THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 20th April, 1971.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Sir. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., *(Speaker);* Mr. L.E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. K.N.R. HUSBANDS, J.P., *(Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs);* Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Ministry of Health and Social Welfare);* Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R . LOWE, J.P.; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology);* Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1971 on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, and on my own behalf I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Seawell Airport to Mobil Oil Barbados Limited.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to enquire if the business of this House is being conducted in accordance with Standing Order No. 8.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for the year 1st April, 1968 to 31st March, 1969; also the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for year 1st April, 1969 to 31st March, 1970, and also the Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1970.

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Joseph, his question *re* drinking water at Seawell Airport.

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

1. Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that there is no drinking water supplied at Seawell Airport for the use of the out going Passengers and the waiting Public?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister have drinking water installed immediately at the abovementioned Airport?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member, his question *re* burning of canes.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

1. Is the Minister aware that there are people living too near and behind large fields of sugar cane and that their lives and houses are threatened yearly with the burning of the said canes?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the advisability of buying the same cane fields, and sell or rent same to the people involved for the purpose of growing vegetables only on the same land?

Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to meet the Minister to have a discussion on this.

BILLS TO BE READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950 be read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to lay two documents which were drawn to my attention after the House began. I am leading the House today and these Papers were here but nobody had the decency to bring them to me. I am asking leave to lay certain papers.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, and there appears to be none, leave is granted to the hon. member; the circumstances are appreciated.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am commanded to lay the Report on Vital Statistics and Registrations for the year 1969, and on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1971. I am also asking leave again on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing who is not in his place, to give notice of a Bill to give effect to Article 10 of the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960, Convention No. 115 of the International Labour Conference, relating to the protection of workers against ionising radiations.

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

12.25 p.m.

BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to give effect to Article 10 of the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960, Convention No. 115 of the International Labour Conference, relating to the protection of workers against ionising radiations be read a first time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

DEATH OF Mr. S. L. WHITTINGTON

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that hon. members regret very much to learn of the death last week of the father of our Senior Official Reporter, and I have given instructions that a letter of condolence be sent to the appropriate parties. I trust that it meets the approval of the House. I may mention that I attended the funeral service.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2, under Government Business, be the first Order of the Day.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I beg to second that.

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

APPOINTMENT OF Mr. C. HOPPIN AS TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. George be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees until the arrival of the hon. junior member for St. John who is the Chairman of Committees.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND AT WILDEY FOR LAND AND BUILDINGS AT DOVER, etc.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Leader of the House and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the exchange of Government - owned land at Wildey for land and buildings at Dover, St. Lawrence Gap, belonging to Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for the erection by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. of new headquarters at Wildey.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with Item No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has asked for leave to deal with Item No. 2 standing in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. Hearing no objection, leave is granted to the hon. member to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the exchange of Government - owned land at Wildey for land and buildings at Dover, St. Lawrence Gap, belonging to Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for the erection by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. of new headquarters at Wildey.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve the exchange of all that certain piece or parcel of land (part of the lands of Wildey Plantation) situate at Wildey in the parishes of Saint Michael and Christ Church in this Island and containing by admeasurement 11.012 Acres or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands formerly of Wildey Plantation but now of the Government, on lands now or late of sundry owners namely one Layne et al on other lands of the Government being other lands formerly of Wildey to Kent or however else the same may Abut and Bound.

These are the lands which the Government will transfer in exchange for all that certain piece or parcel of land (formerly part of the lands of a place called "Dover") situated at Saint Lawrence Gap in the parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement one acre thirteen and three-fifths perches or forty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-two and three-fifths square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on the parcel of land described in the Third Schedule, on the sea, on lands of Maresol

Beach Hotel Limited and on the Public Road or however else the same may Abut and Bound together with the buildings and erections thereon and thereto belonging.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE

All that certain piece or parcel of land formerly part of the lands of "Dover") situate in the parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement Eighteen thousand five hundred and thirty-eight square feet (made up of the original area formerly said to contain by admeasurement Thirteen thousand three hundred and forty and one-half square feet but found by subsequent survey to contain by admeasurement Thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-one square feet (of which area Eight hundred and fifty-one square feet form part of a Public Road which was formerly a Private Road) and Four thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven square feet added to the said Thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-one square feet due to the gradual receding of the Sea) Abutting and Bounding as a whole on the Cholera Burial Ground, on the Seashore, on lands formerly of Dr. T. A. Herbert but now of the Western Telegraph and being the parcel of land described in the Second Schedule and on a Public Road which was formerly a Private Road or however else the same may Abut and Bound together with the dwellinghouse thereon called "Bermersyde."

ADDENDUM

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Executive Committee (Vesting of Property and Transfer of Functions) Act, 1964 - 12 as amended by the Executive Committee (Vesting of Property and Transfer of Functions) (Amendment) Act, 1965-59 the approval of Parliament is sought for the exchange of the properties described in the foregoing Schedules in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected. The exchange will be completed following approval by Parliament, but the Company will remain in possession of the property at St. Lawrence, pending construction of their new complex at Wildey.

I have a plan which I would like to pass around, so that hon. members will know and appreciate what the exchange is all about.
12.35 p.m.

I think at this stage that it may be as well I pass it around.

The position, Mr. Speaker, is that Cable and Wireless Limited made representations to the appropriate Minister for the acquisition of 12.5 acres of land at Wildey, the property of the Government of Barbados. At a meeting of 16th October, 1969, the Cabinet settled the terms of a licence to the company for the operation of telecommunication service in Barbados for a period of fifteen years with effect from 1st January, 1968, at a fee of $15,000. In the light of national development coupled with the desire to retain Barbados as a regional telecommunication centre for the Eastern Caribbean, the company developed a plan for expanding its facilities providing for capacity adaptability and technical sophistication of an earth satellite and a supplementary central office capable of absorbing an expanding service, housing new equipment to improve efficiency of the external telecommunication service including, for example, computer technicians for message traffic handling, automatic switching of overseas telephone calls, and providing for a regional training centre catering to 100 students per annum, and adequate social and sports facilities for local staff.

The position is that Cable and Wireless is expanding its service and establishing a satellite station and they need a greater area of land better located than their present headquarters at St. Lawrence, and they have entered into negotiations with the Government. They first of all thought of an outright purchase, but the Government negotiated for an exchange. The final area of land is set out in the Resolution and in the plan, and all the terms and conditions have now been settled, and this Resolution is to give final approval to the exchange in accordance with the law. The area set out and the land to be conveyed to Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited in exchange for the site and buildings at St. Lawrence owned by the company is on a freehold basis, and the transfer of taxes and stamp duties should be waived and the company should be permitted to enter upon the land and commence construction immediately upon the execution of a formal agreement for the exchange. It is an outright exchange of land owned by Government at Wildey as set out in the plan and in the Resolution for the existing headquarters of Cable and Wireless at St. Lawrence Gap, and it is all being done in the interest of Barbados and of retaining Barbados as a residential telecommunication centre for the Eastern Caribbean. If there are any questions, I would be willing to answer them, but this is a clear-cut matter which I think hon. members will approve of, because it is a means of retaining Barbados as the Headquarters of Cable and Wireless for the Eastern Caribbean.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I know both areas well and I feel that the exchange is a fair one having regard to the fact that the land which is being acquired at St. Lawrence is situated in a valuable neighbourhood; but what I want to find out from the Government - and I want to assure from them here - is, what are the plans of the Government for this particular piece of land, because this land is situated next to one of the best windows in Barbados which is left at Dover Beach opposite the playing field. It is an area which is used by a large number of people as an access to the sea and by a large number of visitors to the Island as an open area where old people go and sit down and enjoy the sea breeze. I also

know that year after year considerable pressure is brought to bear upon the Government to sell part of this land for hotel development. I would hope that the Government would not, with the new area of land that they have acquired, decide in their minds to sell this area of land. It should be used for the creation of amenities similar to those which are in existence at Hastings Rocks. It would be better than that even because of the fact that the beach fronting this land on the seaside is a larger area of beach than at Hastings. It is that sort of concept that I would like to see on this land and not just another group of hotel buildings erected there. I know it is next to Maresol Beach Apartments and it forms a logical extension to them, but we on this side would resist any attempt where from the East or West, North or South, to extend hotels on this area of land. It should be a place for public amenities having regard to the fact that it is situated in a very great built-up area, and all the rest of the beach in that area is taken up now with hotels, and this is the only open area, and I hope it will be used to add to the amenities there.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have seen the plan for the land which is being released by the Government, but I wonder if the Minister has a plan for the Cable and Wireless lot. I would like to see that. One plan has been passed to this side, but I do not think the Minister has passed the other one. 12.45 p.m.

While the hon. member is looking, it must be there, but whenever you are dealing with exchanges of land both plots must be seen, and in this case to avoid any various propaganda on this matter, whereas one is 11 acres and the other is something like 1 acre 13 3/5 perches, you must be able to give a proper description to show to the general public and to avoid any undue criticism why we agree to give 11 acres of land for 1 1/4 acres. I myself know why, but it is fair to have that plan here in the House so that the general public should be satisfied. The plan you have shown us is for 11 acres and you are exchanging that, it is the Government's land at Wildey - I think I am right in that - and there are exchanging that with Cable and Wireless for 1 acre 13 3/5 perches. To the average person it would seem that the Government would give away 11 acres of land for 1 acre which is not really correct, but we just want to see the plan. You cannot come to the conclusion that everyone in Barbados would know what is happening when they see it in the newspaper, and that is why we should have the plan.

All that is stated here in the Schedule is that this is a parcel of land on lands of Maresol Beach Hotel Limited and on the public road or however else the same may Abut and Bound. Maybe if we had a better description we would not have to ask for the plan.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way I can try to help him, but up to now I have not been able to find a plan for the property in St. Lawrence Gap, but the description is quite clear as set out in the Schedule, but the question of valuation is one which is worrying the hon. member.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That is not worrying me, what is worrying me is that the public must be satisfied. Personally I think I understand where it is but it is not properly described here and I do not care who says it is. I can value for myself and I maintain that no Government has any right to come down here to make an exchange of 11 acres of land for 1 acre. I honestly feel the Government has the better of the transaction, but you must have a proper description here and a plan. Never come before this House without a plan or a plot in a case like this. I will give way to the Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Messrs. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited are Commission Valuers and they value the sites in question and have reported that 544,500 square feet of land at Wildey, Christ Church is building land and in a good residential area and more suitable for building and developing, but for agricultural land they would value it at $2,000 E.C. per acre and as building land they would value it at 50¢ per square foot. The property at St. Lawrence, Christ Church on the sea is an area of 63,000 square feet with a sea frontage of 384 feet and 160 feet deep, the beach is good and it adjoins the property of Maresol Beach Hotel; this property is more suitable for a Hotel or an apartment Building, and there are several buildings on the land used as offices and these are valued at $10.00 E.C. per square foot, making a total of $630,000 E.C.

The hon. member is not satisfied with the description in the Resolution, but that is how descriptions always appear on Resolutions, and I do not see anything wrong with the description which reads as follows:

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of the lands of Wildey Plantation) situate at Wildey in the parishes of Saint Michael and Christ Church in this Island and containing by admeasurement 11.012 Acres or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands formerly of Wildey Plantation but now of the Government on lands now or late of sundry owners namely one Layne et al on other lands of the Government being other lands formerly of Wildey Plantation and on the Public Road which leads from Wildey to Kent or however else the same may Abut and Bound.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

All that certain piece or parcel of land (formerly part of the lands of a place called "Dover") situate at Saint Lawrence Gap in the parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement one acre thirteen and three fifths perches or forty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-two and three fifths square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on the parcel of land described in the Third Schedule, on the sea, on lands of Maresol Beach Hotel Limited and on the Public Road or however else the same may Abut and Bound together with the buildings and erections thereon and thereto belonging. 12.55 p.m.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE

All that certain piece or parcel of land (formerly part of the lands of "Dover") situate in the parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement Eighteen thousand five hundred and thirty-eight square feet (made up of the original area formerly said to contain by admeasurement Thirteen thousand three hundred and forty and one-half square feet but found by subsequent survey to contain by admeasurement Thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-one square feet (of which area Eight hundred and fifty-one square feet form part of a Public Road which was formerly a Private Road) and Four thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven square feet added to the said Thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-one square feet due to the gradual receding of the Sea) Abutting and Bounding as a whole on the Cholera Burial Ground, on the Seashore, on lands formerly of Dr. T. A. Herbert but now of the Western Telegraph and being the parcel of land described in the Second Schedule and on a Public Road which was formerly a Private Road or however else the same may Abut and Bound together with the dwellinghouse thereon called "Bermersyde.".

I do not see anything wrong with the description. We know what the Government will be getting in exchange for the land owned by Cable and Wireless.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Acting Leader of the House asking us on this occasion to forfeit our rights in having a properly prepared plan which should be recorded? I believe that the Government are getting the better of the deal, but I believe there should be a proper plan so that in the next 10 years - as the Addendum sets out - the business of Cable and Wireless will be carried on there, pending construction of their new complex at Wildey. I may be dead and gone, and it may be said that somebody who knew about plans should have asked for a proper plan to be submitted to the House.

It is known that there is a lot of sand coming in on the beaches. Even if you are acting on a plan made 20, 30, or 40 years ago for Dr. Herbert, I am satisfied that in that particular area the land has increased. I do not know where all of that sand comes from in that area. That is why I have always maintained during my 25 years in here that a proper plan should be prepared which could be recorded in this House. Whenever Government, is dealing with land. That has always been the practice The land was bought 40 years ago, so anything can happen to that land as well as the land owned by other people. It may be found that that portion of land has increased. I should like the hon. member to have this Item deferred until a proper plan can be produced. I do not know how other members on this side feel about it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is insisting on seeing this plan, I am not going to deprive hon. members of this right. I will move that further consideration be deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you should allow the hon. senior member for the City to move that Motion.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be deferred.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION *re* THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1971

Mr. SPEAKER: Item 3 is the next Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to give effect to the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1971.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for Christ Church is asking for leave to deal with the matter standing in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted to the hon. member to move the passing of a Resolution to give effect to the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1971.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1971 was made by the Prime Minister on the 22nd day of March 1971, under the provisions of section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949, and I am asking that this Order be approved.

The Order seeks to create a part-time post of Ophthalmologist for the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Fire Service to prevent the long wait which members of the two services now experience when seeking treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. 1.05 p.m.

Hon. members may be aware that this matter was one resulting from the Date Commission of Enquiry Report and the subsequent meetings between the parties concerned, and because the Ophthalmologist will merely perform examinations, it is considered that a salary of $1,500 per annum is a reasonable salary. The idea is to create a part-time post to see that the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Fire Service are given quicker attention and not have to wait as experienced at present at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to make provision for about 850 members of our population out of almost 250,000. We do not for a

single moment want to deny either the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force or the Fire Service of the services of an Ophthalmologist. What we should like to enquire from the Acting Leader of the House is how many members of the Police Force now wear glasses and how many are awaiting attention by the Ophthalmologist. In other words, if we have this long waiting list and as the Addendum says you want to prevent the long wait by members of the two services, how long is this waiting list, and for how long have these members been waiting before they could get attended? It is not good enough for Government merely to rush here at this last hour, because as the Minister has rightly said, a recommendation of the Date Commission was that the members of these two bodies should be given free optical treatment; but the Date Commission further recommended that this was a matter requiring careful study by experts. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us whether this matter has been subjected to the careful examination of the experts and who are the experts by whom the examination has been carried out, because what one is going to find is that there are areas of discontent existing in the Police Force and evidently in the Fire Service as well, resulting from Government's approach to this problem.

Now we are hearing of a long wait by police who want optical treatment, but Government now finds the answer to this by appointing a part-time officer at something like $125 a month. He could not be worth very much, or the time that he is going to make available to the Police could not be very much, or on the other hand the number of policemen that he will be attending could not be very many, hence I would ask how many policemen and firemen are presently awaiting the services of this officer. I believe, Sir, that the Minister ought to be armed with this type of information. We are also going to hear that the Police Association is expecting Government to provide the spectacles for the policemen as well, but Government on the other hand is somewhat hesitant and is only willing to agree to bear part of the cost of each pair of spectacles.

We do not think, Mr. Speaker, that this could be considered a very practical approach to the problem if the problem indeed warrants the appointment of the expert at this stage. We are not going against this at all; we are for the appointment of the Ophthalmologist, but a number of policemen already wear spectacles, and since this was a recommendation of the Date Commission, what is going to be the position with all those policemen who have bought their spectacles out of their own pockets? As a matter of fact, a number of them have gone to specialists and have had their eyes examined and bought their spectacles. What is going to be Government's position now if Government is going to subsidise the wearing of spectacles by policemen?

1.15 p.m.

Is it that Government is going to take into consideration that the scheme should have come into effect as from the date of adoption of the Date Commission Report, or when does Government propose bringing this into effect? Undoubtedly, bearing in mind what you may hear as to the numbers who now wear spectacles and perhaps the length of time, we would then be able to decide to what extent Government would be permitted in financing the scheme where these officers are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, we have in the Fire Service, let us say, I do not know if the Minister would have this information, but there are 14 Firemen now wearing spectacles. I would like him to search his files and find that - and there are only 4 Firemen who are now awaiting optical treatment, and that, Mr. Chairman, is within a Fire Service body of, I think, 114 strong. We have the Police Band, and one must expect the reading of music must throw a considerable strain upon the eyes of the Policemen. You will find a higher percentage of spectacle wearers amongst the Bandsmen than perhaps in other branches, let us say, like the C.I.D. except in those members of the C.I.D. who work in the laboratory, fingerprinting department and so on, but Mr. Speaker, it is all right for us to have before us, even when the Minister gives us these figures, the number of Policemen wearing spectacles; there must be an underlying cause for all of this.

I have given as in the case of the Bandsmen, where sections of the Band go out to play at various functions, and you will find that invariably the absence of proper facilities for the Band can in itself through extra strain on the eyes of the Bandsmen. I am not suggesting that the Band should not play at the various functions or be available to members of the public, what I should like to know is that application is made as early as possible for the services of the Band, and where the Band is going to play at night that everthing is done to see that there is proper illumination, and that no member of the Band is put to undue strain during a performance. In the same way, we have the barrack rooms at the several police stations; many of them were constructed in the days when at 10 o'clock lights had to be put out. You might still find many of them are still using the 40-watt bulb, and many a Policeman will go in and might like, now on his bedstead as against his cot of yesterday, to read perhaps for the first time of the day that day's newspaper, or book or something else, because some of them are still studying during their spare hours, and if there is not proper lighting for the Policeman to see to read and to study to help to fortify himself, he suffers a setback, because his eyesight can become impaired through all of this, so all in all there is the necessity for an overall examination.

We might find as well that the absence of certain vitamins from the system of the Policemen, Cod Liver Oil, for instance, could go a long way in helping to correct many of the problems that cause many people to require the services of the Optician. I am not saying that Cod Liver Oil is the answer in every case or a chronic type of case, but these are some of the elementary things, and it is not merely a case of finding Policemen requiring spectacles appointing an Ophthalmologist, giving the Police free

optical treatment and paying part of the cost of his spectacles, we need a better examination of the overall system to see if the policemen are not suffering deficiencies in their dieting. All of this, Mr. Speaker, borders on the numbers that tend to make up the long waiting list that the Addendum tells us about so neatly here. I have tried to make some enquiries myself and on finding the words "long wait" I had the shock to discover that this long wait does not exist. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear the Minister on this point. We are not opposed to the appointment of the Officer, but we would like to hear exactly what Government intend doing, and why this matter has been hanging fire from the days of the Date Commission. How is it that it took so long for a recommendation such as this to come before this House? I would be very pleased to hear what the Minister has to say.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Commission of Enquiry, there were numerous meetings with the Commissioner of Police and certain proposals, but we are dealing with this specific one. There has been constant complaint in the Police Force and the Fire Service about the long wait which members of the two services now experience when seeking treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and it was recommended that a Consultant Ophthalmologist and Dental Surgeon be appointed. The appropriate Minister accepted the recommendation. Now, the proposed salary of the Ophthalmologist is $1,500 per annum, and this is based on payment made to the Consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This figure is felt to be reasonable, since he will merely perform examinations.

It is agreed that the Government would supplement expenditure on spectacles by paying half the cost of them. In other words, Government would pay half the cost of providing spectacles and half the cost of replacing them every 3 years on the recommendation of the Ophthalmologist, and based on the number of officers now wearing spectacles it has been estimated that the cost of spectacles would be $2,880 per annum. The Government involvement therefore, would be $1,440 per annum. as far as the number of men in the Force, which now wears spectacles, I am afraid I cannot give the hon. member the precise number. He would have an idea from what I have just read out to him. It is one of the recommendations of the Date Commission that a part-time Ophthalmologist be appointed.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister says that Government estimates the cost of the spectacles to be $ 2,880 per annum for members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Fire Service, I wonder what is the estimated cost of a pair of spectacles. Mr. Speaker, some spectacles, depending on the type of lens required, cost $250 or more than that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the hon. member. I should be glad if he would repeat what he has said.

Mr. HINDS: I said that a pair of spectacles in some cases, depending on the type of lens required, may cost $250 or more than that. On what decision has the Minister based his $2,880 for spectacles for the Force for a period of one year?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have certain information on the file. I take it that these things have been properly investigated. I do not know of any pair of spectacles that will cost as much as $250. Maybe the hon. junior member for St. Peter has a pair, but I cannot afford to buy a pair like that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, if it is not what I can afford or what the hon. Minister can afford; it is what the Ophthalmologist would prescribe for the Officer. The Date Commission has recommended that this matter should be studied by experts. Who are the experts who studied it?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, if the cost of a pair of spectacles is $250, then the Government would have to pay half of it. This will apply to members of the Police Force and the Fire Service, and it will come into effect as soon as the Resolution is passed. I cannot give the hon. member an assurance as to whether those who have their spectacles already will get a refund. It seems as though they have some claim in that the Report is only now being implemented.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Government is making provision for replacement every 3 years, evidently, the Minister would agree that an Officer who bought his spectacles 3 years ago should be entitled to some consideration.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I will agree with that because anyone who wears spectacles should have them replaced every three or four years.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that the Minister has made his final reply.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, if that is so, why did you allow the hon. junior member for St. Peter to ask questions all the time?
1.35 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION *re* LEASE OF LAND TO TEXACO WEST INDIES LIMITED AND SHELL ANTILLES GUIANAS LIMITED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order is Item No. 4. This is a Resolution to approve of the lease by the Minister charged with the responsiblity for the subject of lands to Texaco West Indies Limited and Shell Antilles Guianas Limited of the parcel of land described in the Schedule on the terms and conditions set out in the Schedule. The Schedule sets out all that certain piece or parcel of land (part of the lands of Seawell Airport) situate at Seawell in the Parish of Christ Church in this Island containing by admeasurement 90,448 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on other lands of the Government now leased to Esso Service Station, on other lands of the Government being lands now occupied by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, on other lands of the Government being lands now occupied by the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation, and on other lands of the Government being part of the lands of Seawell Airport or however else the same may Abut and Bound.

The Lease is to be for a period of twenty-one years at a rental of seven cents per square foot per annum subject to review every five years.

It is proposed that the area of land described in the Schedule be leased to Texaco West Indies Limited and Shell Antilles Guianas Limited for the provision of aviation and fuel storage depot facilities at the airport. The position is that at present a certain area of land is leased to the same lessees, but they want more land in order to expand their facilities there. Messrs. Texaco West Indies Limited have applied on behalf of themselves and Shell Antilles Guianas Limited for the lease of an additional area of 29,550 square feet of land west of and contiguous to the present area of land of these two companies as tenants in common for the purpose of providing increased storage facilities. The company has requested that the lease which did expire on 31st December, 1970, be cancelled and a new lease granted for the existing area in addition to the 29,550 square feet being sought. The company has also proposed that the lease be made to themselves and Shell Antilles Guianas Limited as tenants in common for the period of twenty-one years and on the same conditions as for the existing lease. The applicants held their lease for ten years which expired on 31st December, 1970, at a rental of $100 per year. The rent paid by Esso for similar facilities was at the rate of 3 1/2 cents per square foot per year for an area of 70,747 square feet. The rent of seven cents per square foot per year is an increase and the area is 90,448 square feet. If hon. members want to have the plans, they are available.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, dealing with Shell Antilles and Texaco, these are companies on which I am bound to express certain criticisms. Some time ago we were told in this House that these companies were establishing a joint operation at Oistin, and one of the things they would do, was to establish a jetty at Oistin, and at the jetty they would have facilities for boats and things of that kind. I can report now that they have tricked the Government and have not established any jetty at all. I can report further that they have caused a very serious drainage problem in Oistin itself, because the land on which they have put their tanks has been built up and when the rain falls, the water backs up in the area. I have written the Ministry to Communications on this and the Minister went up there and looked at it at the time. This is a very serious problem. I cannot understand these oil companies. Government should have insisted when they were putting the terminal at Oistin that part and parcel of the deal for the terminal would have been a jetty and not rely on any statement by them. I want to know what is Government's attitude in relation to this Shell and Texaco combination. I do not feel that we should be disposed to granting them any favours at all until they meet their obligation which they promised the Government at the time. *(Asides)* This is a favour for them because if they do not get the land at Seawell they cannot put in the supply and other companies would get it. They want the opportunity to compete on equal terms, and if they are denied this opportunity, they cannot do it at all.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In my capacity as Chairman of the Oistin Development Committee, I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention that while I appreciate what he said that there should be a quid pro quo at an early time, I take it that the Oil Company referred to is a company of some sort of repute.
1.45 p.m.

I take it that when the recommendations were made by Oistin Redevelopment Committee to Cabinet and communicated to the Oil Companies, Texaco and Shell, they approved of them. As a matter of fact, it was on their own recommendations that we agreed to give them permission on the first phase of the development. The second phase has not yet started, probably the hon. member is very anxious to see it started, so am I, but I have no grounds to believe that the various recommendations as set out by the Committee will not be implemented.

Mr. St. JOHN: If the hon. member will give way, there is no jetty.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: What I want to draw to the attention of the House is that it is being done in two phases; the first phase is completed and the second phase will start after the reclamation of land and so on. We will reclaim land and then we will have the jetty, you cannot just go and push out a jetty like that. What I am trying to bring to his notice is that only the first phase has been dealt with and the second phase which is the reclamation of land to build a jetty. jetty.....

Mr. St. JOHN: If the hon. member will give way, I hope the hon. member knows that as a result of this first phase, a serious drainage problem has in fact been created, and I know that the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications was up there after representations were made to the Ministry, so this is a very serious thing. The whole thing wants looking after.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I think I can give the hon. member the assurance that I am deeply interested in Oistin as he is, and in my capacity as Chairman of the Oistin Redevelopment Committee,-I will see to it that everything good is done to develop Oistin and that all of the recommendations, all the agreements which were reached with the two Oil Companies are kept and preserved, and that the Oistin area will be redeveloped.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ORANGE HILL, ST. JAMES.

Hon. C.E. TALMA: This Resolution stands in the name of the Leader of the House, Mr. Speaker, and I am asking leave to take charge of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, and I can hear none, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as is set out in the Addendum, in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, we are seeking the approval of Parliament for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situated in the district known as Orange Hill, St. James, containing by admeasurement 15.590 acres or thereabouts.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, there is no point printed in this Resolution it is stated here as 15,590 acres. I do not mind people who get up to talk nonsense, I appreciate what the Acting Leader of the House means but the Addendum is incorrectly printed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand it is a Printer's error.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to amend the figure of 15.590 and not as stated here 15,590, it is a typographical error, but the Schedule should read as follows:-

All that certain piece or parcel of land (part of Apes Hill Plantation situate in a district known as Orange Hill in the parish of St. James in this Island, containing by admeasurement 15.590 Acres or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on other lands of Apes Hill Plantation on lands of sundry owners and on the Public Road leading from Highway 2A to Apes Hill Plantation or however else the same may Abut and Bound.

We are exercising the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, and seeking approval for the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of land described in the Schedule. The land is available and it is needed for a housing development, and I think that with the dearth of land needed for housing hon. members will agree that the time is ripe for acquiring more suitable areas such as this for housing development.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that and I would like to reserve my right to speak.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Government will be able to tell me this; when you say it is for development do you mean it will be turned over to the Housing Authority for building houses?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member will give way, this is for building houses, for resiting houses and for providing a playing field in the area, also a Day Nursery and Community Centre.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Was permission given to make the plot? The Opposition should be treated with the respect to which it is entitled. It must be sent here.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member will give way, when the Minister introduced the Resolution he pointed out that the plot was available and there was no indication that hon. members wished to see it.
1.55 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: When you are coming here to talk about leasing land and so on, you must bring a plan before the House. The hon. member has made it quite clear that it is for housing development and that a playing field will be provided.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, there are 13.8 acres of land which will be used for housing development and a playing field, but the 2 acres of gully land will not be paid for.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt. I am advised by both Clerks-at-the-Table, whose watches are synchronised, that it is now 2 p.m.

The sitting is now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

On resumption

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum, and I request that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Answers have been laid to certain questions, the first of which, according to my information, is No. 127 and that is to be found on page 9 of the Order Paper. it stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George.

DISREPAIR OF ROADS AND INADEQUATE WATER FACILITIES IN ST. GEORGE

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and works:-

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

2. Will the Minister rectify these defects without delay?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:

Steps are being taken to put the road at Bairds Village in proper condition, and the road to Daniels Land will be included in this year's Road Works Programme.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 155 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph at page 13, left hand column.

St. BERNARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is it a fact that children are being turned away from the new St. Bernard Primary School situate in St. Joseph because they are not wearing shoes to school?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the reply to the question is "No, Sir".

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if any investigations have been carried out in respect of this particular allegation?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, whenever any question is asked in this Honourable House, appropriate investigations are carried out before replies are brought to the Chamber.
2.35 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, it is known that the Headmaster of the school.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is a statement the hon. member is making. He is not asking a supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can easily put it in the form of a supplementary question.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, is it not a fact that the headmaster of the school turned back several children because they were not wearing shoes when they reached the school?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is not a fact.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if the parents of any children were interviewed as a result of any of these questions that have been tabled.

Hon. A. DaC.EDWARDS: Why should parents be interviewed to answer a question like this? The question was whether the children were turned back from school. Investigations were carried out and the Ministry was advised that they were not turned back from school.

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister aware that the question involved children and the action that was taken by the schoolmaster affecting these children?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before the Minister replies, what the hon. member fails to understand is that no names of children were mentioned. Because I am a parent, could they come and interview me? People must use their commonsense.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, children were involved, but we were asked if children were turned away because they did not wear shoes, I said that the Headmaster and other appropriate persons were interviewed and it was discovered that no children were turned back.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just admitted that the Headmaster and other appropriate people were interviewed. Can the Minister tell us who these appropriate people were?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is not for me to tell the hon. member that. I give what information I care to give.

QUESTION *re* ROADS AT LONG GAP, St. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 143 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House I would like to put the question for the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member been requested to do so?

Mr. BOLDEN: Yes, Sir. The question reads as follows:

To enquire of the Minister for Communications and works:-

1. Is the Minister aware that there is a considerable population living on unmade roads, running East and West off the Long Gap, Spooners Hill in the parish of St. Michael; and that these roads are in the worst possible state of repair?

2. Will the Minister give instructions that the said roads be put in order, if possible, in accordance with a scheme that would connect them with Woodstock and the Rock areas to the West, and Thompson's Gap to the East?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:

"The possibility of linking Long Gap with Woodstock Gap and the Rock Gap areas to the West and Thompson's Gap to the East is being investigated".

QUESTION *re* DISTRICT NURSES IN ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 156 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I am requested by the hon. member to ask this question on his behalf.

Mr. SPEAKER: I accept the hon. member's word. Let the question be put.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To enquire of the Minister of Health:-

Is the Minister aware that

(1) There are only three nurses doing district nursing in St. Michael?

(2) These said district nurses only receive $15 travelling allowance per month?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative

Will the minister take steps to increase

(1) The number of district nurses?

(2) The travelling allowance of said nurses?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows:-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir. These nurses are not Government employees, but are employed by the Barbados Registered Nurses Association which receives a subvention from Government. Government has agreed to increase the subvention granted to the Association and intends to inaugurate a District Nursing Service for the Island, and so the conditions of service of these nurses would be thereby improved."

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no more questions for which answers have been laid, and accordingly there is no alternative but to proceed to Private Members' Business, if it is so sought to proceed with that now. Would the Hon. Leader of the Opposition intimate in respect of that if he seeks to proceed now?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 18 be the first Order under Private Members' Business.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION *re* PLAYING FIELD AT DUNLOW LANE, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 18 is the instant Order, and it stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for Bridgetown, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution calling upon the Government to purchase land in the Dunlow Lane area to be used as a playing field and a recreation centre for the residents of Dunlow Lane in St. Michael. Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution calls on the Government to purchase land in Dunlow Lane area to be used as a playing field and recreational centre for the residents of Dunlow Lane. This is not a very big area, but it is an area which is somewhat precluded from the general run of things. It is a densely populated area. The reason why I have asked for this is because I have visited the area on a number of occasions and I find that the young people of the area cannot play cricket in the road because it is in a very bad condition, and they have to resort to playing on the land of one of the adjoining land owners. They are therefore at the mercy of the land owners at the moment in having a playing field, and I think the time has come when the Government should put it on a permanent basis, and give the residents of the area some sort of facilities to prevent them from relying purely on the mercies or the understanding of the adjoining land owners. It could very well be that some people may say there is no need for the Government to do it because they are using it at the moment, but I do not believe that portion of land which they use at the moment is being put to the best possible use, because part of it is still under cultivation, and I believe if the Govern-

ment could acquire it, although it does not carry a very large playing field, at any rate it would provide an opportunity for the residents and give them some place to play and to knock around on, to kick football and to play cricket, and above all, it would provide a recreation centre with a pavilion to prevent people from having to stand under the street light. They are fortunate that at the moment there is only one street light in the area which is not a very bright light, and I would urge upon the Government to take steps to compulsorily acquire the land if necessary if you cannot do it by arrangement, and use the powers of the Land Acquisition Act to acquire this land and you would be able to put in addition to the playing field, a recreational centre. You may find that part of the land which you will acquire may be able to hold a communal bath and latrine, because I do not believe there is one in this area and the Government in doing this, may take these things into consideration.

2.45 p.m.

I believe that some time ago when the question of the road came up before this House the Govern-. ment then informed the House that the reason for the delay - and subsequently I received a letter from the Minister to this effect - was because two adjoining land owners refused to give the necessary permission, and it would be necessary for the Government to pave the road and acquire part of the land to which this Resolution refers, and therefore the Government may consider at this stage, rather than just acquiring a few feet for the purpose of building the road, to look into the possibility of acquiring the whole portion of land because this is the only land that can be used there. I know that some people may feel that there is a playing field not too far away, but I think the Bay Land is a very densely populated area, the Y. M. P. C. is not opened to the poor people, and although it may not provide the same facilities as Kensington Oval I believe it would provide some place where the young people in the area could use and I would sincerely ask the Government to take the necessary steps to acquire the land if necessary. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. HINDS: I beg to second that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is pushing an open door. The whole point is that it is the policy of this Government wherever there is a densely populated area to provide certain recreational facilities and certain amenities in this area, and of high priority in this Government's programme is the provision of playing fields and so on. The hon. member pointed out that we may not consider, or words to that effect, that we may not consider it expedient to support this Resolution because there is the Bay playing field; I can remind him that there is a playing field at Parkinson Field but yet there is a small playing area in the Pine also. The point is that we cannot hope to provide cricket fields all over the country in every district but there are other games and even if we had small playing fields and they wanted to play cricket, what is wrong with marble cricket? The point is that we have to provide amenities for the young people of the area, the girls want their netball and the boys their basketball, and I agree with the hon. member that the Government should buy it, do you know why? Recently there was a group of boys assembling in the Dayrell's Road area and for years they were making use of a small area by Humphrey's Bakery, and they were carrying on basketball competitions and on evenings hundreds of people gathered there to watch the games, and what was the result? The land was not theirs, they were more or less squatters and the result was that the land was sold for commercial purposes and the people who looked forward to going there as a rendezvous for sports, no longer had access to it.

I can remember about four or five years ago we had an area in Brittons Hill, the Radcliff Ground, where the boys used to meet and on Sundays you would have some friendly cricket and when I used to play for the B.C.L. I played many a game there. Eventually it was sold and it was developed by a Jew, I think, and the people from the area were denied the use of a playing field which they had used for many years before. Whether this area is large, whether it is small, is not important, the fact remains that it is used by the people in the area and that recreational facilities must be provided for them, and we on this side support the Resolution. The hon. member can rest assured that we congratulate him on making his observation, we congratulate him on pointing out to us where we can find a small area for the people of Dunlow Lane. This is part of his job as a representative of the area, and this is the first time I have had opportunity to congratulate him.

2.55 p.m.

He would , in the past, come in and every time we had a Resolution dealing with Community Development, he would be asking for a playing field for Bridgetown. He would tell us that he is hearing about a playing field for other places, but he could not hear about one for Bridgetown. That is what you call crictism without any sort of construction about it. The whole point is that if the hon. member wants something for Bridgetown, he must not sit on his hind legs and expect someone to do his work.

When the hon. senior member for St. Joseph wanted a playing field and housing area for St. Joseph, he came in here time and time again and talked about Lammings Pasture and he got it. The point is that the hon. junior member for the City must not just tell us that he wants a playing field, but he must tell us where we can get the playing field. Mr. Speaker, the people in the Dunlow Lane are Barbadians and citizens of this country, and we owe the same duty to them as we owe to the people in St. Peter, St. Andrew and Orange Hill who are getting their playing fields; therefore, there is no discrimination here. What the people must have, they will have. I assure the hon. member that we will give favourable consideration to his request.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I take a different view from the last two speakers. I agree that playing fields are necessary, but we have to look at the matter from the point of view that Barbados is not expanding. Barbados is more land than forest. When we have used up all of the land for playing

fields, where are we going to put the people who have stopped playing to live and sleep? We must also think of these things. You have the Garrison Pasture up there, and when I was a boy, I had to walk all about in order to get somewhere to play. Whenever you hear politicians or so-called village pump politicians talking nowadays, not only in this Chamber but all over the place, the accent is on youth. Ten years from now, what will happen to the youth? The youth will also become old people. We cannot provide everything for youth and nothing for the old people.

Mr. Speaker, I do not contribute to that sort of thing at all, and I will tell you why. When I was a boy, I had to walk miles to find a playing field on which to play. The trouble with the majority of the young people today is that they want these facilities, but they are not prepared to sweat in order to keep these facilities in a sanitary or healthy-looking condition. Mr. Speaker, most of our games used to be played on Rudder's pasture. We had some big cane-holes up there, but on evenings everybody used to get together in an effort to get the pasture level. In those days there was no Government to help anybody with anything like that. Until this Government came into power some people did not know that they had anybody representing them.

Mr. Speaker, the people at Dayrells Road had to provide their own facilities, and that is why some of the best cricketers in Barbados came from that area. Today you buy land, provide a nice pavilion, bring a bulldozer to level the land in order to prepare a playing field, and when that is done, the young people will tell you that they want a groundsman. If you buy a million playing fields, Mr. Speaker, when we take the behaviour of the youth into consideration, all of them will soon become decrepit unless the Government is prepared to pay watchmen, caretakers and so on to look after them.

You can go to Blenheim and see where we have spent thousands of dollars in order to provide a playing field for the youths. They have built one of the best playing fields up there for these people, but what do you find? We have recently had to put wire around it in order to prevent people from going there to gamble. It is about time that the politicians get serious and let the people know the truth. I am speaking as a taxpayer, so I have to talk about the taxpayers' money, too. It is time that we stop fooling ourselves with this nonsense. At Blemheim you have to pay a watchman, a caretaker and so on. The playing field was not bought for me to play on; it was bought for the people in the area to use. Why cannot the people in the area devote some of their time to keep the playing field in a proper condition? Nothing like that is done nowadays.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that we need playing fields because they will keep the young people off the streets, but I feel that the youngsters should contribute something towards the maintenance of these playing fields instead of waiting on the Government to do everything for them. The Government has to provide the playing field, send a bulldozer to level the land, send a roller to roll the pitch, employ a watchman, and put in water, but to my mind all of these things have not produced any better cricketers in Barbados. I am sure when Garfield Sobers started to play cricket at Bay Street School he had to bring water. You had the Grants from Dayrells Road, Kenneth Lashley, the Grahams and all of us in our day had to walk with water for miles in order to prepare a wicket. *(Asides)* The youngsters nowadays have a lot of facilities, but I do not see any outstanding cricketers coming up.

Mr. Speaker, the world is comprised of 3.6 billion people, and up to today you cannot get two good fast bowlers since Charlie Griffith and Hall have retired from cricket. We are providing all of these playing fields, but what is happening with the youngsters today? We are really making a soft community, and this is due to the fact that we have too many village pump politicians. The youngsters do not like to walk any more, so when I see children born without limbs I do not think it is due to any pill. I look at it as if nature is taking care of humanity, because everybody wants to drive nowadays. The young people do not walk to the beach any more. I remember years ago when you could see four boys on a bicycle: one on the saddle; one on the handle; one on the bar, and a little fellow behind the one on the saddle, but we used to get where we were going. Today you will find people with a yacht or a car.

Mr. Speaker, the next thing you will hear is that the Olympic Committee will be asking us to vote money to send a team somewhere. I am not in that nonsense; you must show me where you are sending out a proper team to represent us. Everybody knows about Barbados nowadays who should know about Barbados. The youngsters are not interested in things because they are getting them too easy. When I was a boy I can remember that it was a great thing to become a professional. You had people like Francis, Martindale, Williams and Spooner all fast bowlers, but today everbody is a spinner.

Nowadays nobody stumps his toe while playing; everybody has shoes. You do not even see a boy with his big toe tied up. I am not trying to deny people from getting these things, but the time has come when we have to call a halt. We cannot go on pampering the youth, because 10 years from now the youth will also be old, too. We will have to do things for youth as well as for the old. I agree that you need playing fields, because they will keep the youths off the street and prevent them from becoming vandals.
3.05 p.m.

We put down nice playing fields and good pavilions for them, but these are things that we never had. Our pavilion was an old tamarind tree that my grandmother had at Rudder's pasture. You put on your clothes before you came there and then you put on your pads under the tree, but we have produced some of the greatest cricketers that Barbados and the West Indies have seen, some of the best foot-

thorities, the Town and Country Planning Authorities and the water Board get together and carry out a review or re-assessment of the situation and see if it is not possible to do something in the matter We would like to see the position of the people in the areas re-examined.

Now, in the Mile and a Quarter area there are about 40 houses that are seriously affected by this zoning. At the Whim there are about 93 houses. There are 7 at Haymans, and there are 37 houses in another area. At Lower Carlton there are 277 houses and 158 at Rock Dundo. This would give us something like 877 houses. There are other areas like Bakers and the Farm where there are other houses in scattered areas which will bring us very near 1,000 houses that are affected. What we would like the Government to look into is the length of time that these houses were affected and see whether the time has not arrived when a further survey should be carried out to see whether these people cannot be given a further opportunity to provide themselves with a water-borne system to their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Resoultion requires that I should say anything further on it, because I am confident that every hon, member would like to see and know that as long as the water sources cannot be affected by any such action that the Water Board should act as quickly as possible in order to bring any relief that it is possible to give under the circumstances set out according to the terms of the Resolution.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the terms of the Resolution may be quite amiable and would normally prove of some benefit to the small holders, but the question as to the procedures to be adopted in order to make it easier for small holders to develop their lands and make extensions to their developments, etc. which have to be considered. In other words, the terms of the Resolution are quite in order, but in implementing the terms one has to be careful that the health of the community is not tampered with. This is a matter which will have to be very carefully investigated.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that on this occasion it runs counter to Government's policy in that the Resolution is requesting the Government to call upon the Water Board, the Health, Town and Country Planning and relevant Authorities to devise ways and means whereby small holders may be given an opportunity to make better use of their lands. It is a question of devising ways and means of implementing this Resolution. I know that, in many cases where small holders have to go through with all of the procedures, there is a certain amount of frustration. The Govment's policy should not be to frustrate or prevent development, but merely to see that the health of the community is protected.

In so far as the zoning to which the hon. member has referred, in Zone 1 no building is allowed, but as far as I know in other zones buildings are allowed provided that certain sanitary arrangements are adopted. There is nothing really objectionable on the face of the Resolution, in that it is merely asking the Government to use their best offices to assist small holders in these matters where at times and today they encounter a lot of difficulties. Although the Government has not actually, in Cabinet, considered the terms of this Resolution, I do not see anything objectionable in it, because it is merely requesting the Government to devise ways and means to see whether they can make things easier in these matters affecting health and water and so on, so that smallholders would be able to carry through their plans and implement their various programmes just as the bigger developers can do without having so much red tape and frustration. I am not going to oppose the passing of this Resolution in that the request is quite reasonable in my opinion. I think we can support it.

3.35 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION *re* HORTON'S, EASY HALL AND BLACKMAN'S TENANTRIES

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 13 to be the next Order of the day.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 13 is the instant Order of the day and it stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. It is to move the passing of a Resolution requesting the Government to protect the lives of the workers who are now living in the Horton's Easy Hall and Blackman's Tenantries in the parish of St. Joseph by buying the above-mentioned tenantries and surrounding lands for the purpose of establishing good and proper housing areas and other tenantries.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution reads as follows:

Whereas the workers, who are now living in the Horton's, Easy Hall and Blackman's Tenantries, St. Joseph, are exposed to horror and disaster in the case of fire due to their houses being surrounding by large fields of sugar cane;

And Whereas the said workers are very much afraid to go to bed at night knowing that a cane fire can occur at any time during the night when they are asleep;

Be it Resolved that this House request the Government to protect the lives of those people by buying the above-mentioned tenantries and surrounding lands for the purpose of establishing good and proper housing areas and other tenantries likewise.

After reading the Resolution I can afford to move that it do now pass because it really explains fully its purpose. As all of us know, there are people living in such tenantries that a stranger who does not live in the same tenantry would not know that people live there until the canes are reaped. After the canes have been cut then you can see some vey lovely looking houses in the tenantries. We know that cane fires now are in fashion. You can look forward every day and every night to seeing canes being burnt, but it is not always that these canes will be burnt around the houses and the houses will not ne affected. These people are exposed to danger and one would not like to hear that an entire tenantry has been burnt out and people's homes and lives are lost. It is our duty as representatives of the same people to protect them. I will mention the ones I know, but I am sure ther are other hon. members here who would be only too glad to mention tenantries in their constituencies also. I may mention that one is not in my constituency and that is a place called Jericho, in St. George where I did not know such lovely houses existed until two or three weeks ago when a field of canes was burnt and I saw these houses. If this fire had started during the night and the wind was blowing in that direction, we never can tell what might have become of the people there. There is another tenantry going by Ashford Hill. It is only now that you can see the houses there; and I believe all over the Island it is like that.

If the Government were to think seriously in terms of what could happen, it is possible that two or three fires could be lit in one night and you may have the charred bodies of fifty or sixty people the next morning. No Government would like even to think of that, and it is our duty to save those people by thinking in terms of buying the land, and the people involved could either rent or buy the land, and you would have to make a law that they would not be able to plant sugar cane there anymore. When you do this, you would be diversifying and moving away from the growing of canes and into the growing of vegetables that could save money in the country. They could grow things that we would not have to import, and we could save that money, and while we are saving money and making money, we would be saving lives. I do not have to go any further as I would like this Resolution passed before the time expires.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. HOPPIN: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS RESUMED

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

3.45 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution which I moved in the first instance in relation to the purchase of Land at Orange Hill for housing development be resumed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that we now revert to the Cable and Wireless Resolution in connection with the exchange of lands. The plans have been shown to the hon. members opposite and I understand that they are satisfied. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

A BILL TO AMEND THE CASUAL EMPLOYEES PENSIONS ACT, 1961

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,

This Bill would amend the Casual Pensions Act, 1961 (1961-44) to preserve the pension rights under the Act of casual employees serving in the public service on or before a date to be appointed by the Ministry by order.

Employees joining the public service after the appointed date would not be eligible for a pension under the Casual Employees Act, 1961 but would be entitled to the grant of a gratuity in the circumstances specified in clause 4.

The Bill would also raise the compulsory retiring age of 65 years but service after the age of 60 years would not be taken into account in determining the amount of pension or gratuity payable under the Act.

The position is that we are now a community in which there are lots of casual employees though they have reached the retiring age of 60 years are still fit to continue till they reach 65. Under the Casual Employees Act, the retiring age is 60 years of age and although that is a desirable age for one to retire at in the tropics, owing to the economic conditions in the country and for many other obvious reasons known to us all, it is desirable that men who are fit and strong and who have their families to support and children going to school still, whether they be their children or grandchildren, they should be entitled as a right to continue working even though they have reached the retiring age of 60, until they reach 65 years of age when they can still give beneficial and useful service.

Government has been looking into this matter for quite a considerable time, and although that has been the subject matter of a directive from Cabinet several years ago, may Permanent Secretaries ignored it completely and we have now had to come down with legislation to make it compulsory so that all Government Departments would know that that is Government policy generally. When the amendment is passed and it becomes law every man over 60 but not exceeding 65 will as of right be entitled to work for the Government until he reaches the age of 65 years. It is a very desirable amendment and long overdue. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill, I would like to remind hon. members that in 1969 I tabled in this Chamber a Resolution calling on the Government to increase the compulsory retiring age of the casual employees in the Government service to the age of 65, and I think it was as a result of this that this action has been taken. The Hon. Acting Leader of the House, the junior member for Christ Church, quite rightly pointed our that directives were given but there have been a lot of red herrings across the trail. Some of the Permanent Secretaries were advised that they should not send the people home, but yet they issue directives to departments like Soil Conservation that as soon as these people reach the age of 60 they should go home. You have a situation where some of these very people at the age of 60 have young children in Secondary Schools; they have to provide bus fare and lunch for them, uniforms and books, and some of these people at the age of 60 were able to continue to work. You have a situation where your National Insurance pensions became payable at 65 and these very employees who were asked to leave the Government Service at 60 could go into private Interprise and find a job, and they gave better service than some of the young people because they work with experience, and the directive was there to allow them to go on. The whole point is that if they want to retire at 60 they can retire, but they should not be compelled to retire before 65, because it seems ironical to tell a man that he must leave at 60 when he can go and work somewhere else. It is voluntary for him to retire and receive his pension at 60, but if he wants to continue till 65 this Bill is now making such provision.

3.55 p.m.

Take a fellow like the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not a fellow; he is a gentleman.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, let us take the hon. junior member for St. Peter. He is not like me; I started getting my children when I was young, but he is getting his when he is old; therefore at the age of 60 he would like to go ahead and educate them.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am younger than the hon. senior member for St. Andrew; much younger and much more verile.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, some of us start late and at 60 we have our children at school. To ask us at that stage to go home on a small pension when we are able to work and give our children the sort of education we would like to give them is unreasonable. I think that this is a Bill which all hon. members would welcome.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, what I would like to hear from the Government benches is something definite that this Bill applies to Statutory Boards such as the Transport Board and the workers in those places. In other words, we have conductors and drivers who have been serving the Transport Board for over 15 years and are still in the wilderness. They do not know whether they are entitled to anything by way of a pension, and we want to know that as from the passing of this Bill these people will become pensionable.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I know that there are some Boards which make a contribution to the general Pension Fund. I think it is 25% of the wages or salaries. I know that the Housing Authority is one of these Boards, but I am not sure whether the Barbados Marketing Corporation contribute to the general Pension Fund. If the hon. member wants us to look to see whether all Statutory Boards should not be incorporated so that their employees should be given the same right as the people at the Housing Authority or any Statutory Board that contribute to the pension scheme, we will promise him to have a look at the matter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we would like to know now before we vote for this Bill. We want to know what Boards, what employees, what casual employees the reference in this Bill encompasses. I am not merely talking about casual employees in the Public Service. How far does the Public Service of this country reach out?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to explain that through some arrangement some years ago the Housing Authority requested that their employees be taken care of through the Government Pensions Act, and they contribute annually to the Government Pensions Scheme. There may be one or two other Statutory

Boards, but not all of them have made this sort of arrangement. The whole point is that it cannot be done by way of this Bill. The hon. member's request will call for the drafting of separate and distinct legislation in respect of the Statutory Boards just as it was done in respect of the officers working with the Housing Authority. If this is what the hon. member is asking for, then it cannot be done in this Bill. He can ask us to give consideration to the matter elsewhere, but we cannot include it in this Bill.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, let us get down to the Public Service. We have a case which I want to make mention of now where a man called Joseph Waterman from Church Street, Speightstown, St. Peter, served with the old vestries; he has done 27 years service; he has received no gratuity, nor has he been considered for a pension.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In what capacity did the gentleman serve?

Mr. HINDS: He served at the Local Government Council as a Supervisor of Works. He supervised all of their work.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Did he do it on a contractual basis, or as a direct employee of the Government?

Mr. HINDS: As an employee of the Council and of the Vestry.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member wants to have that case investigated, I do not think he has adopted the proper course. This would be a matter to be investigated on a different basis. It has no relation whatsoever with the Casual Employees Pensions Act. This is for Government employees who are employed on a particular basis. As the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has explained, the employees of the Statutory Boards are on a different footing from employees under the Casual Employees Pensions Act. It is true that in the case of the Housing Authority they contribute to the Pensions Scheme and their employees are protected as far as pension rights are concerned. The Transport Board do not contribute to the Pensions Scheme and their cases will have to be considered individually.

However, in order to achieve what the hon. junior member for St. Peter wishes, that would have to be the subject matter of a separate and independent Act dealing with that. That would have to be a Bill dealing with the employees of Statutory Boards, but employees of Statutory Boards are not casual employees of the Government. We are now dealing with casual employees of the Government, and are now trying to extend the time for them to be permitted to work. If we do not pass this Bill now, and if we want to wait until another Bill is passed to incorporate the employees of Statutory Boards in this Bill that cannot be done. It will have to be the subject matter of a different Bill altogether, and we will just be preventing a big mass of casual employees, who are anxious, willing and ready to work, from working as from next week or next month when this Bill shall have been passed in the Other Place. 4.05 p.m.

I am asking hon. members to view it this way. We are all in favour of employees of statutory boards being put on equal footing with these casual employees, but it is the means and method of doing this thing. We cannot do it by postponing this. You can make a stronger case by passing this, because having created this precedent for casual employees, you will strengthen your case for other casual employees who are not Government employees as such, but are employees of statutory boards under the same Government. So you cannot have one set of terms for casual employees directly under the Government, and a different set of terms for casual employees employed by statutory boards appointed by Government. This being passed, the other thing will have to be dealt with very quickly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would point out to the hon. junior member for St. Peter that he has mentioned this individual case and notice has been taken of it by the speech of the Acting Hon. Leader of the House, but this is merely the second reading, and we are now merely dealing with the principle of this Bill.

Mr. HINDS: That is all right. We on this side of the House are not prepared to be party to hot and sweaty legislation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, this bit of legislation is not to be looked on as hot and sweaty legislation. I might have been a hot and sweaty directive when you told people not to send people off but should let them work, now you are going to regularise the situation, and after careful and due consideration you have brought a Bill here. It has taken time. As a matter of fact, this Bill is overdue. As the hon. member pointed out, the directive was honoured more in the breach than anything else. We can appreciate the point which the hon. member is making, but let us deal with that in a separate and distinct exercise and get on with this.

Mr. SPEAKER: It cannot really be dealt with in this even in Committee.

Mr. HINDS: It cannot be dealt with in this?

Mr. SPEAKER: We are now discussing the principle of this Bill and if we approve of the principle of this Bill, a similar principle may be applied to the other case.

Mr. HINDS: We have heard what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said about Permanent Secretaries being responsible for a number of persons who had reached the age of sixty years having to go and eat the bread that the unemployed knead.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I would like to qualify that by saying "some" Permanent Secretaries.

Mr. HINDS: Some Permanent Secretaries have been responsible for a number of workers who had reached the age of sixty years being unemployed. What we have got to think in terms of now is what consideration does Government propose giving these people who were turned off at a time when Government, according to the Minister, wanted these people to work.

Mr. LOWE and the Hon. C. E. TALMA rose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the position is this.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually the hon. senior member for St. George caught my eye.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring forcibly to the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Peter that according the the Pensions Act a casual worker in the Government attaining the age of sixty years must resign. All that has happened is that after certain hon. members of this Chamber brought it to the notice of Government that under the National Insurance people were paying up to the age 65 years, it was felt that you should extend the direct privileges to these people to work up to the age of sixty-five years. All this Bill is doing right now is that instead of asking people to go home at the age of 60 years, is extending it for five years longer without any further compensation, but they will have the prerogative of working for the additional five years or resigning and have their gratuity and pension rights at sixty. It is as simple as that and I do not see that there is any reason for argument. It is clear cut.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point has been made. The Hon. Minister also rose on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The point raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter has not really been answered. I rise to answer the specific question. He is suggesting that compensation can be given to the ones who were sent home by some of the officers as soon as they reached the age of sixty years. You cannot compensate them as the hon. member who has just spoken has said. The law says sixty years, but a directive was sent by the Cabinet to Permanent Secretaries to allow them to continue to work until 65 years and it was observed in the breach, and the result is that we have come with legislation to enforce it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, exactly why did the hon. senior member for St. Andrew fly at some of the Civil Servants? What the hon. senior member for St George has said was an address to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, and what the hon. junior member for Christ Church has just said is also directed to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of elucidation, the hon. member said that the two hon. members directed their remarks to me. The whole point is that there are monthly paid people in this country who have reached the retiring age and have even passed the age of 65 years and are currently employed in the Government service in jobs which are not pensionable as temporary officers. Go down to Ellerslie School and you will find one or two retired headmasters teaching there; in the Ministry of Education you will find a retired Senior Education Officer doing a special assignment; so monthly paid people who got heavy pensions have been allowed to go back in the service, while the poor starving people at Soil Conservation were directed to be sent home by the Ministry from the time they reached the age of sixty and no further consideration was given to them. People who are healthy and strong and can work and have their children at school were sent from Soil Conservation and Soil Conservation was not going on long enough for them to qualify for a pension; people at Highways and Transport were sent home, but at the same time the man who was getting a large pension, the retired Permanent Secretary, the retired Headmaster or retired senior Civil Servant was allowed to go back into the service to do an assignment, but the casual worker was not allowed to come back in. In 1969 when I brought the Resolution, the same Ministry of Agriculture that sent the people from Soil Conservation employed a senior Agricultural Assistant as a gardener in the Government service to look after gardens after he had retired. I cannot see how a Permanent Secretary can allow a situation where a man, who is getting a large pension, can go back in the service and do a special job until he is sixty-five or seventy years of age and the casual employee cannot continue.
4.15 p.m.

I cannot see how a Permanent Secretary could allow a situation where a man who is getting a large pension could come back in the Service and do a special job until he reaches 65 or 70 and the casual employees cannot continue. We do not ask them to let the casual employees remain on a pensionable basis, they were willing to work and whilst they do not qualify for a pension over 60 they can contribute to the National Insurance Fund and they would still get a National Insurance pension. The point I am making which the hon. member will have to know, is that while some of the Permanent Secretaries allowed monthly paid people to continue they push out the casual employees whose children were young and in Secondary Schools and they had to feed them.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, all that has come forth from the Minister is this, that there is or has been a breakdown in the administrative machinery of the Civil Service, and the Civil Servants are crying out for a change like anybody else.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member cannot get away with this, the whole point is that employment in the direct Government service is not conditioned or is not in the hands of any politician. All the people are employed in the Government service. The Minister cannot tell them

to employ anybody, this is a personnel matter, and the person in the Ministry responsible for personnel matters is the Permanent Secretary. This is the point I am making, so it could not happen, if the Minister had direct control over personnel matters. The Minister has no authority in personnel matters and there is no file on a personnel matter that comes to a Minister, yet the Minister is expected to come in here and answer questions of a personnel nature. The Constitution of this country provides that personnel matters should be divorced from politics and that the Permanent Secretary should be the head of personnel matters in the Ministry. There is not a breakdown in administration, there is a breakdown in personnel relationships.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister says there is a breakdown in personnel relationship, but any administration whether in the Army, the Navy or wherever it is, is by personnel and if there is a breakdown, the Minister is really admitting what I said earlier.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this is a straighforward matter. The law is that they should retire at 60 but we are trying to make the law 65 so that it would be compulsory and mandatory on all Civil Servants to allow people to work until 65 and not 60. Is that clear?

Mr. SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we on this side favour the idea of allowing the casual worker to continue for as long as he can go on, as long as he can give an honest day's work for the money he is receiving, not until he is 65 alone, he can go on till 70. In Public Health you have some people who are 72 and you cannot send them home, so we favour it. What we are saying is this, that we are going to find Government in the next few weeks running down here with cap and jacket in hand, hot and sweaty, fanning away with all these little things and we are not going to support you in this, we want you to come and lay your cards on the table. We have nothing against the passing of this Bill.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed.

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

4.25 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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 this Bill do now pass.

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 Order No. 10 be the next Order of the Day.

SUGAR WORKERS (PROVIDENT FUND) ACT, 1971

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with this Bill in the absence of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is asking leave to deal with the second reading of a Bill to amend the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act, 1968, which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. If there is no objection leave will be granted. Hearing no objection, leave is granted to the hon. member to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act, 1968.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple amendment to the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act. It is occasioned by a Resolution of this House. On the 3rd February, 1970, the House passed the following Resolution:

> "WHEREAS there are a great number of old sugar workers who should qualify for pensions under the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act, 1968-54, but who having been employed by "owners" as specified under para. 2 of the Agricultural Credit Bank Act, 1961-15 are denied their legitimate benefits under the Provident Fund Act,
>
> AND WHEREAS these workers now being too old and weak to work any longer should be entitled to the same treatment as their fellows who work on the lands of the larger Plantations,
>
> BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to amend and clarify the law so that all workers employed on lands of 10 acres or more become eligible for all benefits under the Provident Fund Act."

This Bill has carried out the instructions of this House so that the workers who work on small plantations can benefit from the Provident Fund Act.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

of worker. He can probably tell you that in St. Sylvan's Village there are three, in Sugar Hill four, and he will be able to make a report that there are about 90 or 100 people in that parish, and then the Government will be able to go into it to see how far they can go with these people, but if you do not do something, you will still help the 99 and forget the 100. I can only make this point now, I might not have another chance to bring in another Resolution to consider these people.
4.55 p.m.

I hope that the Minister will go into the matter and see about these people. There are several of these people who have worked hard, but they have never been into a plantation or a plot with 10 acres to work. Some of them have worked on a 1-acre plot, a 2-acre plot and so on, and in the end it will add up to 10 acres. Now, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew called a name. Let us say that I have 10 acres of land; John Brown who works with me will qualify, but Roy Marshall works with 10 different people who have 10 acres and he will not qualify. If you are going to look at the matter in that light, he will never be able to catch the judge's eye. The trouble is that he worked on 10 acres but from different people at different times, and that is the sort of person I want the Minister to assist. I know the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is not going to let this matter drop. I think it is a point that he has seen with me. He might not have studied it, but I have to study these things because I am with those people and they come to me with these complaints all the time.

Sir, it is not fair for Tom Jones to get money from the Provident Fund as well as others, but I cannot get any. Let us say that I did not work in the plantation, but I worked with different people, who had more than 10 acres of land, at different times. You will have to agree that I had worked on 10 acres, although I did not work on them at one time. I hope that the Minister will give this matter some thought, and do everything that is possible to help those people now. I would like to see this matter fixed right before the end of this year.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph caught my eye.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I will give way to the hon. junior member for St. George and reserve my right to speak after him.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has risen, so proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, there appears to me to be some difficulty in the administration of the Fund at Herbert House. I am like the senior member for St. Joseph in that when certain funds were paid to certain people in the St. Joseph District in November last year, it activated all those persons who had been employed in the sugar industry, and several of them are complaining week after week that they have completed their forms but can hear nothing in respect of their payments, while other persons have received great lump sums in the area of $1,000 and $1,300 as well as regular remittances weekly.

Mr. Speaker, I had to enquire at Herbert House in respect of those persons. As a matter of fact, I have drafted several questions asking about specific points in respect of this Fund. Up to Saturday morning I had 5 persons in my office who have reached the age of 75 years; they had completed their forms, and they have not yet been paid. One woman, who was waiting for a very long time, died since I have been enquiring into her particular cause. It would appear that these forms are sent to Herbert House, but nothing happens to them, unless there is an enquiry by a person as to why he has not yet been paid. He is then given a form to take to a manager asking to fill it in, sign it, and the person will have to take it back to the office. I should be very glad if the Minister responsible would institute a procedure whereby all forms are processed and all queries made either directly to the plantation concerned, or that the person be called into the office for his case to be investigated.

Mr. Speaker, it is a burden to most of us that week after week, persons are complaining to us about this matter. When you telephone the office, you will be told that there is something missing from the form, and the person should be sent to the office. Only on Saturday last, when I enquired from the officer dealing with this Fund and gave him some 30 names of persons who were standing in my office enquiring about the Provident Fund. His remarks to me was: "We have just dealt with 15 in the last 2 weeks; we will get around to them." When I asked him when will he get around to them, he told me: "I have to wait until the Committee meets to put the forms before them." This seems to be a slipshod manner of doing the people's business. If the retirement age is 65, and you ask persons to complete their forms and return them to the Department, I believe all forms completed should be put before the Committee at one and the sametime. Every time you go to the Department and ask about the matter you are told: "You will have to wait until the Committee meets." If you ask when is the Committee meeting, you will be told: "They are not meeting until the end of May." Now, in December I was told that a meeting was to take place at the end of January. In January when I made enquiries, I was told that the meeting was postponed because a member did not turn up, and they would meet the following month.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, a woman from Joes River died last month, and her estate has not yet received a cent. I have asked questions on this matter. I think it is very unfair that somebody whose form is in order since November last year, can die in March and her form has not yet been placed before the Committee. I asked how many forms would be put up before the next Committee meeting, and I was told:

"I do not know; I cannot tell you; we are not allowed to give out that information." Something is drastically wrong with this business. Some people are getting money from the Provident Fund and others are very aggrieved about not receiving their money although they have qualified for it.

Mr. Speaker, I can call at least 13 people who worked at Joes River and came to me last Saturday. They could tell me how many people have received money, but they have not yet received anything. 5.05 p.m.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased if the Minister can look into this aspect of it. I am glad that the figure qualifying one to this money has been lowered, but this in itself is going to create many more problems. The lowering of this figure is going to throw up many more persons who will qualify under the Act, and if there is a backlog of people who have already qualified waiting for payment, I can envisage what is going to happen when this new group starts to apply, and I would wish that the Minister could look into the internal administration. It is quite easy to cyclostyle certain forms which you can either send to the plantation or to the person, stating that the application has been checked, and something is missing in a particular paragraph, and would he please call at the office as soon as possible. I believe this would at least allay the fears of some of the people involved and I hope that something like this can be speedily put into operation.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, most of us, especially the representatives of the rural areas, welcome this Provident Fund for our constitutuents, but there are many complaints, and as this amendment has come in, there will be many more. I feel that the trouble in getting this money paid, is that there are too few meetings held at Herbert House or wherever they are held. There are many abortive meetings, and I have been made to understand that it is due to some representative from the Barbados Workers' Union. This is hard to believe, but it is so. If we do not change the regulations, there will be many people who will die and will not get this money. I have been there investigating some cases, and only last week a man from Cottage died, and all his family will get, is $100 from the Provident Fund and $100 from National Insurance, when he could have been entitled to $1,300 because he had put in sufficient time. I investigated his claim. These things want looking into. I completely agree with what the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said, but I feel there are too few meetings held, because, if for instance, a meeting is this month, the next one will probably not be before June. How many people will die between now and June? The processing of the files is there, but on most occasions the meetings are abortive, someone has not turned up, and in some cases, it has been some representative from the Union. I feel that these regulations should be altered so that these people who have given yeoman service should not be suffering for this. Many of us have made checks and find that these applications are only waiting to go before the Committee. There is also a lot of information that should be sent back to the applicants, because I have seen some of them, just as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said, with their thumbs in their mouth waiting and not knowing that their applications are not properly filled. Some are still lacking the doctor's certificate.

Mr. Speaker, there are other complaints that the managers of the plantations refuse to sign the forms. That is also true, but I do hope that all these difficulties will be removed, so that these people who have worked and are now at home waiting for this money for the improvement of their homes can get it. They feel very embarrassed when they hear that others who have worked at the same estate or neighbouring estates have received their gratuity and are receiving their pensions, and they have not even got the first penny. I feel that to speed up this, the regulations should be altered, thereby enabling the Committee to meet more often and get all these applications processed so that this money which is there can be paid out and people can benefit from it.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this debate on this point because I think that having regard to the representative opinion which has been expressed upon the operation of the scheme from both sides, the Government must be aware that the operation of the scheme needs a certain amount of reform. What astounded me was the fact that I had a person from my constituency coming to me and he was disgusted because of the fact that he had been called upon to get three separate forms filled out. Every time he sent in a form, they lost it. Now this is causing a lot of frustration because you will appreciate and understand how difficult it is to get people to swear a document, and when you have to go back on three occasions to the bookkeeper, manager or whoever it is, this disgust arises as well as frustration to this person; and this old man is blind and it is much more difficult. I have written a letter to the Department and I am waiting to see what action will be taken. They have the acknowledgement of the original forms and it is extremely difficult for people to be satisfied with the operation of the scheme. The last time I checked, I understood that there were only about 2,500 people who had been paid. There are potentially 7,500, so that is a very low percentage that have been paid, and I am wondering what happens to those cases which were eligible on the date of the operation of the scheme who were not paid $1,100, but who have subsequently died, because I will submit that those rights must have been crystalised by now, and if at the date they were entitled to $1,100, I do not see how they can say now at the time of payment that they are only entitled to the funeral grant, because that would be really unfair and I would question the legality of it.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, this Bill which we have before us is to amend the Provident Fund in order that the benefits could be extended to a greater number of people who have worked in the sugar industry for many years. I can assure you, Sir, that this Bill is very welcome because I know there are many people who have been working in the sugar industry, and because they were not working on a large estate

they were laid off, and having reached the age limit they cannot help themselves. These people have been suffering until now, and this Bill will amend the Act so that other people who have worked on a small estate of about ten acres will benefit from this fund.
5.15 p.m.

The Government is willing to help those poor people who are retired now; there are some people who have made out their forms and sent them to Herbert House, but on the forms they stated the date they stopped working but not the date on which they began, and that is why a lot of the forms have to be sent back for completion. Up to last week I took a man to Herbert House and when I saw the form it only had on the date on which he stopped working, but not the date on which he began; therefore the people at Herbert House would know how many years he was working and he would not get the benefit to which he is entitled. Anyway I took the form and he and I went back to the Manager and it was filled out correctly and sent back to Herbert House yesterday.

That is not the only one, I have carried several people there and their names were on the forms, and I am sure they are entitled to the money, but sometimes the poor people cannot write or read and they have to get someone else to fill out the form, take it to the Manager and ask him to sign it and that is all, but you should have a complete job done before they reach Herbert House. This is one of the greatest Bills to help the poor people, because I know there are some people who have worked for some of the estates and have not received any benefit; some of them are not paying social security because the Managers do not deduct it on their behalf, and now they feel it would be against them, therefore they refuse to sign the forms for the people and they are left to suffer. Never forget the good words, the Lord said the poor will always be on our doorstep if we do not take care of them. I believe that this Bill will be unanimously passed in this House of Assembly because it is to help the poor people of this country.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the experiences of almost every hon. member, who has spoken, have duplicated my own experience as well. I also had some dealings with some of the plantations, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter who discussed the question of the lack of staff at Herbert House is treading on safe ground, and I would suggest to the Government that the administration of the Provident Fund leaves much to be desired. I am sorry that the Minister responsible is not here, especially because he is the junior member for St. Thomas. A decision has been taken down at the Provident Fund office that no money is to be paid out to anybody in St. Thomas, and I challenge the members of the Government to deny that, that they have decided even though papers have been processed and the money is ready that there will be no more payments at the present time for plantation retired workers in St. Thomas, because they say that other parishes have to be completed first. How can somebody feel when everybody else around them, has been paid but due to the type of mistakes in medical certificates or Managers' certificates he has not been paid?

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party started the Provident Fund in 1956, and for years and years the Government let the money accumulate; the Government could have paid out money at the time of the windfall because it was prepared to sponsor a scheme by which Mr. Frank Walcott could have a million dollars to start what could only be a Provident Fund, but the Government left it until 1969 and this is 1971, and comparatively small amounts of money still cannot be paid out. I do not know if this is a fact, I only heard it from the Civil Servants concerned, the Board has to meet and make a requisition for "X" dollars to pay out; there should be no difficulty in getting this money, it is the people's money which has been there since 1966. The amounts of money are supposed to have been lost by stealing are comparatively small, I do not know what the figures are, I heard that one time $37,000 had been missing but when we are dealing with the millions that are due to these workers, these amounts are not substantial.

As the hon. junior member for St. Peter said, you need to put some kind of pressure on the estate Managers who seem to hide behind the fact that they were only there for two years and the like, but the books are there for all time; only this afternoon I was looking at plantation accounts that have been maintained for 300 years, so you cannot tell me that books are not available. I am a lawyer and every now and again I have to call a plantation book-keeper to give evidence in Court about wages, and he can tell you based upon the books that if this man had worked four years ago he would have been in receipt of a certain salary because workers were receiving a certain wage at that time.
5.25 p.m.

When you buy a plantation the accountants have to look at the books. The books have to be in existence. Nobody just buys a plantation without any knowledge of the business condition of the plantation The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is sure to agree with this. I cannot believe that in these days of income tax that any Government Department should take an excuse from the Administrator of an estate that he cannot remember this, that, or the next about a particular worker.

I remember, Sir, when the National Insurance Fund first started it was administered very restrictively, no matter what Mr. Humphrey Walcott may say about how they tried to help people. When they started they were very tight indeed. People brought a certificate for a certain period; perhaps they stayed home from work, they did not go to the doctor for 10 days or something like that, and in the early days of National Insurance they would lose the 10 days. Although a discretion was given to the National Insurance Administrators to accept such evidence of illness as they thought fit, they exercised the discretion to mean always a doctor's certificate. In the same way a discretion is given to the Provident Fund and penalties are imposed if those who are required by law to make a certification do not make a certification, but the Administrators of the Provident Fund let it go just like that. They do not always tell the truth either, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I remember being told in respect of Blowers Plantation that the manager had not sent back in the forms, and when I made a check I discovered that the forms were sent back in since November of last year. The Clerks need better control from the top. More often than not, they can take on extra civil servants in all kind of Departments where the convenience of senior civil servants is at stake, but they cannot take on extra civil servants where the convenience of the old, retired plantation workers of this Island who have cut canes and loaded canes in the hot sun for 40 years are concerned! Where it is only their convenience, you cannot take on extra civil servants to deal with them.

The Provident Fund money should have been entirely paid out by now. The Government is doing the old, retired plantation workers in this Island a grave disservice which will be repaid to the Government with interest at election time. If for no other reason but self-interest, I would appeal to the Government on those grounds, but the best argument is humanity.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has really shown that there is self-interest in this matter, because he has taken time off in a self-interested manner to play a little unfair politics when he mentioned that a directive or instruction was given at the Labour Department that no more Provident Fund money should be paid to the people of St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I never said that "instruction was given". I said that a decision was taken that St. Thomas would not get any more payments yet.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, that is a wicked one. This is playing dirty politics.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. There was a time when the Minister admitted that instructions were given to shift payment to St. Joseph at the expense of other parishes. That is a fact, and it was admitted on the floor of this House.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I do not remember that. What the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is trying to establish is that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is the Minister of Labour - the Minister ultimately responsible for the administration of the Provident Fund. What he is trying to do here is to give the impression that the Minister, who is ultimately responsible for the administration of the Provident Fund, is not even interested in the area which he is representing. I think that this is a hard one. The hon. member is not here to represent himself, and the hon. member should not make these insinuations.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have not said so. The words that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is not interested in the area which he is representing are the words of the Minister who is speaking now and not mine. He has accused me of doing something dirty. He said that it is a dirty one. If it is dirty it is his dirt. He is putting his face in the dirt. I did not say it. He is saying that I said something and it was dirty. That is offensive language, Sir.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am talking about insinuations and dirty insinuations now, Mr. Speaker. I do not think it is fair to make that type of insinuation behind the back of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas who is not here to defend himself. The hon. member knows what he has been trying to get at. We know the hon. member, and we know that he is capable of putting it that way. The whole point is that I would have preferred to see him do something like this when the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is present to deal with him.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. The Hon. Minister must not think that anybody is playing dirty politics. I will tell him that when I enquired why they had stopped paying people in St. Joseph, I was told: "We are now going to pay in alphabetical order with the names of plantations starting with 'A', and you will have to wait until we get back to 'J' or 'S". That could be termed as dirty politics, too. I was told that, and I can call the officer's name, if the Minister wants me to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I have no objection to that type of statement.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. During the speech of the hon. member he has indicated that this matter of the Provident Fund properly comes within the Ministry of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. Has leave been obtained for another hon. member to deal with a matter which the hon. junior member for St. Thomas should be dealing with? Is not the hon. junior member for St. Thomas blamed for going out of the house while a matter of the competence of his Ministry is being discussed?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Let us proceed with and conclude this Item.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: All of us, especially those of us who represent rural areas, are concerned about the Provident Fund. We are concerned over the fact that every Saturday morning five or six people from our constituencies come to us to see whether we can get pressure brought to bear on that Department in order to get their Provident Fund money or to have their applications processed and so on. It was only a week ago that some of us in another forum raised this very point, and we were assured by the Minister that he was concerned and was taking positive action in the matter to have things ameliorated.

5.35 p.m.

Perhaps he will soon be coming here with some form of amendment. For example, we understood that a quorum can only be formed when the General Secretary of the Union is present, and if he is out of the Island there can be no meeting. All these things we have been looking at. The Minister himself is very concerned about it, and as I said, in another forum we have discussed it only a few days ago, and positive action is being taken to improve the situation. We have even been toying with the idea of removing the section dealing with the Provident Fund to another area where we can add more staff, so that the application forms can be processed. In the Labour Department right now, the area is not enough to accommodate the Labour Department before the introduction of the Provident Fund section, furthermore now, and the whole point is that there is need for more space in Government offices, and we are looking around to see whether we can remove the Provident Fund section from the Labour Department to a place where we can add more staff to speed up the processing of the applications. We are also looking to see what can be done to see that the Board holds meetings more frequently, and we may perhaps have to do an amendment which will provide that you have the representative of the Barbados Workers' Union or rather his nominee, because when the officer from the Barbados Workers Union was placed on the Board, he was placed there by name, and the point is that this particular member is frequently out of the Island, and perhaps on some occasion when the Board should meet he is out of the Island. If he is out of the Island and there is a nominee from the Union, then the meetings can still be held, because although it is a statutory board, it is more or less a tripartite body.

I would like to assure hon. members, Mr. Speaker, that we are as concerned as or more concerned than they are, about this scheme. All of us are affected. I represent a rural constituency and every day I have some sort of problem with this same matter. All of us, with the exception of those in the City, represent rural areas where people have to work in the sugar industry, and therefore we are concerned. I would like to give the House the assurance that we are going to do something about it very soon. I will take it up immediately with the Minister. I have to be out with him tomorrow morning and we will have a meeting on it, and I will pass on the feelings of this Chamber on the matter, and I am sure that positive action will be taken.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I did not realise that the the Minister would finish so soon, because I wanted to say that some of the workers have received and drawn their cheques and some of them have been short paid.

Hon. A. DAC. EDWARDS: Action is being taken on the matter.

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

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

Clause 1,2, and 3 were called and passed.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this now concludes Government's Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 4th May, 1971, at 12 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.

5.45 p.m.