
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 19th July, 1971.

A Special Meeting of the House of Assembly was held at 9.10 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (*Speaker*); Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, J.P.; (*Minister of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs*); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Health and Social Welfare*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C.M.G., M.A., (*Leader of the House*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (*Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD, J.P., (*Chairman of Committees*); and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology*).

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members are aware that this is a Special Meeting summoned under the appropriate Standing Order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 38, 39, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

Mr. HINDS, Mr. CRAIG and Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took their seats.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 2

Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I think that in moving this Head, it is necessary and appropriate for me to explain to the Committee why Government today is asking that the House approve of a grant of \$200,000 for the construction of a building at St. Cecilia in Passage Road to house a supermarket, cold storage etc. by the Barbados National Co-operative Development Society.

Now for some time we have been concerned over the fact that prices in Barbados especially prices of foodstuffs have been getting out of hand. It is suggested that one of the major reasons for these high prices is the fact that there is very high mark up on some of the commodities which are brought in from abroad, and these commodities which perhaps might not have been considered very essential fifteen years ago are today considered very essential. It is true that foodstuffs like rice, codfish, cornmeal, flour and the like are subject to price controls. Things like Coopers aerosol and other such items which are today essential and which were not considered as essential fifteen years ago are not subject to price controls. It is an acceptable practice that supply and demand should play an important part in the economy of a country in the commercial set-up, and no dealer is happy about price controls. If a commodity is put under control, representation is made to the Minister of Trade every day asking for a higher mark-up or asking to de-control the particular item. There are items which come into the country which, if price control is placed on them, one would have to be changing the price control every two or three weeks or every month. We had a situation like this with English potatoes about eight months ago and we also had a situation like this with pickled meat. Hon. mem-

bers will remember the many articles in the press and the number of letters that the Provision and Wholesale Merchants Association made to the press, and the many visits they paid the Ministry asking for a de-controlling of these items.

Now there are some of us who have had something to do with shops and we can appreciate the fact that it is costly, and time-consuming to be placing price control on an item every time a new shipment comes into the country, because these people represented that meat from say, Eyre and other places would come in at one price, meat from Canada at another price and from the United States of America also at a different price, but when it got here, it might be the same pig tails but of a different quality, but every time a shipment comes in it depends on the Price offered by the broker. These things call for a continual survey and a regular revision of price control. It was therefore felt that it was better to de-control these items and let supply and demand play its part.

I think we accept the principle of supply and demand to some extent, but then there are certain commodities that we feel must be subject to price control. Hon. members will find that in a lot of the commodities that are not subject to price control, the consumer is taken for a ride. What happens is that this week a housewife would go to a supermarket and find that grapefruit juice for example is sold at 45 cents a tin, and next week she goes back and the same grapefruit juice costs 52 cents. Then there is a commodity like corned beef that the supermarkets will use as a leader.

9.20 a.m.

They bring the price down to attract Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hinds, Mr. Craig or who have you to come in to them and get cheap corned beef, but at the same time they add 45¢ on to a tin of aerosol spray or any other spray, they may add 45¢ on to a pound of steak. These are the things we would like to come to grips with, and the only way that we can do this is to have an agency established and operated in this country which can offer competition, and the sort of competition which means something to the country. We talk about Black Power, and the believers in Black Power say that they would like to see the black man, the masses, share in the economic wealth of the country. Mr. Chairman, the assistance which we are offering to BANDCOS is assistance being offered to the man in the street, is assistance being offered to the black man in this country. Already 17,000 shares have been sold and 130,000 have been agreed to; agreements have been signed for 130,000 shares to be sold to the working class people in this country in the Barbados National Development Co-operative Society Limited.

We on this side offer a helping hand to BANDCOS with the belief that when we offer this helping hand we are helping the workers of this country, the masses of this country, and we are assisting the black man to share in the economic wealth of the country. A few months ago, last year for example, we had a Black Power scare in Trinidad and we were

afraid of it here too, and one of the things which the people have been preaching is that they want to share in the economic wealth of the country. I believe in Black Power but not Black Power with violence, the type of Black Power which gives the black man in my country a stake in the economic wealth. We will be coming back here next year - and I say this advisedly because we are the only Government - for further assistance for BANDCOS for further development in an exercise like this. As soon as BANDCOS is established the importing agencies of this country are going to be on a squeeze and we are gearing ourselves to take over imports of this country so that the cost of foodstuffs which is imported in this country to the consumer has got to be kept at a minimum, and we are going to use an agency like BANDCOS to take care of that aspect.

Mr. Chairman, last year the Secretary of BANDCOS made representation to the Ministry of Cooperatives; earlier this year we had a meeting with them and listened to their projections and we were very satisfied that assistance given to this Society was assistance given to the masses. I would like to exhort the people of Barbados to come together like a bundle of sticks, join in this Society, buy from this Society and obviate the necessity for rapid expansion of the business run by this Society the rapid expansion of the business administered by the people of Barbados for the people of Barbados. A lot of people do not like it, a lot of people would do anything they can to stop it, and I am not talking about the Opposition because they cannot oppose it, but there are other people in this country who would like to stop it. We feel that these people have had their own way for too long; the individual man with his \$100 cannot by himself pose any threat but all of us with our \$5.00 and \$10.00 have decided to come together and move out in the manner which we are launching out today, and we propose that in a period of 5 years we will have this country covered with this type of development so that when we buy, we buy from ourselves, when we import, we import ourselves and when we walk into a supermarket, we walk with the assurance that we are paying a price in that supermarket which is reasonable. This BANDCOS operation will not be an organisation looking to make 500% profit, it will be an organisation which will make its operation economically feasible. It is not a project which will be looking to fleece the masses, because in fleecing the masses, this project will be fleecing itself and this is not what BANDCOS stands for, BANDCOS stands for assisting the masses and keeping the cost of living where foodstuff is concerned to a minimum.

Having said that, I think that hon. members will readily agree that the Government in taking this action is taking a step in the right direction. The Cooperative Society of BANDCOS was suggesting that a site at Tweedside Road be purchased and handed over to them, the site owned by USI; it was further discussed and it was thought that we should get the first of these operations in a very central area and an area which is very densely populated so that the impact would be felt in an area where a large

number of people live and that they would appreciate the step taken by BANDCOS, assisted by Government, reducing the cost of foodstuff in that area to a minimum, so we looked around and we decided that the site at St. Cecelia was a good site and that if we had constructed a building rather than going into a building which was constructed for another purpose, we would construct something which is in keeping with a budding supermarket.

9.30 a.m.

We, therefore, decided to ask the House to vote \$200,000 for the construction of the Supermarket and the provision of proper facilities including cold storage to get the ball rolling. We look forward with eagerness to the success of that project. We proposed a system in the society of having officers trained in management, etc., to see that there is no question of failure and that there is maximum efficiency in the administration of this organisation.

I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that I have to try to influence my colleagues on both sides of the House about the importance and benefits to be derived and accrued by the masses of this country by the steps that we have taken.

I beg to move that Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - \$200,000 - stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I must first say that my first task here this morning, where you are concerned, is not to be irrelevant. Now, the Hon. Minister in introducing this Resolution for \$200,000 has demonstrated in no uncertain terms that neither he nor his advisers have begun to know what they are really about. In the first place, what kind of Supermarket with cold storage facilities could be constructed in Barbados with \$200,000? The Minister should go back right now and have a feasibility study carried out and a survey made of what is necessary in the context of the type of business that he is trying to impress upon us should be established. He must have been advised by the poorest of people in this type of business today, because \$200,000 means absolutely nothing in constructing this type of Supermarket with cold storage facilities. He is out of court at this stage.

Now, the Minister in his opening remarks has tried to make us believe that what is necessary to effect a reduction in the high cost of living is the establishment of BANDCOS. It is the hugest joke in this town.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If I am to reply to the hon. member satisfactorily, I would want to be able to follow him. I would like to know what he referred to as the hugest joke in town.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I hope that a note will not be taken and that I will not be accused of repeating myself. I said that the Minister had suggested that the Government by lending assistance to BANDCOS was a means of reducing the

high cost of living where foodstuffs are concerned. I said that this was the hugest joke in town. Mr. Chairman, if Government would be advised on a matter of this sort, Government has it well in hand already to bring about a drastic reduction in the cost of living with respect to foodstuffs. Government has the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The Barbados Marketing Corporation has not begun to fulfil its purpose in a community such as ours, because the Barbados Marketing Corporation ought to be functioning as an Advice Bureau. Its primary functions ought to be carry out affective market research, and advise importers when to buy and when not to buy, where to buy from and things of that sort.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like the hon. member to read the Act which established the Barbados Marketing Corporation, and there he would find what are the functions of the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. Minister is trying to say, but really and truly what he is now saying is that his Government has not been learning during the past 10 years. It amounts to that. Whatever is in the Act that established the Barbados Marketing Corporation, or whatever are its objects and reasons, the Government has seen enough to convince it that it is not functioning as a Barbados Marketing Corporation ought to be functioning.

The Minister cannot deny that what I have suggested in respect of the Barbados Marketing Corporation ought to be its functions as from today. If today is too soon, then it can have until tomorrow to carry out such functions as research and advice. If the B. M. C. carries out research and advises the Government, then the Government would have at its finger tips full control over our importers. The B. M. C. should advise the Government, the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant Ministries as to exactly what is going on in the field of trade and marketing. The same B. M. C. should then be in a position, even when we grow onions and things of the sort, to give advice as to when we should export and when we should not export. The B. M. C. ought to be in a position to give us advice on the exportation of sugar. I am sure that whilst we are trying to establish BANDCOS and so it would be of interest to the Government to advise us on this side if it is not true that we will have to order from Trinidad a quantity of sugar for local consumption some time during this year.

9.40 a.m.

That is the type of advice we are saying that an agency such as the Barbados Marketing Corporation ought to be offering to this country, but the B. M. C. has been established to sell sardines, a cake of Lux soap and a roll of toilet paper. Aren't we really making a mockery of all this? The Barbados Marketing Corporation has been established as another supermarket, and we are saying here and now that establishing another B. M. C. by the name of BANDCOS is not the answer to the problem that

faces this country where the high cost of foodstuffs is concerned. We feel, Mr. Chairman, that in assisting BANDCOS it is not in truth and in fact that you are giving the black man, as the Minister wants us to believe, an opportunity to lay hold on the reins of commerce or to share in any part of it whatsoever. We are just not doing that. The Barbados Marketing Corporation, a Government agency, is the right and proper agency for doing all this, not BANDCOS at all. BANDCOS in truth and in fact, apart from an economic venture for its shareholders and its principal promoters can mean absolutely nothing to the reduction in the cost of living. Does this Government expect that any future Government would from year to year be subsidising BANDCOS, and the Barbados Marketing Corporation is there doing nothing with its administrative costs?

Mr. Chairman, the shareholders of BANDCOS on 30th June this year took a decision to throw their doors open to business at the corner of Marshall's Gap and Baxter's Road by the 1st September this year. Not one shareholder has been summoned to a meeting or informed of what Government proposes doing and what is taking place here today. It is still in the minds of each and every shareholder that BANDCOS would be throwing its doors open according to the terms of the last shareholders' meeting. In all seriousness, Mr. Chairman, Government is applying a political hand or offering political boosting to a matter of considerable economic magnitude. The type of boosting that Government is offering is more on a personalised basis; it is not a boosting that is intended to help the masses of this country in any respect. Here you find a Minister telling us that BANDCOS is not established to make 500% profit, but that it will be run to make just enough profit to cover its running expenses. That again, Mr. Chairman, is huge joke No. 2. Who can believe the Minister? The Minister has not been properly briefed on this matter. Are you going to tell me that BANDCOS is to take over from the high priced magnates, the big six as they are called in commerce, the Roebuck Street big boys and the like and that BANDCOS is going to make just enough money to cover administrative and other expenses? The Minister has told us that amongst the shareholders of BANDCOS will be the masses of people in this country. He told us that he has 130,000 shares to be sold to the working class people. Is the Minister now inviting the working class people of this country to invest money in BANDCOS to get no profit? If they are not to get profit from the operations of the business, is the Minister telling us that this is the thin edge of the wedge they are hoping to introduce so that year after year when BANDCOS has nearly covered its expenses, the Government will be called upon to provide profit to give to the shareholders upon investment? What kind of business sense or business nonsense is the Minister telling us about BANDCOS today? I do not think he has deliberately set out to mislead this House.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, again I would ask the hon. member to read the Co-operative Society's Act and see how profits are dealt with by cooperatives. This is a cooperative and not a Limited Liability Company. I think the hon. member should listen to me very carefully in future.

Mr. HINDS: Whenever the Minister has something to say and he knows what he is talking about I will listen. Mr. Chairman, the Minister tells us that it is necessary for me to bring myself up to date as to how profits are dealt with in a cooperative. The minute that the Minister is introducing the word "profits".....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member mentioned the word "profits" and I was helping him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister did not tell me I was wrong when I introduced the word "profits" into the debate, but he confirmed that profits have to be made, and he told me that I should look to see how the profits are dealt with in a cooperative undertaking. However they are to be dealt with, Mr. Chairman, they have first got to be made. The Minister is also telling us that this is to be a non profit-making undertaking because it is not going to be in the 500% profit area. He is saying that I introduced the profit talk, but the Minister in his opening remarks told us - and I made notes of what he was saying - that BANDCOS is not a body that would be seeking to make 500% profit, but only enough profit to make the operation feasible.
9.50 a.m.

Those are the words of the Minister, so what are we hearing? Since BANDCOS is to operate a supermarket, has Government given equal consideration to the number of small business people in this community who have been operating or trying to operate a supermarket to render a service to the community in addition or as well as to make provision for their own existence? In other words to make a profit. Government, we feel, Mr. Chairman, had enough opportunity to see what effect, what impact - to use the Minister's own word - the BMC as a supermarket has had in this community. Since the BMC was established, does the Minister have it before him to tell us what impact, if any, the BMC and its operations have had on the reduction of the high cost of living with particular reference to bring down the price of foodstuffs? We are not being asked to establish a second BMC, that is what it amounts to. What effect has the first BMC had on bringing down the cost of living, remembering the same masses that the Minister is asking to buy from and support BANDCOS?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I want, Mr. Chairman, to point out here that the BMC is established to deal with local produce primarily, and the only reason

that the BMC stocks things like milk, etc. which would give the appearance of a supermarket is to accommodate the people who go to the BMC to acquire local produce. At times they go there and their time is taken up and they want a tin of milk, a pound of butter or something of the sort, and this is what the hon. member calls a supermarket section of the BMC, but the BMC is not a supermarket at all, it is only that the BMC stocks necessary commodities to assist the person who goes into the BMC to purchase vegetables, but the BMC as it operates is not a supermarket.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have discovered and I want hon. members to understand very carefully that we are not now discussing the BMC. While I will give certain latitudes to hon. members to refer to the BMC, I am not at all going to put up with hon. members discussing the BMC as if this is in the Resolution,

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if it were possible, at this stage I would really like the Leader of the House to request a brief suspension of the sitting. You cannot discuss the establishment of BANDCOS without at the same time placing it alongside the BMC, and you must discuss the operations or the proposed operations of BANDCOS and place them alongside the present functions of the BMC.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, this is not true, the whole point is that the BMC is a Government agency. I invite the hon. member to read the BMC Act, 1961 (1961-40), and he will see there the functions of the BMC. The whole point is that this is a Cooperative Society, it is not a Government agency, the Government has as its policy assistance to Cooperatives whether it is by way of incentives, assistance to purchase equipment or loans to purchase equipment etc., but the BMC itself is not a Cooperative, it is a Government agency and you cannot compare the operations of the BMC with the operations of a Cooperative Society.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister trying to lean toward you now, because he would like to get the debate stopped and this measure passed. The Minister cannot deny that whatever conditions were laid down under which the BMC should operate it has gone completely beyond those functions, and we are maintaining that establishing BANDCOS is not going to have the kind of effect that the Minister wants us to believe on the high cost of living that is murdering people of every walk of life in this country, except some of the Ministers of course, but what we are saying is this - and we take the words from the Minister's own mouth - he says that they intend to use BANDCOS as an arm to bring about effective control, in other words, that is to wrest the trading power from the Roebuck Street boys. In other words, the Minister makes us to understand that this is another Government agency that the Government intends using to bring about this type of control.

10.00 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said that BANDCOS was a Government agency. I said that it is an agency of the masses and the workers of this country.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, he said it by implication. The Minister was at pains to tell us what the BMC was established to deal with. I think he said "local produce". Am I right? He said local produce primarily, and that it only stocked other commodities for the accommodation of its customers. Now, BANDCOS is going to perform exactly the same functions as the BMC. BANDCOS will be an importing agency. The BMC is an importing agency despite the fact that it was established to deal with local produce, as the Minister has said, but it has gone beyond the scope for which it was established.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Section 10 of the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act, 1961-40, reads as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation -

(a) to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer;

(b) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the Island or out of the Island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operative societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage;

(c) to secure the most favourable arrangements whether in the Island or out of the Island for the storage of produce and for the storage of such other matter or thing as the Corporation may think fit;

(d) upon being required so to do by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make recommendations on any matter directly or indirectly relating to the production and marketing of produce."

That is the function of the B.M.C., and the B.M.C. has nothing to do with what we are dealing with today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order! It is completely irrelevant to the subject matter under discussion. I have already informed hon. members that we are not now discussing the B.M.C., and I am going to take this particular subject matter under discussion into my hands as from now. Let the hon. member proceed to deal with BANDCOS.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman BANDCOS is the type of co-operative, I think, that the Minister has ably advised us is not another agency or establishment to assist. That is what we have from the mouth of the

Minister, and as such whatever might be the functions of BANDCOS unless BANDCOS is going to function primarily to carry out marketing and research and to give advice to the trading group, the importers and exporters of this Island, we maintain that it can do nothing to stimulate trade and to bring down the cost of living.

What Government wants is not to assist a Supermarket that is politically influenced having amongst its principal shareholders and directors prominent members of the Government. That is not what this Government is here for. We need an agency or organisation that can do what you, Mr. Chairman, has just said: "Take the whole matter in its hands." We need a Ministry for taking the whole matter into its hands, and Government ought to be doing everything possible to see that in establishing BANDCOS this service will be rendered to the community so that the workers' take-home-packets will have some meaning in the context of family living.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that the average worker who gets \$25 or \$30 a week, after certain deductions are made and his house rent is paid, has absolutely nothing to take home. In other words, when the worker goes home to his family he is carrying home nothing to them other than starvation plus himself. Unless you are setting up a Supermarket that can really and truly bring value to the people with the little money left in their hands, then you are doing nothing.

Mr. Chairman, spending \$200,000 for the purpose for which the Minister is asking us to lend assistance here today could be money which ought to be spent in doing research to find out what is the reason for the merchants and importers in Bridgetown having to buy the bulk of their commodities from brokers. We need an agency - nothing like what BANDCOS is intended for - to carry out effective controls, to examine and to investigate all commodities.

10.10 a.m.

Until now, Sir, the Ministry of Trade cannot say it has been able to carry out an effective exercise in this particular respect where commodities had been found to be invoiced to the importer at one price for customs purposes and to the principal paying or buying agency at a price which does not bear any relation whatsoever to the invoicing for customs purposes. In other words, the masses of people who have got to run to these shops and supermarkets are taken for a ride because the Government has not learnt in ten years what is really taking place amongst the mercantile community and with some of their brokers and overseas agencies. Real frauds are perpetrated in our trading systems, and I should say, Mr. Chairman, that this ought not to be unknown to the Government.

We are told, Mr. Chairman, that BANDCOS proposes to carry on the business of a consumers' co-operative. We are maintaining that Government ought

to carry out a survey and be armed with information as to how many small businessmen have gone out of business since this Government came into power, what are the market requirements, what is supply like through the present supermarket service that is rendered. What is the operating factor that has caused only quite recently a shipment of corned beef to arrive at the Port and for the ship to sail back out with the corned beef not being made available to the people of Barbados when there is none on the shelves of the supermarkets and shops in this country? The Minister told us that a tin of grapefruit juice which may be sold at 45 cents this week in the supermarkets is sold at 52 cents the following week. If a Government Minister can stand on his feet and tell us that this is the type of situation obtaining in our country, - and we take it that the Minister must mean it is a tin of juice imported from one country that is sold at one price this week and at another price the following week though coming from the same country - (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Is that a lie?)..... this is showing the weakness of the Government in carrying out effective controls.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, in my introduction of the Resolution, I pointed out that it is accepted marketing principle for the system of supply and demand to play its role. I further pointed out that there are certain commodities which are governed by price control and others which you allow the system of supply and demand to regulate. The whole rationale behind the assistance to BANDCOS is to have enough supermarkets run by this organisation in different parts of the country so that when you have a situation as in the case of grapefruit juice and other commodities where people are taken for a ride, they will know that they can go to one of the BANDCOS groups and get grapefruit juice at a reasonable price. In some cases the change of price is because of the c.i.f. cost of the commodity, and in other cases it is a question that the operators of these supermarkets just want to take the people for a ride.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, here we find a Minister or the Government in full possession of the operating principles or lack thereof in business today and the same Government showing itself in every possible way as being incapable of dealing with the situation. The Minister is telling us that the Government is committed to the idea that until BANDCOS can establish enough supermarkets throughout this Island, we can have no effective lowering of the cost of living.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I would not want to say that the hon. member is lying, but I would say that the hon. member is distorting or misinterpreting the facts as I put them, and he knows he is unfair in so doing.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Hon. Minister ought to be allowed to say that I am unfair in my debate and that I am distorting anything he has

said, but I am not going to ask him to withdraw; I only draw it to your attention. What the Minister has given us to understand is that until BANDCOS is established, nothing can or will be done by this Government to reduce the high cost of commodities such as corned beef, English potatoes and the like.

I remember the Government named a Committee more than a year ago if not to carry out a study into the high cost of living, at least it was felt by some members of the Committee that it would have been their right to be armed with the necessary authority to walk into any supermarket and give directions as to what price a commodity should be sold at. That is the type of thing some members of the Committee were allowed to believe.

10.20 a.m.

Until now the Government after setting up this committee has not come here today with any report from that committee as to its activities or progress or if it has ever got on its feet, apart from some of its members trying to ask favours of the same business community which it was set up to investigate. Government is not telling us anything at all about the work of this committee or if prices have been reduced to make sure that in the future we will not be seeing the poor working class people with little or nothing to carry home for their families. It is in the light of all of this that we feel that the Government should be acting, we do not suggest for a single moment that Government should not try to foster, assist or do anything possible to help a group of people who have come together not for political purposes, but who have come together as citizens of this community prepared to share and extend mutual trust one to the other in a venture the effect of which can bring about a considerable reduction in the present high cost of living.

We have not seen, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has done anything in truth and in fact apart from what is on paper to assist those peddling shopkeepers who have had to bear considerable credit throughout the years.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member does not seem to be living in Barbados, he does not even seem to come to this Chamber, because it was only last week I had the occasion to rise and point out that the Government has put something like half million dollars in the Barbados Development Bank and directed the Bank to assist the small business men in this community by way of loans, so let us get our facts straight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I can see,

This Resolution seeks to provide the sum of \$200,000 to construct a building, with cold storage facilities, on Government owned lands at Passage Road, St. Michael, the site formerly occupied by the St. Cecilia Barracks.

It is proposed to lease this property to the Barbados National Co-operative Development Society

Ltd. (BANDCOS) which has been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act 1949.

As far as I can see all we are dealing with is to provide this loan and that is what I am dealing with this morning. Let the hon. member proceed to deal with the Resolution as stated in the Addendum.

Mr. HINDS: The Resolution, Mr. Chairman, as stated in the Addendum as read by you tells us that we are asked to vote this money to provide suitable accommodation for the proposed business, and it means the business of BANDCOS, and all we are trying to say from this side of the House is that the business of BANDCOS bears some relation to the small shopkeepers in this community, and that is why I asked the Minister to tell us apart from what is on paper what is being done. We do not mind the Minister telling us that this amount of money is set aside specifically for these people, how can these same people get it out of the Development Bank? The business BANDCOS is the same business as these same supermarkets, and the Government has not set about to control the high rents that these supermarkets have to pay, but the Government is constructing a building and providing cold storage facilities for one supermarket.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I was very strong in my statement that Government's emphasis today is on the Cooperative movement, and I pointed out as clear as crystal that Government has initiated a policy whereby assistance is given to Cooperative ventures. I mentioned that Cooperative societies are given grants and loans in order to carry out their functions, and this is only another step in that direction. Earlier this year I came to the House when we were dealing with the Estimates and had passed a considerable sum of money, something like three-quarter million dollars, the greater part of which was going to Cooperative Societies to encourage them in the agricultural field. Today we are now dealing with another Cooperative Society, not with a supermarket as such, this Society comprises of masses of people in this country, and I pointed out that the worker with \$5.00 and \$10.00 can put it in that Cooperative Society and share in the economic wealth and development of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is seeking to use the word "masses" as a gloss over to cover up the whole idea behind this. Furthermore, the Minister said in his opening remarks, and he has jumped to his feet since then to say, that BANDCOS is a supermarket business and it going to establish supermarkets all about the place, so we are now being told that we are not going to construct a building for BANDCOS to operate a supermarket; what am I hearing at all?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, BANDCOS is the name of a Cooperative Society, the

Barbados National Development Cooperative Society, and it is in this context that we are dealing with a supermarket. This Society is operating a supermarket which is only one of the projects operated by the masses of those people who come and invest, take up shares and join in this Cooperative Society. This is a national society, Mr. Chairman.

10.30 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: I think Mr. Chairman will agree with me that we are somewhat on all fours with the terms and conditions of operation of BANDCOS. The Minister is not denying that it is a supermarket. What we want the Minister to tell us is that if this is an effort to assist BANDCOS and to give it a boost in this particular direction, how many other co-operative societies have sought from the Government Ministries assistance for a similar venture?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, all co-operative societies that have made representations to my Ministry have been given a sympathetic hearing and help wherever necessary. It is not a question of assisting one and not the other. Any co-operative society which approaches my Ministry with a problem is usually dealt with by the officers in my Ministry who lean over backwards to assist it. If another co-operative society decides tomorrow that it wants assistance from the Government for a similar venture, it would be given the same sympathetic assistance by the Ministry as BANDCOS has been given. I do not know of any others that were not given consideration. I give the House the assurance that if any other society comes forward with a similar venture, having a feasibility study carried out as has been carried out by BANDCOS, it would be given similar consideration.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us if Government did not in truth and in fact take into consideration whether BANDCOS was better able, or looking at it from its management point of view, or more likely to succeed in this venture than another co-operative making application to the Government for assistance in this respect? It is all right for the Minister to tell this Committee how his officers bend over backwards. They may have very good reasons for bending over backwards and things like that. We appreciate their bending over backwards and things like that. They may have good reasons for all of this, but what we are saying is that using BANDCOS or permitting it to be used for what the Minister would have us believe is the reason for promoting it would not make it work to the advantage or benefit of the masses which the Minister has been at pains to explain. He wants to say that it is for the benefit of the black man and he is supporting it.

Mr. Chairman, it would seem that only in a case such as the one before us today that some of us are

so proud to be black. It is being used as a bait. We are asked to do something to help the black man, but in truth and in fact the Minister has not shown us - having failed to go into the economics of things - how this will be achieved. I am telling you further, Sir, that since BANDCOS proposes to throw its doors open in another 40 days, let us ask ourselves whether it is not safe to say that the same BANDCOS has already placed itself into the grip of the shark-like importers that the Minister would have us believe are in operation today. Is BANDCOS now going to be a co-operative that is not going to import through the brokers? Will it have direct sources, or is it going to operate an agency business, or is it going to fall into line with those importers who have set up brokerages at the other end and are shareholders in them? They buy all the goods from the manufacturers at the other end; they can then sell them to the importers all over the world and not only in Barbados, thereby making their first profit on buying in large quantities. They make profit from warehousing, storage, etc., and then they have an operating agency business working on a distribution system. All of these various functions have to be specified as profit-making sources, the cost of which must be borne by the poor consumer at this end.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to invite the Government not to attempt to assist BANDCOS to be importers of Corned Beef as well as whole carcasses from any part of the world merely to compete with other businesses already established, because the Minister has told us that they have seen that supply and demand with regards to local consumer prices is not an effective and satisfactory system.

10.40 a.m.

We believe as the Minister says that no Roebuck Street merchant would be happy about price control but remember, Sir, it is not a case where the Government must have as its first concern the happiness of the Roebuck Street merchant. The Roebuck Street merchant or any merchant for that matter must operate a business and be allowed to make a profit on his investment; but it is for any Government that is alive to its responsibilities to the community to seek to provide effective ways and means to determine how much profit must be made by an importer, a commission merchant, a provision merchant, wholesaler, retailer, or else in whatever sphere.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this point, I would think that the hon. member is very irrelevant. I have already said that this Resolution seeks to provide the sum of \$200,000 to construct a building with cold storage facilities on Government-owned lands at Passage Road, St. Michael, and it is proposed to lease this property to the Barbados National Cooperative Development Society Limited. It also says that the Government is committed to the policy of assisting cooperatives. That is what the Resolution is about, and it has nothing to do with the Roebuck Street merchants.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe you like to have it on record that I was told that I am being

irrelevant, because the Minister in introducing the Resolution made reference to the Roebuck Street merchants and that the establishment of BANDCOS would make them unhappy. The Minister said that no dealer is happy about price controls, least of all the Roebuck Street merchants.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to tell the hon. junior member for St. Peter that I have already told the Minister that he was irrelevant, and I am telling the hon. member now that he is irrelevant.

Mr. HINDS: With due respect to you, I have to obey your ruling, but when the Minister in his opening remarks told us about the unhappiness of the Roebuck Street merchants, you did not at that stage or at any other stage tell him that he was irrelevant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is very offensive to the Chair in saying that the Chair did not at any time tell the Hon. Minister that he was irrelevant, and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words that I did not tell the hon. member that he was irrelevant.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will go on now to deal with providing the sum of \$200,000 to construct a building.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are asked to provide the sum of \$200,000 to provide a building and cold storage facilities to be leased to the Barbados National Cooperative Development Society to carry on business, and we have been told that that business is the supermarket type of business. Am I irrelevant now, Mr. Chairman? Since the business is the supermarket type of business, I am trying in my small way to show how the supermarket business is presently operated in this country, how it goes from the manufacturer at the other end through the broker, through the commission agent, through the merchants and right down to the masses of people, and to show where Government ought to be carrying out its investigations so as to relieve the masses who have got to be the principal sufferers. I believe the Chairman might feel that we have had enough debate on this matter, and if he says it is irrelevant, it is irrelevant. But the Minister in his opening remarks could talk about English potatoes and grapefruit juice and he was not irrelevant then, but if I tried to make comparisons about importing beef or any other item, I am irrelevant. I have to abide by your ruling.

Now the Minister in his opening remarks told us that instituting price controls on each and every shipment of imported foodstuff in this Island was costly and time consuming. We are maintaining, sir, that in the absence of effective control, the high cost is what the poor working class people find themselves saddled with. The Minister in his opening remarks told us in reference to this sum of \$200,000 for establishing this building for BANDCOS to carry on the business of importing meat from

Eyre, from Canada and the U. S. A. that the price of the commodity imported today increases tomorrow though imported from the same source. All this, Mr. Chairman, adds up to the total incompetence of a Government in dealing with a situation of reducing the high cost of living which is killing the poor people in this country. The Minister told us that it is within Government's knowledge that the consumer is being taken for a ride. Let the Minister rise and say what the Government proposes doing to stop the consumer from being taken for a ride. Who is taking the consumer for a ride? We are saying that the importers and the Government are. They are working hand in glove and it must be stopped, and that is what we propose to do. The Minister said that there was need for a survey. In other words, we are happy that the Minister will take an example from the operations of the business community here to see that BANDCOS does not find itself engaging in an irresponsible exercise by advertising one commodity at a cheap rate and setting about to fleece the community by carrying up prices on other commodities when Government provides a \$200,000 building and cold storage facilities to accommodate and facilitate this Society. 10.50 a.m.

That is what we are asking. We are being told what Government proposes to do for the Society, but apart from offering shares to the masses and others unnamed, even known to us, we have not yet been told with any degree of certainty what BANDCOS is going to do for the same masses. How is it that it is to spread its wings out, establish branches here and there throughout the Island when it is going to operate in the same manner as those businesses that operate on a profit making basis? What is it going to do? It is not what we have been told that BANDCOS is going to be a manufacturing concern importing the mere raw materials and then converting them into something for local consumption, we have not been told any of those things at all. The Minister told us that we must have an agency which can offer competition to those businesses presently existing in the trade, that we are asked to provide \$200,000, a building and cold storage facilities so that an agency can be set up that can offer competition. He told us, using up this Black Power stuff, that he wants to see the masses with Black Power.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to let the hon. member know that Standing Order 36 (1) states: "The Speaker or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the House or of the Committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate may direct him to discontinue his speech." That is what I am going to do now, I am directing the hon. junior member for St. Peter because of his irrelevance to discontinue his speech.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in looking at this Resolution the first point that strikes me is the absence from the Addendum of any indication as

to the terms and conditions under which the proposed building will be released to BANDCOS. It is to grant the sum of \$200,000 to assist to provide capital, a building in which the Society would operate the business of a supermarket under the terms and conditions of the Cooperative principles, so what Government in fact is doing is providing capital in the form of a building for the Society, the Society obviously not being able in its appeal to the public to get enough capital not only for circulating capital in the sense of stock and things of that kind but also enough capital to purchase the physical asset of a building. It is said that it is the policy of the Government to assist Cooperatives, but I have been repeatedly drawing to the attention of the Government that assistance consists not only of the provision of money but also of having a complete and comprehensive review of the Cooperative law which was passed as long ago as 1950, and I can tell the Government that there are a number of provisions in the law and in the rules which invest too much power in the Cooperative officers, and as a result in many of the Cooperative societies frustration arises because the officers are felt to be thwarting decisions made by members. This is a very important point.

As far as the principle of Cooperatives entering into the supermarket business is concerned, may I remind members that there was the St. Ann's Co-operative Society which ventured out and went into the consumer business at Brittons Hill. There is also the Christ Church Consumers' Cooperative which operates very successfully at Maxwell. In addition to this I understand that there are one or two others which exist, and as I understand the intention behind this Society is to form a National Cooperative Society which would be sufficiently well capitalised that it can attract the necessary quality in the management and set up a chain of supermarkets to compete in a area with other organisations and supermarket chains. It is a very laudable idea, I myself having regard to my knowledge of Cooperatives feel that they should proceed slowly and surely, and I feel that Government while giving assistance should not encourage the concept that this is a State run Government organisation and that they can be so inefficient in their management that whenever they are in difficulty they can come back and rely on Government to aid them out of their difficulties. The idea should be that they get the loan on soft terms so to speak, but that Government would expect over a long period of time to get back the taxpayers' capital. Those are the principles which I think should motivate and guide the passage of this.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution I can clearly see is seeking to help the consumers by way of helping BANDCOS. The Minister mentioned the shortage of supplies that have been going on recently, and this shortage I am told has to do with the limitation of the orders, in other words, merchants can only import from certain places and where they really can get the goods they are not allowed to import, and if they are allowed to import the orders are limited.

11.00 a.m.

If we want to get a good supply of goods in this country, we must let the merchants and the people responsible for importing goods import them from where ever they can be obtained, and I am sure that whenever an order is placed for 1,000 or 2,000 or 5,000 cases of whatever it may be and it can be obtained from more than one source, then you are going to get competition. If I know that no orders can go elsewhere, I can stick for a price and get it. As soon as I am told that people are sending orders elsewhere I will have to get up and get. If you allow the people to order goods from more than one source then the goods will come into the Island. So long as goods can be bought, I am sure the merchants will have to decide to sell at a competitive price.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This, in my opinion, is completely irrelevant to this Resolution. I have already drawn to the attention of hon. members the fact that we are dealing with a sum of money to construct a building to be leased to the Barbados National Co-operative Development Society Ltd. Let the hon. member proceed to deal with the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am going to proceed with the Resolution, but I hope you would not think that I am being rude when I say this. I am referring to myself; I was also a Chairman; if I allowed one member to ramble, then I would allow all to ramble. Here it is I am replying to some of the things said by the Minister. I want to help the Minister and set the records right. If you did not want me to reply to what the Minister has said, you should have stopped him because he was irrelevant. I am trying to tell the Minister how he could solve the problems to which he has referred. The Minister mentioned something about the industry and competition. Whether you allow me or not, I am prepared to try to reply to him. If you stop me, you should have stopped him. The Minister also said that we would have to come together like a bundle of sticks. If I reply to the Minister and mention these points, can you say that the things were not in the Resolution? The Minister was dealing with a clear cut Resolution, and he wanted every member of the Committee and the public to know what the Government was doing. The Minister could not just say: "I want \$200,000." (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear the hon. senior member for St. Joseph because of the noise made by the hon. senior member for the City. I hope that hon. members would observe Standing Orders No. 29 (6). (Asides) The hon. senior member for the City should know better than what he is doing. If he continues to do this, I shall have no other alternative than to use the authority vested in me. (Asides) Let the hon. senior member for St. Joseph proceed with the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Peter mentioned that \$200,000 was not sufficient to construct the building. What must I do now? I am only replying to the speeches that you have already allowed to have been made. If you stop me, it will clearly show that you do not want me to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I understand the hon. member when he says that he was a Chairman before, and I believe that he will certainly try to set a precedent to those hon. members who have strayed.

Mr. SMITH: If the members strayed, you allowed them to stray; you allowed the Minister to make his points. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member proceed please.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this is a very serious point I am now going to make, and I believe that it affects you because you are a small business man and a small shopkeeper in the country. The Government is going to construct a building and lease it to BANDCOS, and BANDCOS is going to do its utmost to sell things as cheaply as possible. It will be a building with cold storage facilities. A building with cold storage facilities to store what? Is it going to store stones? This building is going to store food to sell to the consumers of this country. This building will not be constructed to store cement. BANDCOS does not deal in cement, but with food. As soon as the Government constructs this building and BANDCOS starts to work the consumers in the country districts who owe you money will come to town and buy their goods at BANDCOS. When the merchants see that their business is being cut and BANDCOS is doing all of the trade, the merchants will call on you for their money. You will then have to pay cash for your goods, and you will have to tell your customers that they must pay cash for the goods they want to purchase.

11.10 a.m.

These customers cannot buy everything for cash, because you know that when it comes to Wednesday and Thursday it means crediting. As soon as you call on them to pay cash, you know what is going to be said. You know what the Opposition can tell them and it is going to stick. They will say it is because of the Government, that you could go to A's shop and credit something until you drew your money, but now you have to pay cash because the Government has set up an organisation to stop that. The merchant is going to tell the shopkeeper that and the shopkeeper will tell the customer that. You have to go easy on this matter and unless you are prepared to subsidise the other people that owe the merchants and put them in a position to pay the merchants and then buy somewhere else, you are heading for trouble. You know it, Sir, as I do because both you and I are from the country districts. I am a poor struggling shopkeeper and I know the burden I have especially when it comes to October and November when there is no work. Really and truly it may not be so now because they are going to get five days' guaranteed work, but when they got two and three days the shopkeeper had to carry the burden. The shopkeepers in the rural areas are carrying this Island on their backs when it comes to the working class people. Their properties and everything are at stake, and as soon as BANDCOS comes into operation fully, - I know it is going to be cheap and will help the people - the people

will take the money they would spend with the shopkeepers and come into town and not one cent will go to the shopkeepers; but the merchants will be calling on the shopkeepers to pay their debts. That is a serious matter. Until you can shield the shopkeepers and take them completely out of the hands of the merchants, then too far east is west, and the merchants will be only too glad for that. They are only crediting me because I owe them and I am crediting from them because I cannot pay them. There are some shopkeepers they would be glad to squeeze now, but they have to think in terms of everybody. We cannot think of 100 while five are dying.

Mr. Chairman, one should not think that because BANDCOS has money that it will get things from overseas too easily, because if BANDCOS is going to operate and keep the big merchants from making their turnover, the news will go abroad and instructions will be given to squeeze them and they will be squeezed, and you will be back in the hands of the merchants again. BANDCOS will not have its own overseas agents; it has to buy through an agent here and he knows what to do already.

When I was a baker I went to a particular agent to buy flour who told me I would have to buy at least 1,000 bags per month. I agreed at the time because I could do this, but when he quoted the price, it was dearer than I could get it from the merchants. You cannot do anything to hold up these merchants and the people are likely to suffer. I would ask the Minister to go about this very slowly and see how it is going to work. This is election year and nothing should be done to allow the merchants to stick out on the consumer, because there are some consumers who do not come to the city at all; they have their own small shopkeeper and they can carry a dollar bill and carry home \$1.50 in goods, and this is how it was working from the time I was a child. Now if you do this in such a way that the shopkeeper has to stop that person, there will be trouble. The shopkeepers in the country are suffering. You should do something to help them first, otherwise the people would not get any food since they would have to buy it.

Now the hon. junior member for St. Peter said that \$200,000 are not sufficient for this building. I too would think so, but he has left me on a limb because he did not say how much it would take. If he says it is insufficient, then he knows how much would do, but he withheld that from us. If he had said that for a building 10 ft x 10 ft it would cost so much at so much per square foot, then I would be convinced, but he just said that it is not sufficient. What I believe he might have lost sight of is that this building is going to be built by the Government and if the sum is not enough the Government can come back to the Chamber for more. He may be thinking that the \$200,000 will be for cold storage and stocking and the building proper, but I suppose this may be for the building and then they will come for money for the equipment. The hon. member should not make statements when he cannot prove them, he should state how much it would take otherwise he is fooling me, himself and the public also.

Mr. Chairman, I can go to Harrison College now and criticise the headmaster, but then he can ask me to put him right if he is wrong, and I would not be able to put him right because he may put some figures before me that I cannot see far less read. You can take any kind of implement or tool and put an idiot to dig down this building, but if you ask him to put it back up as soon as he has dug it down, he would not be able to do it. Talk is very cheap; so let us get the business and fix it right. That is what we have to do when we are going to criticise. I have made my point to show the Minister where in my opinion he will have to go easily in doing this as far as the Society is concerned, because no sooner than the building is erected and leased, Government may have to lend them money to carry on the business. People will be able to go there and make their purchases on Friday evenings and pay their \$15 or \$20 and go back home, but there are some who cannot do that, or if they do they would be putting themselves in trouble because they owe the shopkeeper \$10, \$20 or \$50, and as soon as these customers go to BANDCOS and get something at a cheap price the shopkeeper is going to sue them. They will be put in court and their houses will be levied on. You should try not to let that happen; do everything in a uniform way and help everybody.

Those are my views, Mr. Chairman. I cannot go any further because the Chair will draw my attention to the fact that this is for a building, but as I say, there are certain aspects of it that will lead us into trouble.

11.20 a.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to see a Resolution of this nature for this amount of money for the erection of a building and cold storage facilities in order to store food for the inhabitants of this Island. It is long overdue because by not having cold storage facilities lots of planters cannot plant their own food. Before I go further I must congratulate you for the way you have conducted the business today, because you have stopped many members' tongues from breaking the speed law; they were speaking so quickly that they would have to break the speed law. I trust that both you and the Speaker would realise that you have the helm in your hands and it is for you to know when the ship is going off its course. If you allow the ship to go off its course and off the latitude it will go down on the longitude and you will not be able to control it. This Resolution is of a good nature and I am happy to support it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out that the hon. member made the point that \$200,000 is not enough, as though we were financing the whole venture. I pointed out that 17,000 shares had already been sold and that 130,000 have been agreed to. The whole operation as originally planned is a \$425,000 operation comprising \$250,000 for land and buildings \$30,000 for fixtures, \$130,000 for stock and \$15,000 for miscellaneous items, so we are not talking about a \$200,000 operation, we are talking about initial venture. The hon. member has lost sight of the fact that shares are being sold

and the business is going to be capitalised at a certain rate that people who have shown interest in the enterprise can come in. The hon. member criticised the Government, but I thought I had made it clear that Government is giving assistance to BANDCOS because the Government is aware that something has got to be done and its approach to this problem is to give this assistance.

I want to erase any doubt in anybody's mind that it is a Government agency, Government in exercising its right to the Cooperative venture in this country is just giving assistance to BANDCOS in keeping with the policy on this venture. I think that the senior member for Christ Church was the most reasonable member who spoke, and he pointed out that it was laudable and congratulated us in the action we have taken, but he would like to see the laws in relation to Cooperatives reviewed. I want to give the assurance to the hon. member that consideration is being given to the laws relating to Cooperatives.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was not in my place for the most part of this debate but I would like to find out how they intend to repay Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is not a loan given to the Cooperative Society, Government is constructing a building and intends to lease it to the Society. The terms of the lease have not yet been agreed to but we are here dealing with a matter of principle and we feel that this is a step which if handled in the right manner can assist us in lowering the cost of living. There were a lot of people who applied for shares but did not take them up because they were awaiting a Government decision but a number of shares have been sold. Any member of the public can go in and purchase shares, the invitation is open to all, the fellow with his \$10 as well as the fellow with his \$5.00, it is encouraging Barbadians small and great to join in the exercise.

The question that Head 101 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 102 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I made a statement in this Chamber just a few days ago giving the number of roads which have been done over the last ten years. Government has been recently concentrating more on private tenantry roads and subsidiary roads for highway rehabilitation, especially at this time, and it is Government's policy to come in and repair privately owned tenantry roads according to the Tenantry Bill which was passed in this Chamber a few years ago.

11.30 a.m.

If these tenantries were owned by four or five persons Government could step in, because they then became roads owned by separate and private people. Today we still have tenantries owned by one or two individuals. For example, Holder's Tenantry, Fields'

Tenantry, Tenantries in Bush Hall, etc. The owners of these tenantries can no longer increase rents unless they make applications which will have to be decided by the Cabinet or the Government. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: "By the Magistrate.") Through the court by the Magistrate, Sir. Now, this would normally create a hardship for these people if they could not increase their rents and still had to keep the roads in order. Government has, therefore, decided to do these tenantry roads, because it recognises that they are all taxpayers in the country and are entitled to certain rights.

Today when people have to move off the various tenantries, every time you move a house it creates additional expenditure. For instance, if a poor man built a house and he had to move it, it would create additional expenditure. Some of these houses are in such bad condition - termite eaten - that as one of my colleagues, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, used to say, you would have to move them in a paper bag. Some of these houses are still standing and habitable, but when you go to move them a big hardship is created not to mention the difficulty of not being able to find other land in St. Michael or in the area on which to put them. It is hard on people, after living 30 or 40 years on one spot to find somewhere else on which to put their houses. There is also the hardship of having to pay for removing the house and for the repairs that will have to be carried out.

Mr. Chairman, we are very interested in carrying out this programme on a large-scale basis. We have reduced the work of rehabilitation of highways, and we are concentrating on improvements to most of these tenantries at this time. Under Head 102. Item 11 - Private Tenantries - we are asking for the sum of \$286,640, and under Item 4 - Subsidiary Roads - we are asking for \$275,270. Mr. Chairman, I think that all hon. members on the other side have agreed that this should be done. We are doing these roads all over the Island. I am asking that these Supplementary Estimates be approved to enable us to continue carrying out this very urgent community programme.

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I have had a look at the list. For a long period of time we on this side have been calling on the Government to produce such a list. It is a great pity that in the production of the list those responsible for it did not pay heed to the various number of questions which were asked during the course of this session. I remember the time when a long debate took place in this Chamber in respect of private tenantry roads. Looking at the list one could see that it was only after some period of time that the Government decided that it could adopt the principle of dealing with tenantry roads. The distinction between subsidiary roads and private

tenantry roads is still not very clear to me. I remember when I used to be Legal Adviser to the Southern District Council that there used to be an Item called "Other Roads", and those "Other Roads" were made up of roads which the Council as an act of policy decided, having regard to a private petition which had been sent to it, that the Parish for the first time would take them over. Whether or not the roads were private tenantries, once the owners agreed and signed to that effect under the Highways Act, the District Council used to take over the roads. All along I was never carried away by this argument that you could not go into a man's private tenantry and repair roads. It is now clear that at long last the Government has got around to this idea that it is going to repair tenantry roads.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want it to be thought or said that this is any new departure in policy. Any member on the other side who has sat on a Vestry, on the Southern District Council, the Northern District Council, or on the City Council would know that there are two prongs of attack in relation to private tenantries: one was under the Public Health Act, and the other was under this provision of an extraordinary grant which used to come from the Central Government to the Vestry, and they took over the roads for the first time when they were called "Other Roads". Looking at the Christ Church list, I only researched the number of questions that I have asked in here during the last 5 years, and I have specifically drawn the Government's attention to a number of roads - roads particularly in the Lodge Road area. I know that, when the Southern District Council had made it a policy that it was going to do the Lodge Road Tenantry roads over a period of 5 years before the abolition of Central Government, only one such road was completed leading from Lodge Road to Church Hill. On the same road going higher up, there are three parallel roads: one immediately above Aberdeen's shop which leads into the back of the cemetery; one further up above Mr. Welsh, the school teacher; further up in Ashby Land, there is another one further up still by the Church just where the tenantry was before it removed, and not one of these has been touched. I have on record questions relating to them for a long period of time.

Mr. Chairman, what makes me very annoyed about this whole situation is that I see in here, under private tenantry roads, Parish Land. Parish Land could never be a private tenantry road. Mr. Chairman, you were a member of the Southern District Council, and you will remember that part of Parish Land Road was repaired by the Southern District Council. Parish Land was owned by the Foundation School Trust, and it is now owned by the Government. That is a Government road. What kind of tenantry road could Parish Land be? What do we find? In effect, in Christ Church...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman. No one has ever intimated that Parish Land is a tenantry road. That road has been done from time to time. (*Asides*) If it is mentioned there it is wrong. I have had that road done already.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the list says so, and I object to that.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am not prepared to allow the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to get away with that. Parish Land must be considered as a private tenantry road. The words "private tenantry" means a tenantry which belong to one individual owner.
11.40 a.m.

The words "private tenancies" mean a tenantry which belongs to an individual owner, so therefore since Government is the owner of the whole of Parish Land, it must be stated as a private tenantry.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That is nonsense. Since the owner is the owner of a public road, if the owner is the owner of Swan Street, is that a private tenantry?

Mr. LOWE: The fact remains that a private road in this context means where the complete tenantry belongs to one owner.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order....

Mr. LOWE: I am on a point of order. Tenantry roads here mean where one individual owns the complete tenantry. *(Asides)*

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

Mr. LOWE: In all the parish lands which were rented to individual persons and owned by Government, these lands are also private tenancies. Subsidiary roads are where you have more than one individual owner. The hon. senior member for Christ Church said that he sent in a petition. When a petition comes in, you look at it to see that these people as land-owners are prepared to turn over this road to the Government for proper construction and maintenance; so I want one and all to realise that private tenancies only mean tenancies belonging to an individual owner, whether Government or otherwise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take that to be a point of explanation and not a point of order.

Mr. ST. JOHN: This is where we will have to show what is wrong with the Department, because the hon. member was Chairman of the Highways Committee in the Southern District Council. I defy the hon. member.....

Mr. LOWE: On a point of order, I was at no time ever Chairman of the Southern District Council or Vice-Chairman of the Highways Committee.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Now the position is that I know and the hon. junior member for Christ Church knows that the main roads in Parish Land were always done by the Vestry and the Southern District Council. They built these roads, so do not come and tell me now that it is any private tenantry. These were parish roads for years. I know, Mr. Chairman, you

know and everybody who knows the area knows that, and I say that they only put in Parish Land because in truth and in fact they are trying to deprive Christ Church of its due amount of tenantry roads, and I will list them for you now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I have had the privilege of representing Christ Church for 24 years, and I happen to know what I am talking about. What the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said is absolutely correct. Parish Land is not a private tenantry road; it is an old parish road which has always been done by the Vestry and the Southern District Council, and money has been voted by the Central Government to assist them in carrying out the programme. As Minister of Communications and Works I have had the privilege of doing not only parish land roads, but Amity Lodge also and I saw to it that the barbergreen was used in getting it done in a big way. I want to explain another point because I cannot sit here and hear a lot of tomfoolery going on. Provided a tenantry road is owned by one individual all well and good, but in Parish Land, although 99 acres belonged formerly to the Williams Trust, I was a member of the Governing Body of the Foundation Schools from 1944 to 1948 and again from 1951 to 1954 when the Ministerial system came into being and I was forced to resign because I became a Minister, and I happened to know that the 99 acres of land were given for the support and education of poor white children, but we had that over-ruled so that coloured and black children could benefit also.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have not finished yet. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, the land at Parish Land is not owned only by the Williams Trust nor the Government. There are many other owners in Parish Land and the land runs to the bottom road on either side of which other people own land. What the hon. member has said is not in truth and in fact the true case because the land is not all vested in one person. Provided what the hon. member said were the facts, it would all be well and good, but those are not the facts. The facts are that Parish Land is owned not only by Government but by many other individual owners.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Seriously, I think the Government should review their programme in respect of Christ Church. They are really unfairing them because they should not classify Parish Land for the reasons said before as a private tenantry. I see you have a road here marked "Cane Vale". I do not know your definition of Cane Vale. I want to know if this is the road which was formerly part of Cane Vale plantation that Mr. Power cut up and leads up between the Silver-Hill/Gall Hill Housing Area and Cane Vale main road. (Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is right.) Well I hope that the Government will pay strict attention to the problem in that area before they build a road. The problem there is drainage and if you build a road it is going to be taken away because of drainage. The water comes down the hill off the houses now that you have paved the whole of the Gall Hill/ Silver

Hill housing area and will eat out any road you put there unless you decide to go under the hill or somewhere around with your drainage experts and build suck wells. That plantation used to have a lot of suck wells, but they have not been cleaned for ten years; so there is nothing to take off the water.

Mr. Chairman, a petition for a road was sent in by over sixty people in Maxwell Hill next to the King's residence where from half way up Maxwell Hill leading back up to Silver Hill there is electricity, and there is a natural set out area with a big road reserve, and nothing has happened. (Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: How long?) This was done last year and I drew it to the attention of the Ministry. I have a file with documents on Maxwell Hill, and they have been begging for that road for years. You see, by abolishing Local Government you have lost that intimacy of contact between the governors and the governed, and when they have to deal with the Ministry that intimacy of contact is lost, and I have been appealing to the Government early to set out their proposed programme and circulate it to M. Ps so that those to whom their constituents come would be able to make some suggestions before you come to finality. We come here and ask questions, but what we ask questions about....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member will not get away with anything either. It is a track that the hon. member is speaking of and not a road as such. The owners of the houses adjoining would want to have a road instead of a track which now exists. There was never a road. You have these tracks and gradually they are handed over and become roads.
11.50 a.m.

Having these tracks leading in and this gradual handing over they become roads, so the hon. member is referring to a track and not a road. If the hon. member has a copy of that petition I have not got one; if they have not drawn it to my attention I cannot help.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I would really like to give a little light on these roads they are talking about. A private road is a private road but it becomes a tenantry road as soon as the Estate was sold out leaving one track leading to other people's land, but when it is owned by an individual it is called a private road. We have in St. Andrew private roads, tenantry roads and public roads; as soon as Government takes over any road and reconstructs it it becomes a public road, but it must be a tenantry road where many people have bought the land, where the Estate failed to cut the roads properly and only a track was left. That is all I know about it.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think I can add something to this debate, I have had to deal with tenancies, privately and otherwise for the last 30 odd years. What the last speaker has said is partly correct, but it seems to me as though it has not been correctly defined. Plantations had

roads in common running through the area for which neither person buying land on either side could stop. Those were public tenancies known as roads in common. Earlier when previous Governments started to do such tenantry roads you had to get persons to sign that they would give permission to do the road, because in each conveyance there were persons having parts of the road on either side. You can start from Jackmans, Haggatt Hall, Salters and go out to St. Thomas and you will find this is the situation that obtained.

There are such things as privately owned tenantry roads where the tenantry is owned by one person or by a limited liability company, and one such tenantry was Hanschell's tenantry. Where I disagree with the Government is this, I happen to be agent for certain tenantry roads and the Minister has not mentioned this. I would never be party to any Government walking into a privately owned tenantry road and doing it without having the owner pay something at sometime, betterment charges etc., but let us take Hanschell's land, if you were to go to sell it out without the roads being fixed you might get a price of 60 cents per square foot.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, when we decided a few years ago on these tenantry roads, this was the very procedure that we started so that the Government could collect a certain amount of revenue, but after all the people still live in these roads and there has been so much delay for so many years that we decided to go in and do these roads in accordance with the provisions of the Tenantry Bill which prohibits the increase of rent, because people are still living in these roads and suffer great inconvenience.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the hon. member continues, it was during my tenure of office as Minister of Communications and Works in 1965 that we first thought of doing tenantry roads, and a Committee was set up which unfortunately never reported, but this Committee was to look into the possibility of getting the owners to do these roads, with the result that the Government has fallen back on the policy of doing the roads at Government expense provided it receives the permission of the owners.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to that, but it seems to me that neither of the Ministers knows the Act they are working on. I am talking about betterment charges. All I am saying is this, there is no reason why you should not go in and do the roads to protect the tenants, but I am saying you have not abolished the Public Health Act whereby the Government had the right to fix the price of land. Let us put it this way, the Government goes into Cave Hill by the University and cuts a road; Mrs. Branch sets up a tenantry as a result of Government making the road and Government can charge 25%. Without that road the land would have been valued at 60 cents a square foot but with road you can get \$1.00 as a result of a betterment charge.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member has had a lot of experience in here and he can always find another defence to put up, the question of a betterment charge is only the price on the sale of the land, if there is no sale how can we collect betterment charges?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: This is not absolutely correct, what I am saying is that Local Government had the authority to pay the rates and charge people but we did not have the machinery, but when the land is being sold some machinery could be put into effect.
12.00 noon.

I am telling you now that you have sent letters to places like Water Hall and you have never had the people in to sign anything. Let me ask the Minister how many tenantry roads have been done and what increase in the rent will be made. If I cannot do the roads and the Government steps in and repairs the roads, there is no reason why I should get all of the profits. There is a difference between a tenantry road and a private tenantry road. As a matter of fact, if you look at the conveyance relating to the Bank of Nova Scotia you will see what happens to the road on either side, but that does not make it a private road. At one time it must have been a road which the Highway Commissioners did not take over; then the Central Government came into being, and then the Ministry of Communications and Works came into being. That is the process you have to go through.

Mr. Chairman, I have about three letters which I have received from people in connection with roads which were not tenantry roads. There must be betterment charges in this matter, because people are charging exorbitant prices for land. The Minister knows this.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, we on this side quite agree and realise such things as betterment charges. There are places where we have built roads and caused complete development to people's land. Now, if the Government had gone on somebody's land and spent the taxpayers' money on that land, it would raise the value of the man's land. We still have the Tenantry Bill under which we can give people the necessary protection. We are not putting in roads in these tenantries when the landlords can then overcharge the people. They cannot charge higher rents, and there is the policy that, if these tenantries were to be sold, consideration would be given for the value of the land at the time and the value of it when it was set up for sale. As long as I am on the side of this Government, we will make sure that the people will be protected. If the tenantries were going to be sold, we would endeavour to give the people an opportunity to own the spots on which their houses were constructed. Perhaps the land could be bought so that the people would have an opportunity to purchase the spots. That is the general policy of this Government. We are not worried about the betterment charges in these tenantries. In big highway developments we would have to consider that. At present we are collecting

charges in certain areas. We would like to see the people on the land buying spot after spot as has been done by the people on Parris Land. Only a few years ago Parris Gap was owned by the two Fields brothers. The Eastern part was sold to individual owners. As Minister of Communications and Works, I endeavoured to do work on the entire area, but I could just get as far as the point where one owner had sold out to individual owners. The balance of the land leading to Fontabelle is still under one owner and it could not be done. I am now trying to do this particular portion. Alleyne's Land and several of these tenantries are being dealt with at the moment.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Since private tenantry roads have been taken over, how many applications have been made to sell the land?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Applications for the sale of land would not come to the Ministry of Communications and Works; they would have to go to the Ministry of Home Affairs. I would not know anything about that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I will continue to say that if you go in and repair private tenantry roads, having abandoned the idea that the last Government had - they had fixed the price beyond which a person could not go - How many applications have been made for the sale of land?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I have already said that applications dealing with the sale of land would have to be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and I could not give up-to-date information on such application unless they were sent to my Ministry for something to be done about them. The Senior Member for the City should remember that during the days of the City Council they had the right to do any of the tenantry roads and then collect the money from the owners. He knows about areas like Bannister Land and other tenantries with absolutely no roads. It was rather ridiculous for the people to get to their homes. They had the right under the Public Health Act to fix those roads. We are now doing something that the previous Government should have done. The previous Government never took any steps to see that roads were provided for those people.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I categorically deny that. This is not the first Government that has done private tenantry roads. You are allowing people to sell the land without collecting the money that you have spent on it. I would like you to find out how many applications have been made.
12.10 p.m.

I am not trying to trick the Minister into anything. I am trying to ask what I know. People are asking landlords to sell, but presently they do not have a fixed price because the Government abandoned the idea which the last Government had of fixing a price. This is all I am saying and I am asking how many applications there have been. (Asides) The Minister says he does not know.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to dealing with roads, we always get what you call parish pump politics, and in my case, I too would have to join in drawing the attention of Government to the deplorable condition of some of the roads in the constituency which I have the honour to represent. I could not sit here and allow other members to draw to the attention of the Government the condition of the roads in their constituencies and not draw attention to the condition of the roads in my parish.

Now, Sir, as you are aware, the parish of St. Philip is the biggest one in this Island. It has a large number of roads which in some cases were built by the defunct Vestry and since then by the former Council. Some of these roads are in need of repairs. In making this statement I am not for one moment criticising the Government, but I feel it is my duty as a representative of the parish to let the Government know that my constituents have been complaining regularly about these roads. I do hope that Government will find it possible to repair some of these roads in the very near future. I realise that the Government has been doing its utmost for the benefit of the people of this Island, and if it happens that all the roads cannot be repaired at the same time, I am still asking that consideration be also given to the roads in St. Philip. As you are aware, Sir, there is election fever in the air and you would expect me too to say a few words on behalf of my constituents.

Finally, Sir, I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Works that when he is considering the repair of roads to also include the parish of St. Philip so as to satisfy the people of that parish, which I boast, forms approximately one-seventh of this Government. I do hope that the Minister will take into consideration all that I have said in good faith and do its utmost to assist the people of St. Philip and alleviate this hardship which they must face from time to time owing to the deplorable condition of certain roads in the parish.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the speaker who has just sat down struck a note which many of us have occasion to advert to in this House, the note that at certain times debates in this Chamber become parish pump debates. We cannot help this when we have to deal with roads, Mr. Chairman, since we no longer have Local Government, a forum where such matters are more properly thrashed out. It is therefore necessary for us to come here and talk about it.

Now, Sir, we have heard a great deal in the past two years about the Government's repair of tenantry roads as if it is something remarkable, something that only this Government has done. This of course, Sir, is untrue. Private tenantry roads have been reparable by Commissioners of Highways ever since Barbados has had a Highways Act, the only necessary thing is the consent of the owner, and there are parts of Barbados where roads had been made up in the past, they were elevated from the status of private roads into being subsidiary roads as a matter of description, not as a matter of law, merely because it is so long ago when they were cart tracks that people cannot now remember.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the roads in Arthur Seat, St. Thomas, which also started life as private roads, but after the plantation of Arthur Seat was cut up many years ago the roads became highways in effect since the public was allowed freely to pass and repass over them. Only yesterday I was in various parts of Arthur Seat and was trying to find out before the rainy season starts what the conditions of the roads are, and in several different parts of Arthur Seat I was told that the drainage of the roads there is very bad. I hope that when the Minister gets his supplementary vote that he will consider having the inspectors look at the general layout of the Arthur Seat roads and see if he cannot improve the drainage particularly at corners which were long ago built without any slippers, and around which, when the water rushes it will go around the corner and flow down into the housing areas on either side. I would be glad also if the Minister will be kind enough to look at drainage problems in the Carrington Village district of St. Thomas. I have spoken before of the Carrington Village district of St. Michael and the drainage problems there. We have a Carrington Village in St. Thomas with some of the highest rainfall in Barbados, and there are houses placed just below road level on the gully side which has a continuing road problem. I am very disappointed not to see in the 1971-72 road works programme the roads in Shop Hill. Now, Sir, we run across certain problems with a particular type of road.

12.20 p.m.

Not only do roads which were once private tend to become public and their private position forgotten, but also roads which were once public tend to become by reason of lack of maintenance private roads in the minds of those whose duty it is to repair them. Particularly I would like to draw this Minister's attention - because I do not believe the hon. junior member for St. Michael has ever been Minister at the time that this was being discussed - to the road that leads through Shop Hill to Cane Garden, St. Thomas via Vacluse Tenantry, Ham Pond and Whitehall Tenantry. This is a public highway; even if the Minister was disposed because of its rocky condition with grass growing up the middle in such a state you cannot even put a water main in it, even if the Minister was disposed by that to believe that it was a private road and the property of Vacluse Plantation, he should give up that idea because in 1954 the 1.7 miles of road concerned was scheduled among the list of roads handed over by the Road Commissioners of St. Thomas to Central Government.

This road leads through a thickly populated area; it is an area that is also right for housing development in my view, it has some of the finest if not the finest views in Barbados, it has views right through Bridgetown, it covers Vacluse Tenantry which has many people and Whitehall village which has perhaps rather fewer people, since this very road problem is reducing the population in the western side of the tenantry area. It seems that there is some resolution on the part of the Ministry not to repair the Ham Pond Road. I can understand in the

case of the previous Minister that he may have been somewhat prejudiced against some of the inhabitants of the road for their political views, I do not believe that the instant Minister either has the prejudice against anyone, or more particularly in the case of St. Thomas, has any views whatsoever as to road repair which depends upon the political character of the neighbourhood concerned, but if he wants a little history of the road, it seems, according to my information, that at Vacluse Plantation instructions have existed for many years not to repair this road since it is a public road.

The Road Commissioners of St. Thomas took it in hand from the Cane Garden end and pushed it up about halfway, so that there is some road surface going to the end of Ham Pond, but the part of the road where people mainly live which runs from Shop Hill to Ham Pond, a straight road, Sir, has never been repaired, it is in bad shape and it prevents the carrying through of other services, for Vacluse Tenantry is still without water; apart from the bad supply in Shop Hill, there is no main leading down to many of the houses, and it is without the ordinary amenities of life that we have come to take for granted. You can see Bridgetown from the houses in Vacluse Tenantry, but you cannot get the most elementary service and the first thing that needs to be provided is, in my suggestion, a road, but there is no road work going on in St. Thomas at the present time, according to the programme, the only roads that are suggested are in Arise Village - I cannot think of what substantial road works are necessary in Arise Village, but I would take it that it is a very short road indeed, a couple of hundred yards that leads off Proute Hill - and Hopewell Tenantry no doubt will be repaired. Hopewell Tenantry seems to be a much larger job than Vacluse, although the population is not the same; I welcome the repair of Hopewell Tenantry, but the roads are not so bad.

When Senator Mapp was the Minister he brought water into Hopewell, the inhabitants of Hopewell were then his constituents, and the road was partially made up at that time, and the main road that runs through Hopewell towards Ashford is not in particularly bad shape. I would welcome the subsidiary road that runs to the west being repaired, but particularly I would have welcomed the road in Shop Hill being placed in the 1971-72 road works programme. It is the most outstanding of the bad roads left in St. Thomas, and it will be needed, Sir, in my suggestion, for whatever purpose Vacluse Tenantry and the surrounding lands are ever likely to put to in the future. If there is to be a different type of residential development, a road will be needed there, and it will be a shame to wait to do that road until the day when the Plantation starts to sell out the land, perhaps for a more middle class type of residential development while you make the agricultural labourers of Vacluse Plantation and the factory workers suffer under the very bad road condition that they have to put up with at the present time. If you live by Ham Pond Corner you then are in the situation where nobody can advise you to put on your shoes

or wear your Sunday clothes if there has been a serious rainy day, because you have a lot of mud to negotiate before you can reach anywhere where the road is hard enough to walk on with comfort.

I have mentioned this road in connection with its being a road that was a public highway, and is a public highway, but this fact is not recognised by the Government. As the Minister will have been told recently in the course of certain enquiries made of the Attorney General, it is possible to prosecute before a jury at Sessions the person responsible for maintaining the highways of this island for public nuisance, for non-repair or improper repair of the highways. If the Attorney General has given any other advice then I will have to say of him what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas says of him in connection with advice he has given to the Cabinet, and perhaps it may not accord strictly with the advice that a lawyer more concerned in active practice might conceivably give, but nonetheless the Minister is aware of this problem at the present time, and I mention it not to hold out a threat or anything like that, but I mention it because the law in Barbados is extremely strict. Let me read from the law relating to the Commissioners of Highways whose functions have now been assigned to the Minister of Communications and Works. Section 10 of the Highways Act says "They shall have charge of the highways in their respective parishes and shall make, construct, repair and keep in proper order the same as to them shall seem meet, and they shall from time to time ascertain the state and condition of the highways within their respective districts and give the necessary orders to the Inspectors of Highways for the repair of the same, taking care that those which most require repair be first attended to". That is the duty placed by the Highways Act upon the Minister of Communications and Works, it is not anything that a Civil Servant can decide he will not do this year, or do next year, this is a duty placed on the Ministry. Where a public highway exists and it can be shown to be a public highway the Minister is obliged to maintain it; the fact that no Minister has ever been prosecuted at Sessions for misfeasance in maintaining a highway, if you would like me to use the Attorney General's words, does not mean that it cannot be done.

12.30 p.m.

It should be done, and this road in St. Thomas is one of them which should have been done. There is one other road to which I shall advert more shortly since I have a certain interest in it, but it is a good illustration of a number of things that are wrong with the Government of this country today. There is a road called the old Bow Road in Spooner's Hill. This has been a public highway for upwards of 200 years. As long as conveyances and plans have been made this has been shown as a public highway; however, it has over the last 80 years been used less and less because with the building of Codrington Agricultural Station, the erection of the wall and the establishment of the new Bow Road which runs along Codrington Agricultural Station wall. More people have come more and more to use that road.

Some years ago there was a dispute between the then Bridgetown City Council and the owner of the land at the top of this road. (*Asides*) Mr. Chairman if the heckling is of any importance, members must heckle with a louder voice so that I can answer them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not advise any heckling in this Chamber.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the owner of the land at the Spooner's Hill end of the old Bow Road was in dispute as to what course the road should follow with the then Commissioners of Highways for St. Michael. I believe an offer was made of other land to give the road a different exit from the then exit that existed. The present exit exists. The Commissioners of Highways in St. Michael operating through the then Bridgetown City Council were unable to come to any agreement with the then owner of the old Bow Road and they, therefore, made up the road to the boundary of the then owner's land - a clear, indictable offence. If there is one thing that is certain it is that a half-made highway is punishable by a judge and jury at Sessions. This you must take as the law, Sir. Nevertheless, this was not pursued. It could still be pursued now, because there is no time limit for prosecutions on indictment. It could still be pursued now in my opinion even against the successor of the Highways authority for half-making a road - a criminal offence.

This course was not followed. The owner of the land by his Counsel, myself, wrote to the Ministry to say that the owner would be happy to have the road made up throughout, because the condition at the end was such that nobody who respects his motor-vehicle - and this affects only the people who live in the old Bow Road - could ever dream of taking it over the rocky, half destroyed entrance to this particular road. A civil servant writes back without any respect for the law, without any respect for the inhabitants of Barbados and, indeed, without respect for the owner of the land, to say that it is not thought advisable that the old Bow Road should have an entrance to Spooner's Hill. It is not for any civil servant to decide whether or not a public highway should be there. One of these days a civil servant will say it is not thought desirable to drive up Broad Street and, therefore, he will leave a hole in Broad Street.

This thing cannot be done this way, Sir. There are people in the old Bow Road who have motor-cars. There is a car repairer there who would be glad for the opportunity to be able to drive up Spooner's Hill, the shortest way to Bridgetown. There are people who live there that want a chance to get out over the road to walk to Spooner's Hill. There is difficulty to walk on the road at certain times. A very noise-some rubbish heap has been established there; there is even an old lorry which is standing where the road used to be, because the course of the road has been changed. You have an old wheel-less lorry standing in the middle of this rubbish dump. Before very long - I must give the Minister warning - there is going to be a very big fire right there in that rubbish dump; the lorry and all the stuff will be

burnt, and you will see the line of the road a little better.

Some years ago I remember asking, when the junior member for St. Thomas was Minister for Communications and Works, about the repair of this road. I asked a civil servant in the Ministry about it and he said to me: "If you want the road repaired, I would not advise you to put your name to any document that comes to the Ministry asking for repair. You should get the people to petition and you should not have anything to do with it, because as soon as they see your name and they know whom the road belongs to they are not going to repair it." I did not believe him, Sir. I thought that it referred only to the then Minister; I discovered that I was wrong. As soon as my name enters on a piece of paper to repair my father's road because he is the owner of it - it is a public highway, but he is the owner of the subsoil. As soon as my name went on a letter to the Ministry - out of I do not know what - the Ministry decided that it was going to prevent the people of the old Bow Road, Spooner's Hill, St. Michael, North East, from having an exit on to Spooner's Hill. That is a road that 95 percent of them use when they wish to get out on foot but, unfortunately, if they wish to drive they have to drive out of the Bow Road, make a sharp acute left turn and come back down - a detour of half mile. I do not believe that, until a personal copy of the letter was sent to the Minister, he was aware of this. I know that the hon. junior member for St. Michael is a man without political spite or vindictiveness and he would not, in my opinion, allow political considerations to govern the choice of repair of a road or to decide that a particular road belongs to a particular man and, therefore, it must not be repaired.

Let me ask the Ministry with respect to this question of its not being thought advisable to have an exit to Spooner's Hill, suppose my father decides to repair the road, will you come and stop him? Suppose he decides to give the people the exit on to Spooner's Hill although it is a public highway. Are they going to come and arrest him for digging up the public highway which, I believe, in theory could be done? How could the people in the Ministry talk about it not being considered vital to have an exit on to Spooner's Hill? It cannot be done that way. I give the Minister notice that no pavement or any road works will cross any part of that land in Spooner's Hill, old Bow Road/new Bow Road without doing it under the Land Acquisition Act in here until that road is repaired. Do not bring the pavement anywhere along that part of the old Bow Road. If you cannot give the people a road to get out, then you will have to remain with your convenience otherwise. Do not let me see one piece of road - making machinery anywhere on that land until that road is done. That is a warning I have given here although not in my capacity as a member of the House. You can put it in your cap that if you cannot give the people a road, then do not come and expect to do any of those funny schemes with pavement 10 feet wide nearly as wide as the road itself.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has now had the benefit of my views on a rather personal matter, but because I have spent a little time on that I would not like him to ignore what I have said earlier about the Shop Hill Road in St. Thomas. I urge that road on him. With the road at Hopewell it is the largest of the major tenantry operations, because it runs through a tenantry although it is not a tenantry road. It is the last of the major tenantry operations that should be done in St. Thomas. He has time, Sir. I would suggest to the Minister that if he wants a monument to his holding of that particular Ministry, let him be able to say that a Minister who was a representative for St. Thomas held the Ministry for five years, but he held it for one and in that time everybody in St. Thomas could say that he had a reasonable road to get out with.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr Chairman, I have listened carefully to this debate, and I would like to say that one of the things that people in Barbados usually seem to think is that they live in the very worst place and under the very worst conditions. The roads in Barbados are better than all in any part of the West Indies and in most parts of the world when the size of Barbados is taken into consideration as well as the amount of road works which have been done. I say without any hesitation that road works are expensive. Mr. Chairman, you will see from the list circulated of road works and intended roads what is the actual policy of the Ministry.

12.40 p.m.

We have three things to consider very carefully in performing our road works programme. One is that we consider the number of people and services rendered by one road and its cost against the number of people that can derive the greatest benefit, and I think that in any country this is what should be done. If I had to spend \$50,000 for services for 10,000 people, I would prefer to spend it on 10,000 people than for 100. This is one of the things we have to consider in the Ministry very carefully.

Secondly it is no use going into these tenantry roads and subsidiary roads where you got 100 and 150 banjo strings all over the place where due to the build-up of these areas large Coca Cola trucks go over the roads and break up these banjo strings; so in these areas one of the first things the Ministry is doing is putting in water mains so that the water can be run completely under the earth without any damage being done to the pipelines. With respect to the banjo strings running on the surface, the present law of this country makes it compulsory for any owner putting in water services to bury the pipe four feet in the land, but some of the soil formation in this country would make it impossible for most people to put in the service if they had to dig four feet because they would have to get a cutting machine to cut down the stone at their own expense, and this would be so high that it would be completely impossible. This is one of the reasons why you see the lines on the surface, because it would be financially impossible for some of these poor people to cut ridges into the soil for over 100 feet distances to where they live; so what we are considering today in the Ministry, is working in conjunction with

the waterworks Department by putting in the mains and then the roads, make a check to find out how many people in the area are interested in water so that they can make the application as soon as the main goes in and connect up, and when you put in a road you will have a good road for a long time without having it cut across within a few weeks as is the case with so many roads which have been repaired.

Mr. Chairman, drainage is another problem. When we put in a new road and it is barbergreened, the asphalt prevents the absorption of the water, so more water is flowing in the drains than normally would have. All these are things that the Ministry is concerned about. It is very expensive but you will see that we are trying to concentrate on all the parishes. St. Michael has more bad roads than most of the other parishes because it is used more than any of the other parishes. It is built up to a greater extent than the other parishes, and we in St. Michael have a lot of reasonably bad roads, but because I am a representative of St. Michael and I am Minister of Communications and Works I would not like any person to feel that I should not have consideration for the eleven parishes in this country, because I am Minister of Communications and Works for the Island and not for a particular parish. I would like to assure hon. members that in the road and works programme I pay great attention to the over-all needs of the entire Island rather than to a small area.

The hon. senior member for St. Thomas made mention of certain roads and spoke of vindictiveness. As a Minister I can only be advised. I am not an expert in the field of road works. There is a Town Planner and there are highways people who give advice, and too often I have to depend on advice in the same way as the Civil Servants working in the Ministry. In connection with Bow Road, what they do is to refer the matter to certain Departments like the Town Planning and Highways Department, and it is just like either one of us purchasing a piece of land and building a house on it, and the terms and conditions of building are that an outlet is not to be put on such and such a road. We in the Ministry have to take the same advice, and if the Town Planner says that an outlet from such and such a road should not be made on to a highway because it is dangerous, what can we do. This is no vindictiveness.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Town Planner cannot say that a highway should not be there. It is a public highway. You cannot take advice from the Town Planner that a highway should not run where it runs. You should not refer it to the Town Planner at all. He cannot say that.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I said that this a matter for the people responsible for highway improvement and the Town Planner and if they do not think a certain road advisable as an outlet on a public highway, I cannot do anything about it. I am no expert on that. I am an expert in my own field and when it comes to that I say what I know. As a Minister I am no expert overnight.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. We know that we have the best roads in the West Indies, but the worst road is in Fruitful Hill. That is a road that was abandoned over the last six years. How the people manage to get to their homes I do not know, and it is time that the Government do something with that road. I would like the Minister to tell me something on it right now. Do not tell me anything about the soil conservation people saying that a road cannot be put there, because it will make me and the people there feel that the Government is sheltering behind soil conservation. There are other roads, but I will not worry to mention them yet. Fruitful Hill road was bad before Coggins Hill. Coggins Bridge went bad and they fixed it; it went bad again and it has been fixed and Fruitful Hill road is still there unrepaired. The people living there are not monkeys, they are human beings like anybody else, and the same way you bent over backwards to repair washed-out bridges, you should do the same thing to give the people there a road to get in and out. If the Minister cares anything about the people, I hope he will see that something is done. He should call on the Director of Highways and Transport to give him an estimate to see what the particular road will cost and let us spend the money there regardless of the consequence. There are not many electors there, but you can lose by one vote and you can win by one. But I am nothing to do with that this time; I am something to do with the people who are suffering to get out their crops and to get to and from their homes. People have to walk up places on their hands and knees. Are they animals? I hope the Minister will look into it and do something about it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss to know how Government decides on its priorities when it comes to the repair of these roads whether subsidiary or private tenantry roads. For instance, Sir, if one were to look at the list presented here by the Minister, it would be seen at a glance that the name of St. Peter is conspicuous by its absence from the list.
12.50 p.m.

You will find that in the district known as Gays, the residents of that district petitioned the Ministry for years and no mention has been made in this list of Government's intention to do anything to the Gays' road so as to help the Leacock and the Walkes families. This is a very densely populated area and we see nothing is to be done by Government in this respect for these people. In the same way you will find that the Castle Road leading from Gays' junction through Boscobelle to the Risk is crying out for repairs and no mention is made by Government in its report that it is entitled for any sort of consideration, but as other hon. members have said, human beings live in these areas as well, and why is it that Government is setting out to repair tenantry roads, subsidiary roads and what else and is taking no thought of the needs of the people of the parish of St. Peter with reference to these particular roads?

At Black Bess leading to Mangrove Tenantry people find the greatest difficulty in getting to and

from their homes, and every effort should be made by Government to do something for the people of this Mangrove Tenantry area. They too are human beings and deserve some consideration; why is it that they are being neglected in this way? The road at Rose Hill from the Mile-and-Quarter junction going north creates a drainage problem; the surface of the road wants raising and proper gutters provided so that it can lead off the water in the culvert that ought to run aback of Mr. Harvey's shop. Instead of this, the water that comes down from the Rose Hill - Sunbury area has no proper outlet, breaks across the road in its stride and flows on to Mr. Harvey's premises, and has caused considerable damage to the area.

We feel that these are present problems that call for immediate attention and not merely that Government should select certain roads, perhaps on the advice of some Civil Servant, and leave these matters undone. Major Walk at Speightstown in itself is a road Government buses use and the residents in the area suffer considerably because there is no drainage provided, and something ought to be done to bring these people's minds at ease. One piece of road that could not escape any Minister that is concerned with the repair of these tenantry roads is a road at Six Men's; that road is one of the worst pieces of road, if it can be called a road, to be found anywhere in any tenantry in this Island. The Minister in replying just now made mention on the points which are to be taken into consideration when money is to be spent on these projects, but we are saying here and now that there is no road by any standard that could measure up and stake its claim more readily or with greater clarity than the Six Men's Tenantry Road. It is thickly populated and the condition of the road in itself is very bad and creates a drainage problem; something ought to be done and done quickly.

I have made mention time and time again of the roads at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2, and I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage, except to say that the Minister made mention of laying in water mains when these roads have been repaired, to refer to these roads again. Here is a case where the Minister should jump as from today to give some sort of consideration to the people living at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2 with respect to the laying of water mains when these roads are being constructed. They are crying out for some sort of consideration from the Government, and I do not see how any Government that is alive to its responsibility can really and truly continue to neglect the people who live in these areas. One must feel as if the present Government owes a spite to the people of St. Peter.

Time and time again when another hon. member, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, was Minister for Communications and Works I tried to put the case of the people at Indian Ground, who have to depend on the track that leads beside the late H. I. Gill's ground which leads on to the Doughlins, the Johnsons and the Armstrongs. I have heard the

Minister talk about difficulties that the Government encounters, and despite my repeated requests that the situation is now different from what it was in earlier days and something could be done, we cannot see or hear that anything tangible is undertaken for the benefit of these poor people. The rainy season is now approaching, and with Government undertaking this limited programme, it does not answer the needs of the people. We agree that all the roads in all the parishes cannot be attended to at the same time, but I have to say that there are some roads more deserving of consideration than others, even some that the Government has on the list that will be attended to, and they cannot stand alongside of the others when we take into consideration the population that has got to depend on the bad state of some of these other roads, and I am to urge upon the Minister to do everything that is possible to give consideration to these roads. In many cases I have only mentioned such roads that lend themselves most readily to the Minister's eye, but there are several other roads in the parish that need repairs but we will not at this stage try to press everything on the Minister, we would like him to take into consideration what we have said here.

1.00 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think a Resolution of this nature at all times occupies the attention of the various representatives in their various constituencies, and I surely could not sit idly by without drawing to the attention of the Minister one or two roads in St. James. I think it was in 1966 when the first question I tabled here was to have the tenantry road at Springhead built - not repaired. There are approximately 200 residents at Springhead, and if there is one set of people that I am rather sympathetic towards for the way they have been treated over the years with roads, water, lights, etc., it is the people at Springhead. The only thing they got from the Government in 5 years was a banjo line. There is no kind of road to get to them; they travel through tracks; they do not even have a sign to direct people where Springhead is. The Government has treated them with utter contempt over the past 5 years.

I recall that a former Minister of Communications and Works said, when he paid a visit there after my repeated complaints, that they could not do anything about them because they were tenantry roads. I am now happy to see that they have brought down a Resolution requesting Government to spend additional money for the purpose of repairing the roads. I am asking the Minister to pay a visit to Springhead, as his predecessor did, to see the conditions under which these people exist with regard to roads. The road comes in from Black Bass and it also brings you from the Sion Hill area.

A few Sundays ago, while making my routine visit to some of my constituents, some of the residents said that they would be content with at least a little marl filling in order that a doctor may be able to visit them in case of sickness. If there is a death

in the area, you will be the most amazed person to see people walking a quarter mile with the corpse in the rain. They have a little track to travel through. When I drew it to the attention of the Minister, he asked me if the people in St. James now know that they want roads when my Government was in power for 17 years. That is the type of reply a responsible member of the Government gave to me.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the present Minister, though he will not be in here to do the roads - will make this a priority and put it on the short list in order to assist the people at Springhead. The people will be contented, as they put it, with a little marl filling. You can spend thousands of dollars to repair Gemswick and to Barber Green somebody's garage - a lot of nonsense. That is why when people accuse the Government of immorality no one can get annoyed. They are seeing after themselves first not realising that other people are taxpayers of the country and they expect these things. As a representative of the people, I must come here and put their case at Parliamentary level.

I should like also to draw another road to the attention of the Minister. I refer to a link road adjoining lower Carlton Gap No. 1 with what they call the Reverend Hill. The actual base is laid out. The plantation many years ago provided this road. Now that the Government has taken over the tenantry roads something should be done. There are approximately fifty or sixty houses out there. They have just installed some electric lights there. (Asides) The hon. junior member for St. Thomas says "election lights". You should have seen the people from the Electric Company with long poles pulling the poles across in order to install the lights. It is necessary to have roads in that area, and I am asking the Government to give consideration to this matter as responsible people would expect of them.

A few months ago I asked the Minister of Works to come and go to Carlton with me. He is not in his place now, but if he were in his place would remember that I asked him to go to Carlton with me. I told him that I did not want any cameraman to go with us, but I wanted to go to show him what I was talking about. It was a regular feature of the former Minister of Communications and Works not to be able to find a particular area in St. James whenever he went there, in the same way as they could not find a place called Rock Hall in St. George a few weeks ago. We had to produce a map in here to let them see that there is a place called Rock Hall. Even the Parliamentary Secretary for Communications and Works, who represents St. George, got up and said that there were only two places in St. George by the name of Rock Hall, and we had to prove to him that there was a third place with that name. He is the representative for St. George and he does not know the area. It would be impossible for him to find roads in St. James when he cannot find a road in his own parish. That is why I told the Minister that if he were going to Carlton I should be grateful if he would give me a call and I would give clear directions

over the telephone. I do not want to be with him, because the camera and so on do not bother me.

With regard to the Resolution for the required amount of money to repair these roads, I ask the Government not to pay a deaf ear to what I have said. I observe that roads are now being repaired in the housing area in Thorpes. This had been done after a very long time of crying and pleading. I wish them well, but they will not get through that area again.

The question that Head 102 - Communications And Works - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. ADAMS: In the light of the absence of the Presiding Officer, I may say that Mr. Speaker did speak to me this morning and was kind enough to indicate that he would be away for a certain amount of time until one o'clock.
1.10 p.m.

He told me that I could mention even though I could not refer to a Committee that has not yet reported, that if the House accepts what the Standing Orders Committee is likely to recommend, then the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would take the Chair in such circumstances as we find ourselves in at this moment, he being the senior member of the House present not being a Minister or Leader of the Opposition. I have the impression that any member of the House may be elected to the Chair, and that being so, I would move that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph be asked to take the Chair in the absence of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CRAIG: In seconding my colleague's motion I would have thought that in the absence of Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker would have been here more or less to preside, and he is not here.

Mr. SPEAKER not being present, Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and the Committee dispersed.

On resumption:

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 2

Head 104 - EDUCATION - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 104 stand part.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I observe..... *(long—pause)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG: Surely I am on my feet and there is a motion, and therefore I am entitled to address the Chair on Head 104, and that is what I am doing.

Now note 3 says that the provision sought represents Barbados' contribution towards the capital cost of establishing a School of Librarianship at Mona, Jamaica.

At the meeting of the Policy Committee of the University Grants Committee held at Cave Hill on 14th April, 1971, the Committee agreed to accept a UNESCO grant of \$578,400 (\$379,200 U.S.) for four years towards the cost of establishing a School of Librarianship at Mona beginning 1st October, 1971, and to accept responsibility for the whole cost of financing the school when the grant comes to an end.

The University Grants Committee approved a grant of \$111,600 to meet capital costs during the remainder of the current triennium which ends on 31st July, 1972. Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, the Bahamas and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla are not contributing to the School of Librarianship and their students will therefore be required to pay the full economic cost of courses in Librarianship. The normal rates of contribution to the finances of the University of the West Indies, under which Barbados pays 8.5 per cent have accordingly been adjusted. Under the revised formula Barbados has been assessed at 14.66 per cent and the amount of the contributions towards Capital costs of the school fixed at \$16,369 for the first year.

Mr. Chairman, I see that Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, the Bahamas and St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla are no longer contributing towards the course. I do not know if the Minister in charge of this Head is in a position to tell us why they are not contributing, whether the cost to them is now a bit too high or whatever reason. It is regrettable to see such a breakdown in the University in these grants after so many years of knitting ourselves together, and I am wondering if the Minister, after his speedy introduction of the Head, can give this side of the House any explanation as to why these territories are no longer making contributions.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the sparseness of the note shows that the Government of Barbados is intent on concealing from the House and the public of

Barbados the profound conflict which exists at the present moment among the contributing territories to the University of the West Indies. I feel that the public of Barbados is entitled to know all the facts surrounding this conflict. The hypocrisy which is in existence among some members of the University is eminent, and the time has really come when people must decide in their minds in these territories whether they are going to partake in this hypocrisy for any longer period of time.

2.15 p.m.

Everybody knows that it will be most regrettable if the University breaks up, but the position is reaching an intolerable state. How can anybody justify a contribution for a school of librarianship as a new faculty when you are not training one dentist, one hotel administrator, one architect, one building technologist or doing any of these things at the University of the West Indies? What kind of myopic foolishness is this? We know that a lot has been going on that the public of Barbados has not been told. As a matter of fact, I understand that Barbados is playing the role of peacemaker. I am not blaming Barbados for playing the role of peacemaker, but still the public of Barbados and the public of the Eastern Caribbean must know what are the respective conditions of each side. There are many young people in this country who would like to do courses of relevance to what is necessary in the Caribbean at the present moment, but they are unable to go to the University of the West Indies because they do not offer the courses, and they cannot get into universities abroad because the universities abroad are subject to pressure themselves because of the expansion of university education in their own countries; so I do not see the point of concealing all of this.

Some time ago, I asked on the floor of this House for a full statement on the Government's attitude towards the new faculties; I was the most shocked man, and I do not give one hang who is the Vice Chancellor or else, because I have lived to see the day when the same man who was in London arguing the case for the Barbados Government and talking about the postulates of nationalism and the postulates of sovereignty, saying that sovereignty means that you must have all this yourself, today having to turn turtle and say that the greatest argument for a regional university is that academics are subject to pressures. I know that that was going to be the argument, because it was exactly the same argument that we were using, that in some things in these small territories it is nonsense to think that they can administer themselves, but he had to turn turtle now that he has come back to the West Indies and has had some experience. What I say is criminal of the University Council is that they took up, and had to take up, a grant from the IADB to bring foreigners to investigate your university and tell you how to chart your future. What fantastic nonsense!

Before the Caribbean was independent it had a Commission on the University charting its future. I think Dr. Cato and Mr. Williams - who is now a Permanent Secretary - were members, but the West

Indies, now fully independent, cannot themselves decide in their minds what their university must teach for the future; they must bring in foreigners to tell them what future courses the University must teach. What fantastic nonsense, absolute nonsense, and then the Prime Minister is going to say that one of the benefits that we have got from joining these organisations is that they are financing the cost of these studies, but who is getting the money out of these studies? They are bringing in their chosen people to tell you, when you are independent, what you must do. You do not need them. Any person who is not purblind can look at the manpower requirements of the Eastern Caribbean and see that something has to be done in relation to architecture, dental technology, dentistry, paramedical subjects and a lot of other subjects which in universities abroad they do, but our university does not do them, so the United Nations is going to lead you up a blind track. You are going to give priority to librarianship over other courses which are of much more relevance. It is no wonder that Trinidad did not subscribe to it because Trinidad is graduating librarians. We in Barbados are graduating librarians, you cannot deny that, because it is one of those courses that you integrate practical work with the academic study which they do by correspondence courses and two, three or four of them get their A.L.A. qualifications right out of the Public Libraries here.

Look at dentistry. You have 12 dentists to a population of 250,000, and you cannot service your public health dental requirements. With regard to architects, I believe in Barbados you have two coloured architects, Mr. Barker who is with the Government and Mr. Awong, and right through the whole construction industry in the Caribbean you have to depend on the importation of third-rate people to service your industry and you have the engineering faculty in Trinidad but you cannot combine engineering with architecture, the same design, which other people have to do at the Imperial College of Technology in London. You have to do it because you have got to decide in your mind that with these University courses you have to cut your cloth to suit, but what are we doing? I want to hear the Government on this. I know they have been playing the role of peacemaker, but you ought to be shot; you should never partake in any of this nonsense of the University of the West Indies. To this day, after being in existence since 1949, they cannot tell you what they must do for the future; you must import some body of foreign experts. They are the biggest set of colonialists in that administration ever; they are colonial minded, and it is no wonder that some of the Governments attack them viciously for this nonsense of getting an IADB grant. What foolishness, when you have people down here who know and understand what they are doing?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, from the first three or four minutes of the hon. member's speech, I really thought he was attacking the Government of Barbados and I was preparing to defend our position in this matter. As his speech progressed, however, I got the impression that he was making some pertinent though general strictures on the Uni-

versity's role and functions for the present. I would like to tell the hon. member this, that in 1962 when the Federation broke up and the Common Services Conference was held in Trinidad to wind up the assets and those functions which the Federal Government was undertaking, all of us who took part in that Conference made a unanimous decision to support the University of the West Indies as a regional institution for the next three triennia, that is to say, from 1962 to 1971. We have since, all of us, reaffirmed that decision; as a matter of fact, I think it was two years ago at the special Heads of Government Conference held here at the University we decided to keep it in being as a regional institution for the next three triennia, and I believe this will carry us to 1982. I think I would like to say also that, as far as the Government of Barbados is concerned, we have always unswervingly adhered to the concept of a regional University; we have done or said nothing which would disrupt or in any way inhibit the University from acting regionally, and we have always participated in all matters and in all proposals which guaranteed and buttressed the concept of a regional University.

2.25 p.m.

As a matter of fact, far from doing anything to break up the University, the Government of Barbados has in its own despite gone out of its way even to be quiet on matters which vitally affected its interest, so that it should not be said that it was rocking the boat. (Asides) Well, peacemakers, as the hon. member says. The role of peacemaker is not a bad role. When I was on the University Council and even in this year when I went to a conference because the Minister was away somewhere else, I found myself having to deal with other Governments in much the same way as I have to deal from day to day with hon. members opposite. I may say that I have succeeded even in that sphere.

You will be surprised to know that the Barbados Government has never refused to make any contribution which was arrived at on the basis of consensus; it has never refused to meet its share of any costs which were decided on that the total contributing Governments should bear. Facilities have been set up in Trinidad, in Jamaica itself; there are University facilities in most of the other islands now; there is one going up in the Bahamas; there is something going up in British Honduras to which we are contributing, but you will be surprised to know that other people do not feel the same way about us.

The Barbados Government has had to pay the cost of this College of Arts and of the courses in Biological Sciences, because others would not contribute to them. As a matter of fact, in the Current Estimates, I think hon. members will recall, we put in sufficient money to do second and third year teaching in Botany and Zoology at this College of Arts for our people. You know that students from the Windwards and Leewards will be taking these courses here at the expense of the Barbadian taxpayer. This is a hard thing to contemplate, but the role of peacemaker is such that when once you start it you cannot choose how far you will go, because if you

commit yourself to keeping the University in being as a regional institution you have to bear whatever sacrifices you are called upon to bear.

Another thing is this, Mr. Chairman. Very frequently individual territories want something done by the University in their own territories and some of the others do not want to contribute to it. For instance, when the decision was taken to set up the College of Arts here in 1962, three of the Governments entered reservations on that decision. I have never spoken about this before - what I am going to say in the next sentence or two - but the reason that turned me against the Federation in 1964 and 1965 was the fact that I was appalled to see that the Government of Barbados was prepared to have a University Development here with facilities for everybody who chooses to use it from all other territories, and there were still two or three territories that told the University that they would not contribute to this development so long as it was going to be in Barbados. I really think that whatever you may have felt about a Government in Barbados, there was no reason to deny the people of Barbados, who were making their own contribution to the support of the University, a facility which they deserved, on the ground that you may not have cared for the Government. This cured me of any idea of a Federation. My colleagues will have to say why they changed or why they were disenchanted, but that is what disenchanted me.

This is proof of what I am saying, Mr. Chairman. The University's Policy Committee earlier this year met on this matter of the School of Librarianship. It is not that it was a priority, but there is a feeling in University circles that if you shop in the international market for help and somebody offers you something that it is better to accept it. If you cannot get him to change the nature of the gift, you accept what the gift is and try to use it, because proper use of it may encourage him to do something much more valuable.

Now, UNESCO offered the University \$379,200 (US) for 4 years towards the cost of establishing a School of Librarianship. The University's Policy Committee accepted the gift. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago wished the project success, accepted it in principle, but reserved its position until matters on which that Government had made submission to the Council of the University were resolved. In other words, one Government says that there is no objection to a School of Librarianship, but so far as it was concerned its contribution must be held *in escrow* until matters that it has are cleared by the Government of Jamaica or resolved one way or another.

Now, whatever difference it is between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Jamaica, it is a question of how low down you should recruit for admission to the University. The Government of Jamaica, as I understand its position, and I do not wish to misinterpret it, because of the difficulties inherent in its educational system, would like a lowering of entry into the University at the

"O" Level level. The University in 1963 had made provision for this, because, as you know in the College of Arts here, they developed a 4-year course and year "O", as they called it, was for the persons who had 5 "O" Levels, and year 1 was for the persons who came to the University with 3 "A" Levels and 2 subjects at Advanced Level, and 3 at "O".

Well the Government of Barbados and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago felt that the University's policy in respect of admission was flexible enough to make provision for "O" Level and, therefore, we could not see why the Government of Jamaica should make it a general policy. This is one of the matters which the Trinidad Government has with the Government of Jamaica; so it reserved its position and its contribution was held *in escrow*.

Now, the representative from St. Vincent said that his Government had given him no mandate to support the project, but, on the basis of discussions which had taken place in the Policy Committee, he was prepared to recommend to his Government to support the project. I have since understood that the Government of St. Vincent supports it.

The Government of the Bahamas agreed, in principle, that a School of Librarianship should be established, but, through circumstances at the time, could not commit itself to active participation in it.

The Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla reserved its position on establishing the School.

Now 4 territories reserved their position, but one of those reserving has since agreed to contribute. Well, since a majority had said "Yes", the University has gone ahead and has decided to set up the School. Our contribution, therefore, under the mandatory formula which was worked out in the old Federation (*Asides*) our basic contribution to the University expenditure is something like 8.56 per cent, but in this instance because three or four territories have not yet decided that they will put their money in, the formula has to be adjusted and redistributed among those who are now willing to contribute, and our percentage is about 14.66 per cent and this works out at \$24,422 for capital and recurrent costs.

2.35 p.m.

Now very frequently, at least more often than this one occasion, this problem arises. I told you that we pay the cost of the teaching in the biological sciences ourselves although students from the Windwards and Leewards attend the College of Arts and do these courses. They have to pay the full cost, but even when they pay the full cost, it cannot compensate for the fact that their countries are not contributing, because the Government of Barbados contributes as everybody knows to the cost of the University of the West Indies Hospital. That is a sore point by itself, and the Jamaican Government gets the advantage of another hospital, of specialist services, consultant services, it draws income tax

from the salaries which are paid not only in the hospital but in the whole complex at Mona, and the Government of Jamaica in my view does well out of the University because the greater part of the University is sited there. But the Government of Barbados does not say that because Jamaica gets the most in terms of hard cash and in employment for its citizens because the greater portion of the University is sited there, therefore we should not contribute.

In the case now of the school of dentistry, everybody recognises that this is an A-one priority. I do not always remember the figures, but if you took the population of the region as a whole, we probably have a bad ratio of dentists to people that it must be something like one dentist to 20,000 persons or even worse than that, one to 50,000 taking the whole regional population which the University serves; but I must confess to the House that if it rested with the Government of Barbados and the University firmly proposed a school of dentistry in Tortola or in Anguilla, the Government of Barbados would support it wherever it was. If you have your medical faculty set up in a territory, I personally see no reason why the school of dentistry should not be there. There are some people, however, who look at it a bit more narrowly and say you give Jamaica medicine, you gave Barbados law, you gave Trinidad agriculture, why not give Virgin Gorda or Dogs' Island the next faculty!

I cannot convey to the Committee the kind of atmosphere that exists in University meetings because it is more often than not at this level, and it is for this kind of reason that University projects which by common consent should have first priority get pushed back because some people feel that the University is not properly functioning unless (a) they have everything, or (b) some other people feel it cannot function because something which should rightly be somewhere else is not coming into their territory. It is a difficult situation but the hon. member has said that we have adopted the role of peacemaker, and we do this because we do feel committed to the University and we try, as it were, to spout a douche of commonsense on the heated discussions and try to make it clear that if we lose the University as a regional institution, there is hardly anything else to bind for the moment the peoples of this region altogether. It is a most exacting and sometimes most frustrating role, because the Government of Barbados never makes out a special case for Barbados in University deliberations. We go along with whatever is suggested for the good of the region, and we have never yet said that we are not going to pay our fair share of whatever is proposed. (Mr. St. JOHN: Tell us about architecture?)

Here again I think in certain other matters like business management, an upgrading of hotel science as a degree course, we have made some headway in the sense that we have been able to get that accepted in principle and feasibility is now being made of the hotel side of it in order to develop a proper faculty of hotel science. In architecture the difficulty here again is that there is an element in the University Senate and Council which believes that somehow or

other if you do not put your school of architecture where your civil engineering is, you cannot get it done. I do not disagree with it, but I am only saying that what we ought to be discussing is, do we need architecture? Do we need to train more of these people to meet the needs of the region? If we do, it little matters where we put it. This would be our approach, but unfortunately whenever we come to discuss these matters, basic considerations are set aside for what I call frivolous ones and the log rolling begins; so perhaps to get architecture in Trinidad, the Government of Trinidad may have to decide that something else should be in Jamaica or somewhere else. It is pathetic, it is not in the best interest of the region, but the University I am afraid is more often than not treated as a political football, and this is bad for the University. There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty about it; there are a lot of unsolved problems, and I will say for the Vice Chancellor that he has lost no time in warning the Governments of this region that the University cannot continue in this way, and that the Governments of the region have got to come to terms with the basic facts of regional life and decide that at whatever cost they must try to get a good University serving the region, and therefore all that the University is required to teach, the required expenditure, an outlay should be made for this, and everybody should participate on equal terms. He has made all this clear, but I am afraid that all Governments do not respond to the cry of the University with the same kind of alacrity or do not believe that the University needs to be attended to as seriously as it needs. So we have these problems.

Lastly, I just want to say that the Government of Barbados has nothing to hide from this House or from the people of Barbados in this matter, and the only reason why we do not make a song and dance about our difficulties in the University is simply because we really do want to preserve its regional character, and secondly because whatever we are genuinely asked to do we do without any fuss, and therefore we do not have quarrels with other people; other people have quarrels amongst themselves and we try to hold aloof from these disputes without taking sides and use our offices to bring the conflicting elements together rather than try to separate them.

The question that Head 104 - Education - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 106 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this board-cutting machine was ordered, but the funds had lapsed; so it could not be obtained at the time of the close of the last financial year. We are putting it in now again as a revote in respect of the Archives Department.

I beg to move that Head 106 - stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: I take it that where you say a board-cutting machine in the note that you really mean a cardboard-cutting machine. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes.)

The question that Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72, No. 4

Head 6 - LEGAL - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 6 stand part.

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

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

Head 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 9 stand part.

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

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

Head 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: I wonder whether the Minister would be able to bring us up to date on the plans for decentralising some of this work. You will recall that from the beginning we on this side pointed out that in our opinion by centralising your polytechnic activities only in St. Michael that you were going to place students from the southern and northern areas at a disadvantage, and that you needed a minimum of three centres in Barbados if you were going to make any impact at all upon the requirements for technical training that Barbados needs at the present moment, and I would like to find out what the position is in relation to this. I would also like to find out whether the full range of courses which were available at the Technical Institute are now available at the Polytechnic or at the Community College. As I understand it, the

Technical Institute is to be phased out, and I want to know what it is being replaced by for those children from the secondary schools; what is the position in relation to this? I can tell you that in Christ Church many young people who have the school leaving certificate from the primary schools who would like to go to the Polytechnic are unable to do so because of the fact that their parents are not able to finance the transportation costs, and because of the fact that there is not enough room available. From the beginning we anticipated that this would happen.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, a situation obtains in the northern parishes very similar to what the hon. senior member for Christ Church has pointed out with respect to the southern parishes, and we have been wondering exactly what use is to be made of the technical wings at places like Coleridge-Parry School in the north and Princess Margaret in the east, because not so long ago I think it was the Prime Minister who said that there is definitely a need for more than one Polytechnic. If that is the case, and we do start it, it is time that we see something being done to meet the requirements of those children who are now placed at a disadvantage.

Our first polytechnic, the Technical Institute, is to be phased out over a period of years, and we ought to be told how far Government has succeeded in bringing this into being, what progress is being made at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, not only to meet the needs in respect of training in television and electronics, but we have pressed Government into realising that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic could be of greater and better service to this community if Government would carry out an assessment of its own needs. I remember specifically pointing to the graphic arts, and today there is a dearth of trained people in this particular field. The Government Printery in itself, like any other printery, is short-staffed, and thousands of dollars that could well be spent in this island to employ people at home is being exported to do printing abroad. These are the things we feel that the Government should set about now to correct, because had Government acted upon the advice that was genuinely tendered when the Polytechnic was to be established we would have today been able in many respects to draw upon the skills of students with more than a year's training to their credit, and surely everyone would be compelled to feel and realise that the Polytechnic is not just another glorified institution but that it is fulfilling the needs of industry in this Island. It is not merely for us to be providing \$5,910 for workshop equipment and to end there, already there is equipment at the technical wings at some of the schools that is rusting because it is not being put to full use.

2.55 p.m.

Now, tutors have been taken from these Schools and drafted into the Polytechnic which causes a cessation of the instructions that used to be given in the country districts where students could be taught nearer their homes. Everybody is now forced into rushing in - when I say everybody, I mean the

limited number that the Polytechnic can hold - to the Polytechnic. We know that there is a very large waiting list of students seeking to enter the Polytechnic. The roll of waiting numbers is growing, and at the same time the young people are becoming frustrated, because they can see no hope of entering into the Polytechnic with a view to learning something which will give them a start in life.

For this reason we would like to see not only courses in radio and television taught there. We know that there is training in this particular field, but we are saying that there are other fields which can lay claim to equal attention. We are urging Government not to turn its back upon these things. After all, Sir, we must look back and see that the technical Institute had been providing a service and, had this been enlarged upon to any considerable extent, we might have found that a larger number of those seeking the type of education that is being offered by the Polytechnic would have been satisfied. We feel, further, that the Barbados Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Technical Institute and like institutions ought to be brought together to offer subjects leading to much more than the Polytechnic or the Community College can now offer, *per se*. We also feel that if this were done there may be opportunities for training our people to reach the degree stage in many of their fields of endeavour. It is not so now. We are witnessing this integration, and yet the community is not being served to any real degree of satisfaction. It is definitely causing considerable concern, and it ought to cause considerable concern amongst hon. members of this House, if they have feelings for the future of the young people of this country at heart.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, when we were doing the Estimates hon. members had drawn some of these points to my attention, and I promised that I would refer the points they had raised to the Ministry. I did do this, and I think that I can say that since then the Ministry - I speak now in respect of one point raised opposite in respect of spreading out the Institute - the Ministry has taken a decision, in principle, to spread the Institute in 3 branches, that is, to maintain the Central institution at the Harbour; to put a complex somewhere in the South in the Christ Church area, and one in the North. I had suggested that they could use some part of Barrows House for the North, but they said "No" that they thought that Speightstown would be much more central, because people from St. James and St. Lucy would be able to use it. They decided on a site in Speightstown and a site somewhere in the Oistin area. That has been accepted, in principle, but as far as the planning stage is concerned, I cannot tell hon. members how far that has reached. We did take hon. members' suggestion that we should spread the Institute out.

Mr. St. JOHN: Can the Minister tell me how many people per year are getting new courses?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can get that information for you, perhaps, before I am finished speaking. With regard to the second point raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I think he said that in some of

the technical wings of the Secondary Schools he did not think that sufficient use was being made of the facilities, and that in some cases the equipment was rusting. I am sorry to hear this, but I well recall some years ago that directives went out from the Ministry that, in places where there were in the immediate vicinities of Secondary Schools where Industrial Arts Wings were established, arrangements should be made to train the surrounding Primary Schools and the Secondary Schools and for pupils of the Primary Schools to attend the classes and use the facilities for training in the Industrial Arts Wings. This was what used to be.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is now a question of staffing. They took away the staff from these Industrial Arts Wings and carried them to the Polytechnic, leaving the Wings without proper staffing.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This, of course, will be responsible for what has happened. Well, I will draw that to their attention. I think somebody asked about the range of courses taken by pupils attending the Samuel Jackman Prescod. There are Engineering, Plumbing, Automobile Repair, Sheet Metal Working, Electronics, Secretarial Science, and what they call the Garment Industry at Grazettes, Carpentry, Joinery, Masonry and Welding.

Mr. HINDS: We are very interested in knowing how many students are studying masonry.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will get that information for you.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is seeking that information, I would like to know how many students are taking the Secretarial Course at the Polytechnic.
3.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I may also say that in respect of some of these courses, for instance, in respect of a course, say, like plumbing, this is done both at the Harbour site and at Richmond. There is welding done both at the Harbour and at Richmond; electronics is done at the Harbour only; air-conditioning at the Harbour, carpentry and joinery at Richmond and at the Harbour and masonry at the Harbour.

Now the hon. junior member for St. Peter also - and I believe he mentioned this before - drew the attention of the Committee to the need for an expanded syllabus at the Institute and he particularly mentioned the graphic arts. I myself do not know why they do not offer this course. I suspect that if it were known that this was a course that people could take, quite a number of people would be encouraged in doing it. The total volume of business in commercial printing must be well over \$3 million per year, and if as the hon. member opposite says it is \$5 million, I would think that a \$5 million business in commercial printing should attract people for this kind of training. I will draw this to their attention although I think the Ministry of Education has had it drawn before them many times before now; but it does seem to me

to be the kind of course that ought to be put on because a lot of money probably goes out of this Island because of certain aspects of this work which our own people could be doing, we have to send abroad for experts to do. Hon. members may wish to make other contributions while I am awaiting the replies.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to know if the Technical Institute is still being phased out.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes. I do not know if this was properly explained at the time. Perhaps nobody asked. The idea is that in future all the technical training that is to be done in Barbados should be done at two levels. At the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute you would have the 14 and 15 year olds and keep them there depending on the course they are doing, and when they have finished the courses, they are fit for working in the factories or whatever it is they are qualified to do, but that the best ones who show exceptional promise after getting the basic course would then continue, if they wish to, in the sort of technical wing or department of the Community College. It would be like if you could imagine the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute doing the equivalent of what would be "O" level technics from 14 to 19 years or whatever the age is, and then if you wanted to continue to further your studies you would then move on from there to the Technical department of the Community College and do the equivalent of Advanced level or the Ordinary National Certificate or something like that. In order to do this you have to phase out the Technical Institute, because at the present stage some of the people attending classes at the Technical Institute are in advance of the beginners who have been admitted into the Samuel Jackman Prescod last year. So you have to continue teaching them at whatever level they are studying for and those that are now at Richmond attending the Technical Institute, when they are finished and they wish to go further, they will go to the technical department of the Community College, because those at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute now will have some distance to go in training before they are ready for the advanced courses at the Community College.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there is only one thing that cuts right across that. What happens to those children in the academic schools who are taking the technical courses? These are people who from the Fourth Form took the Associated Examination Board certificate which is accepted all over the place. It is the same as the "O" level. Those are the ones who should be going and forming a real nucleus of your technologists in the division up there. You have not got a national certificate course designed, and this is where the University should come in for the whole West Indian area and design a certificate equivalent to the Higher National Certificate or the Ordinary National Certificate in Britain, and this would help to solve a lot of the problems of your supervisors in the Public Works Department and all around.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the point is very well taken. The problem, as I understand it, is to develop a kind of technical education that enables you to meet the needs of the society as and when these needs are revealed, and what we need here, it seems to me, is a kind of course which gives you your technicians who could go onto the factory floor as soon as their course is finished as supervisors. Then you still need the kind of course that takes you above that level so that even if any of them after working for two or three years want to continue, they can go higher and those who have been doing academic courses can join them at that level, and even above that you want to be able to train the second liners, so to speak, who go to the technical wing of the Community College to bring them to the point in which in an extra two years they can get a degree in engineering from the University. All this I agree with and I have reason to believe that the Ministry is looking at it, but I confess that in Government it is sometimes easier to conceive schemes of plans than to execute them, especially when you have several priorities pushing against one another. I think we are *ad idem* on both sides on this; it is just a matter of seeing how quickly we can get these things done.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, some months ago I tabled a question in Parliament about the behaviour of some of these Secretarial Schools in Barbados. We got no favourable reply and to air my views on this I brought in a Resolution. We all know the Government's attitude to Private Members' Business and this could not be done, and I am glad this evening that I have an opportunity again to draw to Government's attention the behaviour of some of these Secretarial Schools we have in Barbados. I was very well behind the hon. senior member for Christ Church when he advocated that you should have some secretarial teaching at the Polytechnic when it was extended. I visited the Polytechnic some months ago and I was the most amazed person to see boys and girls crammed on top of each other with no room to operate. It is still my belief that Government should provide better facilities and more places for the children who can take these secretarial courses at the Polytechnic.

3.15 p.m.

It would reduce the high cost which many of the parents have to pay to send them to Duffs and Skinner's, because many parents are crying out for these high costs they have to pay and many of the children when they leave there are thrown on the labour market after three or four months on one of these receptionist courses and then there is no place to put them. I believe that if Government would extend the facilities there where they can take in more children so as to offset the high cost - because I am quite sure that if you even had to pay at the Polytechnic the fees then should be that much lower than those we pay at many of these Secretarial Schools, because the fees at these Secretarial Schools are very high and we are allowing organisations to come into the country and fleecing many of the

poor people, because it is those children who do not get their ordinary level at some of the schools and some of them who did not have the opportunity to go to some of the Secondary Schools that their parents squeeze out every conceivable cent to pay for them at Duffs and Skinner's, and I hope the day will soon come that Government will extend these services to some of the Comprehensive Schools that when these children reach the age of 14 and they choose to take such Secretarial courses rather than having to journey to Bridgetown they would be able to get the same courses at their own schools.

I know there are ten schools in St. James, and in not one of those schools can the children go there on evenings to get these courses. I thought that in the curriculum you would have included courses in wireless and telegraphy so that boys can train, because for you to get into Cable and Wireless you have to have an ordinary level certificate, but there are many boys working at Cable and Wireless now who are senior technicians and are considered to be some of the best technicians you can find around the place although they do not have Ordinary level qualifications. If you have boys leaving school at 15, there is no place for them to go, the Polytechnic cannot cater to all the needs and this is where you have the big problem. As my colleague said just now, some of them should be taught to drive; it is amazing today that if you want to put your hand on a driver it is a difficult job, and I hope that the Minister does not get up and say that they initiated this, it was the economic jumping pad of my Party which is now in the Opposition that is responsible for this, and Government failed to accelerate their policy to cater to all the needs and to meet the economic progress of the country today. It was what Senator Frank Walcott called the infrastructure of the country, and it is the failure of the Government to provide the necessary people to meet the demands of the country today.

If you were to go around some of these plantations during the crop season you will be amazed to see little boys driving tractors, and there should be courses of this type done at the Polytechnic. I know they do automobile engineering and diesel engineering, but there are so many of them working on the tractors that are not in a position at least to be able to do a maintenance job on them and this should be looked into. Until Government can really extend the facilities, especially with the women in the Secretarial Schools, and add it on to the curriculum of the Comprehensive Schools instead of just thinking of turning out domestics, I think we would then be meeting the demands of the country, and I sincerely hope that the Minister will be able to give us the necessary assurance that this will be done.

The question that Head 37 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Annexed Estimates 1 - POST OFFICE - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Annexed Estimates - Post Office stand part. This amount is for furniture and equipment as set out under the Item.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the attention of the Government that these Officers have to pay National Insurance and do non-postal duties. Those are extra duties which they do not get paid for and I hope that the Minister will investigate this matter, because there is great dissatisfaction among these Officers. You cannot expect people to do more work for less money especially when handling money, because that is an encouragement and you know what is likely to happen.

Post boxes. Now that you are about to erect a bath at Branchbury, St. Joseph, I am asking the Minister also to make it possible while the building is being erected to instal a post box in the same building, because it is a very big area and these people have to walk very far to post their letters. At the same time make sure that the building is big enough to carry a library so that the young people can read and play their games at night in the same building.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, there has been a shortage of privately rented post boxes in the post office downstairs.
3.25 p.m.

I know that quite a number of people including myself have been trying to rent one for a very long time. I am told that there is a very long waiting list. I would like to know from the Minister what is the reason for having this long waiting list. Is it a question of lack of space? Is it a question of not being able to get the boxes? We are all aware of the fact that there is much more business done in this Island nowadays. You have a number of young businessmen coming up, and they would like to rent postal boxes. Is the Minister in a position to say exactly what is responsible for this? I am not critical of this, Sir, but I would like to have information on it. I do not know if the Hon. Minister, rather than being advised, would give way to the hon. senior member for St. George so that he could make his final speech in Parliament. The Minister said earlier today that he was only in this Ministry for a few months and he could not be *au fait* with everything in the Ministry. The Parliamentary Secretary was in that Ministry for 10 years, and he should be able to give the information which we on this side seek. I am awaiting the Minister's information, Sir.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member would know that it is quite a long time since we have been having complaints that a larger number of Post Office Boxes are necessary. It is a matter of space below, and we are now considering the erection of a new Post Office. I can assure the hon. member that, with the construction of the new Post Office, consideration will be given to all of these services.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that he was considering the construction of a new Post Office. This was some years ago. Are you still considering it, or are you in the final stage? If you continue at this rate as you have done for 5 years since I have been in here, you will still have this backlog for Postal Boxes. I want to find out from the Minister when they hope to start building the new Post Office.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. senior member for St. James, I want to state that properties have been acquired along Cheapside adjoining the market stretching out to the area along the Princess Alice Highway as an area for the erection of the Post Office. Consideration is also given to the question of acquiring a portion of land at Jordans Lane adjoining the Fire Services. It is just a matter of making a final decision as to where it should be erected - whether it should be erected further North or further East. The land has been acquired at Jordan's Land, and negotiations are being made about the other areas.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we need an increased number of Stamp Vendors in the country districts. A person requiring stamps for mailing letters abroad has to travel too great a distance in order to get them, and we feel that if Government advertised or made known the conditions under which stamps could be sold that quite a number of persons would be prepared to render that service for the benefit of the community. I think that we find ourselves in this position, because whenever an attempt is made to bring anything to the attention of the Government it is not taken note of with any degree of seriousness.

We are considering the building of a new Post Office. The reason for that is due to the increased volume of business. The increased volume of business came about through the increased communication that passes through the Post Office, and this is where we find that the Government should reach out to the people who make use of the Post Offices. In many cases you will find that much of the congestion that occurs at the counters of the Post Offices from time to time could very well be avoided if people could send next door, so to speak, and buy stamps. We have some well established businesses throughout the Island, and if these people were given and opportunity to sell stamps they would do so. We do not think that the stringency that existed 40 years ago need be applied today. We are not suggesting that you appoint every Tom, Dick or Harry as stamp vendors. We know that there are grave risks involved in this matter, but we feel that something should be done to ease the situation where persons in the country districts have to take a bus and drive a long distance in order to be able to buy a small amount of stamps.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. member that I have approved over the last six to eight months several persons who have made applications. If the hon. member knows

any person in the area who wants to sell stamps, he can tell that person to send an application to the Postmaster General and consideration will be given to the application. It is an important service. Very often people want to get stamps, and to have to come to town in order to get stamps is a nuisance. In hotels and so on people have been asking for this service, and we have been agreeing to it. We would be glad to get applications from persons with good reputations in the areas to sell stamps. I assure the hon. member that, if such people make applications, consideration will be given to them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I put the question, would the Clerk or Deputy Clerk ascertain that there is a quorum in the Chamber. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

The question that Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
3.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 1

Head 23 - DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, when we left off discussion on this Head, we left off at the stage when I had moved, seconded by my colleague on my right, that Head 23 stand part because we had completed our discussion on that, but it was at that stage that the hon. junior member for Bridgetown drew to Your Honour's attention that a quorum was not present. So, properly, we should do Head 23 and dispose of that.

I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

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

Head 29 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under this Head we have Item 138A (New) - Housing; Item 221A (New) - National Assistance Board; Item 221B (New) Home for Physically Handicapped Children; Item 221C (New) World Health Organisation; Item 221D (New) - Barbados Red Cross Society. I think the notes are fairly explanatory, but if there are any further questions to any of the items, I am quite willing to answer them.

I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under this new Housing item, I really thought the object of this was to introduce a new vote to deal not with accommodation for people coming from abroad, but with the extraordinary cases that one comes across where there are people living in houses which are unfit for human habitation. They own the land, they are on. I want to draw this to the attention of the Minister to see if anything can be done in his Ministry about it. It arises a lot in Christ Church. People own the land they are on; it is valuable, they do not want to dispose of it, they do not want to move into the Housing Authority houses, but they would like a little help with putting their houses back into reasonably fit accommodation. As far as I understand - I have been trying to tackle this question with the Housing Board - there is absolutely no means by which this can be done unless the house is burnt down, then they would get a new house. They are not sugar workers or general workers, and they cannot borrow money under the General Fund because they have not got an income.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I did not feel to get up because I have heard hon. members talking this stupidity the whole day. What the hon. member has said is not true and he should know better. He himself passed in this House in the Estimates in March a vote for something like \$200,000 to assist people he is referring to and we are doing this.

Mr. St. JOHN: I thank the Hon. Minister and I can assure him that tomorrow morning I will draw his attention to a case.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: All the hon. member has to do is to telephone 60349. We always send out and do these houses; so the hon. member must not make statements like that on the floor of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in reality this Resolution deals with accommodation for overseas officers. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is faced with a problem of providing adequate accommodation for medical and para-medical staff recruited from overseas. One condition under which the Ministry of Overseas Development will send personnel to the Ministry is that the officers must be provided with suitable furnished quarters, and the Ministry has no funds to provide quarters for staff other than those at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Ministry of Home Affairs is unable to supply all the accommodation required for the Ministry; so this is for overseas staff really. The point raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church is well taken; provision has been made, but this is a different matter altogether.

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

Head 42 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

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

Head 44 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS - was called.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I beg to move that Head 44 stand part. This relates, Mr. Chairman, to funds being provided for Special Events. There is a projected visit of the Barbados Cricket League to England this summer for which the sum of \$18,000 is being asked. Also there is a Barbados team expected to take part in the Pan American Games to be held in Columbia this July for which we are asking for \$7,500. Then there is the Barbados Olympic Association again seeking to take part in events for which the sum of \$4,500 is being asked, and as you know, we are expected to take part this year in the International Football Competition. I think a match is being played on Wednesday of this week in Barbados against El Salvador. In the majority of instances we are contributing on a 50 per cent basis, but in some other instances we are going a little above that. 3.45 p.m.

There are also the activities of the Barbados Netball Association for which the sum of \$1,500 is being voted, and I will read the note from my file which is fairly explanatory: "There is the amount of \$15,000 provided in the 1971-72 Estimates under Head 44, Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs, Item 47 - Special Events, from which grants may be made to sporting organisations requesting assistance for financing special events. The grants recommended for 1970-71 and 1971-72 amounted to \$12,000 out of the provision of \$15,000 mentioned above towards meeting the expenditure of \$49,100 and to reserve \$3,000 for any contingencies which may arise during the remainder of this financial year." I recommend this Resolution to Parliament because I think that Barbados should play its proper part as a competing nation in international events. I think that hon. members are aware that, as far as Football is concerned, we are now utilising the services of an Austrian Coach, and I think, as it has been pointed out to me, that the team is as fit a team as we ever could expect. I do not know about their proficiency and skill, but as far as fitness and form are concerned I think they are in a better position than any team that has ever left the shores of Barbados to play football, and so with those few remarks I commend this Resolution to Parliament.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, for once in ten years I can safely say that the Government has attempted to make any substantial contribution to the sporting organisations in Barbados. I want to salute the Gov-

ernment on this occasion because I believe in giving honour to those who are to be honoured. There is one thing I am quite sure that all Barbadians will be very happy to know, and that is that the hard work, sweat and toil of the late Mitchie Hewitt is now clearly seen when he set about several years ago to bring the under-privileged young men of this country together and knitted them, though they were scattered in various areas, into an organisation going abroad to do battle with their English counterparts, but let us not overlook the fact that there are still quite a number of things lacking at the level of our Sports Department.

I believe the Hon. Minister who moved this Resolution would have on more than one occasion realised that, he himself when visiting his constituents, the young men cry out repeatedly for somewhere to carry on their activities. I think the Minister is well aware of this, and some time ago I suggested on the floor of the House that inasmuch as many of the plantations have allowed the cricketers in the BCL to use small portions of their lands to play cricket over a period of years, that Government should have approached these people and asked them to lease the same small portions of land at a peppercorn rent to provide better playing facilities. I am not one of the people who believe that in every village you can have a cricket field or a basketball or netball field; I do not expect this inasmuch as I would like to see it, but it is a burning need for these young people to expend some of their energies on evenings when they leave work, to bring themselves together and enjoy part of the facilities with which they should be provided, and I am again calling on the Government to look into this matter where in the very densely populated areas in particular an acceleration in Government's policy on sport should be given careful study.

I do not think it would cost Government very much to put a bulldozer on some of these areas where some of these young people play cricket, and not only provide them with a cricket field, but the young ladies in the same villages need to have facilities to play netball, and I believe that the Plantation owners in particular will be very happy to feel they are making a contribution towards the society by assisting these young people by giving or renting Government a piece of the land which they now use for the purpose of playing. I do not think it costs very much to put down a hard court, and I am very happy to see something like that at Gall Hill, St. John, but then to do these things you must have the various coaches, if not the expert knowledge of overseas coaches, but to have people trained in the schools. Some of the teachers in the schools should act as games masters but not in the way they act now which does not suit. I have chatted on more than one occasion with some of the people in the Sports Department and they all say they have not got the facilities.

At the Good Shepherd Boys' School, if the Hon. Minister would pay a visit there any day he would see that the road has not even been completed, and I have repeatedly asked them to fix it and put lights in the School so that at least the people in the village can

go and carry on their community activities. The people in the Sports Department have repeatedly cried out that they cannot do a complete job without the facilities, so to bring in a coach or two in any particular field and then you have not got the necessary facilities for these people to use, then you are carrying coals to Newcastle. I remember that for five years the then Minister of Social Services, as it was then called, along with the Minister of Communications and Works had promised me for the people at St. John the Baptist to put a hard court there because the people in that area are very interested in lawn tennis, and I can say on the floor of this House that many of them journey from Thorpes down to the hard courts at Princess Alice Highway to play lawn tennis. It only shows how so many other sports can be developed in Barbados.

3.55 p.m.

I know that the Table Tennis Association has been struggling for years. You have the Lawn Tennis Association, but only a privileged few really play lawn tennis. You can see the boys in the street playing what they call "street tennis." I believe that Government should accelerate its programme. If you went to Brazil tomorrow you will find that nobody wants to know who is the President; people are interested in Pele. Just as we are interested in Sobers, Hall, Weekes and so on, I think that we should do something at a higher level for other types of sports. Take athletics, for instance. There is not a single qualified coach in Barbados. The last qualified Athletic Coach we had in this country could not get along with the Senior Sports Officer, because the Sports Officer was telling him how he should lay out a field and all sorts of things. He was a specialist in his field. I think there are two or three cricket coaches, but I must say, without any reflection on the coaches, that our cricket today is at the lowest ebb. I am referring to a Specialist Coach in Athletics as you have in Football and in Cricket, Wilfred Gilkes is not a Specialist Coach. Gilkes is assisting and trying his best, but how can you ask one Athletic Coach to look after at least 50 schools? Until you can have qualified people in all of these fields you will not be doing anything. I sincerely hope that the Government will not allow this man to get away. I am told he is down here as a Manager of a Hotel, and he has offered his service to help us. I am also told that he is getting trouble with a work permit, but I believe that is a hurdle which he would jump.

I look forward to see an improvement in the facilities in the densely populated areas for people to be able to engage themselves in the various activities of their choice. Nine months ago I called on the Government to take over the old Good Shepherd School and use it as a Community Centre for the people in the fishing village and the surrounding areas of Fitts Village, Prospect, Risk Gap and the adjoining areas of Black Rock, but to this day we have heard nothing about it, and the building is there falling down.

I would like to hear what is the Minister's future programme and not what he has in his mani-

festo. I hope he will be able to tell us what future plans he has, while he is in office at this time, for the young people of this country.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the hon. member, who has just sat down, that I have listened very carefully to the points he has raised, and they are very well taken. With reference to the question of diversifying our sports, I am absolutely in agreement with him. We have a lot of slack to take up, but we cannot do it in a hurry. It will take us some time to do certain things, but I can assure him that I am all the way with him.

There is one point on which the hon. member was not exactly correct, and that is as far as schools are concerned. The Ministry of Community Development is not responsible for games in schools. That item falls under the Ministry of Education, but I will draw it to the attention to the Ministry of Education.

With regard to the possibility of approaching estate owners for the purpose of renting or leasing land for playing fields, it is very difficult sometimes to acquire the sort of land you would want to get in rural areas. In my particular parish there is good news coming out which I will not disclose at the moment, as far as playing fields are concerned. Over the years there has been that difficulty in acquiring land suitable for outdoor sports.

As far as laying down of hard courts are concerned, that is a matter that will meet with my approval. The hon. member was actually talking to the converted throughout the entire length of his speech. He made a very good speech and a very good contribution, and I commend him for that. He can rest assured that it is my endeavour and my purpose for the rest of the time allotted to me in the Ministry of Community Development and Youth Affairs to do my utmost to give the wheel an extra turn for the development of the youths in Barbados.

The question that Head 44 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 45 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, NATIONAL INSURANCE AND HOUSING

Head 45 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 45 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that supplementary provision in the sum of \$600 is now required to settle a claim for payment of fees to an Industrial Consultant for professional services rendered, during the current financial year, it is my

view that it is very important for us to be brought up to date with exactly what has taken place. What are the professional services mentioned here? We know exactly what factory inspection entails. We feel that this is a very small bill for what a job of this nature would entail, and we would like to hear what the Minister has to say on it. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: "I have nothing to add to what is set out in the Addendum. You are only trying to waste time with foolishness.") Mr. Chairman, the Minister is accusing me of trying to waste time with foolishness.
4.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: While an hon. member is addressing the Chair, all other members should observe Standing Order No. 29(6).

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am hearing the hon. member using all sorts of stupid and offensive remarks, but the real truth about this is that the first time he saw this item was when the Clerk carried his file and showed it to him, so that when any hon. member from this side gets up to enquire as to the expenditure ... (Asides) Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is using insulting remarks and I am addressing you, and I feel that he is using the remarks to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have heard no such remarks, otherwise I would have called on the hon. member to withdraw.

Mr. HINDS: I believe so. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. junior member for St. Thomas addressing the Chair? (Pause) Is the hon. junior member for St. Peter still addressing the Chair?

Mr. HINDS: How can I address the Chair when the Chairman was addressing the hon. member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the note reads that supplementary provision in the sum of \$600 is required to settle a claim for payment of fees to an Industrial Consultant. Mr. Chairman, this is not something that we have each year, and something must have happened in industry that necessitated the hiring of the services of this consultant. The note also tells us that it is anticipated that similar claims are likely to be brought before Government during the current financial year. Mr. Chairman, am I asking too much if I asked the appropriate Minister to give us an explanation of this? Why is it that on this particular occasion we found it necessary to call on an industrial consultant? What is it that we expect to happen that we will have to call on the industrial consultants in the future during the current financial year.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The hon. member seems to think that he is in here to be obstreperous. That is his idea of being in the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has absolutely nothing to do with Head 45.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: It does because the hon. member became obstreperous and was trying to prevent.....

Mr. HINDS rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I see two hon. members on their feet and I ask both to sit. (Both members sat.)

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe you would have heard what the hon. member has been saying. (Asides) I crave your indulgence to reply to the hon. member. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Thomas while sitting not to be as loud as he has been because the Rules are being broken when this happens.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HINDS: The Rules are only broken with his silence.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, this arises out of the chief Labour Officer finding it necessary from time to time to seek expert advice in the discharge of his statutory duties under the Factories Act. You will remember that some time ago a man or two men were left in a boiler in St. Peter, and some time later another man fell into a well at Searles Plantation, and this is a matter of safety precautions which we are taking. This matter was instigated because I think a lot of these factories were getting away with murder because they were not taking the necessary precautionary measures in protecting people who worked with them. The Addendum sets it out quite clearly but the hon. member is saying that this is the taxpayers' money. He is paid out of the taxpayers' money, but I am a big taxpayer and not one who hides from and refuses to pay people who work with me. We had to ask Mr. H. G. R. Massiah to carry out an inspection as an industrial consultant.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, boilers should be inspected at least every year or more so every six months, because the skin of a boiler can become extended and it may have more pressure in it that it is geared for because the safety valve may have stuck. A consultant is engaged to make sure that when it says that the boiler holds 180 pounds of pressure, when it reaches 181 pounds the safety valve should lift and let off the extra pound of steam. These are things we asked the gentleman to investigate; this is no clandestine business that was going on, but the hon. member seems to be an expert on everything except the one thing he is an expert on. He never says anything about the thing he knows most about. We asked this gentleman to carry out this inspection for us and he did not charge any enormous amount. As a matter of fact, I think his fees are only \$129, but the reason why we are asking for this is because the necessity may arise again that we have to have somewhere inspected. For instance if someone gets hurt

in an industrial factory, not necessarily a sugar factory, it is our duty to find out why this has taken place, because if you do not have these inspections, people do not have much regard for the people who work with them. That is why a man had to go down by St. Mary's Church the other day and throw stones in a building because the man would not pay him. However, the factory that was inspected was probably one of those dilapidated places that was operating, and this is the kind of thing we are trying to protect people against. We asked Mr. Massiah to carry out this investigation and his fees are \$129, but if we had to do it again, we may have to look to someone else. It is the duty of the Labour Department for instance to send their inspectors to look at quarries to make sure they are protected from people falling into them, because when the owners start quarrying stones they do so pretty deeply.

It is also the duty of the Labour Department to make sure that people do not work their employees over a limited time without paying them, as some people, whom we know quite well, try to do. We had to ask this expert because we do not have any experts here on boilers as such. I do not know who Mr. Massiah is, but he is an expert according to what I have seen here. He carried out the inspection and this is the result. We have to pay him for it. 4.15 p.m.

The Addendum says:

Supplementary provision in the sum of \$600 is required to settle a claim for payment of fees to an Industrial Consultant, for professional services rendered in connection with inspections under the Factories Act, 1956-58 and to meet similar claims which are anticipated during the current financial year.

When the hon. member talks about the taxpayers' money, I want the hon. member to understand that we on this side do not have to steal from the taxpayers because I am sure the law will not uphold us in this. We have a Director of Public Prosecutions for that. When the other people tried to fleece people and extort them they did not have a Director of Public Prosecutions at the time but they still went away for doing it. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I am very glad that the hon. junior member for St. Peter queried this, because the Addendum is very vague and I was at a loss as to what it meant, but only now hearing from the Minister my understanding has been broadened on the whole picture. What I would like to find out is if this industrial consultant is a Barbadian or if he is somebody who is working here in private enterprise assisting the Labour Department in carrying out these duties. If I am not mistaken we have factory inspectors; there is a man called Jones who was at Highways and Transport and who is now seconded to the Labour

Department carrying out duties of this nature. From the Minister's own explanation I understand there is marked protection necessary over a period of time, and I was wondering if we have not got people here to do this job, because I would believe that we have factory inspectors here. If these people are in a position to determine these things, why then should you bring in Mr. Massiah?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that the queries raised by my investigation were more than valid because arising therefrom, despite the Minister forgetting about himself and his being dragged before the Courts for having people's tiles and not paying for them, I have never employed anybody and refused to pay them a just wage, but I will leave the Minister there for the time being, his days are shorter than yours or mine. What I said was that this moment appears to be small, and since I have heard from the Minister what is really involved, what took place in St. Peter and other places, I am satisfied now that the Labour Department is really and truly not carrying out its duty in this respect. I would suggest that the services of this consultant and others be requisitioned for a period so that when not only sugar factories but all other factories in this island are to go into production we would feel a little more satisfied that the incidents mentioned by the Minister would be unlikely to recur. It is for the safety of these people working in these factories.

That is the gist of my submission, and when I asked the questions I am sure that I was doing the country a good turn.

The question that Head 45 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, we have no Head dealing with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, but when we were dealing with the other Resolution hon. members opposite had asked for some information which I had promised them I would get. Also in another Resolution the hon. junior member for St. Peter wanted to raise a point or two on the pre-fabricated buildings, and I hope that you will give us both the opportunity to discuss them although they do not come under any of these items.

First, about the courses at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, there is mechanical engineering which includes machining, fitting and welding; there is motor vehicle mechanics which includes auto body repair; there is refrigeration, electrical installation, radio and television servicing, carpentry, joinery, masonry, tiling, plumbing and pipe fitting; commercial studies which involve typing, shorthand, book-keeping, office practice, English, Arithmetic and Civics. The student enrolment at the Polytechnic, full time first year 217, full time second year 189.

For the evening classes, at the harbour 294, at Richmond 32, part time day classes at Richmond 334, and this makes a total enrolment of 1,066. Students are prepared for the City and Guilds of London Institute examination, and the students for commercial studies are prepared for the Pitmans Examinations.

Breakdown of full time students. I am giving the two years, 1969 and 1970. For machining and fitting in 1969, 28, and in 1970, 16. For the auto body repair, 15 and 10.

4.25 p.m.

					1969	1970
Welding	..	..	..	..	15	13
Plumbing	..	..	..	..	15	16
Carpentry	..	..	..	..	31	28
Masonry	..	..	..	..	13	15
Auto-Mechanics	..	..	..	..	49	48
Commercial Studies	..	..	..	..	30	23
Electronics	..	..	..	..	15	10
Refrigeration	..	..	..	..	16	11
Electrical Installation	..	..	..	..	30	27
Sewing Machine Operation	..	..	..	..	38	30

The average number of full-time yearly students is approximately 300. For the intake in the first year, that is, September, 1970; for the Day Courses 100; for the Evening Courses 258, and for this year the Day Courses so far are 60 and 182; so that in the two years for the Day Courses there is a total of about 600, and the rest make up the Evening Classes. I think this is what was required of me, and I have presented it to the Committee.

In respect of the prefabs, the proposal is to put 8 double units at the St. Leonard's compound for the boys; 2 at Springer Memorial; 3 at West St. Joseph; 3 at Parkinson; 1 at Cherry Grove Primary; 2 at Ellerslie; 2 at the Boys' Foundation; and 1 at the Girls' Foundation. In addition there will be another double unit at West St. Joseph; 2 at Princess Margaret, and 2 at the Housecraft Centre.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, under the Head generally seven or eight of the items for which further provision is asked are revotes. In some cases the suppliers did not send in their accounts in time to be paid before the end of the financial year and, therefore, we have to provide the money which has lapsed. In other cases claims for payment came in after the end of the financial year. I think 7 of the 15 items are revotes, so far as I can remember.

Mr. HINDS: Are you dealing with Head 37?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes. Let us take them one by one. We have Head 37(1) - General Administration; then you have Item 42. If there is anything you wish to ask you may do so.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Note 10 is in respect of Head 37, Item 42. Have we done Head 25, Item 39?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Not yet.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the note says that it is to provide \$9,090 to purchase furniture and equipment to meet the following:-

- (a) additional storage facilities are needed for closed volumes of current files, and for supplies received in the Ministry;.....

Undoubtedly, the Ministry is embarking upon the purchasing of cabinets. It is important in storing files that the first consideration to be given is that they be stored where they can be readily found with consummate ease. I believe that the decision to store files now is prompted by, perhaps, the attack rodents and other pests have made upon several files in this Ministry. I do not know what information the Minister has on this matter, but we hope that they are now embarking upon rat-proof storage places. I am certain that the Ministry has had complaints from several institutions, which receive books, literature, etc., about the condition in which some of these items have been received.

I do not believe that there is a Storekeeper at this Ministry who would be responsible for the preservation and the accounting proper for all of these files and documents which we are seeking to store. This, I think, should be attended to if we are to receive maximum benefits and to avoid losing much time and, perhaps, man hours in searching for files after they have been put away. There should be a vault or a number of vaults provided at the Department for this type of storage.

4.35 p.m.

The one thing that is turning over in my mind is where is the space in the present Ministry for bringing all this into effect. Surely we believe there must be some plan afoot for the extension of the physical accommodation now provided in the Ministry, because from what is envisaged here the cost would have to be for something on a large scale, and we should like to hear from the Minister exactly what is Government's plan in this respect.

Now we are aware that since the change-over in the Treasury to the payable order system the occasion has arisen where former vouchers have not been cashed and we are now asking to what extent is the Department going to be involved that dealing with the payable order system it is going to necessitate storage that was not provided before or is not now enough. After all it is paper in this respect and we do not see anything voluminous, but nevertheless we are at one in having all the documents whatever their nature in the Ministry of Education adequately stored.

Now we have heard from the Minister what Government intends doing with respect to the double and single units for these various schools. Let us face the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the provision of

these units has become necessary because of the growth in school population and because Government did not move swiftly enough to cope with these requirements. These pre-fab schools are being constructed very widely. This, I think, Mr. Chairman, is some thing that this Government was at pains to criticise and seeks to avoid during past years. Here we find Government now embarking upon using this highly inflammable material with a life potency somewhat limited particularly in these days when termites seem to be more active than in years past. It is strange enough that now there is on the scene agencies for the destruction of termites that the incidence of the termites seems to be more rapidly spreading than was to be witnessed in years past. It would be a good thing if we could get the assurance from the Minister that the material that is being used in these pre-fab buildings has the same type of resistance or better than the termites themselves to the treatment that the specialists seek to give to the termites. These pre-fab buildings said to be temporary adjustments, but we do hope that what is really held out to us today as an undertaking of a temporary nature does not find itself to be one of the longest terms possible. You know, Mr. Chairman, that the shift system at St. Leonard's School introduced by the hon. member some time between 1952 and 1963 was supposed to have been of a very temporary nature, but the Minister is telling us that it is being done away with after almost fully eight years in existence. When the life span of one of these pre-fab buildings is estimated to be ten years, and this is ten years without being shifted from place to place.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way, I think the Ministry has already announced that they are ending the shift system from next September and I think they have also announced that there is going to be a new St. Leonard's Girls' Schools built somewhere, and whatever is left of the Richmond compound, will be left for the boys.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that brings me to this point. It is unfortunate that we are to see the parish of St. Michael being overcrowded with schools, and we are overcrowding St. Michael with schools and then overcrowding the very schools. If we took a look at Springer Memorial, this was built and opened in October, 1964, to accommodate something like 800 children. It now has a roll of 1,300 and this after making an addition of twelve classrooms since 1964, and we still see, as the Minister gave us just now, that we are to provide additional double units each of which is to accommodate four classrooms with an estimated number of 30 to 40 children in each room. 4.45 p.m.

If you will find that Springer Memorial is in that position, the Princess Margaret is in a similar position but slightly different, that is the Princess Margaret was opened in 1955 but now has a roll of 1,350, and we have got to provide additional accommodation at Princess Margaret, but what is the point in building these temporary classrooms out of wood when as at Princess Margaret we have the

land area where you can put up a permanent structure once and for all and at a cost which in our view compares more than favourably with these wooden structures that we are to see planted from place to place? These are things we would like to see Government giving some sort of consideration to, and what must be attended to more readily if we are not to see an increase in the overcrowding although we are providing these classrooms is that we have got to direct our feeder schools to adhere as strictly as possible to certain guide lines. I think I am right in saying that a school like the West St. Joseph which was also opened in 1955 and in 1964 some classrooms were added, now has about 1,800 children.

West St. Joseph receives children from St. Augustine's Boys' and Girls' and also from St. Jude's School in St. George, so you will see that until we can decide, like my own constituency, St. Peter where we have something like eight senior department schools, until we can staff those schools properly and make people understand that their children can be accommodated and receive the same education in those schools in their own parishes next door to where they live, we will never get rid of this system of making children leave home on mornings by the 6 o'clock bus to get into some of these schools, the distance is so great. We would not like to see that Government continues to overcrowd St. Michael, but that they go up north. For instance, Government has just announced that a Comprehensive School or some school for secondary teaching will be built at the old Mess House School, but that to my mind is not the answer to any of the problems. We need a Comprehensive Central School somewhere between St. James, St. Peter and St. Lucy to accommodate the children from St. James, St. Peter and St. Lucy. Mr. Chairman, the Minister is saying that we are going to have a Comprehensive School in St. Peter, one in St. James and one in St. Lucy, but when? We would like to see a start made now but starting a school in St. Lucy is not the best approach to the problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I certainly have given quite a lot of latitude on a Resolution that has already been passed. I gave the hon. junior member for St. Lucy the latitude to answer questions which were asked of him but I did not expect that this latitude would have gone as far as it has, because we are now discussing Head 37, Item 31 which deals with furniture for those schools. I know the hon. member will agree with me that I have given quite a lot of latitude on this Resolution which has already been passed for \$921,754.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, even if I did not agree I would say yes because you are in the Chair but the Hon. Minister in introducing the Item that is before us specifically stated that he was giving us information about the pre-fab schools and he made a special request of the Chair; I do not think that I have brought anything that is irrelevant into the debate. I could hardly believe, Mr. Chairman that you hate to see me debate any subject, and if I had gone beyond the scope I am sure the Minister would have objected.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to understand that had I expected this amount of latitude I would have asked the hon. junior member for St. Lucy to have the Resolution recommitted and that would have been done in its proper place.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is all the same Committee, and if the Minister agrees to give us the relevant information, perhaps at a late hour, I do not think we are discussing anything that is irrelevant. We have got to respect your ruling but it is a question of education and we have all got to strive, no matter how old, to be educated. I am trying to educate myself in this respect, but I do not want to get into your bad books any more.

We have quite recently moved houses to Lammings in St. Joseph; that in itself throws an extra burden on the West St. Joseph School, and that is the type of information the Minister would like to hear. A very important thing is this, Mr. Chairman, we ought to be hearing from the Minister if there is within Government's knowledge or any visible signs whatsoever of a comparable reduction in the number of persons attending Private Secondary Schools in this Island during the past 5 or 10 years, because in providing these facilities, in making available all that is now being offered, we ought to bring to bear upon our deliberations what impact is all of this really having on the Private School sector.

4.55 p.m

Are we having more people still clamouring for these Private Schools? When all of these prefabricated buildings have been set up and placed where they are to be placed, what will be the position? I believe this particular one will be the last on this score. The Alleyne High School, for instance, was one of the first to get prefabricated buildings. I do not remember the year the Alleyne School received the buildings, but that was done on a temporary basis. Temporary for how long? Is there any decision at the moment to shift buildings from the Alleyne School to accommodate children in another area? I think not. We need much more than coming here for furniture to equip these prefabricated schools. We need a better assessment of the whole situation with regard to accommodation for our school population whether it is at the Primary level, the Secondary level, or the Comprehensive level.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that, despite the Springer Memorial with its accommodation, there are children at the Eyrie who have to be moved and accommodated elsewhere. The whole system is not good enough, and we expect much more than this. I would like to hear from the Minister what is really intended with regard to all that has been said on this item, not forgetting a total removal of any possibility of rodent destruction of any of the files or documents of the Ministry.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in respect of the request for the provision made for extra furniture for the storage of documents, I think the hon. member would appreciate that all Government Departments expand from time to time, and the security of documents is such a vital matter that expenditure on appropriate furniture for keeping documents is, I think, justified. I may tell the hon. member that it is my personal conviction after 10 years in the Government that fully 60 percent of the paper that Governments preserve could be burnt immediately.

For instance, when you take away the personal files and the documents which record all the facts about people's careers in the Public Service, and you add, perhaps, the records of the purely business transactions of the Government, and then you add the really confidential matters such as documents dealing with Foreign Relations and Security matters, those together comprise less than 30 percent of the total percentage of paper that the Governments use in their work. I think that that 30 or 35 percent could be preserved and the rest, after a suitable interval, could be destroyed.

For instance, I do not know why it is that Ministries keep Cabinet Papers. When we have a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, the Papers have to be used because we have to see what we are discussing and studying, but after that is finished there is no need to keep them. The transactions of the Cabinet are recorded; the Cabinet Minutes ought to be preserved for as much as 100 or 200 years for the benefit of historians, but the actual discussion Papers need not be kept. I know that in some Ministries they have cabinets bulging with Cabinet Papers that should have been destroyed long ago. They do burn them from time to time, but not as often as they should. There are other things like minutes not necessarily in files but on bits of paper passed from hand to hand; memoranda reminders which are then stuck in files which only deal with fleeting, passing things as to whether a meeting did in fact take place, or whether 3.30 is convenient for a meeting of the Planning Committee or not; you put it on a piece of paper, pass it around and the people who are to take part in the meeting will sign their names, and yet that bit of paper is retained even after the meeting has been held and the people have discussed what they wanted to discuss.

I think it is, in fact, an unnecessary retention of too much paper in Government. It is my personal belief that hardly more than 30 percent of the paper the Government uses needs to be preserved. In all my 10 years in the Government. I do not think that I have seen 300 documents that I would really call Confidential or Top Secret. Some nonsense is labelled confidential that really does not deserve to be and, consequently, is preserved when there is no need to preserve it. Unless you can straighten up the procedures and somebody with judgment and knowledge in these things can take a careful look as to what should be preserved you will, of course, have mounds and mounds of paper swelling year by year and you will always have to be buying filing

cabinets, cupboards and pressess in which to keep this useless paper.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the financial transactions of the Government ought to be preserved, and I think the Financial Administration and Audit Act or the Rules does require, unless prescribed, the length of time for which you should preserve vouchers and receipts, payable orders, etc., and of course you have to comply with the law in that respect. If you have to keep them, then you must have something in which to keep them.

I do not think that Ministries and Departments have storekeepers. I do not think the Ministry of Education has one, but it has, of course, as most Departments and Ministries have, an Office Superintendent. I believe it would be the job of that officer to look into this kind of business and to make a continual evaluation as to how documents are to be preserved and to keep them safe from rodents and other pests, although all the pests are not rodents. However, I do not think that you would need to appoint storekeepers for this purpose, because there is a certain level of responsibility that you have to look for in preserving documents, and a storekeeper may not be the kind of person that you would allow to take a decision as to how documents are to be preserved and kept.

With regard to the schools and the expansion or rise in the school population, the placement of schools, and the policies by which schools are built and expanded. I think the Committee has to realise that in most cases in the last 10 years there have been shifts in school population.

5.05 p.m.

For instance the hon. member mentioned Springer Memorial. When we built the Springer Memorial, there was no question at the time at least in the planning stage in 1963 that we would have to move people from Delamere Land and decant them in areas in the Pine which already had had a thriving and numerous population. Springer Memorial School was built to separate the girls from Parkinson so that you would have Parkinson catering as a comprehensive school for boys and Springer Memorial doing the same for girls. When all that was done and the school was constructed, then two other Ministries got together and made their decision about Delamere Land and clearing that site and so people moved into the Pine and St. Barnabas and we had therefore a situation in which Springer Memorial had to cater now to an extended school population because the catchment had widened. It is the same with Ellerslie. When Ellerslie was conceived and built there was no question of the Farm Housing Area being there, and Ellerslie was finished fully two years and classes begun early in 1965, and I believe it was in 1967 that they started down there at the Farm.

Mr. HINDS: At this point, Parkinson was built in 1960 and it now has over 1,200 children, but

with the proposal to site something like 5,000 houses in the Wildey area, how are you going to cope with this situation?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Now we can use the experience again in those episodes to plan for the future. What the Ministry will have to do, and I am certain they are thinking about it, is to plan now for perhaps two primary schools in the Wildey area and a comprehensive school to follow say, within three or four years of the establishment of these primary schools, just as how they have recently done in respect of Cave Hill.

The third point I want to make is this: (Mr. HINDS: Is there a reduction in the number going to the private schools?) I have no figures present on this, but I would think myself purely on statistics that the more comprehensive schools you can construct the less pressure there will be for places in the approved private schools. I do not know if the hon. member sees a certain rough logic in this discussion, because in a debate in this Chamber last week or whenever it was, I believe that he was trying to say that more children were getting secondary education in 1949 than are getting it now. The hon. member will forgive me if I am misquoting him.

Mr. HINDS: I said that free secondary education started in this Island in 1949. I did not say that more were getting it then than are getting it today.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member said that free secondary education started in 1949. It is a pity the hon. senior member did not tell me that in 1959 and 1960 when we used to discuss free secondary education as we have it now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, you will find this in the 1960-63 Report of the Ministry of Education and in Command Paper No. 7149.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If secondary education started in this Island in 1949, it was the best kept secret of this century in Barbados. That is all I can say on it. I never knew it and I would make bold to say that the people who were getting it did not know then, and only now in 1971 we are hearing that we had it as long ago as 1949; but we can argue about this until the cows come home.

Mr. HINDS: The hon. member can point not far away to persons whom he knows benefited from free secondary education in these early days. In the same way the hon. member would want to tell me that the school meals programme was started in 1963, but we say it was started in 1937. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That is another secret.)

The question that Head 37 - Ministry of Education - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 25 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, an amount of \$10,000 is required to meet contributions by the Government of Barbados to countries which might be severely affected by national disaster. This money will be used particularly to help the nations in this region. Nobody would object to this, but we would like to know however how the amount of.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way, I should have said in respect of this that the hon. member will remember that there was recently an earthquake in Nicaragua, flooding in Columbia, an earthquake in Chile and a national disaster in another Latin American country, and of course we have been asked to do something about the trouble in Pakistan. We could come here every time there is some such requirement and for \$1,000 or \$1,5000 or \$2,000 because that contribution that we can make is really only token, but we are glad to make it in these instances because other people help us when we have problems. We are asking the House to make this provision of \$10,000 some of which will go to Nicaragua, some to Chile, some to Columbia, some to Pakistan and whatever other countries request our aid between now and the end of the financial year. This is a commitment which arises out of our membership of the O. A. S. and other international organisations. I should have explained this at the beginning, but it was just an oversight.
5.15 p.m.

As the hon. member who moved this Resolution said, it is an international commitment, and I think all countries in the world must at some time or other assist their brothers and sisters in cases of national disaster, but this brings me to the point that here in Barbados since the flood last year there are people who have still not received any help from the Ministry. I can point to some people living in St. James, in the Holletown area, who have not yet received even clothing furthermore to have their houses repaired or some of them resited. I had to call Miss Howard a few days ago to ask about the position with a woman who lives in Holletown but nothing has been done in this case. I remember the Minister gave a breakdown when we were sitting in the Other Place of some of the items which were given away in the various parishes, and I can say that up to this very day there are some people who some 10 months ago were affected by the flood but have not yet been given any sort of assistance, and I would say this, that we in Barbados like any other country must set about to help our brothers and sisters in other countries in cases of national disaster, but I believe that charity begins at home. As a matter of fact, some time ago we were asking the Minister about a donation that was given to the Prime Minister by Prince Charles, and we tried to find out how much the donation was and how much money was in the fund; the

Minister said at the time that the fund was exhausted and I feel that Central Government should have made some provision to make sure that all the residents in Barbados should have been protected by now.

Furthermore, in as much as we have international commitments to other countries in cases of national disaster, I see no reason why there should not be a fund built up at Governmental level to assist people here when something suddenly occurs. I would like to hear from the Minister what is the position with many of these people who were affected in our disaster in October, and what provision the Ministry is making to satisfy them if they have not yet been satisfied. As far as this \$10,000 is concerned, I am quite sure that everybody on this side will support it but I am also reminding Government that charity begins at home and that there are still Barbadians who were affected in the flood and who have not yet received anything from Government.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, certainly this sum of \$10,000 to assist in making donations in disaster cases in this region as the note says is quite in order, but as the hon. senior member for St. James has just said, we have quite a number of cases and I have been at pains to draw this to the attention of the Minister of Health, and I must also say for the benefit of the Minister of Home Affairs and all concerned that there are cases of people in this Island, and particularly in the parish of St. Peter, who lost all their belongings in the flood. There is the case of a carpenter who lost all his tools and his workshop and he has been given no assistance whatsoever although the matter was reported to the Police Station and the Police took an inventory as best as the old man could remember what he had. There are other cases as well where people have suffered damage in varying degrees and nothing has been done to help them.

We have a Central Emergency Relief Fund; we know that that fund was ably assisted quite recently by an amount of \$20,785.71 from overseas by the Consul General, Mr. Branford Taitt, from donations received from people in Boston, New York and Chicago. This Central Emergency Relief Fund is undoubtedly for the benefit of our people at home, so we should know what is in this fund since it has been given a shot in the arm by our overseas sisters and brothers, and if there is money in the fund why is it that people who are in need and who deserve assistance have not been assisted? We are quite in agreement with voting this money to help our overseas brothers, but at the same time we are trying to relate our desire to assist those overseas to Government's neglect of the cases at home that deserve so much. Surely the Minister could not feel happy with this state of affairs, and we would certainly like to know what has been the cause of delay. In addition, there was a private fund operated by the business community, and Government has a right to know what is in that fund and what has been done about it, and we would like to know who has been assisted and who has not been assisted.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is really amazing that a few people, certainly in my constituency, have not yet had any help. I remember drawing to the attention of the House the plight of the small farmers who had their crops washed away, and I know that they have not yet received any assistance, particularly those in Cane Vale. There is still money in that fund which was collected by the business community, because I know that there were one or two boats damaged in Oistin and the boats were still on the beach up to a month ago. When I spoke with the Secretary of the fund he told me that the fund was not closed but that they were waiting on the investigations which the Fisheries Officer, who fortunately was on holiday, had to do, but I believe that assistance can still be had in many of the cases from that fund but it is a question of the coordination between the relevant Government Departments and the administering authority of that fund, so I hope that the Hon. Minister will see that the publicity king gets around to these small matters. He can even get a picture in the paper when he winds up the fund.

5.25 p.m.

He can call in the *Advocate* and let them take a picture of him smiling. The people are accustomed to seeing his picture, but they want to be accustomed to seeing that the practical work in his Department is being done, and that suffering does not exist.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I had been under the impression that claims for household effects had largely been met. There may be a few outstanding cases, but I am hoping that they will be fully disposed of in the shortest possible time.

In respect of agricultural damage and fisheries, the fund is certainly not closed. Fertiliser has been distributed, I believe, as well as some claims for damaged fishing boats have been met. I have heard that investigations have not yet been completed in this respect. Most of the outstanding complaints deal now with houses which have been damaged. We have the houses which have been damaged; the remainder of the agricultural claims, and the remainder of the fishing boats to deal with.

Before the House rises for the recess..... (Mr. St. JOHN: "When is that"?) I would like to take the recess week after next, if I can and if I am allowed to. Before the House rises for the recess, I will ask the Ministry of Home Affairs to give me an up-to-date account. It is in the Ministry of Home Affairs that this matter is dealt with now. The Committee consists of serving Public Officers, drawn

mainly from the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are the people responsible for this matter; I will draw it to their attention and get an up-to-date account of all the disbursements, the state of the fund, outstanding claims and the time within which all outstanding claims can be settled. I will do that for hon. members.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of 4 Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read a second time.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now agreed to.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this concludes the Business for which this Special Meeting was summoned.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Chamber having previously been formally adjourned to Tuesday this week at twelve o'clock noon, so stands adjourned.
5.32 p.m.