tough and difficult one. He was always fighting the power of the local land owners in St. Thomas. St. Thomas today, Mr. Speaker, may have a little suburb in Arthur Seat and Jackson, but even now it mains a parish of plantations. The fact that we have a Sweets factory and a Gramophone Records factory does not prevent the major interest even now in St. Thomas from being that of the plantation, and the opponents with whom Dr. Cummins had to contend. Mr. Clifford Thorne, a great magnate of the St. Thomas/St. James borders, Mr. H. A. Arthur of Ridgeway Plantation, and Mr. Gerald Mahon of the Lion Castle interest, were perhaps the most formidable group of land owning plantations that any candidate had to fight against in the 1930s. Everywhere else there was some hope of making your way in through the support of the peasants or support of some class of elector not immediately connected with the land. 12.50p.m.

In those days in St. Thomas - after all, when Dr. Cummins started even Welchman Hall Plantation was only then beginning to be cut up -- and in those days it was the vote of big land owners and their clients on whom you depended for election, and Dr. Cummins, for more than ten years used to appear to be putting up a ridiculous battle to his opponents. When you read the old Advocate newspapers you will read the sarcasm in the speeches on nomination day, when someone would remark "we have Dr. Cummins once again as a candidate, but I am going to support Mr. Arthur or Mr. Mahon" as the case may be. Dr. Cummins surprised his critics in the session of 1935 to 1936 when he was elected senior member over Mr. Gerald Mahon; he had previously been defeated, Mr. Mahon and Mr. Arthur sharing the senior and junior places, according to the records which I have here, on six occasions. He was to be defeated again on two more occasions, but then, Sir, he took his place as junior member for St. Thomas in 1940 and was not defeated again until 1961 in what was termed a Democratic land slide.

He was at all times the valuable second in command of the Barbados Progressive League and the Labour Party. He was a candidate who when the rifts and dissensions were tearing the Party apart could exercise compromise and showed decency; the decency of which the Prime Minister has spoken could make his personality impressive, and those who had to accede to his claims to remain in that position of first Vice Chairman or Deputy Leader as the occasion was. He occupied the place which you, Sir, now occupy, and I have never at any time heard any serious suggestion that he occupied it on a basis of partiality; never at any time indeed from members of my own party who sat in the House with him in those days. I have often heard it said that he was too soft with the Opposition, and that he had a chance to do certain things; for example, I believe even with the Leader of the House, and he gave him a break. As Premier the worst that anyone could say of him, I believe, was some analogy referring to his innocence of any knowledge of economics, and his budgeting on the basis of good housekeeping, a remark that was perhaps no more than sarcastic, and not perhaps quite as malicious as it might have been felt by Dr. Cummins himself at the time. Sir, I sit in his place in this House, and it is a place I am

deeply honoured to fill.

Up to the very end Dr. Cummins gave the Barbados Labour Party all the encouragement he could, and I recall during the 1966 campaign my fellow campaigner and myself being unable to discover by reference to a map or to any one else where a particular address in St. Thomas was, and we had to telephone Dr. Cummins and we asked him where such and such a village was and he said: "You will find it only has in ten or a dozen people, but it is between Arthur Seat and Edge "Hill. " Subsequent to that, financially and otherwise, Dr. Cummins showed an interest in the development of the politics for which he had fought so hard in St. Thomas, and my sympathy goes out to his family, his children and his grand children who have now got to lay him to rest. I hope that all of us in this Hon. House will be assisting in paying our last respects when the Government sees that his internment is carried on with the proper respect due to an ex-Premier and a former chief executive of this country.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I put the question, I seek, to associate myself with the various and glowing tributes which have been paid to the memory of the late Dr. Hugh Gordon Cummins, and in so doing I will be brief because so much has been said, and all of it so well said. What did strike me about the late Dr. Cummins during the time that he and I were both; associated as fellow members of this Chamber was that he was one man of whom there can be no doubt that his word was his bond. I remember quite vividly on one occasion when it had been decided that a particular measure would not be proceeded with later in the day and certain members had that assurance, members of another Party left the Chamber. A suggestion was made to Dr. Cummins to proceed with that matter now, these members are out and we can get an easy passage. " Dr. Cummins shouted across at that particular member and said "My word is my bond; understand that, do not ever attempt to insult me again. "Although he might not have been the wildest or most astute of politicians, yet certainly he was one of the most outstandingly honest, and for that he deserves ever to be remembered and to be regarded as one of those few really worthy of the national funeral which we have been assured will be given him on Thursday of this week. I now, without any more ado, will ask hon. members to rise for two minutes as an indication of their approval of the passing of this Resolution.

Hon. members stood in silence for two minutes,

I declare this Resolution duly and unanimously to have been passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members will not think it proper to transact any public or private business today. What I propose to do is to give notices and then to move the suspension of this sitting until Friday. 1.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following Message from His Excellency the Governor General:

MESSAGE No. 5/1970.

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

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable The House of Assembly that in accordance with the provisions of Section 74 of the Constitution, Mr. Harold Bernard St. John, Q. C., a member of the House of Assembly, has been appointed Leader of the Opposition with effect from the 22nd day of October, 1970.

A. WINSTON SCOTT GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Government House, Barbados.

26th October, 1970.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following -

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1970.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the amendment or revocation of Orders in Council.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Medical Registration Act 1911 and to make new provision for the registration of medical practitioners in Barbados.

Rt. hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1970.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until twelve noon on Friday, 30th October, 1970.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second, that.

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

1.15 p.m.

On Resumption.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, although normally advantage is taken of the absence of the members of the Opposition, I would like to mention that I am neither the Leader of the House nor Deputy Leader or anything, and I have only been notified about fifteen minutes ago by my Secretary that she had received a message from Miss Best, who is the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, to the effect that the Leader of the House will be unavoidably absent today owing to illness. On those grounds, and because I do not expect to know anything about Portfolios of different types, - I have had no access to the boxes as such, - it would appear to be a deliberate attempt to embarrass me, to put it very mildly, but it will not embarrass me or anybody else, and Sir, - although I know it is inconvenient to the members of the Opposition mainly, not so much to the Ministers because they are paid full time, I can well see that we are dislocating the work of the members of the Opposition especially and certain of our backbenchers - on those grounds, Sir, I am moving that the sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. to enable me to become au fait with the work and be in possession of the box keys and everything pertaining to this work.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to that on these grounds; what the Minister has just said shows us the slipshod way in which the Cabinet functions. Mr. Speaker, I do not depend on politics for a living; when the last adjournment was taken I accordingly adjusted my business so that I could have attended here at 12.00 today to do the people's business. We might be willing to give the Minister an hour to be briefed on what is to be discussed, but do not ask us to come here at 12.00 and then adjourn until 2.30.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, in as much as there is an objection I will make a start. (Asides) Mr. Speaker, I beg

to withdraw the motion. (Asides) Mr. Speaker, I said that in view of the objection I am withdrawing it altogether.

The question that the sitting be suspended for one hour was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon'bles C. E. TALMA, G. G. I FERGUSON, K. N. R. HUSBANDS and N. W. BOXILL; Messrs. W. R. LOWE, R. St. C. WEEKES, J. B. YEARWOOD, C. A. E. HOPPIN, W. C. B. HINDS and ELLIOTT MOTTLEY. - 10.

Noes: Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS. - 1 12.10p.m.

On resumption--

Mr. SPEAKER:

There were certain questions which were ready for the meeting on Tuesday last but were not put on that occasion. The hon. and learned member for the City of Bridgetown may, in due course, put them at the time for Private Members' Questions.

DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay

The Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1969.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, 1907.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

BILLS - FIRST READING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, 1907, be now read the first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the amendment or revocation of Orders in Council be now read the first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to repeal the Medical Registration Act, 1911, and to make provision for the registration of medical practitioners in Barbados be now read the first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of Item No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$550,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to enable Christmas Advance of Salaries and Wages to Government Employees.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Leave is granted to the Hon. Minister to proceed with Item No. 2. Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

RESOLUTION Re CHRISTMAS ADVANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$550,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to enable Christmas Advance of Salaries and Wages to Government Employees.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, I think the numbering is wrong on the Order Paper. I have two 2's on my Order Paper. On my Order Paper there is a Resolution numbered 2 for the sum of \$600, 272, and there is another Resolution numbered 2 for the sum of \$550,000. I should like to know which Resolution the Hon. Minister wants to deal with.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I want to deal with the one for \$600, 272.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1970-71 No. 5

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to this Resolution for \$600,272, I will say at the outset that at one time I was the Minister in the particular Ministry responsible for the building of the Stadium. (Asides) / I will advance the matter a step further, and the matter may be deferred again. 1.20 p.m.

There is information given here, and I take it this was given on the last occasion in the reading of the notes, but there additional information which I think it is my duty to bring before the Committee.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, if the records are to be put straight,; think when we adjourned on the last occasion, I was addressing the Chair. After I have completed my address, then the Minister can say what he wants to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I take it the hon. junior member for St. Peter is correct, but I will ask the Clerk to tell me who was addressing the Chair when the suspension was taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I just want to make my position clear. I was out of the Chamber trying to seek information; so I was not aware of who was addressing the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. senior member for St. Andrew, said he had not got the information and therefore he would seek the information before he proceeded further. I will therefore ask the hon. junior member for St. Peter to proceed.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on this matter of the Stadium, we are satisfied.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, in view of what I have just been brought up to date on, that further consideration of the Resolution was postponed to allow the Minister of Community Development and Youth Affairs to produce certain information at this sitting, and in view of the fact that he is not at present in his seat, it would only be fair to him and to the Committee that we defer further consideration again. I have taken the trouble on my own to get the information although I am not the appropriate Minister, and therefore I beg to move that further consideration be postponed temporarily pending the arrival of the Minister.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

I just want to draw to the attention of the Minister that the Stadium Committee wants the money.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is going on, because as I understand it, the Minister was here and says he is not coming back. I do not think this is the way to treat this House. When the sitting was suspended, the Acting Leader of the House said that for certain reasons he could not go on and we agreed to come back at 1 o'clock, and now we are told that the Minister of Community Development is not coming back. We want to do this Resolution now.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, the hon. member cannot say the Minister has a right to be here. How does he know what the Minister has to do? Mr. Chairman, I am speaking and the hon. member is interrupting.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

With all respect to you, Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order. I was speaking and the hon. member got up on a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

You had finished speaking. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY You got up and said "on a point of order) You are a congenital liar.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, did you hear what the hon. member called you? If I call him a blasted liar, you would hear that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will the hon. senior member for Bridgetown please take his seat?

Rt. Hon. E. W. - BARROW:

On a point of order, I think I should explain.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

There is one hon. member on his feet, and if Your Honour sees two, then you are seeing double.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I should like the hon. senior member for St. John to understand that I am not at this time seeing

double. I saw two hon. members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, may I explain the position? The House adjourned for today when two Ministers and I had to receive Ambassadors, and the Minister is in a similar position. It is not a question of his having a right to be here. We normally set aside two days on which we cannot attend to the general public or Ambassadors, and these are Tuesday and Thursday because Tuesday is normally the day of the House and Thursday is Cabinet day, and these two things must have priority. The Minister of Social Services in the unavoidable absence of the Minister of Community Development, has all the information on which hon. members were asking the Minister to make a statement. Why should the people's business be held up?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

This is exactly the point I am making. Why should the matter be held up because the Minister is not there?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that my motion be withdrawn.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that. 1.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When this sitting was suspended.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, you must see members on their feet. Did you say that the question is that this motion be withdrawn? I am telling you it is improper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. junior member for Christ Church has asked leave to withdraw the motion; if there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection leave is granted. When this sitting was

suspended the hon. junior member for St. Peter was speaking.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on this matter of the cost of the stadium in this Resolution, we had sought on the last occasion to have the Minister place before this Committee the main contract that was awarded for the building of the Stadium. We are aware that there have been several contracts awarded for various phases; we know, Mr. Chairman, that it is going to revolve around the engineers, the Quantity Surveyor and the time lapse, and we are going to be told that there were certain extraneous circumstances which brought such conditions, and we might even be told, Mr. Chairman, that the Prince of Wales arrived a month too early.

We are satisfied that the contracts were awarded as a result of advertisement, that tenders were called for, and it would be interesting to see what the Minister can advance in this particular respect, because there can be no doubt that we have had to carry out a considerable amount of investigation ourselves into this matter. It is known that the main architect was Captain Tomlin, and the Stadium Committee, we understand, is very proud that the auditing of all the statements of account has been executed in a very prompt and perhaps efficient manner. All of this we welcome, we want to hear it, but what will be of interest is the fact that we in Opposition have been treated in such a scandalous respect in that the audited accounts that were submitted to Government or the appropriate Minister, as far as I know, were not being placed before hon. members so that we could follow step by step the progress of the work or the progress of the spending of the money.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

May I just correct the hon. member on a point of order. Section 19 (1) of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation Act, 1966-9 requires that the Stadium Corporation should submit annual reports. The Stadium Corporation came into being in 1966 and the reports for the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 have been laid before this House. I do not speak so positively for the year 1968-69, but to suggest that the Opposition has been treated with scandalous respect is not in accordance with the fact because the annual reports for the first two years have been laid but I am not certain about the report for the year 1968-69; the one for 1969-70 obviously would not yet be ready.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to what the Prime Minister has said, but I said it was as far as I know. The Prime Minister cannot tell us whether the Report for 1968-69 was submitted; he said that the one for 1969-70 would not be ready, but the accounts of the Stadium Corporation have been audited to March, 1970 and they have submitted an amount of copies to the Government so that the Government would have had no difficulty, if they wanted the Opposition or other members of the House for that matter to be au fait with all that is happening with the stadium, to have done so. Now, Sir, the Minister..... (Rt.

Hon. E. W. BARROW They have submitted them, but I cannot find where they have been laid.) (Asides).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

While a member is speaking, all other members shall be silent.

Mr. HINDS:

Any Minister replying will have to admit that as far as the design of the stadium is concerned there have been repeated variations, and as one would admit in such instances, these variations can and must create additional cost to the building of the stadium. 1.40 p.m.

Now, this is a matter of very considerable interest. Now that all of these variations have taken place from time to time, we are now asked to vote sums of money to offset the cost of everything when at no stage was a single member of the Opposition given any indication or notification that the variations were being carried out. This matter involves the spending of the taxpayers' money. This is a question of committing the taxpayers of the country to spend more money on the Stadium. We are now dealing with the funds of the public. I say that the House has not been treated fairly in this matter.

Now, there was a period of three months when none of the main constructional work at the Stadium was carried out. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "The crane had broken down. ") It is true that the crane had broken down. I am hearing by way of an aside that we do not pay the people for standing up or sitting down. We are dealing with a contract that had been awarded, and from what we can gather nothing will be brought before this Honourable House by any Minister indicating that, as a result of this three-months' delay, the contract is going to cost less. As a matter of fact, it is costing more than had been anticipated. Even now columns are still lying in the yard of International Construction. Some of the main columns that were cast for the main building at the Stadium can still be found in the yard of International Construction. Who is going to pay for these things? Are we going to be asked to believe that International Construction was asked to make these concrete structures for the Stadium, and because they have not left the premises of the firm that International Construction is not going to find ways and means to make the Corporation pay for them at some time or other? If the Stadium is completed without making full use of these columns they will not be discarded. International Construction is in the construction business, and some firm will place a new order for them. It would be in the interest of International Construction to get new orders to design what is being asked for. These columns will fit into work around here at sometime or other. Nevertheless, we maintain that, inasmuch as International Construction has cast these concrete columns, they will have to be paid for by the taxpayers of this country. That is what the Government is going to put to us, (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, let the Government have the contract circulated to hon. members so that they can read and digest it. The Ticket Booth and the Road Entrances together will cost us \$71,000. I challenge any Minister to get up and deny my statement. But that is not all, Mr. Chairman. The Stadium Corporation will admit that the Quantity Surveyors advised that the cost was very high, and they were told that overtime would have been involved. Today the Prime Minister has told us that during the three months when nothing was being done we did not have to pay the people; but we know that when they were extremely busy getting ready to meet the Prince a lot of overtime was involved. (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, they had all the advice that could be sought from any quarter when it comes to the question of builders, architects, engineers, and so on. They had the best consulting advice available. Nevertheless, what do we find? The original estimate was for \$310,175, but what the Government is asking us for today is a lot more than that. (Asides) Mr. Chairman, we do not mind what is being said¹ by members on the other side. There can be no proper defence for this request, when your original estimate was \$310,175. 1.50 p.m.

The matter was reviewed from time to time, and we have got to say that Government ante red upon trie scene from the earliest hour. In other words, it was the Prime Minister himself who performed the ground-breaking ceremony at Waterford on 14th December, 1967. It was seen to and properly arranged that a large gathering would be present, but the Stadium Corporation were able to convince the Prime Minister that certain standards were necessary, and it was there and then that \$410,000 were committed not in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. What we are saying is that in view of the fact that Government participated in the scheme from so early a stage, one would have thought that Government would have seen that it was in the interest of the taxpayers of this country to see that costs were kept within reasonable bounds and there was no attempt at squandering, or there should be no disposal of money for such an undertaking without all the safeguards that one would have thought the association of a country's Prime Minister would have ensured.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the stands now cost something like \$800,000. The main stand has seen variations from time to time. It was originally to accommodate 3,000 persons, but they carried out what has been called in Stadium Corporation circles a stretching of the budget, but this stretching apparently did not have the amount of elasticity that the Corporation had expected at the early stages of their planning and as a consequence it has been found absolutely necessary to ask for a sum far and above what would normally be reasonable. Remember, Mr. Chairman, the quantity surveyors returned it to the Stadium Corporation not once or twice but on three occasions for them to review the matter be fore coming to a final decision; but there might have been reasons behind which neither you nor I nor hon. members on this side might be able to get, in the Corporation arriving at its decision; so we are faced today, Mr. Chairman, with a bill of this nature, though we are prepared to pin our faith in the quantity surveyors at this time. We are satisfied that it is far and above what the Stadium ought to have cost, and that a Stadium to meet international standards could have been built at a cost far less without digging so

deeply into the pockets of the taxpayers of this country.

Mr. Chairman, suppose the Jaycees did not throw in their lot? What we are saying is that even with the audited statements of the Stadium Corporation, the Corporation did not know with any degree of certainty what is the total cost of the Stadium today, although their accounts have been audited to March, 1970. We are going to meet with regard to contracts, that where a contract was not entered into, there was a letter of intent. 2.00 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN:

On a point of order, Sir, two o'clock has come and the Standing Orders were not suspended. Mr. Chairman, there is no evidence at all of any suspension.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If you were to remember I think the last sitting, was it not a suspension?

Mr. St. JOHN:

The sitting was suspended but the Standing Orders were not suspended.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to support that; the sitting was suspended but the rules were not suspended. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

2.05 p.m.

On resumption -

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House resume Committee of Supply.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. George be appointed to act as Chairman during the temporary absence of the Chairman.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman there is the question of the running track, if we might turn our attention there for the moment; I understand that the type that is presently being used called Grasstex is employed chiefly because it can be repaired locally in the event of anything going wrong. That is something to be commended. I do suppose that the Minister or whoever is going to reply on behalf of the Government would give us an indication of the expected life of the track, but there again, it is the question of cost that one has got to bear in mind.

We appreciate the fact that we have an estimate of cost here for US\$47, 177, and the interesting thing about it is that from what we can gather, Commission Merchants or business people were invited to submit offers to the Stadium Corporation, and it maybe that price-wise Grasstex was decided on, but I understand it is a sort of all-purpose commodity which will stand up to any kind of weather. We understand that the facilities at the Stadium are perhaps reasonably good, nothing to quibble about, but what we want to concern ourselves with at this stage is what are the future plans for sport at the Stadium, because, bear this in mind, you have got to have proper planning if the Stadium is to be a success. There are no two ways about it, you can build a monument and put the most impressive looking statue it has got to come under people with know-how and ability for planning; in other words, progressively minded people. 3.20 p.m.

We must have people who have youth in mind, and people who have demonstrated in no uncertain terms that they have an interest in seeing youth make use of the Stadium. There is one point I would like to stress here, and I would urge upon the Minister that it is not too late to have the Secretaries of all the playing divisions as well as all of the various bodies now taking part in various sporting activities in the Island co-opted to serve on a Committee where they would be able to express their views as to what is required of the youth of this country when it, incomes to the question of planning sporting events.

Mr. Chairman, I do not for a single moment comment on the appointment of even the Manager. I understand that the management of the Stadium has been given to Mr. Martindale, I have nothing against him personally, but I feel that there are several people from whom we could have chosen a Manager - people who have lived a life and have demonstrated an interest in promoting sporting activities in this Island in the past. I referto respected people who could have been offered the management of the Stadium, and they would have brought with them a lot of experience. (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if Mr. Martindale has played much cricket in Barbados. I think he played cricket in England, but I do not think he has even had the credit of trying to encourage another West Indian to play for his club when he was in England. We have to keep all of these things before us. Going back to the question of the track, we see a note here which was put in to see whom they could fool. We understand that there was a type of running track that was used in Mexico for the Olympics, and it is also used for horse racing. It can be said that the price was considered prohibitive. These are things for which we want to commend the Stadium Corporation. We do not want to attack them when they have something in their favour.

Mr. Chairman, we find that there are still 27 tons of concrete lying about the place that has not been used. I maintain that somebody will have to pay for it. We are asking the Minister, who is going to reply, to see to it that the taxpayers of this country should not be saddled with this burden. Prince Charles said: "I now declare open this Stadium. "Apparently, Prince Charles was not given the name of the Stadium; however, we hope that we will not be over-burdened with devaluation, the rise in labour costs, and so on, and that the Minister will essay to give us whatever information there is at his disposal so that we may be able to assist him, or be able to facilitate the passing of this Resolution in order that the Stadium Corporation may get the money to complete the job.

Mr. Chairman, whenever the name of A. T. Wason appears as Project Manager the result is that the whole scheme falls. We have had instances in this Island where the name of Wason was associated with things and they could not bear up. It is to be regretted that his name had to be associated with the building of the Stadium. We await the reply from the Minister. I understand that copies of the contract are available, but for some unknown reason they have not yet been received by hon. members on this side so that we could have studied the contract during the luncheon period.

(At this stage Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. YEARWOOD took the Chair.)

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, a document has been circulated to us, and I want to state that whoever prepared this document should be given a bit of advice for the future. No one could regard this document with any degree of confidence. Let us take the first item. It states

"Ten-ders opened Awarded To_____Notes Earth- 6 13/11/67 13/12/67 Rayside Lowest works

Concrete \$ per Works rate -." 3.30 p.m.

Hon. & DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, this sheet was passed on to hon. members, but I think that for hon. members to understand it, they would have to listen first to the explanatory note which I have in my possession, and I have not yet spoken. If the hon. member would give way, I could give him in detail what were the contracts and how they were awarded. The information passed on to hon. members is only supplemental to the information which I have.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I understand that position, but if you are going to pass on something, you should pass on something valuable.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that I did not pass it on. If I had passed it on, I would have passed it on to hon. members as a souvenir after I had given my notes.

Mr. St. JOHN:

What I want to make clear is not only do we want this but we want to know the totality of the cost of the original tender and the actual cost to date.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I have information here for hon. members.

Mr. St. JOHN:

If you have that, I will listen to you on it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

First of all the construction of the Stadium is being carried out under the supervision of Messrs. Gardiner, Tomlin Associates who are the architects, Messrs. David Key Associates, construction engineers, and W. A. Kauffman, quantity surveyor. The major construction work of the Stadium has been done by contracts awarded after tenders were invited and examined, and in every case where there

were several tenders, the lowest tender was accepted.

I am going to deal in detail with all the contracts awarded, and the first I am going to deal with, is the contract for earth works. This contract provided for several rates for various types of work, and therefore there was no fixed amount which could be inserted since the quantity of earth as against the quantity of soil and quantity of rock could not be pre-determined, and there was a price paid for the removal of the top soil, a price paid for clearing the area, a price paid for the removal of what is considered marl and a price paid for rock. In the overall price structure of the tenders, Rayside Concrete Works was the lowest tender, and they were awarded.

the contract for the earthworks. In one case where certain of the tenderers asked for some thing like \$12 for one cubic yard of stone, in the case of Rayside Concrete Works it was \$4.00; but in totality his contract was lower than anybody else's and the final figure for this work is \$88,504.56.

Now hon. members raised the question of easement. There was no easement in this respect because the amount of earthwork could only be determined after it was done, and therefore there was no fixed price, say, like \$60,000 being allocated for this contract, because it depended on the amount of earth as against the amount of rock, as against the amount of marl, and this was determined by the quantity surveyor.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, was it done on a cost plus basis?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

They estimated how much earth was removed and how much marl was removed; there was a fixed price for marl, for earth and for stone.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I want to assist the Minister. I would like him to re-examine the estimate put up by those tendering for the drainage. There were three of them and I am submitting to the Minister that \$35,000 by Sanitary Engineering Works was not the lowest tender.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is not a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I have the reply here for the earthworks. There were tenders by Parris Construction Company, C. O. Williams, Eric St. John Construction, Babco Construction, Keith Rayside Concrete Works and Gill's Engineering. In each case Parris Construction tendered at 66 cents per square yard for clearing the site as against 35 cents by C. O. Williams, 70 cents by Eric St. John, 40 cents by Babco, 18 cents by Rayside-3 Construction and 24 cents by Gill's Engineering. With respect to excavating earth, it was \$2.40 per cubic yard by Parris Construction, \$2.20 by C. O. Williams, \$1.10 by St. Jam, \$1.40 by Babco, 54 cents by Rayside and 46 cents by Gill's. For excavating rock it was \$4.22 by Parris, \$10.30 by Williams, \$11.50 by St. John, \$17.60 by Babco, \$4.00 by Rayside and \$1.22 by Gill's Engineering. For back filling with earth it was \$1.60 by Parris, \$2.50 by Williams, 75 cents by St. John, \$3. 60 by Babco, 80 cents by Rayside and \$4.20 by Gill's Engineering. For filling with marl, it was \$1.80 by Parris, \$5.50 by Williams, \$3.25 by St. John, \$5.20 by Babco, \$3.12 by Rayside and \$5.45 by Gill's Engineering. When you put it altogether, the lowest of the tenders was Ray-side Concrete Works and he was awarded the contract 3.40 p.m.

The final amount was \$88,504.56. This contract was awarded to Sanitary Engineering Works and the price was \$27,950 as against \$35,000 as the hon. member mentioned. They were awarded the contract at a price of \$27,950; the specifications varied here and the variation resulted in an additional expenditure of \$5,147.70. These variations were as follows; Buying of piles and additional wall, extra drainage for the cycle track to the main take-off which was not included in the original contract.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I just want to make it clear that I knew that the contract had been awarded for \$27,950 and not for \$35,000.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I would like to deal with the cycle track. This contract was also awarded to E. Rayside at a price of \$185,900; it was later decided to vary the specifications of the cycle tract and this resulted in an additional cost of \$10,994. 40. This is where the variation came

Extension of tunnel of the bridge board \$ 1,080

Adjusting inner bar of the cycle track \$ 2,059

Additional hand rails \$ 2,737

Paint \$ 838.71

Labour \$ 4,279.69

\$10,994.40

Timothy Walker International Construction Company tendered at a cost of \$300,181.05, International Construction for \$193,199 and Rayside for \$185,900, and Ray side was awarded the contract.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I come to irrigation. The contract for irrigation was also awarded to Sanitary Engineering Works in the sum of \$7,050; however, additional irrigation became necessary and this was done outside the contract at a cost of \$626.95.

Mr. HINDS:

The Minister has given way; will the Minister explain what happened when it was found that the tunnel for the cycle track was falling on the irrigation system?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The hon. member has more information on it than I have, I do not have any information to answer that question, this is the first time I have heard it.

Now we turn to the provision of earth fill for the foot -ball field. This contract was awarded to Rayside Concrete Works at a price of \$28,571.89, Certain areas to be earth filled we re not included in the contract and these areas had to be filled outside the contract at an additional cost of.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

If the Hon. Minister would give way; seriously, does not the area of the football field come within the general area of the stadium?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Let us remember what was said earlier on, that the amount of money paid for excavation and refilling and so on at the stadium was measured; obviously if the cycle track area was included the first contract

would have cost more. There was a certain quantity, there was not a contract to do the excavation and refilling at say \$100,000, everything together, it was done at a quantitative basis, therefore what was taken out and refilled on the first contract was on a quantitative basis and which amounted to \$28,571.98 and \$6,797.77 in another respect, plus what was done.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

At this stage will you give us the contract for the earth works? 3.50 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The hon. member is asking for the contract for the earthworks. You cannot ask a Statutory Board for its contract documents. (Mr. St. JOHN "We will not vote the money.") If you do not want to vote the money, then do not vote it. The contract is the property of the Statutory Board? If you want the terms, and conditions of the contract I can give them to you.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, if the attitude is that the Ministry cannot tell the Statutory Board to send information to the Ministry, then let the Statutory Board vote its own money.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member asked me for the contract. He cannot ask me for the contract, but he can ask me for the terms and conditions of the contract. He cannot ask me to bring any file from the Ministry with the contract and put it in front of him!

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am asking to see the contract.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

You cannot get that; I will give you the terms and conditions of the contract, who tendered, what they tendered for, and so on. When I come here to put something before the House, do you tell me to bring my file and give you? You can ask for any amount of information you want. Nobody comes here and asks us to bring contracts from any Board whether it is industrial, development, or otherwise. I am surprised at the question asked by the hon. member.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I want a photostat copy of the actual document, or I will vote against it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

If you vote against it, what can happen?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Minister is seriously suggesting that the contract with Mr. Rayside or anybody else is not a matter for us.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Have you forgotten that the Prime Minister had called on us to submit the contract for the Deep Water Harbour?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Did he get it? Mr. St. JOHN I do not know. -

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Is the contract a separate and legal entity, and because it has been entered into with a private person it cannot be brought here? This is not a private document; this is a public Corporation. Can the Minister tell the Committee whether the contract awarded to Mr. Rayside included earthworks, such as earth filling, and whether it was set out in the original contract? Was the filling in of the football field included in the original contract?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I told hon. members that the earth-fill was dealt with on a quantitative basis. The blindest person on a trotting horse will see that the earth-fill for the cycle track was separate and distinct.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, it is impossible to fill in the Stadium without filling in the football field.

Hon. A. D. C. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, obviously the hon. member did not go to the Stadium. We excavated the whole area; we put down the cycle track; we looked after the foundation of the buildings and so on, and certain areas had to be refilled. The football field would need additional earth filling to bring it up to a level with any other part of the field.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister to tell me what were the terms of the original contract which was awarded for the earthworks. What level did Mr. Rayside agree to?

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for Christ Church asked me to bring the contract in here. I will let him have the terms of the contract, but I am not going to bring any contract in here for him to see. (Asides)

Mr. St. JOHN:

Man you just came in here. Why do you not keep quiet?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

While a member is speaking all other members should be silent.

Mr. St. JOHN:

You should re sign. Mr. Chairman, why do you not ask the Prime Minister to keep quiet?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. member speaking on the Resolution?

Mr. St. JOHN:

I am asking you to tell the Prime Minister to keep quiet.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, if hon. members will tell me exactly what they want to know about the contract, I will give them the necessary information. I would like to know exactly what they want.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what were the terms of the original contract awarded to Mr. Rayside for earthworks and what level of filling Mr. Rayside was required to maintain with particular reference to the football field? 4. p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I will get the reply to that soon, but I will go on to something else now. With regard to the grasstex surfacing, tenders were not invited for this work and there was no contract awarded as such, but there was a letter of commitment issued by DaCosta and Musson and they did it for \$123, 390. The only increase there was because of the devaluation, an increase of \$3,493.33. (Asides) You did not question what the white man gets, but because a black man gets a contract, you will question it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I do not like this stupid attitude by the Minister of Government. It is the same nonsense that is repeated by the Prime Minister.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

What I am saying is that not one question was raised about the work done by DaCosta and Musson, but a black man is given a contract and you must hound him down. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY You were going out when the Prime Minister came in.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will like all hon. members to observe Standing Order No. 29(6).

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

There is an access road to the Stadium and there had been no provision made in the early specifications on this access road. The Corporation was advised.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, the Minister started to tell us about the grasstex track.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The Opposition said that the explanation on the grasstex track was all right. I said it was awarded to DaCosta and Musson at \$128,390, and was increased by \$3,493.33 after devaluation. The access road cost \$22,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

I just want to ask the Minister a question. I believe the land belongs to Government, and I wonder if the technical advisers did not think that a roundabout would have been more appropriate there. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL The answer is "no".)

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The chairs and seating accommodation in the stand.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

What about the roads?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I said they have been built already. Now the seating accommodation amounted to \$40,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister also inform us who provided the chairs, and whether this was also in the tender?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I have no information that this went to tender, but I can find out for the hon. member.

Now there were certain adjustments and additions to the roof. (Asides) This is not a question of the wind blowing off the roof, because that does not result in any additional cost to Government. It is part

and parcel of the contract. It was supposed to be welded but was blown off before this was done; so that is the responsibility of the contractors. It is their business whether or not they had it insured.

After the original contract for the stands was issued, further consideration was given to the matter of seating, and the architects were requested to redesign the stands in order to provide additional seating accommodation. If you look at your plan for the Stadium, you will see that provision was made for seven stands initially. Five have however been built to accommodate just as many persons as the seven; so if it is found necessary in the final stages to increase the the number of stands, you would be able to accommodate more people. The new designs made provision for additional seating in the pavilion, and the variation in design of the stands also resulted in variation in the contract. The original contracts were \$498,822.90, and Rayside Concrete Works \$348,816. Now the additional variation reflects an additional expenditure of \$91,660 as follows: International Construction \$38,000 and Rayside Concrete Works \$53,660.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Minister if it is not true that the stands as already built cost \$800,000, and that devaluation is one of the reasons given for this high figure, and not what the Minister is saying. 4.10 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have given hon. members the information which they sought of me two weeks ago, and the information which I asked for and which was given to me by the Stadium Corporation. I have no reason to believe that this is inaccurate, therefore I think that the information which I have given is accurate.

Mr. St. JOHN:

If the Hon. Minister would give way, the original estimate was for \$800,000.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

This is perhaps what the hon. member means, but note that we have built five stands to accommodate as many people as seven stands.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The original stands could accommodate twelve to fifteen thousand, and you cannot do that with the

five.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The seven stands as originally planned for could not accommodate twelve to fifteen thousand; I am telling you as a fact that they could not. They have been going around asking people for half-baked information, but if you received bad information it is no fault of mine.

Mr. St. JOHN:

The Minister mentioned in his speech that seven stands were to be built; will the Minister tell us how many people those seven stands could have accommodated and what was the estimated cost?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

My information is, Mr. Chairman, that the stands could accommodate between five to six thousand people. The point is that you were not providing all the stands at the same time, this was only the initial stage. Mr. Chairman, hon. members asked questions and I have answered these questions according to the information which I have received. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to inform all hon. members who are sitting that they should be silent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

We go now to turnstiles and gates. When this matter was debated last week, hon. members, when we asked for the additional \$55,000 for the gates, got on as though we were building five gates for the Public Buildings, five normal gates. I think that the hon. members, instead of criticising the amount spent, should ask questions and find out what type of gates and how many gates we are building. The hon. junior member for St. Peter asked whether provision was not made in the original estimate for the gates. You will notice in the plan that provision is made for ten gates with turnstiles, and this provision includes the entire entrance structure, including pavements, turnstiles, booths - and these booths are special booths, with proper security measures - and other ancillary work, which is the paving of the entire yard around there. I am asking you now for \$55,000.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we are telling the Minister that these things cost \$71,000, and the Quantity Surveyor said that this was too high; we are trying to help the Minister.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I know that they have been seeking information from certain Board members, members of the Corporation and they have been pimping around for information. I can tell you what I am advised that the gates cost and I am asking you for \$55,000; what are you telling me about \$71,000? I think that I have answered all the questions asked by the hon. members in respect of the contracts, and I am prepared to answer any other questions.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, this question of enclosures, \$50,896, and then you have a note which says "Type changed. Estimate \$64,510". Are the gates not enclosures?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

No, the gates and the turnstiles, the paving, the ticket booths and such other ancillary work.

Mr. St. JOHN:

We have now had the details of all the changes and variations, and I reiterate my point that this Government and its advisors have absolutely no conception at all of proper planning in relation to Public Works or major building construction, because how can the Prime Minister justify the fact that he as Minister of Finance is going to come down to the House and give the people of Barbados the impression that the Stadium is going; to cost \$1.5 million; therefore in your scheme of priorities you are looking at the totality of expenditure of , \$1.5 million. \$4. 20 p.m.

In truth and in fact that \$1.5 million was an estimate based upon facts which were completely ignored because the \$1.5 million had nothing to do with such matters as the levelling of the football field, access roads, and the enclosures.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I did not say that it had not included the estimate for the levelling of the football field.

Mr. St. JOHN:

You are reading from the notes, but I am saying that if you had had proper levels taken you would not

have been in this position today. Mr. Wason is a postmaster at that sort of thing. He went to British Columbia University and did Mining Engineering; he knows absolutely nothing about the overall concept of management of a project. It happened at the Hilton and it will happen again at Seawell Airport. The Co-ordination of a project must be handled by your Architect. From the beginning you should have had your Architect on the job. The whole concept of the Stadium should have included how you were going to get into the Stadium and how you were going to enclose it.

The man in whom you have so much confidence is costing the taxpayers in this country millions of dollars. Mr. Wason built the airport at Golden Rock in St. Kitts and it fell down. (Interruption by the Hon. Prime Minister.) You are his great defender, and I want you to defend him on that. You shall have the opportunity to speak after me, and you can get up and deny the facts that I have stated. I know that he built the airport in St. Kitts and it fell down.

Mr. Chairman, how can we in 1970 have a professional advisor repeatedly deluding the Government of Barbados? When they come to the House of Assembly and we are evaluating the cost of a project, we are told that everything is taken into account, but when it is completed we are told that a lot of things have been left out. This is what we call lack of proper pre-planning and a failure to appreciate the totality of a job. The man is incompetent in that respect. The greatest gift we have had in Barbados is the fact that the Development Bank took him off our hands. Some times I lay down and pray and say "Thank God." I understand that he is still a consultant at Seawell.

Mr. Chairman, obviously if you are going to have a contract such as this somebody has to do the overall planning. Stage by stage the contract should have been worded in such a manner as to protect the taxpayers. We feel that, if the whole concept of the project and its true cost had been put before the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, he would have said that it was a luxury we could not afford. You give us an estimate for a project, and when it is halfway through you tell us that we must do this and that!

Mr. Chairman, this is just like a man building a house and he is told that he would not need toilets. You cannot have a house without toilets. YOU cannot have a Stadium which will be bringing in revenue without having gates. With regard to the football field, you should have had a proper level. I say that the level at the Stadium is different from the original level, otherwise you would not have had an extra amount of stuff to fill in the football field to the proper level. The position is that you did not anticipate meeting rock as early as you did, and the rate charged by the contractor was great. You then found that the rate charged was uneconomic, and the contractor begged you to ease him. You eased him by raising the level. (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, it is only a matter of time before we have access to the files. (Asides) They have burnt the Hilton enough. Do not tell me that anybody would design a Stadium without making provision for access roads; Would he say that the people must come in by helicopters? All of these matters indicate that the conception in Barbados, in particular in the Public Works Department and more so when Wason is on the administration, is to start a job, plan as you go along - the public has an unlimited Treasury - once you have a job at a certain stage it cannot be stopped, and it will be necessary to get the money to complete it.

We say, again, that the same thing is going to happen at Seawell Airport. The way to do it is to put in "P.P." sums for every item where there is uncertainty as to the precision of the details, and you can review the matter later. Mr. Wason does not understand that concept. It is only a matter of time before he is thrown out of the Caribbean Development Bank because of his incompetence.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, on the last occasion when this matter was dealt with a lot was said about the Stadium Corporation. Members on the other side talked about stealing, and so on.

Mr. St. JOHN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. That is not true. Is it in order for a member who was not present during the course of a debate to say what other hon. members have said previously in his absence?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, members on the other side went on to say that no contracts were awarded; they challenged us to produce the contracts, and so on. The hon. Leader of the Opposition said certain things about Mr. Wason. (Asides) I want to say right now that, it is not necessary for the purpose of conducting the people's business in this House, to make attacks against any member of this House, and in particular public Officers, or members of the public who are not here to defend themselves. Just in the event that the two lawyers and the other businessman present on the other side do not understand the Constitution of Barbados, let me explain certain things to them. 4.30 p.m.

The members of the Public Service are appointed by the Public Service Commission and not by the Ministers, and they are appointed on the basis of their qualifications and what the post requires. The hon. member said that Mr. Wason is a construction engineer and he went to the University of British Columbia. I happened to be in the Dominion of Canada in Montreal when Mr. Wason was studying engineering at McGill University which the hon. member overlooks, and if a doctor at the Hospital

decides to go to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and qualify as a doctor, then he decides to go to Harvard or to John Hopkins and do pathology, there is no point in saying he is a doctor of pathology. This is ridiculous. This low kind of argument I would never expect from the hon. member, although perhaps I do not pitch the target too high, I expect a reasonable standard of debate from him. I do not expect an excellent debate or impartial debate. To come in here week after week abusing public officers is not doing the hon. member any justice, and he certainly is placing the members of the public in a position where they believe that the House of Assembly is an irresponsible place.

Now certain statements were made here pontifications I call them - about earthworks and levels and that you do not cut down rock. The cutting down of rock would be a minor part of earthworks, but the problem with the stadium would not be putting down rock but of filling, and we could not come to the House for an estimate to construct the stadium, a football field or anything having excavated the place already. We did not do that. We got the same firm of quantity surveyors and they relied on Messrs. David Key and Partners to go and take tests at various parts of the stadium before the decision was made to put the stadium there, but as happens in all parts of Barbados, as happens every day at Seawell Airport, you have an outcrop of rock which is two feet below the surface and fifty feet away you get it at 15 feet, and this is where the additional money came in, because I paid visits from 1956 onwards from the time the decision was taken to go there, and the drop from the road by Codrington, the Bow Road, over to the western side of the stadium which was an agricultural field or something like that, was something like two feet to 2.9 feet, but when they started to excavate, the drop from the roadside over to the Western side in most places was something like eighteen feet; so it is necessary to take systematic borings over the stadium, and you do not be in a position in Barbados with the geographical strata to tell how much you have to excavate. You cannot for instance decide to excavate everything to a level of four or five feet and leave the organic matter or mould in there. There was no earth replaced in the stadium because I saw it for myself. They had to bring marl fill and compact it in some places from eighteen feet down and bring it up to below the level of the soil on which the grass was to be planted. So the stadium had to be levelled, and the area of five acres from zero in one part which had to be cut down 18 inches and compacted with marl fill with heavy rollers to the western side going down to 24 feet had to be compacted and built up. People came from all over the place. Mr. Cameron came from Venezuela and Mr. Wright from Jamaica and there was advice from several people, If there is a four hundred metre tract and a 500-metre track outside that and you know the circumference, you can work out the area of the excavation that was made there. I say it must be between four or five acres. It is impossible doing a tennis court in Barbados 76 ft. by 38 ft. to estimate how much fill you are going to put in that tennis court, if you are putting down a hard court, If you are- putting down a grass court, it is a different matter. The moment you excavate all the organic matter and put in marl fill, it is impossible unless you are lucky to come within 20% or 40% of the estimate because the nature of our sub-soil is such that it is not a rocky formation. The estimate for the foundation for every single Industrial Arts School built here by the Americans was far in excess of what they thought it was going to be. For the ten Industrial Arts Schools in some cases International Construction went back \$80,000 because they found that organic matter had to be excavated as you cannot put concrete unless you suspend it on top of organic matter. Any trouble we have had with the runway at Seawell or roads would be lifting of the paving material, the asphalt, due to the effect of expansion of clay which was not properly excavated underneath. Even concrete can be pushed up by the coefficient of expansion between clay and marl fill.

I would like to get the position of the Project Manager clear. The work of the stadium was put in charge of the firm of Gardiner Tomlin Associates with Mr. Tomlin directly responsible. The project manager with Mr. Matthews attended in a supervisory capacity to see that the Government's money was protected; the project manager was not responsible for design; he was not there on the spot all through the day because he and Mr. Matthews still carried out their substantive duties as Director and Deputy Director of the Public Works Department. They went there early on mornings, in their breakfast intervals, and spent three or four hours on evenings after work checking on what had been done during the course of the day to see that the contracts were properly carried out at every stage. There were quantity surveyors and there were structural engineers, and there were Gardiner, Tomlin as the architects and independent contractors who were given contracts which are available if hon. members would like to go to the Ministry to look through them. The Chairman has assured me that he told the Leader of the Opposition that he could come at any time and ask any question and he would place all the matter at his disposal and give all the information he required.

Mr. Chairman, the members of the Stadium Corporation were not chosen for any political affiliation. I doubt that two of them are even remotely connected with this party. The Jaycees were asked to put on Mr. De Verteuil because of their interest, Mr. Michael Simmons is a member of the Olympic Association, and Mr. Carmichael is the only one of them who is a member of the Party, but because of his position in the cycling world and as President of the Cycling Club he was put there to represent the Cycling Association; and Mr. John Patterson is an independent non-political member of the community. (Asides) Because he went to school with me does not mean he is a member of my party. I am the only member of my family that is a member of the Democratic Labour Party; so I do not see that Mr. Patterson by merely sitting down in the Third Form at Harrison College with me can be a member of the D. L. P. Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I expect all hon. members to observe Standing Order No. 26(15). 4. 40 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

What I am pointing out is this, I am satisfied that the Stadium Corporation acted with propriety on all occasions. I have attended meetings, and when the crucial point came up when there was going to be any change in the original plans, the matter was referred to the Ministry responsible and Cabinet approval was sought for any change that was brought about. The House did not approve \$300,000 for a cycle track, \$120,000 for a Grasstex track etc, as we normally do in the Estimates, the House approved of a sum of money made available through the Banks for the construction of a Stadium, and the original plans also called for \$300,000 for a swimming pool, and we advised the Stadium Corporation not to build a swimming pool because we thought the Island was too small to accommodate at this stage two Olympic type swimming pools. I want to say now a Stadium for the young people is not anything to

make money for anybody.....

Mr. HINDS:

The Prime Minister is saying that it is a Stadium for young people; that is why he got an old man to manage it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

We can say a kindergarten school is a school for infants so we have to have an infant Headmaster. I would invite hon. members to be serious, the Stadium is for young people it is not for me and members of the other side who are muscle bound already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am sure the Reporter is finding it very difficult to report what the hon. member, who is standing, is saying.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The stadium is for young people, and if it does not make money we will be coming back here to make sure that it remains open for the young people of Barbados. It is the least that they are entitled to; this is not Pickwick Club, this is a stadium for the young people of Barbados. When we started the School Meals Service it was thought that we were going to sell the pots and pans, now I suppose we are going to sell the concrete blocks at the Stadium.

I do not mind questions being asked about the Stadium, but when people make irresponsible statements and accuse Public Officers of being incompetent, of accusing a man for being an engineer and not having attended an engineering school, this is something that should be thought about very carefully before it is said. He would not put that in a letter to the Advocate tomorrow, and he should not come in here making statements like that. An airport building was built at Seawell Airport which fell down, but who built it? Did Mr. Wason build it? There is the same foundation problem, and they should have excavated as we have done; look at our Taxi-way now. We have to excavate sometimes down to 40 feet to get proper foundation, and when we come to the House for an amount of money to spend on such foundations nobody can accurately assess what the foundations are going to cost. When they built the

Deep Water Harbour the easiest thing was the filling of the Careenage and they were 50% out; all they had to do was to drop a plug line and assess the amount. Captain Tomlin was in charge of Public Works at the time, but I have not heard any criticism of his estimate. The mere fact that from time to time projects cost more than you calculated or estimated for is nothing to criticise an officer for, all Government Departments come back in here for Supplementary Estimates and they do this sometimes for things that they have no right coming back for, but if you run out of bandages at the Hospital you cannot send home the people or sack the man who submitted the estimates because more people are using the Hospital than he calculated for. Are they going to say that if one of them were in charge of the Ministry the Stadium would not cost this amount of money? The Stadium in Jamaica started out at an estimate of something like . 750,000, they have already spent 2 million and they have not yet seen the last bill. Mr. Wright, the former High Commissioner, is Permanent Secretary in charge of the work and they are now over . 1 3/4 million from the original estimate of \$3.5 million, and they told me four weeks ago they have not yet finished paying the bills; as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, they sacked the first Contractor when the \$3 million had gone and the Stadium had not come off the ground yet. He was still importing material in anticipation of building the Stadium.

I think we ought to commend the Contractor. Let us take the cycle track which was designed by a Barbadian, Mr. Smith. There has not been a single crack in that cycle track, and the Grasstex track was put down by an overseas firm which has local representatives in DaCosta and Musson, but the cycle track which is the most interesting part of the Stadium was designed by a former employee in the Public Works Department who did not get a scholarship, and there has not been a single crack in that cycle track.

When we come to the hon. member for St. Peter who said that we are paying for beams, those beams were designed for the concrete stand and after they finished designing them they found out that they could not move them from the Harbour. We paid for building a concrete stand, not for precasting beams at the Harbour, so the Contractor had to look after that. There was no allowance made for the fact that they have wasted material; if you go down at International Constructions Limited you will see that this is not the first job, not only a job for the Barbadoos Government, with which they have found themselves in difficulty. 4.50 p.m.

There was a hiatus in the construction of some three months. The official reason given was that the frames were not available, but we did not pay them any more because they did not have the frames on the spot. We told them that they would have to move frames from other projects, or they would have to import frames to do the job.

In view of the devaluation the contractors were entitled, under the terms of the contract, to an increase. I think that we were lucky to have come out with 20% or 25% over what we had anticipated. In addition

to that there were certain items which were not in the plan at all. The grass track was not in it; the 5 stands were not in it. We had only 3 stands; we provided an additional 1,200 seats. Now, it was not anticipated that we would have covered any more than the Grand Stand, but we have covered all 5 stands. The original plan for the Grand Stand was a little more elaborate. I told them that it was too elaborate, and they cut down on that and decided to build additional stands.

Mr. Chairman, hon. members cannot criticize the Barbados National Stadium in relation to the facilities there and the cost of things, because as far as I am concerned there is nothing too good for the young people of Barbados. They have been deprived of these facilities all along, and there is no reason why they should not have these facilities. I went through Harrison College at a time when the Government was too cheap to provide money for building a School Hall. I went there for six years and we did not have a School Hall. Are we to continue in the same parsimonious way? There is no Government in the West Indies that could have built a stadium for the amount of money we have spent on our Stadium. Even if you give a Government in the West Indies 50% more it would not be able to construct it.

Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that we have a first-class football field; a first-class cycle track and so on. It is true that the stands are not like the Metropolitan stands, but there is no stadium in the world that has flush ceiling and carpet. The seats of most stadiums all over the world are made of concrete. Structurally, the Stadium is going to stand up, and I do not see what the fuss is about. This is merely another opportunity to try to curse a lot of public officers. We do not allow public officers to design people's houses. (Asides) It is not fair to attack public officers in here.

Mr. Chairman, I say that the Stadium did not cost too much money. It has been competently designed and built, but you can say that we had to come back here with Supplementary Estimates to complete the job. Do you want us to pull it down?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has given us a figure of 6,000 as the seating capacity of the Stadium, but the Minister of Sport has said 4,600!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I can explain that. The other Minister may not have the information in his files. There was a gap of about 45ft. to 50ft. between the last row of front seats and the edge of the cycle track and 1,200 additional seats have been provided there which would carry us to 5,800. I said 6,000 seats. The seats now go right up to the edge of the cycle track.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I said that there was seating accommodation for between 5,000 and 6,000.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Stadium Corporation in a Release issued just a few days ago made it clear that there is seating accommodation for 4,600, and that is what the Minister was supporting when he replied to me. The Stadium Corporation tells us that chairs are provided in the main stands to accommodate 600, and there are 4 stands which will provide seating accommodation for 4,000. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW "We had 7,000, mostly school children, sitting there a few days ago.")

Mr. Chairman, we agree that the Stadium is built for the young people of this country, and everybody would like to know that the young people will have something to enjoy in the Stadium. We are hoping that in the future we will not have a Minister of Finance coming here to defend a man in the person of Mr. Wason. He is a personal friend of the Prime Minister. What we want to see in the future is that, in any project where taxpayers' money is spent, we should get an estimate that bears some real relation to the totality of the project.

We have here, Mr. Chairman, some figures that have been circulated to us, but you will find that quite a number of items to which the Minister gave explanations are not listed in the document. That is not fair to members on this side. 5 p.m.

These are the things that must arouse suspicion in our minds. The Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, is saying that what has been circulated was the list of tenders; but what I am saying now is that the list was not a complete list and left out a considerable number of tenders. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Like what;) Much of the information which the Minister supplied - and we were happy to receive it - is enough to show how necessary it was for us to carry out the type of examination into what was submitted here by Government as a true estimate of all that had gone on; but as I have already stated during this debate, even the Stadium Corporation does not know with any degree of certainty what is the total cost of the stadium. I believe it must be like the Jamaica Corporation that the Prime Minister referred to not very long ago. What we want to see in future is that proper planning is done, and you should remember that the Leader of the Opposition should be consulted at some stage, and not wait until money is wanted to bring matters like that and put them before us. However, it is a Resolution for money for the young people of this country, and we are for the young people of this country.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask whether there is a public liability insurance on the stadium and what is the amount. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW As far as I know it is \$500,000.) I think the Stadium Committee should consider that, because if this place is built to seat 6,000 people and any stand collapses, the \$500,000 would prove inadequate. When somebody's young child gets maimed for life, is the Government going to undertake to pay the additional money? I think the Minister should take up the question of increasing the amount with the Stadium Corporation.

The question that Head 103 - Health and Social Welfare - Stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 104 - Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 104 - Education - stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$600,272 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1970-71 NO. 6 Head 3 Parliament - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 3 - stand part. The note explains that an amount of \$120,000 was provided in the 1970-71 Estimates under Head 3, Item 37 for renovation of the Houses of Parliament. An additional sum of \$29,000 is required in order to complete renovations.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the renovations now being carried out in the House of Assembly proper leave much to be desired. It is perhaps trying to be modern, but my impression is that the amount of money already spent on this project could well have provided mahogany panelling instead of the plywood structures that we have here. The workmanship as far as one can see is superb, but the materials that have been used in the renovation leave very much to be desired. 5.10 p.m.

Perhaps I will be told that it is now too late for this and it is now too late for that, but I will still make my point and let it be known that it is not all that one had expected when the original sum of \$120,000 was voted. I remember, Sir, visiting the House at an earlier date and I found it absolutely necessary to draw to the attention of workmen present that the space which was then provided between the front row and the second row of seats was inadequate and did not provide enough space for hon. members to move in and out without interfering with members sitting on either side. I am glad to see that the suggestion which I made did not fall on deaf ears, and what has been made available since then is certainly adequate, but the whole structure looks very, very cheap, and I still feel that mahogany would have given us the face lift that was needed, (Asides). If it is because of these things, that mahogany boards seem to have some special attraction for some people and tend to stick to the hands of certain people, that does not mean that the whole Chamber or the section which will be occupied by hon. members should not be mahogany panelled. I feel it would have presented a much better picture, but hon. members may say what they feel about it.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, speaking of the House, I was one who spoke about the amenities in a question. I am glad to see that something has been done, but I do hope that we will be able to make use of our House within a reasonable time. We realise that the acoustics of this place we have borrowed are rather difficult, and there are some members whose voices are not very strong, and we find it difficult to hear what is taking place, but I think that this \$29,000 should enable us to get through the work over here. I understand that the air-conditioning unit will soon be here to facilitate us so that we can carry on our

meetings for longer periods, especially during the summer days. It has been rather difficult at some times, and that is why we had to adjourn for such long periods, but I do think the Public Works Department have tried their best to complete these renovations within a reasonable time, and as we can see, the lighting in here is not very good; as it can be noted, Mr. Speaker and you, Mr. Chairman, find it difficult to read the papers before you, so I do hope that this \$29,000 will be passed and if it is possible, the fans in our Chamber can be replaced before the air-conditioning unit comes, because this borrowed place does not suit us. I hope that members will pass this \$29,000 to satisfy the House of Assembly.

The question that Head 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that Head 9 stand part. If there are any questions I would glad to answer them.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 33 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 33 stand part, this is needed in order to provide additional protective clothing such as gloves and long rubber boots and other items to complete the uniform of gardeners of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that 43 gardeners are to be provided with khaki shirts, gloves and long rubber boots. I am glad for that, but there are other categories of workers who are entitled to uniforms and are left to wear their own clothes at times. The market cleaners, car park attendants, they are wearing patches and that is not good enough advertisement for Barbados, and particularly the car park attendants, because if I am hearing that the car park attendants are people who will get these uniforms and will not wear them, I will ask the Minister to have it Investigated and see what can be done about it. 5.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that Car Park Attendants have been seen wearing patches on their knees, and they have had to mend their uniforms in front and behind. This is a situation that should not obtain. We want to see these people wearing proper uniforms. (Asides) Two Ministers are saying that it is not true. Apparently, the Car Park Attendants are not wearing their uniforms. If that is the case, then the person who is in charge of them should see to it that the Attendants appear on their jobs in a manner befitting their jobs.

With regard to the Market Cleaners, for quite some time they have been without the uniforms to which they are entitled. I am asking that they be provided with their uniforms as quickly as possible.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Money has been provided for that.

The question that Head 33 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION Head 38 - Electrical Inspection- was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I merely want to ask the Minister responsible for the illumination of the Public Buildings' clock to arrange for it to be illuminated at night. People are unable to see the face of the clock at night, and it should be properly illuminated.

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 41 -. Ministry of Health And Social Welfare - stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the posts of Old Age Pension Enquiry Officers were abolished on the 31st August, 1969. The holders of these posts were orally notified of the proposed abolition of their posts, but disclaimed receiving any notifications. It is now proposed to pay the officers two months salary as compensation in lieu of notice.

Mr. Chairman, the Government ought to have known that officers employed on a monthly basis were entitled to a little courtesy. Some of these officers have served for five or six years and others have served for longer periods. It is no joke after they have served for a number of years for somebody to come along one morning and tell them by word of mouth that their services are no longer required.. From what the Note states here, the Minister has been told that the officers were not told directly that their services were no longer required as from any particular date. In the light of the function which they perform, some of the officers have gone on working much longer than two months. In other words, they have worked longer than the two months period for which the Government has provided. That is not good enough.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that giving these officers two months salary as compensation in lieu of notice is good enough. I feel that the number of years served by an officer should be taken into consideration. I think a decision should have been taken to give an officer one month's salary for each year he has served. If an officer had served from 5 years to 10 years, then a decision could have been taken to give him 1 1/2 months' pay for each year he had served. We appreciate the fact that if these officers had gone on serving for 100 years they would not have been pensionable because they were only part-time officers. Nevertheless, they were employed on a monthly basis. When one takes into consideration the fact that over a year has gone by before an attempt has been made to consider the plight of these people, "one feels that they should have been better treated than merely giving them two months pay in lieu of notice. When we realise that there are only a few officers, then it could not cost the Government a fortune to make better provision for them. 5.30 p.m.

I am sure the officers have waited over a year already and they would not mind waiting another month or two months as long as they were going to be given a little generous consideration. Giving them two months' pay after keeping them for a year is not generous, and we are urging upon Government to reconsider the matter. The Minister of Finance is now present, and we would like to ask the Leader of the House to have this matter reconsidered, because these people should be given at least a month's pay for each year they have served. We appreciate the fact that they are anxious for anything you are giving them, but even in the face of this, we are bold enough to call on them to explain the situation to them, and if they know they are getting something that is worthwhile, we feel they would wait a little longer. We should take into consideration the years each officer has served, and the fact that his post was not pensionable makes out even a greater case for re consideration under the present circumstances.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If I may give some information here, one of the posts was pensionable and the officer will be compensated under the Local Government Compensation Act, 1969. The other five posts were part-time and non-pensionable and the appointments thereto were terminable on one month's notice on either side. At 31st August, 1969, the five non-pensionable officers had completed service of two to twelve years. They were all called to the Ministry and informed by the officers of the Ministry of the proposed abolition of their posts, but they were not given any notice in writing of the proposed termination of their services.

Mr. HINDS:

There is just one point. Were they told when their posts would be abolished?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I can answer that directly. They were told their services would be abolished, but I am not in a position to say exactly when, but the Act had been passed already. I would also like to draw to the attention of the Committee that notices were published in the Official Gazette of the abolition of the posts, but I do not consider that adequate notice in the case of people who were employed. Apart from the officer who will be compensated under the Local Government Compensation Act, none of the other officers qualified for compensation or retiring benefits under existing legislation, but we feel that they should be given some consideration, and it is felt that the former holders of the posts should be treated as favourably as possible and these recommendations were made. When the annual salary was \$3,060 the officer will get \$510; the two officers in the salary scale \$2,400 per annum will receive \$400 each, and the three officers who received an annual salary of \$1,920 will each receive \$320.

I would like to give hon. members the assurance that we have been investigating the payment of old age pensions and also the question of National Assistance, and it has been felt and agreed by Government that additional Welfare Officers or National Assistance Officers will be required. The

ideals to investigate those poor people who are really in need, and we might need four or five additional officers in St. Michael which is a thickly populated area, two in Christ Church and one each in the other parishes, and consideration will be given to these people to continue to work.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, that is nothing to cheer the Minister about. They have had from August 1969 to consider this and we are not going to accept it now that you are getting rid of these people and giving them two months pay that you are investigating the creation of some other office for which they will be given some consideration. The Minister ought to have been in a position to come and tell us today that these posts will be created. There is no necessity to dispense with the services of these people in the way it has happened. Every thing ought to have been done for the people already.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, I really would like to point out that considering this is a matter of principle as I understand it, the general principle which this House has already in relation to employer employee relations, is that where there is no severance pay scheme, the worker gets a month's pay for each year of service. We had to do it with our Clerks and we have to do it in future, but the Government which has to set the pattern for good industrial relations for employers in Barbados is saying that after twelve years' service in one instance you can give two months' salary. If a private employer had done that, you would hear everyone on the other side getting up and haranguing. How could we as legislators sit down and treat our servants in that manner? We have double standards in this respect. We did not do it to Mr. Thomas, our former Clerk, we cannot do it to the present Clerk, it has never been done by the Legislature as far as I know in relation to previous people; how is it now we can do it in relation to these? It is definitely wrong. 5.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. senior member for the City.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I appreciate your ruling, but the Minister wants to say something.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, for the information of the Committee, what we are dealing here with is payment in lieu of notice. Right now the Government is preparing legislation to be introduced in this. House very soon in respect of severance pay all categories of Workers; in that legislation, the worker who is severed from employment is going to be entitled to a month's pay for every year he was employed, and it takes effect

from this year. What we are dealing with here is not severance, we are dealing with payment in lieu of notice. The Minister is right now discussing in his Ministry the question of severance pay for any worker who was severed from office, including these people. It is not that we are here asking today for money for severance, we are coming back for severance for those people who have been severed from employment and have not been compensated, and these people will have to be included. It is the policy of the Government that if people are severed from employment they must be compensated, and we are asking here for an allocation of funds in lieu of notice. They have not been given due notice in Writing, therefore we are giving them compensation, for those two months. This does not mean that we are not going to come back here and ask for money to pay the people for every year that they have worked.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

In view of what the Minister in charge has said, these people were working for salaries ranging from \$160 to \$300 per month, and for periods ranging from two years to twelve years. He comes now and gives them payment in lieu of notice for two months. We are assured that the policy of the Government will be that When the Act is passed for Severance Pay for all categories of workers in this Island, it will be retroactive for these people, on the other hand the Minister himself has said that these people will be given preference in employment when the time comes for taking on people for working in the various fields of welfare work or other fields. I would like to ask the ages of these people. The Government may say that after these people are drafted into the Service, ... what are the qualifications for the Service?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, these people will be employed on a temporary permanent basis.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

In other? words, you are, assuring this House that you arriving them two months in lieu of notice but they will be employed on a temporary basis. There are a Jot of people like this in this country. On the other hand, if and when they are not on a permanent basis, you will have, according to the Minister, the severance pay legislation working retroactively to include these people that are going out now, is that right?

Hon. A. DaC.. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that whether these people are employed on a temporary permanent basis in the future or not they are antitled to pay for severance. Right now consideration is being given, to paying them for being severed; what they are getting now is a salary in lieu of notice. According to the policy of this Government, they are severed from their employment as of now, whether they go to work from next week that is immaterial to us, the point is that they are entitled to severance pay.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I do not agree with that. If I have a man employed and I can find work for him of a similar nature, is he entitled to severance pay?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am saying that if a man is severed from employment and if he has been out of work for over a year, we are giving him payment in lieu of notice.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY; On a point:

of order, am I hearing right, that these men have been out of work for over a year and you have now come to give them two months in lieu of notice? Over a year you could not work out a severance pay? Could you not find work for them as Welfare Officers? You all ought to be ashamed; do not try to put something over on me. Over a year, and you promised to find work for them in the new dispensation that you have? You have now come to give them two months in lieu of notice although you have sent them away for a year already? You ought to be ashamed.

Hon. A., DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, we have been trying to place some of these people; I have had long drawn out discussions, and I have discussed the plight of one or two of them with the Minister of Health and Social Welfare in respect of one who lives not in St. Andrew but in St. Peter. The Ministry of Health has been looking for something for the, people to do. 5.50 p.m.

We have been looking for something for these people to do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order; We have been trying to place these people as best we could,

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister, who has just sat down, knows that in the case of Mr. Gilkes, he went on working for some months after the 31st August? In other words, the discussion that these officers had with a senior officer who spoke to them was unusual and uncertain, (Mr. St. JOHN; "Heartless and unsympathetic.")

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member says that the Government is heartless, unsympathetic and so on. The officers in the Ministry have been employed to work out a system in relation to these people. If it took them a year to work out a system, then we will have to accept the responsibility for it. We have told you what we are I doing to redress the grievance. We are with you on this master. There was some dillydallying in the matter, and we have come here to give the officers Assistance. We will give them the two months pay and we will go farther into the matter.

Mr. HINDS rose -

Mr. WEEKES rose -

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Two hon. members are on their feet.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I was addressing the Committee when the Minister rose on a point of order. If the Government accepts that Mr. Gilkes was working for some months after 31st August, what will be the position of the officers who continued to work because they had not been properly dismissed? The Government should have come here with a Resolution for enough money to pay the men for the time they had been working.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

The Government did not say that it is not going to pay the officers. It is; proposed to pay two months salary in lieu of notice, and if Mr. Gilkes went on working until yesterday be will be paid up to ye yesterday.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the Government should pay the officers up to the last day- on which they worked. (Asides).

We want action in this matter. They have been investigating people and they must have handed in their work to some civil servant. Let us pay the people for the period of time in which they have been working. What sort of Socialist Government is this?

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I feel that I should assist in clearing the air in relation to this discussion, Some of the officers are Employed in other jobs in private industry and they had two jobs. The post of Old Age Pension Enquiry Officer was a part-time job. I know that some of these officers held jobs in private industry and they were also employed by the Government as part-time officers. When their posts were abolished they went on working in the private industry because they were receiving more lucrative salaries there. The point at issue is that some of them prefer to accept compensation for the years of service which they have rendered because they are working in other jobs. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members must observe Standing Order 26(13). If they do not know it, then I will read it for them.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, ; in the Parish which I have the honour to represent there is a man who was an Old Age Pension Enquiry Officer and he also had another job. Since the abolition of his post he has found that it would be more lucrative for him to continue working at the factory than to accept the job which the Government had offered him in the Ministry of Health. I am sure he will appreciate the compensation for his services.

Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has cleared the air by stating that this two months salary is in lieu of notice; therefore, at this stage we will have to accept what the Minister has said bearing in mind that as soon as legislation is enacted for severance pay these people will be given consideration.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, the speech of the hon. member positively and clearly indicates how heartless, indifferent and pretentious this Government is. If a private employer decided to terminate the contract relating to the services of a man who had been employed for 7 years and offered him a measly compensation of two months salary, everybody on that side would talk about it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN:

What have I said that is wrong?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, it was pointed out here quite clearly that two months pay would be given in lieu of notice and that consideration will be given to the question of compensation as severance pay.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, the Government had no intention of paying the officers. 6 p.m.

That is nonsense. You have no policy on severance.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

On a point of order, the hon. member cannot get in here and say that somebody is talking nonsense.

Mr. St. JOHN:

I did not say you are talking nonsense.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL:

Mr. Chairman, I ask you to rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

All hon. members shall be silent.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, the nonsensical statement that I heard emanating from the other side is such that it proves conclusively that the Government has no intention of back-dating the severance pay to August 1969. This is only an after-thought. The Government is not going to bring in a Bill With retrospective operation If you understood, you would know; but the trouble is that you do not understands For a Bill to cover this severance pay, it would have to have retrospective operation, and I am attacking the bona fides of the Government, because they do not intend to give these people any money in relation to severance pay, otherwise they would have said that these are the problems, and we have come to the decision in accordance with the policy of Government that you should get severance pay and this is the total sum. This is a hypocritical Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I think that most of this acrimonious discussion is being caused by the explanatory note. The explanatory note is inadequate, and this is what we suffer from frequently coming in here.. There are 19,000 people in the Public Service and I do not hold myself responsible for either one of them because I do not appoint them; so I cannot teach 10,000 people good manners. We inherited about 9,000 of them and the other 1,000 in positions of responsibility will come to the notice of the House, and this is the problem we are suffering from in the Post Office, in the Bank and at the Customs. There is universal bad manners in the Public Service. One Civil Servant Wrote to me the other day. I criticised the manner in which something was done because I did not think they were doing the public justice, and the gentleman wrote back and told me that I should leave criticism to the technically qualified people, and that a gentleman in England working at some organisation praised him far the manner in which it was done. I would like to bring the letter here and let you read it. The Leader of the House has asked public officers to come here because they do not always send us proper notes to files, and week after week we ask for them and only during the Estimates do we find them here.

In this particular case, first I want to say that the changeover from Local Government to Central Government involved a lot of work, and the Senior Assistant Secretary did a first-class job which everybody would admit. Unfortunately all the other people working with him are not of the same calibre, and there are certain little administrative details which should have been carried out. I will give hon. members an idea. We had a lot of people put on these Boards; there were five or six Public Assistance Officers in each parish and eight months after Local Government was abolished and we set up Statutory Boards, nobody thought of writing a letter telling the Officers that the Boards have been abolished or thanking them for their services. That is beyond the calling and duty of the public servants; they are nothing to do with that. If there was something like a voucher attached to it for a Civil Servant, it would be done in three days; but eight months later this was not done. In the case of the part-time officers - and there were about eleven of them their service was terminable with one month's notice; so if

we give them two months' pay, we have done more than we had agreed to when they were taken on.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know where this idea of severance pay first came up, but I am not aware that severance pay applies to part-time non-pensionable posts. I will investigate it. I am not saying it is not Government policy, because I read Government policy in the newspapers about motor cars. This is not a question of being heartless; it is a question of complying too strictly with the letter of the law, because the law of contract says that if you are on a job terminable with one month's notice, that is all the notice you need. If you give them two months' pay, that is a supererogation and you are doing more than you need do. The officers who were going to be taken on on a permanent basis were notified, and there was a preliminary meeting at which the Senior Assistant Secretary explained to those who were not going to be taken on permanently that there was going to be a changeover and that certain posts would be abolished, but he did not say that we did not need, you and you and you; so the officers went on doing their work expecting to hear further from the Ministry. They did not receive any letters, and at the end of the month when they went for their pay, it was then discovered that the posts had been abolished. My personal opinion is that if they worked that month, they had no notice; so if you give them notice, then you only give them the normal pay and nothing extra at all. I do not want to call names, but we know who some of the people are, and they were working in order to supplement their incomes to feed their families and so on. 6.10 p.m.

I personally feel that although the post was a part time post, a lot of those persons were supplementing their incomes for food for their families and so on. That is why nurses in New York work at one Hospital in the day and at another at night, because they have a mortgage to pay off or something else and they need to supplement their salaries. The point is that we are not selling stamps or running a dry goods store, this is your total income on which you are expecting to pay tax, and a man is only doing extra work because he needs extra money. I personally think that this matter ought to be investigated further, and if it is the feeling of the House that these people should be given a year's pay because of the fact that they were severed from employment all well and good. They throw away more money themselves in individual hours, so as far as I am concerned this part of the Resolution may be withdrawn because I have investigated this and I am not quite happy about it.

There is something which I might draw to the attention of the House and that is; that there was a legal opinion that there was a meeting and an or ah notice was given; I am not the legal adviser to the Government, they would have to pay me a lot more money than they pay me now, but there is a legal opinion that when the meeting was held that was notice, and maybe this compensation was based on that legal opinion. The 31st August was the cut off time, but long before that.....

Mr. St. JOHN:

I think that I agree to defer it, but I want to mention another anomaly that has arisen in respect of the

same local Government transfer in the case of Mayers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that Mr. Mayers has seen me and we are working on it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

There is another aspect of this Sir, which I want to draw to the attention of members. I think that in all cases where people have been working in the Government, arrangements should be made if there are any vacancies available that these people should be given priority. This is another case in which Officers were walking about all over the place looking for jobs and no provision was made for them, and I think that this is another aspect which I have already brought to your attention. Take the case of the gentleman raised by the junior member for St. Peter, the does not have another job. I think that provision should be made and the Statutory Boards should have been directed to give priority to people who have been working in the Government before, Mr. Chairman, I am recommending that we pass this Resolution, and I think that Cabinet will sympathetically review the whole I decision and see about it.

The question that Head 41 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Annexed Estimates - /, Post Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that Annexed Estimates - 1, Post Office stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we very much agree with giving this money to the Boys' Scouts Association, but there are a few things which I would like to say on this matter of the Boy Scouts. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many active Scout troops we now have and what steps are being taken by Churches to sponsor these youth group movements. What we can gather is, that Churches which formerly sponsored Scout troops have since found themselves, as it were, competing against themselves by sponsoring the

Church Lads' Brigade and other like groups as well. I very well remember in years past, prominent Church leaders, business men in the community and many people in the education field, school teachers, headteachers and others, spent much of their time in trying to help the youth to form groups, and preparing them for acquiring their various badges and the like, but it is not now the case and the same thing applies to Girl Guides. We now have something like 117 Government maintained schools, and I can say that less than half of these schools have clubs functioning. What I can say is this, that nobody would deny the usefulness of the Scout movement in Barbados, and for that matter, world-wide. 6.20 p.m.

It is something to be regretted. I can say that in the Parish of St. Thomas scouting is dead; in the Parish of St. Andrew it is half-dead, and it is a quarter dead in several other Parishes. There is a definite need for awakening if the movement is to come to life again. In other words, many groups that were active in the past are no longer active, and it is not a good feature nor is it in the interest of the youth to allow such a state of affairs to continue for any length of time.

We find, Sir, that a number of the Clergy for some reason or other are mentioning it from their pulpits. They say that the Scout troop and the Church Lads Brigade movement would not work together in the same Church. We have the Youth Council in Barbados and we would like to see as many leaders as possible coming forward. I believe that the Jaycees and the Lions could act as informal agencies for the promotion of the Scout movement in this country, but I do not think enough is being done at the moment. However, we are glad to see that some of this money realised from the sale of stamps will be given to the Boy Scouts Association to enable the Association to embark on a long range programme for extending the scope and usefulness of the Scout movement in Barbados. We support this in every respect.

Mr. Chairman, we are asking school teachers and others to come forward and assist the youth and save them from many of the things that may befall them.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Chairman, I regret very much that I was not in my seat when the hon. member was addressing the Committee. He hinted that there is deterioration in the Scout movement in Barbados. He appears to be lamenting the fact that the Scout movement seems to be lacking in leaders. This is a movement with which I have been associated for more than 30 years, and I am still associated with it directly in the northern Parishes. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY "Were you a scout?") I was a Scout Master before the hon. member was born. The Scout movement depends on troops that are sponsored by the Sponsoring Authority. There was a time when there was perfect liaison between the Scout movement and the Education Authorities in this country, but that is no longer so although I do not regret it. There is a lot, when it comes to the sponsorship in the constitution of the Scouts, that. I am not absolutely in agreement

with. I believe that young people and young leaders should come out on their own spontaneously. I do not believe in regimenting or cajoling people in such a movement.

Mr. Chairman, I know that we have had difficulties even in the six northern Parishes. The six northern Parishes form one District Association, and in one particular Parish, the name of which I do not care to mention, we have had difficulties. Only a fortnight ago I attended a meeting in St. James, and there is a lot of investigation going on to see how best we can encourage the youth to join. This is not the Barbados in which I was born. (Mr. St. JOHN: "This is the age of the mini-skirts.")

The hon. senior member for Christ Church has pointed out to me something which naturally distracts the attention of the youth. I would not be surprised if the hon. senior member for Christ Church has also been distracted by some of the modern events. Only yesterday I was in Jamaica and I saw a magazine with a caption "Mini Goes Shopping." I looked at it with Objective interest.

They bent over, in the shopping centres, and when I saw the picture I asked if it had been posed for, and I was told that it was taken at random. There are so many distractions for young people today!

Mr. Chairman, in Barbados today we need more urban development. If we can get young people to remain in the country at night and keep them out of the City it will do them a lot of good. In my constituency in St. Peter many young people who work in St. Peter come to town having their fling. They are the potential leaders, but we cannot get them to join the Scout movement. Many Ministers of religion have been supporting the Scout movement. I can anticipate the trend of my colleague's speech, and I can understand the gravamen of it.

6.30 p.m.

I do not think that all is yet lost, because I believe that when the pendulum swings just so far, it will swing back just that far. Although the response has been disappointing, the Northern District is still working hard to see if we can reactivate the spirit. Years ago young teachers were dedicated people. I have worked in elementary schools up to 6 p.m., long after the statutory hour. We cannot hope to produce those young people any more, but there is no reason to be despondent. I will tell the Minister responsible that when it comes to the scouting movement in Barbados in which I have some responsibility, he should not think that scouting is becoming technical. In Barbados we raise a hue and cry, Mr. Chairman, but believe me, we are not the worst off. I have travelled about the world, and we are

a lot better off than many countries of the Caribbean area. We think that the millennium is just ahead of us, but it is not true, We still have a lot of suitable men in Barbados on whom you can depend to assist us in these measures if it means the projection of youth into areas that are cultural and productive, and there is absolutely reason to howl and get mad. As long as there are people in our midst of the age of the hon. senior member for St. John and the hon. junior member for Christ Church, I think we can be hopeful. I recommend the passage of this Head. The hon. junior member for St. Peter has not got my experience either sociologically or politically; he may think the end of things has come, but it is not so.

The question that Head 1 -Annexed Estimates -Post Office - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$168,159 do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1970-71 No. 7

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman this Resolution is to provide supplementary provision for subsidiary roads, highway improvements, transfer of Government Offices, additional mains and stand-posts and private tenancies. I think this Resolution will commend itself to hon. members because we all need these services, and the Government is now attempting to do private tenancies.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN:

Mr. Chairman, it was said that the Government never did private tenancies before, but. this is nothing new at all. The procedure was that you handed over the roads to the Vestry and then they were handed to the Government.. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Hon. members not addressing the Chair!

Mr. St. JOHN:

I agree with this because I believe. I was one of the persons who, pressed for this originally, and I had a question in connection with the St. Lawrence Tenantry Road that the Minister answered on the floor of this House in which he said that the Government was not going to do it, All of us get besieged from time to time by our constituents in respect of roads, and what I would really like is for Government at the beginning of each financial year to circulate to members in respect of each parish what roads they contemplate doing in the financial year because at present we do not know. We have a problem in relation to this, because in my area I am very concerned about new road and the existing state of repair of the roads which were formerly maintained by the Vestry. I can call a number of them which are in bad condition. The road at Fairfield in Christ Church is in a terrible condition and every year during the crop season the lorries dig up the roads while carrying canes to searles. As to Parish Land, I do not know why you are going to do. The Government has taken over Parish, Land, but what I cannot understand is that here is an area where people are begging you day after day to get the surveyor to survey the area so that they can buy the piece of land to improve their homes, but it looks as if my quota has been exhausted. I am not that unreasonable.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, I have just heard the hon. senior member for Christ Church talk about his constituency. You have allocated the sum of \$121,470 for additional mains and standposts, but the situation in an area like Bridge Cot, is that- up to yesterday people could not get water.. I am asking that you increase the size of the mains or put in additional mains, because it seems that since you have changed the system of pumping water from Bowmanston or Golden Ridge and bringing it from Applewhaite that the water is unable to come up the hill. I know of an instance of someone who was in the bath all s6aped up, and when her turned on the pipe there was no Water. People are suffering in the Bridge Cot tenantry for water. 6.40 p.m.

There are certain places, even the School Me sails centre at Gun Hill, that -water runs along the same place and many times the Waterworks people have to be called in because there is no water.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. junior member for St. Peter is constantly ignoring Rule 29 (6); let the hon. junior member for St. George proceed.

Mr. HOPPIN:

I hope that the Ministry of Communications and Works will consider¹ those people in Bridge Cot, because they are unable forget water at a certain time. I ant not talking about the crop time, but I feel that if the main in that area was enlarged the water supply would be better; as it is now you can only get it periodically.

Also under this Head, Highway Improvement. I am really looking at this Highway Improvement as a parochial issue, although there are some areas in St. George which are in heed of repair, but If you are going from Warren's Factory towards the Welches School, there is a be rid there and I do feel that those two corners could be cut away and the road widened. They have caused me some difficulty in meeting trucks during the crop time, and even cars, and that is why I say Something should be done. The other point that comes to my mind is Salters' junction, the road which runs up to Bulkeley and the one which takes you to Salters proper. The owner of the canes should be told that he should not plant his canes - right there or cut the corner. This is a dangerous point, and I feel if some kind of improvement was done there it would help the traffic to flow easily.

We are not here to look for expense, but under this Head - Additional Mains and Standposts, Highway Improvement, Private Tenantries, etc., as a representative of people in the rural areas I am very much interested in this because we know that the people in the tenantries are always breathing down their representatives' necks, and I know how the people suffer in Retreat, St. George, below Golden Ridge. These people suffer badly, they cannot get in when there is the slightest rain, and I do hope that some consideration will be taken of that area. We were told here that all plantations have been notified and they hive sent up to the Ministry to give their willingness to co-operate and get these tenantries done. I know we can see the good work done by the Government in some of the tenantries. The City has got some roads done, but I am asking, Mr. Chairman, that the Ministry does not concentrate all its efforts in the City and St. Michael alone. I am asking an appeal that certain areas in St. George be done as well, and I am thinking now of Baird's Village, a big tenantry which is considered the worst part of St. George as far as roads are concerned, and with water as, well. There are over 150 people only one standpipe, and I do hope thai the additional mains and better water services-will be afforded those people at Baird's Village. I also ask that the Minister will consider the road and improve it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat amazed to hear the hon. junior member for St. George accuse the Government of concentrating its efforts on the City, because if it is one thing that the Government has been guilty of, I would say it is neglecting the City as regards fixing the tenantry roads, etc. I am glad to hear that Dunlow Lane is included for water and roads, but Gills' Road, Bedford Lane, going down behind the Moravian Church, also needs fixing. 6.50 p.m.

Although this is not within the City boundaries, I should like to refer to Bannister Land. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "That has been done already.") One of the complaints of the people at Bannister Land is that when the Convent changes the water in the swimming-pool it has a tendency to affect the area.

Another observation I would like to make deals with the question of cleaning gutters. I think there is need for certain gutters to be provided to take off the water from the New Orleans area.

I would also like to refer to the question of highways improvement. Although the Government has built a new roundabout in Roebuck Street, what I would criticize is the failure to provide a better approach road to and from the roundabout. It took me almost 15 minutes one morning to go from the roundabout to Pinfold Street. This morning I saw the traffic lined up bumper to bumper from Country Road to Tweedside Road. I think one of the difficulties there is that traffic approaching Bridgetown along Roebuck Street will experience great difficulty when a few cars try to turn into Country Road. The moment this is done the traffic will be held up for a considerable length of time, I am suggesting that the Minister should look at the matter again, because it may be necessary to make Country Road a one-way traffic lane.

Mr. WEEKES rose - -

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY rose - -

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. junior member for St. Philip.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I am quite aware of the additional responsibility which the Minister of Communications and Works has. As a result of the recent heavy rains flooding has damaged certain roads, but I feel it is my duty to draw to the attention of the House certain things relating to the Parish I represent. As you are aware, Sir, St. Philip is the largest Parish in this Island. It is true that it is not the most densely populated, but the people living there have to travel. At Kirton's bottom near Oldbury in some cases you can get less than half-inch of rain and that can cause water to settle in the road up to a height of 2 ft. to 3 ft. This is a very serious matter, especially since we are having heavy rains. I have to travel on that road daily and I know what exists there. I know that the Government must concentrate on the flood damage done to other roads, but I think that I should draw to the attention of the House the fact that something should be done to alleviate the hardships which the people who live in certain areas have to face daily. In some instances you will find that teachers experience great difficulty in getting to school when the rain falls, and I feel that something should be done in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, during the life of the Vestry and the Council several mains were used as subsidiaries so as to give people in the area a standpipe. The time has come when these small mains are incapable of giving an adequate supply of water and they should be taken up. In my Parish there are about one dozen of them and they are causing a great deal of inconvenience to people who need water at their homes. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to do his utmost to assist the people in my constituency.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Communications and Works the fact that there should be greater efficiency in his office. I have in my office several letters that have been sent to people whose tenancies have been sold long ago. The land has been sold and the roads turned over long ago. Officers cannot just sit down and decide that this or that is a private tenancy. The notices sent out are rather misleading. 7.00 p.m.

Now I am not going to let the hon. junior member for Bridgetown sing a solo. The bulk of the New Orleans area has bad drainage, because some of them have no haunches. If I would suggest that anybody else in the House would do it I would not suggest this of the present Minister of Communications and Works, and therefore I want to make it clear that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If I can be assured that this Resolution can be finished by the next seven minutes, I will allow the hon. member to continue.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY:

I want to assure the hon. member that outside of the Kensington New Road area.....

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. C HAIR MAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and the postponement of two, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 3rd November, 1970, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

7.10 p.m.