THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1966 - 71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th March, 1971

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 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);* Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Communications and Works);* Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B

Prayers were read.

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

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 9th March, 1971, I understand, have been circulated. Unless there is any objection they will be confirmed. There being no objection, I declare those minutes duly confirmed.

LETTER FROM HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER OF BERMUDA

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a letter dated 9th March, 1971 from His Honour the Speaker of Bermuda wherein he says:

Dear Sir Theodore,

Some ten days ago I received the framed painting with the inscribed silver plate from the Government and people of Barbados to the Government and people of Bermuda commemorating the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of our Parliament. I delayed acknowledging this in case there were an accompanying letter, and also that I might first have an opportunity to inform our House of this generous and unusual gift.

Members were most appreciative, and the painting will occupy a prominent place in the precincts of the House,

May I, Mr. Speaker, use your kind offices to convey to all concerned our grateful and sincere thanks for this valued gift.

Curly Astwood (signed)

.....

(J. C. Astwood) Speaker.

Mr. St. JOHN entered the Chamber and took his seat

PAPERS TO BE LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I am commanded to lay the following documents:

(1) Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for eleven months ended 28th February, 1971.

(2) Report of the Audit of Accounts of the Auditor General's Department for the year 1969/70.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the exchange of Government-owned land at Wildey for land and buildings at Dover, St. Lawrence Gap, belonging to Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for the erection by Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. of new headquarters at Wildey.

Also on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Casual Employees Pensions Act 1961.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a notice of a Question in the name of the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown.

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

Will the Minister state the number of people registered on the 16th March, 1971, to vote in each constituency in the Island?

2. Will the Minister state the number of persons whose photographs were taken in each constituency and;

3. Will the Minister state the number of persons to whom Identification cards have been issued?

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like, on behalf of the hon. junior member for St. John, to ask for leave of absence for 28 days as from today's date.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the House is asking for 28 days leave of absence for the hon. junior member for St. John, Chairman of Committees, as from today's date. If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection, I declare the leave to be granted.

BILLS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Casual Employees Pensions Act 1951 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. N. W. BOXILL entered the Chamber and took his seat.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. George be appointed Temporary Chairman in the absence of the hon. junior member for St. John.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 for the remainder of the sitting.

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: It is usual, in moving the Suspension of these Standing Orders, to tell us what is the purpose of the suspension. The hon. member has given no reason for the suspension of these Standing Orders.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I believe the other side, including the hon. member, must know that we are deliberating the Appropriation Bill. As usual, when we start that Bill and the Estimates are in Committee of Supply, we work through until we are finished. We are not doing anything different from what we have always done.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I agree that that is so, but I must say that we are doing things differently this year. Previously we had the Estimates circulated for a longer period than we have received them on this occasion.
10.25 a.m.

I want you to check the Standing Orders and find out about this procedure. Are we sitting as usual for eight hours? What is the position with respect to that, and have special arrangements been made to deal with the question of the maximum period of time during which we can sit?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I must say I do not see the force of the hon. member's contention. The hon. member knows that when we go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates, we work until we are finished and they may take two and a half days, three days or four days of the week. I think the hon. member understands as well as we do that the length of time we sit is governed by the amount of work we are doing, the number of speeches which are made, the desire not to press the servants of the House unduly hard and all these considerations. There is no problem arising now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the Leader of the House is really serious when he says that the amount of work that is being done is a determining factor where the Reporters are concerned, because one very well knows that if we were to sit here doing absolutely nothing, it is a question of time. That is an important factor where the Reporters are concerned. One other point I want to make with regard to the debating of the Estimates is that this year's expenditure, looking at it, boasts of being far in excess of previous years. The Estimates on the whole tend to be bulkier, and we have not been given enough time during which to digest what has been put before us, and we feel it is beastly unfair to the Opposition to expect us to be able to make the type of contribution that would be expected of us with just one week, if that is the way to put it, at our disposal. It is not our fault that Government finds itself in the present position, and what we are saying is that it is not fair to us to ask us to begin Committee of Supply today on these Estimates.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, again I say I do not see what the problem is. This side of the House does not control the length of the debate. When the House proceeds to Committee of Supply, it is open to every member of the House to deliberate to his fullest once he does it within the Rules and does

not detain the House unduly and to make his fullest contribution both by the asking of questions of Ministers and the Ministers replying, and therefore the entire Committee when it is deliberating the Estimates uses its own time as it can best do it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, it is because we want hon. members on this side to make a full contribution to the debate that we are insisting that we be given time to fully digest all that is contained in this volume, and under the present circumstances with the short time at our disposal, we have not been able to make a thorough digest and carry out any research to assist us in our debate. The Government, I am sure, is certainly seeking to control hon. members on this side and to limit their opportunity to debate by forcing upon us a volume as bulky as this and expecting us with our normal work to be able to grasp everything and to do all the research that is necessary to bring ourselves in a condition fit to carry on the type of debate that ought to be expected on Estimates such as these, and I am asking Your Honour to protect the rights of the minority in a case such as this. We are not objecting to doing the Estimates at all, but what we are saying is that one week is definitely too short a time for us to bring ourselves up to date with all that is involved in these various Heads of expenditure that have been laid before us only one week ago.

The question that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 11, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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 Order No. 3 be the first Order of the Day.

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

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

THE HOTEL TAX ACT, 1971

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 is the instant Order of the Day and it stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on the gross revenue of hotels and or matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when this House met, the Hon. Leader of the House indicated that his purpose for proposing that we meet today at 10 o'clock was to deal specifically with the Estimates. What are we doing now? Is it a case where the Leader of the House is satisfied that we should not enter upon the Estimates today? If so, let the House be told and let the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition then decide what should be the business of the House for the day. We cannot have this one-sided approach to matters of this kind any longer. It is a case where the Leader of the House must indicate whether he is satisfied that we have not had enough time to digest the Estimates, and he feels within himself that we should be given more time. If that is his feeling, then the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition would get together and decide what we should do for the remainder of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would point out to hon. members that the motion has been duly passed that Order No. 3 be the first Order of the Day, and accordingly that is the first Order of the Day.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if I may explain, in May last year during my Budget Speech, I proposed that a hotel tax of 4 per cent on the gross revenue less 15 per cent which is the average amount of commission which is paid to wholesalers and agencies by the hotels be imposed.
10.35 a.m.

Normally we have a provisional collection of revenue or duties which authorises the Commissioner of Inland Revenue or the Comptroller of Customs, as the case may be, to collect taxes and other imports which have been given notice of in the budget speech, but for a limited period of three months after the date of such declaration. In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, the hotel tax is due on the 31st March for the preceding calendar year, that is to say, the year for the purposes of hotel revenue, from 1st January in each year and ending on 31st December, but due to a lot of representations made by the hotel industry and changes in drafting instructions and other pressure of work in the office of the Parliamentary Counsel, whose full time is devoted to the preparation of measures for this House, the Bill is unduly late, but it should be passed by 31st March in our Estimates in order that we should take advantage of a full revenue year, and I estimate that over $1 1/2 million will be outstanding. I should not say over, I should say around or approximately $1 1/2 million, and we should pass this Bill in both places by 31st March.

Normally speaking, when I give notice of changes in taxation in any budget speech I present the Bills to implement those proposals, and the House gives those Bills a first reading on the same date as the budget speech, but due to the nature of this proposal, since it is an entirely new kind of tax, it is not a change in the quantum of tax just as if there are changes in income tax or motor licences or bicycle licences, there is no great principle involved, it is merely a computative change when one makes proposals of that nature, but when you intend to introduce an entirely new kind of tax, it is not

possible for any Minister of Finance to discuss the incidence of the tax or the ramifications with interested parties as we do with other legislation, non-budgetary legislation, and therefore there has been an unavoidable hiatus between my declaration that the tax be imposed and the presentation of this Bill to the House for its second reading.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church said he only got the Bill recently, but it has already been read a first time. This Bill is a Bill of which the hon. member had notice, I believe, over nine months ago; it was in May that my budgetary proposals were introduced. We are not responsible of course for any delays in printing and in the post - I did not know the postal strike in England had reached Barbados - but if the post has created any delay, I can only say that we are not responsible but we regret that members have not had this Bill as long as they would have liked, but they certainly have had notice of the Bill and they know the kind of Bill it is supposed to be.

Various details have been set out in the Bill, which reflect some of the thinking of the industry and of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue; for instance, it was the Commissioner of Inland Revenue who suggested to me that new hotels should have a moratorium of four years before they would become subject to the payment of this hotel tax, but I should like to draw the attention of the House to some other aspect of my budget speech and to issue a warning. Members will remember that last year, during my budget speech when I gave notice of this Bill, I said that most of us share the view expressed by my friend the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas that the Caribbean hotel operators may well be pricing themselves out of business. My Government has issued repeated warnings that the Barbados based industry should not develop such a reputation.

From 1956 concessions have been granted to the hotel industry and Government has contributed very significantly to the expansion which has taken place in the industry during the past 14 years. The amount which hotel companies have contributed to the Treasury by way of tax on profits is very small in proportion to gross receipts of the industry. The total earnings of the hotel industry are in excess of the earnings of the sugar industry and I consider the time has come for the industry to make a greater direct contribution to the cost of running the country. Various methods are used for taxing hotels. In some countries a tax is imposed on rooms above a certain value. In Barbados rates are normally quoted to include room and board and I therefore propose to impose a levy on the gross receipts less commissions. The rate I propose is 4% and it will be calculated on gross receipts less 15%. This tax will be separate and apart from any income tax, but the hotel tax will be a deduction for the purpose of calculating the income tax, and the effective rate of tax will therefore be 2.4%. All of this of course is reflected in the clauses of the Bill, but I went on to say that I should like to make it clear that this is a tax on hotels and not on the customers or guests. Any attempt by the hotel operators to increase these rates or prices over the existing levels will be met by drastic restrictions imposed by Government on my recommendations. I made that position abundantly clear; what the hotels did, they started a delayed action; hence the hiatus of nine months which has intervened between the time I made my budget speech and the presentation of this Bill before the House, and all kinds of objections were raised chiefly by expatriate managers, not by hotel owners, but by a lot of expatriate managers who fly all over the Caribbean saying that they are representing Barbados and that they are Barbados; Mr. so and so, Mr. Brown, Mr. Jones, Mr. "Careless" and so on, this is the image that Barbados has. It is true we have a young brigade of Barbadians who have been trained at the University of British Columbia and elsewhere and coming up in the industry, thank God, but these are the people who arrogate to themselves the right to speak on behalf of Barbados, and these same people at the slightest drop of a hat will pick up pen and put it to paper and criticise Government taxation measures and say that the Government is not doing enough for the hotel industry, and make all kinds of disparaging remarks about the Government and people of Barbados.

I have something to bring before the House, but I will have to have a consultation, providing he is not legally involved, with the Leader of the Opposition on something very serious which has taken place, where another tax has been evaded although I held a meeting with the Directors and warned them that they should not transfer a company by creating a new company with a small share capital and deprive the Inland Revenue of $300,000 or $400,000, and despite the fact that I warned them I understand they did it, and I will have an investigation carried out and I will come in here and for the first time I will probably have to make some retroactive legislation, because I do not consider it retroactive when I said this is not the spirit of the legislation and you will be breaking the spirit and the intention of the legislation, and I warned them not to do it, but there again that particular hotel is not in the hands of Barbadian or West Indian personnel. What I want to draw to the attention of the House is this, that despite the fact that I said the rates in Barbados, in my opinion, were high enough if they were not too high already, there has been a substantial increase in hotel rates. Their argument is that the people have the money to pay and they do not complain and why should we complain.

10.45 a.m.

They are very shortsighted, because when people come to Barbados and they pay $50, $60, $70, $80 or $90 (U.S.) - that is another thing we have to stop. The United States Treasury does not preside over the economy of Barbados, and if their agents want to convert the Barbados dollars or the Eastern Caribbean dollars for the sake of calculation for their clients over there that is alright, but, as far as I am concerned, all hotel rates in Barbados will have to be quoted in West Indian currency of one

kind or another with our Central Bank Barbados dollars' at the present moment the currency issued by the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority.

Another reason why we must have our Central Bank established quickly is the drainage of U.S. dollars. There is no machinery, although the private banks are supposed to keep an account and are not supposed to export U.S. dollars, the drainage of U.S. dollars, and the sum is fantastic, through the hotel industry and some of these Managers regard it as part of their perquisites of office that the exchange difference which may vary from day to day - a U.S. dollar may be $1.95 (B.W.I.) - and then they sell the dollars to the banks or use them and that difference in the exchange rate - should accrue to them. The hotel Managers are not even the owners of the hotel.

One of the good things of our having a hotel is that I have asked the I.D.C. to carry out investigations into all aspects of the accounting of the hotel which is owned by the Government of Barbados as we are entitled to do; therefore, we can get a good idea of some of the malpractices which are being practised by these expatriate Managers. What I want to draw the attention of the House to is that I regard it as a contempt of Barbados, a contempt of the Legislature, and a contempt of the Government when - I think I would have had the support of members even on the other side - I get up here seriously and say that this is a tax on the hotels, because they are not making the contribution which they should make to the economy of this Island, and that this tax is not to be passed on, and they fly all over the Caribbean arrogating to themselves the right to speak for Barbados when they do not even know what is happening in Barbados. President after President is an expatriate, and the closest they could come to enlisting local personnel is to have a Vice-President who has Barbadian connections. That is the most I can say, but we regard him as a Barbadian. This is the kind of thing that is going on.

I should like to warn hon. members that if I come in here with a Measure, having given notice today, dealing with penalties for this flagrant disregard of the warning which I have given, I do not want anybody to get up here and talk about what is constitutional and what is not constitutional. As far as I am concerned, it is constitutional once you say something should not do something, and he treats himself as if he is a legislative authority and continues to perpetuate the very conditions which we consider here in Barbados to be inimical to the best interest of the development of tourism in the country.

Again I should like to repeat, Mr. Speaker, that there is no point in telling any of us here that they can charge these rates because the people pay them and do not complain. They pay them, but they do not come back. One of the things that we have been able to sell in Barbados is the fact that people who come here always want to come back and lose interest in going to any other part of the world.

You will find a situation in Barbados where hotels which are not properly run, paying relatively low wages, despite the activities of the Trade Union, compared with the wages they have to pay outside, giving very little service for what they charge, are charging four times the tariff that a better class hotel in Miami or West Palm Beach will be charging. For instance, you can get accommodation at a hotel in Miami for about $12 to $15 (U.S.) a day, and the equivalent down here is $50 to $60 (U.S.) At the height of the season in Miami you can get a first-class hotel with the most lavish entertainment for less than $25 a day, and a room with the same facilities in Barbados will cost you $64. When you compare the wage rates, you will see that these people ware taking an unfair advantage of what we the citizens of Barbados and this Government of Barbados have developed this Island to, and they are now coming here like wolves descending on the fold and trying to anathc everything and run away with it.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good thing we do not have the kind of raving nationalism that some of the other West Indian Islands have, because in some of these other territories - I would not say Islands - whether it be Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua, or St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla - you will find that a single pronouncement of the kind that I hear day after day would entitle the person who thinks that he can legislate for Barbados to be asked fto fold his tent like an Arab, and, if he does not silently steal away, he would be loudly cast aside.

I think that we are a bit too accommodating in this country. I do not know whether to call it excessive tolerance for small abuses, as Dr. Hammond said in his book about Barbados and the Confederation question that people in Barbados have an excessive tolerance for small abuses. I think the mistake that some of these hotel operators make is that because Barbadians are extremely tolerant they feel that they can do as they like in this country, and we abide by the rule of law. I think that we have to start tightening up on a lot of these people, and we have to tell them the facts of life.

Particularly I am drawing to the attention of the House the fact that the Hotel Association and its officers are the chief offenders. Despite the efforts of the Tourist Board, despite the efforts of the Trade Union, these people are doing exactly as they like. I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition is not here, because there is something else I would like him to investigate. Maybe some of his clients may be involved. I do not like to drag legal practice into this Chamber like some of these contenders for political office, who belong to the legal profession, every time they have a case they come in here and want the Government Ministers to solve the case for them, giving them the answers, find out questions to ask their opponents in the law courts, and so on. I am not like that.

10.55 a.m.

One very startling development of which I have concrete proof on the part of these expatriates -

because it affects a wide cross-section of this community from year to year. I read my budget speeches, and everything that I put in there I have discussed with the Cabinet and I have devaluated its impact and everything else, and when I say in a budget speech that they are not to increase the hotel rates and they are not to pass it on to their customers and to the guests of the hotels, I mean it seriously, and that has as much force as far as I am concerned as if I had introduced legislation stipulating that they were not to pass it on, therefore I will have to consider very seriously what measures I take now to make them understand who is running the country and who will be running this country for a very long time. It will not be them or their friends, but as long as we are in control - and we will be here for a long time - *(Asides)*

Mr. SPEAKER: I am entitled only to hear the hon. member now speaking, the Hon. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But even the Leader of the Opposition would not be so lacking in his sense of patriotism that he would allow these people to hoodwink him, however gullible he might be, and I have no reason to believe he is extremely gullible, but to allow these people to mislead any member of this House, I feel would be displaying a complete lack of patriotism and nationalism, and I hope I do not hear anybody over there defending them. I hope that I do not hear any howls of anguish that you cannot impose retroactive legislation, because in this particular case I do not think it can be retroactive and I am seriously considering now what kind of penalties we should impose on them because we cannot have people who are birds of passage coming in here and ruining the economy of Barbados and tearing down what we have fought so long to build up, so that this..... *(Asides)*. Of course I encouraged the expansion of the hotel industry, but the Government also sent people away for training and the Government is still training people; this year six scholarships have been awarded in hotel management, and the establishment of a hotel school was carried out. We cannot do like some of the African countries who have got rid of some 18,000 Civil Servants overnight, and then had to come to the West Indies to try to recruit people to take their places, so we have been fair with these people because we have a sort of interregnum which we have to observe is necessary when any change is taking place.
11.15 a.m.

We will have to hasten the day when we will have full control of the hotel industry, because these malpractices such as pushing up of rates, the issuing of currency and so on will have to be taken care of. An end will have to be put to these practices. I hope that we will have the Central Bank established very soon, so that it will be abundantly clear that there will be one Currency Issuing Authority in Barbados and not as many as they are for hotel operators.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, as usual, the Prime Minister has used the occasion to talk far and wide. The attitude of the Opposition to the tourist industry of this country has been always positively clear. For a long time we have been pointing out that under the eyes of the Government many malpractices have been committed. I am well aware of the practices which the Prime Minister talks of, and I will tell him more. There is a Canadian Tour Operator operating at Sunset Crest who feels that, having run a hotel bankrupt, he is now entitled to say that people who come into Barbados under this tour must shop at only particular shops and these shops will have to give him a percentage.

Now, if the Government had a Ministry backed with adequate knowledge of what is going on in the tourist industry of Barbados, if the Tourist Board were not comprised largely of a number of political appointees, all of this would have been exposed a long time ago. This is the only industry, perhaps, any place, perhaps anywhere in the world, that you have an industry which you claim grosses $63 million - the net effect of that is probably only 20%, having regard to what is carried back outside in the form of purchases from abroad. This is the only place that there is not a Department in the Government staffed with people who have the qualifications, experience and knowledge of the totality of the operations of the hotel industry in Barbados.

Look at your Ministry of Trade and Tourism: a small unit with no officers specialised in the operations of the hotel industry. I do not see any penalties in this Bill to prevent it from being passed on, but definitely they ought not to pass it on. I was in the British Virgin Islands, Tortola, last week and I was amazed. I was at a hotel and the cost was $23 (US) per day for bed and breakfast, and $30 (US) for for full meals. It was as good as any of them around here, and the barman was getting $100 (US) per week plus 10%. The minimum wage that you get in the hotel industry in the Virgin Islands is somewhere between $60 and $75 a week.

Now, the minimum wage in Barbados is $22(US), and it is $42 now when it comes to the hotel industry. It was the hon. senior member for St. James and myself who first exposed the racket of the hotel Managers deducting the people's 10% when they had the strike at Coral Reef some years ago, and the Kiaki King had negotiated an agreement allowing that. The people in St. James complained to the hon. senior member for St. James and myself, and when we went down there the people were already on strike. The hotels had to agree that they should not deduct any of the 10% for breakages which occurred when the guests got "high" at night when the full effect of the potency of the Mount Gay touched them.

I hope that when this money is collected, the money will be used to help promote Barbadian enterprises, to help give encouragement to a greater number of scholarships, and the time is clear when the

University of the West Indies should regard training for tourism in all aspects as an academic subject better than history and economics and the foolishness that they teach for the General Degree down there. The people want some vocational education. The Cornell University has a fit course, and it ought to be a fit course for the Caribbean.

Let us look at the staffing of this Department in the Ministry of Trade. Some of these people get away with the idea that because they went on an apprenticeship system and went to a polytechnic in England they can come down here as big managers. When you look at the academic qualifications of them you will find that, with a few exceptions of people, who have had training in accountancy and are Chartered Accountants, 80% of the Managers got their qualifications either by way of the apprenticeship system when they went in at age 15, or they went to Ealing or one of those Technical Colleges, after coming out of a Comprehensive or Secondary Modern School in England. They do not have any better qualifications than what we can produce in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the position is quite clear. I feel that the tourist industry needs a complete survey by the Government. There is not sufficient knowledge in the Civil Service of all aspects of the tourist industry. The Tourist Board has powers to make Regulations in relation to the tourist industry, but they have never had the courage to do that. I hope that any money collected from this will be dispersed in that direction.

I know that the Minister of Finance is in trouble this year, because having run down agriculture, an industry that makes a greater contribution to the economy of Barbados than tourism, it employs more people, the money circulates among a greater number of people and so on, he now has to fall back and try to collect some of the deficiencies. He mentioned the Land Transfer Tax, but, Sir, as I said when that Bill was being introduced, they now have to work on it. People have found 5 gaps and they are exploiting those gaps daily. It is common form now that they are exploiting those gaps. The Hon. Prime Minister will soon have to make amendments to take care of that.

There is one other point I should like to make. The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is using the hotel operations as another excuse for the Central Bank, but I still maintain that it is possible within the context of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Agreement for the powers that the Prime Minister needs to be derived from the Banking Act as well as from the prescription of certain types of conduct. The only legal currency in Barbados today is the Eastern Caribbean Currency. If the coupon is used as tender it is illegal.

I know that certain Managers rob guests in Barbados, because at night when they have in their liquors in the bar, they manipulate the exchange rate, give the people $1.95 for a $1, surrender the currency to a bank and get $1.98 for it. The hotel operators do not get that. This is what is called "Managers' perks". Of course, the Barbadians are quite adept at adapting and they get "Barmen's perks", too. There were cases of dismissal lately over it, and that is how we came to know about it. If they are doing it at the head office, then other people will do it too. What are they doing? They are abusing the people who come here and give them the means of making a living. Having charged them $86 a day at the hotels on the West Coast - some of them have gone to $112 a day!

11.25 a.m.

Now unless we have a complete survey and an index study of the economics of the operation of the hotel industry in Barbados, one day we will wake up and find that we have lost all our competitive position and that it would have been done by people who are coming in here with our sufferance and right under our eyes. I hope this thorough survey will be carried out and that the staffing of the department be adequately increased so that we can have specialists in this form of operation.

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

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

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get from the Prime Minister whether it is the intention that they pay 4% before we arrive at the gratuities for the workers, or whether they pay 4% on the gratuities too. That is the point I want to know because as I understand 10% is added to the bills for the cost of food, beverages and that kind of thing.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I will just formally reply to the hon. member. I have indicated that the service charge would be part of the gross receipts, and I examined very carefully whether we could separate the service charge, but at the time when I was doing this no firm agreement had been arrived at with the Workers' Union on the distribution of the service charge, and I believe within the next two years the workers will be getting the full service charge. What the hotels were doing was claiming depreciation on all their equipment, furniture and so on, and then taking out, let us say, around 3%, in other words, 30% of the service charge

for breakages which to me was illegal, because you cannot have it both ways. We did not want to get involved in the dispute between the workers and these people and have them claiming that they had to pay tax, and we said nothing; but it is our intention to collect on the gross receipts which would include the service charge. In that way, in two years' time there may be an element of taxation on the worker anyhow, but it is only a small percentage compared to the incident of tax which he would have to pay. This is deductible.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Prime Minister can tell us if the operator of a hotel shop is also required to keep books and records.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I just answer the question? The operator of a hotel shop is usually a franchise given at, say, 10% or 11% of gross or a fixed rent whichever is greater. They have to keep books for the hotel and for the Commissioner of Inland Revenue as well. What they represent to the hotel can be checked against the returns which they file with the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. I should like to make it clear that except in so far as the shop may be operated by the hotel itself, they do not have to pay this tax, but the rent or the percentage of profit they pay to the hotel would be part of the gross earnings of the hotel. They pay rent to the hotel which is part of the hotel's gross earnings and they pay a tax on that, but the shop itself, whether it is a boutique or otherwise, unless it is being operated by the hotel would not be subject to the tax, but subject in the normal way to income tax and Companies tax.

The question that Clause 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 5 to 14 inclusive were called and passed.

11.35 a.m.

Clause 15 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 15 stand part. Members will notice that in Clause 15 of the Bill a provision has been inserted whereby the Commissioner of Inland Revenue has the power to call on a hotel operator to pay forthwith the amount which the Commissioner believes he is liable to pay as hotel tax. This is a provision of course which obtains in the income tax legislation of most Caribbean countries for the payment of any kind of tax due to the Government. We have looked at this very carefully, and this is the first provision in the laws of Barbados where you can call upon a person leaving the Island to pay his tax. I should like to say that there is a popular belief that a lot of people leave the Island owing income tax; this happened in the years probably between 1953 and 1951 when we had large scale emigration to the United Kingdom and some people did leave, but on an examination of the quantum of defaulters and the amount which is owing to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, I do not think it is really necessary for us to demand that everybody who stays in the Island for longer than 48 hours to get tax clearance from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. It would make it very onerous and difficult for the 160,000 visitors that we have coming into the Island every year, and the amount of tax involved as a result of persons leaving the Island is not so great, but when we come to the hotels, it is a horse of a different colour because these are people who are conducting operations in this country and who may clear out at the end of a season with all the earnings of the hotel for that particular year, and the tax is not due till the 31st March, so we have put in a provision here that if the Commissioner suspects that a person wishes to leave the Island, he can call on him to pay the tax forthwith. I therefore beg to move that Clause 15 stand part.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 16 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am to wonder if the Prime Minister has any information as to whether this Clause intends to impose a penalty with any sort of meaning, because as it reads, a person who pays in one year an amount for tax and penalty which is in excess of what the person would normally have paid, or should have paid for tax, that person can apply to the Commissioner within a period of three years for a refund of the excess, so does the penalty really mean anything except to deprive the person paying it..... (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is no penalty in this Clause.) This is not a penalty Clause in itself, but it tells us that the penalty can be refunded; that is what we are dealing with. It is not a penalty Clause, it does not impose a penalty in itself.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The penalty here refers to the charge of - I cannot remember now whether it is 1/2% or 1% a month - that in paying your tax that you yourself calculate, or that if taxes are due from individuals at 31st March, you are supposed to assess yourself and pay in the amount of tax that you think you owe the Commissioner of Inland Revenue by 31st March. If you do not do that, then you incur a penalty of 1/2% or 1% as the case may be for every month that you are in default, and that is what they mean by a penalty here.

The hotel tax is also due on 31st March, and if you do not pay in the tax by 31st March, then you have to pay the penalty of the interest as it were that is charged. It is not really interest, it is a penalty, because it would be illegal under the Rate of Interest Act, but it is a penalty for noncompliance, and we have a system now of voluntary compliance where you submit the amount of tax that you think you owe

with your returns. Anything in dispute I did not think you have to pay a penalty until the Commissioner makes the assessment, but I do not think the hon. member has finished his point, but I was merely explaining what the "penalty" in this Clause means, and I would like him to develop his point.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Prime Minister has grasped what I was striving after. I appreciate what he said, that it is not a penalty Clause in itself, but in view of the fact that it refers to penalties that may be imposed, whether they are for non-payment or charges arising out of 'non-payment, the person is entitled to apply to the Commissioner for a refund within a period of three years if the person finds that the amount paid, is in excess of what the person would normally have paid. That is why I asked if the payment of this extra charge is really something that has a meaning.

The system of voluntary payment to which the Prime Minister referred as in the case of income tax at present, one very well knows how it operates, because it is very easy for one, although difficult, because one has got to go and pay the Commissioner what is owing to him, but when the question of a refund arises it is extremely difficult to extract a dime out of the Commissioner's hands; very, very difficult indeed, and that is what has caused me to enquire into this. How difficult is it going to be for the person who has paid any excess to recover what is really due back to him?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is only a case, Mr. Chairman, in which a mistake may have been made in the calculations because of the question of gross receipts; all that has been set out in the Bill itself, and there may be genuine cases of miscalculation, and that is all that this provides for. My personal experience is that when you have paid too much tax, invariably you get your money back within, say, a period of eight to twelve weeks, because the department is now well organised. If hon. members remember, about two years ago when I gave relief to all tax payers of certain brackets, over $1 million was paid out of the Treasury by the beginning of June, and all the members of this House got back; everybody in here got back money. You cannot get back what you do not pay; all the members who had paid tax got back money, I think within a matter of four weeks after I made the statement. This is one Department that has improved, I must say, since we had Mr. Dennis Lacey, the Canadian expert, down here, and now we are putting all the tax returns on the computer the Department is functioning very efficiently. Incidentally, I should like to arrange some day for the members of the House to visit the Data Processing Centre so that they can see how we update the accounts of Barbados, probably taking it out of the hands of people who have light fingers, by using a computer, and next month we are introducing the payable order system whereby we would stop a lot of queuing up at the Treasury for vouchers. Every Department will be responsible for its own accounts, so that you will get the cheque directly and you can go to the Bank and cash your cheque. I think I have answered the hon. member's question.

The question that Clause 16 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without dividion.

Clause 17 was called and passed.

Clause 18 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Clause 18, Mr. Chairman, is the penalty clause which clearly prescribes that any person who fails to pay tax or makes false statement in connection therewith, or falsifies any book or record will be subject to a fine of not less than $250 and not more than $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both. We are very serious about this matter.
11.45 a.m.
I beg to move that Clause 18 stand part.

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

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

Clause 19 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 19 stand part. Under the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act you have 6 months in which to lay on information of the commission of an offence triable in the Summary Jurisdiction.

Clause 16 gives a person the right to claim a refund of tax within 3 years after having overpaid it; so there must be a correlative right on the part of the Commissioner to bring an information or to lay a charge against a person for any of the offences which he may have committed under Clause 18 for either failure to pay any hotel tax payable by him, or knowingly or negligently producing or making use of any book, record, account, return or other document which is false, and so on. This is an extension of the period which would be available for the person bringing the information under the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act on the Statute Book of Barbados in which this period of 6 months has been extended for particular reasons.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are just a few points I wish to raise. Clause 19 (1) states:

> "Notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment an information in respect of an offence under this Act may be laid on or before a day 3 years after the offence was committed or within 1 year from the day on which evidence, sufficient in the opinion of the Commissioner to justify a prosecution for the offence, came to his knowledge, whichever is later.

(2) The Commissioner's certificate as to the day on which such evidence came to his knowledge is conclusive evidence thereof."

I think that is a bit too strong. Once the Commissioner says that he received information, that makes it official. I do not think that is quite satisfactory, because it places a person, who is accused, at some disadvantage.

There is another point I would like to raise. Clause 17 states: "All amounts payable under this Act as hotel tax and penalties are debts due to the Crown and recoverable as such in civil proceedings..." but in Clause 19 you speak about information. I wonder if the Prime Minister would like to check this out. I believe, under the law as it stands at the moment, that you can proceed by way of complaints to recover money, but you cannot proceed by way of information. *(Asides)*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What is the hon. member saying?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that under Clause 19 it is stated that the Commissioner's certificate as to the day on which such evidence came to his knowledge is conclusive evi- thereof., but I do not think it should be conclusive evidence; it should be *prima facie* evidence. Certainly a person against whom a case is brought should be in a position to question the date on which the Commissioner received knowledge of the offence.

Secondly, under Clause 17 all debts are recoverable by way of civil proceedings; yet, under Clause 19 you speak of information in respect of it. Information cannot be brought in a civil court.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That relates to Clause 18.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Subsection (2) makes the certificate conclusive. Certainly a person against whom an offence is brought should be in a position to question the date on which the Commissioner had knowledge of the offence. It should be *prima facie* proof of it. A Commissioner can say he received knowledge relating to the offence on a particular date when, in fact, he received it at an earlier date.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is not really my function to do the work of the Opposition. The point which I would make here is not so much giving somebody the right to challenge the certificate of the Commissioner, because he would be on a wild goose chase, chasing a tail all around in a circle. The point I would make here, as a lawyer, is that if the Commissioner finds out that an offence has been committed, he should have a year within which to bring his case. In other words, if he finds out a month after the return is made, he should then have a year in which to bring the case. I do not like the idea, personally, of having indefinite periods attached to the laying of criminal information for offences. In others words, if you say that a case should be brought within 3 years, then 3 years should be the maximum. If you want to make it 5 or 6 years like the Statute of Limitations, then it should be 6 years. I wonder whether it is not a genuine mistake here when they say that when the Commissioner of Inland Revenue finds out that something has gone wrong he has a year from the time he finds out to take action. It may be 15 years afterwards, and he would have another year in which to bring the case and that would be 16 years. Personally, I would like to delete all of that and just leave it at a straight 3 years as in any limitation statute.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the point is that under Clause 19(1), the Commissioner has either 3 years after the offence has been committed, or 1 year from the day on which the offence came to his knowledge.
11.55 a.m.

Under Clause 19(2) what we are saying is that the Commissioner's certificate as to the date.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, I will point out that in Clause 19(1) it goes further than that. It says "whichever is later"; so he may not find out that an offence is committed until fifteen years afterwards, and then my interpretation of Clause 19(1) without going into Clause 19(2) at all - you do not have to go into Clause 19(2) if you agree with what I say on Clause 19(1) - is that the certificate then becomes irrelevant. *(Asides)* I do not think that is necessary. I do not think that the Leader of the Opposition has looked at this particular Clause, but in my humble opinion you should not have a taxing statute or anything that imposes a penalty on people in which there is indefinite limitation or no limitation at all, because what this Clause amounts to - and I do not think this is really the intention of the draughtsmen - is giving the Commissioner in relation an indefinite period in which he could lay an information, and in all statutes on limitation, there is a fixed period, and that period is only qualified by shortening it rather than lengthening it. My argument is that if you have a debt owed to you by someone, you have six years to bring an action for debt, and there is no qualification whatsoever.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that even in our Income Tax law there is any qualification extending the period within which the Commissioner of Inland Revenue can review your tax returns. As far as I know it is five years, and he can only go back five years to tax you retroactively; and there is no clause in the Income Tax Act that I can remember which gives him a discretion of waiting another year whenever he finds out beyond the period, because in those two things you can never plead a limitation clause or a limitation statute in that effect, and from a strictly juridical point of view I would argue that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue does not have any right going behind the three year period; so all the questions about a certificate is irrelevant. If you are going to talk about certificate, it means you should be shortening the time. What we are doing

in Clause 19 is that we are lengthening the prescribed period for bringing an information from six months in the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act to three years, and the reason why we are doing that is that a hotel operator has a right to claim a refund within three years; so if he is going to produce evidence three years later to claim a refund, the Commissioner has a right to bring a case against him for bringing false evidence at the end of three years. I think that is logical, and I think every hon. member will accept that. But what the Clause seeks to do is to do something which is inconsistent with accepted constitutional practice. It is saying that notwithstanding the fact that the operator has a right to bring a claim for refund within three years, and because he is doing that, you have a right to bring a case against him for bringing false information. Notwithstanding that, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue can at any time, whether the man is claiming a refund or not, particularly if he is not claiming a refund, claim that he has been looking at the thing all these years - it may be fifteen years or any period of time - and he can write a certificate and say he has now discovered that fifteen years ago you should have paid more tax, and he then has another year in which to bring that information, and this deals particularly not with the collection of money, but the laying of an information.

Now under the Income Tax Act you can go back and tax a man five years retroactively. If a man disposes of a property and dies within three or four years, the fact that he has disposed of this property does not mean that he is exempt from paying estate and succession duty; so even the Income Tax does not go as far as this provision we have here, and I think that if you are qualifying it, the qualification should be that if the Commissioner discovers within the three year period that an offence has been committed, he should lay an information within a year, not that he should have an indefinite period plus a year in which to lay an information. My reading of the Clause, and I should like to read it for hon. members, "Notwithstanding the provision of any other enactment" - that means the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act - "an information in respect of an offence under this Act may be laid on or before the day 3 years after the offence was committed" - I have explained why that is so, because you have a right to claim a refund - "or within one year from the day on which evidence, sufficient in the opinion of the Commissioner to justify a prosecution for the offence, came to his knowledge, whichever is later." Those are the words.

I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition is leaving because I wanted to hear an expression from him on this point. I think it should be "whichever is sooner" or "whichever is shorter" because what I am claiming is that he can bring an offence within three years, but if within the three years he discovers that an offence has been committed, he should only then have a year within the three years or the three years to bring the offence. So at the end of two years and six months he may have discovered that an offence is committed, and in my opinion he should only have six months because he is running out of time. If he discovers at the end of a year that an offence is committed, why give him fifteen years to bring a prosecution? I wonder if the hon. member gets the point; it is a slightly difficult point, but I am talking now as a constitutional lawyer, not as somebody who has to pay taxes too. I do not think that you should enlarge the boundaries of criminal liability so that a subject does not know where he stands. If a man has committed any kind of offence, there is usually a law except I believe in the case of homicide, a period of limitation within which proceedings can be brought against the person for the infringement of the statute law or the common law of the land. There is the case of somebody who had property and did nothing about it for ten years and no action can be brought to recover the land. It does not say how the person gets a title, but the point is that you cannot get him off the land. So far as he is concerned he gets a possessory title, even with such an important thing as a person's land. If you are saying that a person should not be liable after three years for any statement that he made, you cannot in my opinion in the same breath - I am nothing to do with the legislation we brought down here; I am talking about the constitutional point - say that you only give him three years, if twenty years later the Commissioner finds out, you add insult to injury by giving the Commissioner twenty-one years to bring a case, and the man may have grandchildren growing up that do not want to see him in Court, In my humble opinion it would be a lot neater if you said "notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment an information in respect of an offence under this Act may be laid on or before a day three years after the offence was committed." The minute you start saying that if the Commissioner discovers, and then you say, give him the sole discretion, you are then going to enter into a lot of semantics and arguments about whether this is right, and I would prefer to delete the whole thing. I am legislator for Barbados and for the people. I do not own a hotel, but you have to think of the constitutional position. I personally do not like any part of the clause after the words "was committed", and if anybody moves that the rest of it be deleted, it would be all right with me.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like the whole clause redrafted, because Part (2) is the offensive section. What Part (2) says here.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member has Part (2) on his brain, but if you delete the words after "committed,", you do not need Part (2) at all. You are so intent on having your little five cents in on Part (2)! You want people to know that you were in the House today.

12.05 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to move, Sir, that clause 19(1) be renumbered clause 19, and that all the words after the word "committed" be deleted; also that sub-clause (2) be deleted..

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

The question that Clause 19 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 20 and 21 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to say that in the Schedule which we are asking to be the Schedule to the Bill, this is where the provision is made for the deduction of income tax as a legitimate deduction under the Hotels Tax Act, under the Local Government Act and the Income Tax Act of 1968, so that the net effect of the 4% in the case of this will be 2.4%.

The question that this be the Schedule to the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1971

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 be the second Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. and Learned Prime Minister, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the island for the year ending 31st March, 1972.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I was just checking whether the amendments to the Appropriation Bill have been circulated, and I understand from the Clerk of the House that these amendments have been incorporated, but I was asking him to check to make sure that the necessary amendments have been made. There is a list of amendments, but these amendments, if I understand correctly, have been incorporated.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these amendments have just recently been circulated to us, and since we have been doing the other Bill none of us has had time to insert them, and I wonder if we could have ten minutes to insert them while the Clerk is checking too.
12.15 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think we will take the luncheon suspension now until two o'clock.

I, therefore, beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until two o'clock.

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

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

Hon G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, let the Bell be rung; there is no quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member for St. Michael. There is now a quorum.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister will now proceed with Item No. 1 standing in his name, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on 31st March, 1972.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1971

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill for the financial year beginning on 1st April, 1971, and ending on 31st March, 1972. As hon. members will be aware by now this is not a Budget Speech. The second reading of the Appropriation Bill merely seeks to legislate approval for a level of expenditure for the coming financial year on Current and Capital Accounts.

Certain items are already fixed by law, so that we will find that in the Appropriation Bill the total amount of money being requested for the supplies of this Island for the financial year, which I have already described, is $99,277,300 both on Capital and Current Accounts. The total estimate of expenditure on Current Account is $98,837,729, which leaves a discrepancy of some $36 million to $37 million between the Estimated Expenditure and what is being requested now in this Appropriation Bill - the other $31 million, of course, being in the way of capital appropriations.

Now, the explanation for that is very simple. Although the copies of the Estimates 1971-72, which have been circulated under the title of Barbados Estimates 1971-72, disclose an estimated expenditure of $98 million, some $36 million out of that amount has already been prescribed by law in various places in the Statutes of this Island; so the amounts which have to be voted will be the amounts relating to those items which are not specifically prescribed by law and the Capital Estimates of some $31 million. The total amount which this Bill seeks to appropriate is the sum which is set out in the Schedule to Section 3 of the Bill of $61,013,725 and the Capital Estimates of $31,263,575, making an aggregate of $92,277,300. This is what is disclosed on the face of the Schedule on the Appropriation Bill itself, but in the copies of the Estimates, the heavy bound volumes, it shows Capital Expenditure $98,837,729, and Estimated Expenditure, as corrected, of $31 million. In other words, we have no legislative authority to reflect on the votes of the House by discussing those Items that are not in the Appropriation Bill. They deal with specific salaries and matters of that kind, because they have already been fixed by the law under the various Establishment Orders.

2.05 p.m.

Now I do not intend, as I said, Mr. Speaker, to make any speech which could be described as a Budget or pre-Budget speech, but I should only like to bring one or two points to the attention of the House. We estimated for a deficit on current account of $2.17 million, and in truth and in fact we are likely to have a surplus of $5.356 million, and this is particularly remarkable because the increased demands made on the Treasury as a result of the salaries revision which was carried out in late 1969 and completed by this Chamber some time, I believe, in February or March, 1970, claimed a sum some $11 million from the Treasury, and this was in respect of back pay. We have had to carry that burden, but added to that the income on salaries and so on and rises in the cost of materials during the current financial year 1970-71 which will come to an end on 31st March this year and in spite of that and without any remarkable increase in taxation, we have not only been able to bridge the gap of $11 million caused by the increases of salaries granted to members of the Public Service, but although we still at the time of the Budget provided for a deficit of over $2,170,652, we are likely to end up with a surplus of over $5 million.

It is very difficult for me to say, Mr. Speaker, that if we had not granted those increases that our surplus for the financial year 1970-71 - that is the year which is now drawing peacefully towards its close although it started out rather turbulently - would have been $16 million, and the reason why I would find this impossible to declare with any authority whatsoever is because the more money you pay out, the more taxes you are likely to collect. At least 25% of what is paid out reverts to the Government in the way of taxation, and having released another $11 million into the economy of this country directly channelled through the Public Treasury and not through private enterprise, there must have been particularly amounts of people who were less well off than those in top spectrum, and there must have been an increase in the purchasing power amongst the masses of the people. I feel very strongly about this because when I decided to part company with the people who constituted the former Government, it was specifically on the issue that too much attention was being paid to the people who had been imported into this country, and who in my opinion at that time were already paid well enough to the total dereliction of the masses of key scale workers, unestablished staff and people in the lower eschelons of the Government Service, and it was not for any political gain or advantage or in the vain hope of attracting more support for my views for very sound economic reasons and my reasons still prevail that a man who is living at or just above subsistence level should always receive encouragement when he makes wage demands from the national point of view, because by increasing his purchasing power and the availability of money for him to spend, he can then afford to come closer to satisfying not only his basic requirements, but to indulge in that kind of expenditure pattern which would reflect in an increase in indirect imports which inure to the Treasury and in the last analysis to the lasting use and benefit of the people as a whole in the Island. When you grant increases to people who are already well paid in the sense that they have already acquired those particular items of the world's good which not only satisfy their basic requirements for food and shelter, but also their appetites for conspicuous consumption and luxury goods, there is only so much that a man who already has all the transportation that he requires, all the food that he and his family would need from day to day, the physical asset of his own roof over the head of himself and his family, and a further collection of *laries equantis* - household goods which would entitle him to enjoy a certain standard of luxurious living, giving him more money, only encourages him to take that money and invest it outside since we have no restrictions on investment outside, the sterling area, or to hoard the money, but certainly not to re-circulate the money within the community to the extent that the man who is just above subsistence level would expect.

I always marvel at the fact that conservatives in this Island resist things like increases in salaries and increases in public spending because if they were not short-sighted they would realise that any such increases applied in the right places and at the right time can only inure to their own benefit, because there is more money in circulation and people who are falling short of the basic requirements in the first instance and a certain degree of voluntary spending on non-essentials will be re-circulating that money within the community, and the people who are in charge of the whole cycle of production, distribution and exchange are the people who are most likely to benefit in the second degree; so if

they pay more taxes, they only pay more taxes on profits. Apart from the hotel tax which the House passed today - and I am not reflecting on a vote of the House - no other item of taxation whether it be corporate tax or personal income tax - perhaps I had better stick to the question of corporate tax, and tax paid by people in business and trade - imposes any levy on what you have to spend. The whole principle of progressive taxation in companies tax would be that the more you make the more you spend. If you make less you pay less tax. In companies you only pay the tax at a standard rate of 40% on the profits of the company and therefore if you are making more money, there is no reason why you should not continue to pay more tax because you are making more profits. The only thing that is debatable as far as I am concerned in methods of taxation would be whether companies themselves should not be subject to some kind of progressive taxation. This is the only thing that is debatable, whether they should not themselves like individuals be subject to progressive taxation. If the Government is raising money to spend on the payment of salaries primarily working in the Public Service of this Island, nobody should resist the payment of those taxes, because in one way or another the money gets back into circulation. So, Mr. Speaker, I should not like to say that in spite of the $11 million which we had to pay out as back-pay for the approved salaries for public officers and people in the Public Service, we still managed to have a surplus of $5 million after starting out with a substantial deficit.
2.15 p.m.

Some may go so far as to say that it is because of this rather than in spite of it that we have had a surplus, and they would have some validity to their contention because the more money you put into circulation the better it is, not only for those persons who are the direct recipients of the Government's benefaction, but the whole industrial and commercial community, and even the people who should have been called upon to shoulder the burden of increased taxation to pay the Public Officers, they themselves will stand to benefit. So I will recommend and comment to all persons who have, let us say, their functions to perform, never to resist any reasonable demands made by or on behalf of the working classes in this island, in so far as their wages and conditions of employment are concerned, because we can prove almost with statistical precision, Mr. Speaker, that whenever these demands are met the whole community benefits, because basic wants still have to be satisfied, and the only way in the free enterprising economy under which we live to satisfy those is to place more effective demands; in other words, purchasing power in the hands of the people who neither have the inclination, the propensity, nor the wherewithal to hoard or save money, or despatch their money out of the island by the earliest post.

The picture which we present here in these Estimates is one in which our expenditure on current account has risen by some $10 million. You will find that, Mr. Speaker, on page 2 of the Estimates where the increases are set out, and most of these are in respect of wages and salaries and a few items of a non-recurrent nature. Although our estimated expenditure has risen by nearly $10 million, we have to bear in mind the fact that it rose by $11 million or $12 million last year and we still ended up with a surplus, so there is no reason for anyone to anticipate, despite the lack of income coming from the sugar industry through low prices and bad crops, we have no reason to doubt that with the increase which has been a steady upper turn in spending in the tourist sector of the economy, that we cannot reap the fully responsibility of public expenditure in this coming financial year.

We have some 47 Heads to be debated, and the introduction of the Barbados Estimates has always been the occasion for a full display of parish pump politics; this is the constitutional right and privilege of members on both sides of this House, because at no other time are they afforded the luxury of a complete examination of the island's expenditure prior to the expenditure being incurred. Furthermore, there is no particular reason why a member cannot use the pruning knife and move for a reduction in any of those items of expenditure. No one is going to get annoyed, I wish them every success, but having spent the five months in pruning some $5 million or $6 million from the demands which were submitted to the Ministry of Finance, not by politicians but by Public Officers for increased staff, increased amenities and increased grants in their several departments, you can readily understand, Mr. Speaker, why although we may not be prepared to treat such a motion for the reduction as anything other than a political gimmick and treat it with contempt, that we are not readily going to support it. I just want to repeat that; we may not be prone to treat it with utter contempt, but having laboured for such a long time to prune the expenditure on current and capital account we cannot lightly entertain any political proposal of that nature, so do not let us think that we are going to support any proposal for reduction.

At the same time, no member of this House, other than a Government Minister, can bring forward a proposal for increased expenditure, because that is contrary to the spirit of the precise terms of the standing laws of this House by which we are supposed to be controlled - and I say supposed to be parenthetically - because it is exactly what I mean. According to the Financial Administration and Audit Act of 1964, no member of the House has the right or prerogative to impose further charges on the Treasury, but having said that to get my premises clear, I shall now go on to say this. In the course of the debate on the Estimates, I personally, and I am sure that the rest of the Government Ministers will, welcome any constructive proposals which we can examine after the Estimates, even although such proposals may have the effect of imposing charges on the Treasury. In other words, a member cannot make a motion here in the House to increase an estimate to put in more standposts or more schools in any particular constituency, but we are here to run the country, and if

any member feels that his particular area has been neglected and he goes about it the right way, he can suggest to the Minister that it is worthwhile looking into something, even if that proposal may eventually have the effect of imposing addditional charges on the public Treasury.

I just want to make it clear, members have the right to speak, but I would not expect them to be tedious or tendentious; I think it is a matter of crashing boredom to the general public and other members of the House when members merely get up to speak just to get themselves on the record, or keep repeating themselves, therefore I am asking members to exercise a sense of responsibility. We do not know all the social and economic imperatives of every little village in this island, and any member who wants to draw the attention of the Government that there are certain requirements still existing, we are quite prepared to look at those requirements, but not to move in anything to incur any further charges in these Estimates which must be approved in both places by the 31st March, 1971.
2.25 p.m.

As I have said on rising, Mr. Speaker, this is not a Budget Speech. Every single detail has been set out as the law requires. The provision of a memorandum on the Estimates is not required by law. It is an act of what those like you, Mr. Speaker, who are acquainted with Ecclesiastes, would describe as an act of supererogation on our part or drawing on the reserve fund of grace. It is not anything that we could criticise in any detail because it is an act of supererogation. Any deficiences in the Estimate are due to the fact that I consider a memorandum to be a brief explanatory note of something which is out of the ordinary. *(Asides)*

I am merely trying to forestall any long-winded discussion on the flimsiness or otherwise of the memorandum, because a memoradnum is not a dissertation. This is where people get their functions in Parliament confused; they do not understand what Parliament is here for. Parliament is here to look after public business; it is not here to be a platform for scurrilous abuse. The Government should be criticised if it is not doing well enough, going far enough, or doing nothing at all. I should not like anything I say to be misconstrued as an embargo upon the discussion of the most minute details of matters which particularly affect the constituencies which members on both sides represent.

As Minister of Finance, I cannot get up and criticise Government for what is not being done in St. John. That is my fault, unfortunately, but the junior member for St. John can do so. I have stopped certain things being carried out in St. John, and I told the people in St. John that I was going to stop them, because I considered that there were other priorities other than the road from Kendall to Cliff. I stopped that, but come the 1st of April, it will be a different tune altogether. Number one on the list of priorities will be the road from Kendall to Cliff. Last year I deleted that. I said that we could leave St. John until later. I said go into the highways and byways of St. Thomas and St. Michael, Christ Church and St. James and do good work in those areas. On the 1st April, as soon as the gun is fired, every single piece of equipment available will be on the road to have these things done. I am a year behind in my programme for St. John. Other roads have been done, and we have to establish priorities. I want to make that quite clear.

I cannot discuss the inadequacies of the programme being carried out in St. John; I can only say what I consider to be the National priorities. Other members can say what they want in their constituencies. I have already established my priorities. I cannot quarrel about Conset Bay or Gall Hill and so on, because in my 10 years we have been able to do several things. There are a lot of districts for which we have provision for communal baths and other facilities. The reason why a lot of these have not been constructed is due to the fact that the Labour Welfare Fund, because of the short fall in sugar revenue, had no money to carry out the programme for Rural Amenities. We are making provision in the Estimates for this year so that the programme can be started if not completed this year.

With those few introductory remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill for the year ending 31st March, 1972, be now read a second time.

Before I sit down, I should like to remind hon. members that there are various items which have to be moved in but for which provision has already been made in the Appropriation Bill itself. There have been circulated with the Explanatory Notes.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister has said sometime in the past, this is not a Budget and this should not be the occasion of a Budget Speech. In the past in Barbados, a sufficiently small society both in terms of the amount of money we are dealing with, in terms of the membership of the House and in terms of the complexity of the Government to combine the two, but now that we have Independence it is thought necessary to introduce your Estimates just as if you were in a big country. I choose my words advisedly. We have to go through these Estimates year after year at this time when they never seem to be in such condition of relative simplicity of the actual public expenditure and revenue that this Island would allow.

I do not want to bore hon. members with a great deal of repetition on a familiar theme. Hon. members on both sides of the House were snoring when the Minister spoke. I fear they will have to go on, on both sides - although all of them have waken up on this side - a little longer in their moment of rest,

but I want to press once again on this point of erraticness in the Capital Estimates. I want to start with that, Mr. Speaker, because I have always thought that estimates meant what they said: That you should be able to estimate a certain Capital Expenditure and expect that in that year a sum similar to that estimated, if not identical, would indeed be spent.

When we deal with the Current Estimates, we find that invariably although the Current Estimates contain projects which may or may not be started, although the money is voted for them, although they contain projects which may or may not ne overspent or may cause Supplementary Estimates to be sought, yet the Current Estimates can always steer remarkably close to the estimated figure, but the Capital Estimates are constantly used, Sir, as I can only call it political football. You put something in your Capital Estimates in order to say that it is there, but without any serious intention of carrying it out.

I have collected figures for the last four years - Capital Expenditure and Supplementaries; the total actually voted for a Capital Expenditure for a particular year; the total estimated to be spent at the end of that year, and the total actually spent, and I am sure that hon. members will agree with me that the public finance in this Island, is not one you could be happy with if it were you own business of your own simple, little household budget.

The 1967-68 Capital Estimates started with a little over $11.6 million; there were Supplementary Estimates for $300,000 of the actual vote of $12 million; only $8 million was spent, but the Expenditure Estimates at the end of that particular financial year was that only $6.6 million would be spent 2.35 p.m.

So the actual expenditure exceeded its estimate by $1.4 million. The next year $12 million was also the total of the basic vote ant the supplementary vote, the estimated expenditure at the end of 1968-69, what actually was spent in the year before, was given as $7.2 million but it turned out that only $5.9 million had been spent, that was less than $6 million, less than the Government was spending when it first came into power despite the decrease in the purchasing power of money. In 1969-70 Supplementary Estimates alone totalled $12 million, the basic estimate being $6.3 million. Of the $18.3 million actually voted not even the entire Supplementary Estimate was spent, a most unusual course of affairs in public financing of any country, because if there is one thing that you would think you actually need, it is the money you come to the House of Assembly for, and one can argue with great force that no Minister of Finance should ask the House of Assembly to vote a supplementary vote of $12 million and then spend only $9.5 million. That year the estimated expenditure at the end of the financial year 1969-70 was $11.8 million. That was what the department actually estimated they had spent; when they made a proper calculation, they discovered they had spent $2 million less.

Now in 1970-71 the present estimated expenditure is $16.4 million out of a total vote with supplementaries of just under $30 million; so you see you have the wildest figures in this particular branch of the Estimates. I think it is fair to say that no one can have any idea of what money will actually be spent on capital works in this Island from any figures which are published by this Government under this particular Minister of Finance. In some years what the House of Assembly is told at this time is that capital expenditure for the previous year will prove to be $2 million too much. The next year it will be $2 million too little, and these are Estimates of what has already been spent, not what is to be spent. The departments add up some years and make it $2 million over; they add up other years and make it $2 million under. There is a lack of control somewhere at some stage, and it can only in the last analysis be put squarely down to the Ministry of Finance.

Now the Capital Estimates themselves are matters which are going to cause some concern, I believe, in the debates which are going to follow in Committee in which hon. members are going to discuss Head by Head the current monies which we are being asked to vote. Who could think, to begin with the last first, that last year the greatest item of capital expenditure, a few thousand dollars short of $4 million, would be the Ministry of Labour? Where has the Ministry of Labour spent this $4 million one may ask? When the Ministry of Communications and Works can only spend $2.3 million, Seawell Airport, the project that is eventually going to cost as much as the Deep Water Habour could only spend $2 million. The great Ministry of Education spent less than $1 million but the Ministry of Labour spent $4 million. Sir, the Ministry of Labour's vote turns out to be a convenient way of hiding away in the Capital Estimates the fact that the Housing Authority's expenditure went up from $2 million to $4 million last year. It has been hidden away in the Capital Estimates under the vote for the Ministry of Labour. Can anybody say that we have really seen a doubling of the housing development of this Island in the past year? This is the true measure of what we on this side of the House had been talking about when you spend less than $1 million a year on the capital side of education, but concealed now in the Ministry of Labour's vote is a figure that shows that the Housing Authority spent $2 million more last year than it did the year before. Perhaps hon. members on the other side of the House will understand in greater detail some of the arguments which however much it has pained us to adduce in this House and on public platforms of this Island we have been forced to put before the community.

The entire capital vote of the Ministry of Labour $3,995,750; the entire capital vote of the Ministry of Labour finds itself at the Housing Authority. Is there anybody who can get up and say that we have twice the number of houses as a result, or

that we have been able to site on land schemes twice the number of tenants? Can anybody say that? All we can see is that this area of Barbados has apparently, certainly since the Deep Water Harbour was built, incurred its greatest capital expenditure, that the largest sum by a margin of very nearly two to one, has gone upon the Housing Authority. Perhaps hon. members will see why we mistrust some of what we see in these Capital Estimates from time to time.

Sir, the present Capital Estimates also reveal what I mean when I talk about electioneering Estimates. I think we far more have in this country electioneering Estimates and electioneering Budgets. The Prime Minister seems afraid to tamper with taxation sometimes. No really new measure of taxation has come out of his Ministry of Finance in the last nine years. I hear a bank manager believing what even the Prime Minister does not believe, that history began in 1961, and talking about enlightened and progressive financial measures of this Government. Of course a bank manager is going to believe that the financial measures of this Government are enlightened and progressive, because they are the sort of measures that make the people go to banks and the banks themselves sit back and prosper. That is what is meant by enlightenment, just as the Prime Minister said in his introductory remarks that he would welcome constructive criticism, and I will say to him that what he means by constructive criticism is criticism which puts forward an argument with which he agrees, because that is all it means when used by the Minister of Finance. When a bank tells you that your policies are enlightened and progressive, it means that your policies are such as enable the rich to keep their money or make more. I would prefer to see a regime in which whatever is said, however involved a manner it is put, about the workers getting more money and more taxation coming that way and more taxation reflecting that the workers have more money, I am a simple man, and I believe that more taxation means that people are paying more money to Government. Whether they have it to pay is to some extent a separate question altogether. I would prefer to see taxation schemes that do not please foreign investors quite so much as they appear to at this time, but, Sir, I will not anticipate as the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance did not anticipate his Budget Speech. We do nt have to pursue that. The question of these electioneering Estimates is used on these premises. My argument is supported on this basis. Whenever election time is coming up, we see a large estimated expenditure.
2.45 p.m.

In 1966-67 the estimated expenditure at that time was $16 million. The first time the Estimates reached that height was 1970-71, because all the years following and all the years before the Capital Estimates were approximately half of what they were in the last election year. Sir, this explains something; it is obvious that Capital Estimates are used as a political football by the Government, they are there to insert projects which can then be put to the people as the work which a particular political party will do in an election year, never mind the money is not going to be spent. Never mind that even if the money is there the human resources present in this Island are not managed sufficiently well by the tired old Government we have in power now to spend that money. The point is, in an election year it follows as night follows day that you must have a high capital expenditure to give people who otherwise have no conception of how to put an argument to the people something to read and to read out on political platforms. Let us not be deceived by the charming little fact that the Prime Minister restricted in his own constituency the building of a road from Kendal to Cliff; all he is telling you when he tells you that is that the St. John people can only remember what has happened this year; he has saved it up for election year, and I want the other Ministers to take note that they have had theirs already, the Prime Minister is getting his now. St. John has to be safe, Christ Church East can go through the eddoes.

I look at the hon. junior member for St. Lucy and I grieve that I cannot yet attach a constituency to his name, Sir, and out of deference to your position, I will not embarrass either of you but I will address you jointly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. member may only address the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: I am addressing the Chair directly but I am calling in the spirit of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, your alter ego, Sir. The two of you walk hand in hand in joint harness together, driven by all those redoubtable canvassers such as "Fat Pork" and the others who are engaging in a war the like of which we have not yet seen in this country, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid there is nothing about that in the Estimates; neither beef nor pork.

Mr. ADAMS: We have heard so many references from you about the fratricidal wars, Sir, with trips to the Rocky Mountains being inducements that perhaps it is in our minds, but St. Lucy can say goodbye to development at this present time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I hope the situation is not as bad as that with the vice-chairmanship of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is no point of order. Shall we keep to the Estimates of revenue and expenditure?

Mr. ADAMS: At least in the constituency of St. Thomas, Sir, we can stab each other in the chest, but, Sir, once again we have one of these election capital budgets, and we look down at poor old Education which only had $900,000 last year, while the Housing Authority was using that for one painting contract alone. We have a revote for Grazettes, St. Michael North-West, Hindsbury Primary, Hothersal Primary, St. Thomas Mixed, Stow Prim-

ary, Vauxhall Mixed, Good Shepherd, Hillaby Mixed and Roebuck Primary. I do not see anything for St. Lucy yet, perhaps if I go on far enough I will see it.

Christ Church East, there is St. Bartholonew's Boys and a revote to provide for new schools at St. George, St. James and St. Michael. All these are there for Education if the Housing Authority will let them get the money now. Springer Memorial, Princess Margaret, Parkinson, St. Leonard's Comprehensive, Alexandra, Alleyne School and Lodge; all these names appear in the Capital Estimates for Education. $2.9 million is estimated, but what trust have the public got that $2.9 million will be spent when many of these same items were promised and voted last year and no step of any sort was taken to put the projects to which they refer into operation?

The Capital Estimates for Home Affairs. I have been seeing this Estimate to meet the cost of construction of a new Court at District "D" ever since, as far as I remember, I have been the senior member for St. Thomas, and that has been there for so long that I believe perhaps I will be practising back in that Court again in ten or fifteen years' time and find the Court room in much the same condition as it is now. At least it is very cool; anything through whose roof and window-frame the wind can blow so freely must be a cool structure, especially in that blessed parish, Sir.

The office of the Prime Minister, and once more the Airport. We have heard so much about the Airport development, project staff, project manager, architect and resident engineer, but let us not forget that in the Prime Minister's office under Capital development as well as the Ministry of Communications, salaries and wages find their way in as well as the cost of material. In all that is talked about the improvement of the Airport, the Airport is still running on an estimate of $2 1/2 million, no more than that, we are hearing no more about the duplicate runway, we are hearing no more about duplicating highway 7 and running it along the Ridge, we are not hearing anything about these schemes, we are just hearing $2 1/2 million including $125,000 to meet unforseen expenditure under the direction of the Prime Minister. I wonder if that includes the hospitality and the hospitality room so liberally visited by the project manager at HARP, but at the same time although so much public disquiet has been uttered about the Housing Authority, without any great new programme of house building, without any attempt to build at the level that the Barbados Labour Party Government was building 15 years ago, when it built the Pine Housing Area and the main part of Grazettes, 15 years ago when we were building 250 or 300 houses a year on less than a quarter of this sum, without any attempt being made to meet massive housing development and to match it, yet the Government is asking for $4.8 million to be given out of funds available - whatever funds available there are - from the Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing for the use of the Housing Authority.

Does the Minister of Finance seriously think, leaving out any question of accusations of a personal nature, does he seriously think that the people of Barbados are happy to know that nearly $5 million is being voted for the Housing Authority without the vestige of an investigation being held on how the Housing Authority's money is spent? The Minister of Finance is surrounded, not by hon. members of the House, he is surrounded by a lot of flatterers and hangerson who try to conceal from him the truth about what the people of Barbados are saying. When he goes into St. John he hears about the road from Kendal to Cliff, but the form of devotion which in certain country constituencies is given to a member of long standing and of secure majority is such that criticism, questions which tend to embarrass are not going to be heard by that member, and the Prime Minister should realise this, that Prime Ministers are for a time moving in such rarlfied atmoshperes, they get taken up first of all in places like Barbados by foreigners, they get taken up by people who have no real interest in the ultimate development of Barbados, they get taken up like a fad. The "in" thing this year is "Dipper" or whatever the person calls him; he is in, he is the thing they talk about. The Prime Minister would be susprised to know how often his name is dropped by people perhaps whom he does not know. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You mean how often my name is dropped on your platforms) The Prime Minister says how often his name is dropped on our platforms; I must inform the Prime Minister that I addressed a political meeting on Friday night, and not only did I not call his name once, I did not think of calling it, because you do not call the names of people who are tired.
2.55 p.m.

I was quoting Dr. Caddle; I did not say that of my own volition. I beg his pardon, but subsequent to that I do not remember calling his name. I did not even call the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. I called yours, Sir, and the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, and I assured the crowd of the support in your current difficulties which you could very reasonably expect from the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the reference to the Opposition apply to the support, or to the current difficulties? Let us proceed with the Current Estimates of Expenditure.

Mr. ADAMS: Perhaps, in the circumstances, I should congratulate myself on having achieved such an ambiguity, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's sympathy was well demonstrated in the "No Confidence Motions" which were brought by that side against Your Honour. With that kind of sympathy, you do not need friends like him at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway, let us deal with the matter before the House.

Mr. ADAMS: I had expected the hon. junior member for St. Lucy to egg me on and not the hon. senior member for St. John. All I will say is that those "No Confidence Motions" were in the past, and since then you have improved, Sir, if I may say so.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not conceding that that would be possible.

Mr. ADAMS: I have no intention of supporting any "No Confidence Motion" that come from that side, whether it is put down this week, next week, or next month.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyhow, let us deal with the Current Estimates of Expenditure.

Mr. ADAMS: Every year you cannot take up the Estimates of Barbados and get any idea of what is going to be done; you cannot take up the Estimates and know what schemes are in the Government's mind; even when you vote supplementaries they end up by not spending the supplementary on the capital side, and for that to happen I am sure the Prime Minister must concede it as extraordinary. They supplement with 12, and they end up spending less.

I do not know the ins and outs of the Estimates Committee; the way it does its business; how it deals with the capital vote, and whether it exercises the same stringency with capital votes as it does with current votes. We cannot think in this House that it is as serious about that as it is forced to be by the operation of law which insists that the personal emoluments and sums fixed by law are estimated precisely, or about the Current Estimates at large concerning which, as we know, one of the greatest tasks of any accounting office is making sure that the vote book is properly kept and the vote not exceeded. As far as I know, it is some years indeed since an estimate was substantially exceeded. I remember it caused some bitterness when it turned out that a former Leader of the Opposition was right when he and the senior member for St. Joseph speculated in one particular incident with the Minister of Communications that the House was being asked to vote a supplementary when the money had already been spent, and a revelation of this fact was made to the House. Since then, as far as I know, nothing like that has happened, and I am very glad about it.

Sir, one other point to which I would advert, at this stage, is the question of the Hilton Hotel. We have already made our point about the Hilton Hotel. Sir, the Hilton is down there for its $10 million or $11 million, or $12 1/2 million, if you take the agreed damages into account, and now we see somewhere in these Estimates that an amount of $500,000 will be credited to the Consolidated Fund during 1971-72 as the Government's share of the profit of the Hilton Hotel. The Hilton Hotel costs more than the Hospital and began to approach half of the cost of the Deep Water Harbour. The Deep Water Harbour, created by the old Government, appears in the Estimates of Revenue as a very profitable concern indeed, for not withstanding that the Ports Charges are cast on a non-profit basis, the Harbour is succeeding not only in paying its own interest, but in paying for itself, sinking its own capital, and sinking some of the public debt incurred by this country since the Democratic Labour Party came into office.

Sir, the Deep Water Harbour is repaying interest on a loan of $12 million at 6%; on a loan of $6 million at 63/4%, and it is repaying at large 2% of its capital to the sinking fund at 2% on those loans. The Port Department, in other words, even although its charges are kept low, is yet succeeding in paying for itself and having a little profit as well. Some years ago we used to see in the Estimates under Hilton Hotel that a certain amount of interest was payable at 7% on around $10 million. I do not know if the figure was ever raised from $10 million. I think that after the cost went above $10 million, the Government ceased to put in the Estimates what the interest was. I would like the Prime Minister to assure me that $500,000 represents the Government's share of profit on the Hilton Hotel after the interest charges on its final cost has been met.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in the first place, no loan was ever raised for the construction of the Hilton Hotel. At no time during the construction of the Hilton Hotel was any loan raised by this Government or any other person for or on behalf of the construction of the Hilton Hotel. Furthermore, we cannot tell what the revenue from the Hilton Hotel would be from year to year because of the nature of the business which is being operated. The Government is entitled to two-thirds of the gross operating profit out of which the Government pays for insurance and small items of that kind but, principally, on insurance and small items of that kind but, principally, on insurance of the Hotel. This year alone I directed that $700,000 be paid into the Treasury at a time when the cash rolls for payment of salaries at the end of the month were coming in - I think it was about November last year - and they were paid out of the Hilton account.
3.05 p.m.

That $700,000 was paid out of the Hilton account. There is no reason why this year the revenue from the Hilton should not be far in excess of $500,000. What I should like to make clear is that while for purposes of estimating on a cost and benefit basis and the financial out-turn because there are other hidden benefits in having a hotel of your own, some of which I enumerated this morning, we do this merely as an academic excerise because the money has to be paid into the Treasury anyhow, and we do not build a hotel to get a greater return on the hotel than we get, say, on the sale of stamps from the Post Office for the same amount of capital being invested. There was no loan raised, and I think I heard the hon. member say something about loans. $500,000 was only a notional sum. A few months ago I had them pay over $700,000, and I have no reason to suspect that the amount we get this year will be less than $700,000. If the hon. member would like me to do so tomorrow, I will bring in the latest

amount to show how much was the total expenditure on the hotel, and even with his figures $500,000 would be at least a five per cent return on our capital outlay. It cost a little more than $10 million.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just remind hon. members that we are now dealing with the second reading and according to Standing Order No 40(2) a motion may be made "That the Bill be now read a second time", and a debate may arise covering the principle and general merits of the Bill." I will invite hon. members to consider the principle and general merits if this Bill and then in detail individual items.

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker but we are dealing with an item of revenue which the House does not have to vote, and therefore the only opportunity of dealing with it comes when you are discussing the memorandum of the Bill. There will be no other opportunity of saying anything about the Hilton because the Hilton is not voted. We are dealing with the revenue.

Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to bring in the figures tomorrow. I would be glad if he would bring in the figures for the final cost of the Hilton Hotel, as well as the figures for the last quarterly operating profits which he has available if he is willing to bring them in. But, Sir, the Prime Minister's argument.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, I never promised the last quarter's operating profits, because my recollection is that the accounts are made up on 30th June in each and every year. I could not promise to bring those in here tomorrow, and I do not want him to say tomorrow that I promised to bring in the last quarter's operating profits and now must be concealing them or burning them up, or some nonsense like that. If they are available, let us say, to the end of December, January or February, if I can get them by tomorrow, I will bring them in, but I am giving no undertaking. I am merely giving figures that I have in my possession, on the outturn figures of expenditure on the construction of the hotel and its equipment.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I have not said the Prime Minister promised to bring in any figures. I have asked him to bring in the last quarterly figures he has available. I am welcoming his promise to bring in the actual expenditure, and I am inviting him to bring in the trading figures for the last quarter which he has available. But I am not going to leave it at that. I must say a little bit more because all this goes to the principle of this Bill. It is the Appropriation Bill and we can only appropriate if we have a revenue to appropriate. We must talk about revenue here as I see it.

The Prime Minister's arguments about the Hilton not being paid for by a loan are well known, and that would sound better if it were not that three years ago he brought into this Honourable House the Estimates for 1968/69 in which he said that the building of the hotel has been financed as part of the current development programme, and no loans have been raised specifically to finance construction. However against a share of profits receivable must be set the interest paid by Government on money borrowed to finance the project.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, I know that it said the Government borrowed money. As I said today, we make a notional exercise as if we had borrowed money; so the fact that the Hilton may, let us say, bring in $500,000 to us, for business reasons, not becuase we actually borrowed money, we are prepared to show, if it was a pure business investment, the return that we would have got if we had borrowed money. That is a direct misquotation of what I said. (Mr. ADAMS: I am reading out of the Estimates.) The two things would clearly be contradictory even if what he read out is correct, because as I understand it, the first part said that no loan was raised in respect of it. Let me put it this way: if we had a capital expenditure for which we raised loans in any of the three years during which the hotel was under construction, the fact that we were able to pay for the hotel out of current surpluses in the Treasury does not mean that had we needed money to do something else we would not have had to use that money for the other purpose and raise a loan on the hotel. I do not have to discuss anything about interest at all, because fortunately for us taxpayers, and I know the hon. member pays his share, we did not have to borrow any money, but for business reasons we like to do strict accounting. I think the hon. member understands that, and he understands and admits that we did not raise any loan on the hotel. We do not owe anybody for it, it has no mortgage on it of any kind or description. It belongs to the people of Barbados 100% without any hypothecation on any part of it or the whole.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, after listening to the Prime Minister for so many years, I perhaps would be lacking in understanding if I did not have some knowledge, if not of public finance, at least of his view of public finance. It is obvious that the Government of Barbados borrowed money while the Hilton was being built, because every year the capital programme is financed mainly by loans and only partly by surplus on current account. The Prime Minister cannot deny that. Every single year Treasury bills are issued, loans are made, you go to London to raise money sometimes, you go to Canada to raise money and you borrow money from the public of Barbados wherever you can. Loans are raised to finance the development of this Island. If there is any doubt that, let us look in the Estimates for 1971-72 which are a Schedule to the Bill we are now discussing. If there is any doubt that we borrow money in this country to finance our capital development programme, you will find a table in which I think the figure is $29,600,000. The Prime Minister works with this every day. He is very anxious to help me with the Hilton. He well knows that he is projecting borrowing to the order of $29 million for this year. Here it is. Capital Estimates - C.D &

W. grant $468,000; loans to be raised $29,670,575. making a total of $30,138,575. There is not even this year any projection on current surplus to assist with the capital programme. Every single year you borrow money to pay for your capital development and you pay interest on it. Borrowing is using somebody's money and paying him for it; so the fact that the Hilton has no specific mortgage is something with which I agree. That is what is in the memorandum to the Estimates of 1968-69, but the fact is that the Government had to borrow that money in order to build the Hilton, not in the sense that the Hilton was borrowing money, but that the Government borrows to finance its capital programme, and to say anything else is to go into the realms of Communist economics, and I am not using "Communist" as a swear word here; I am not using it as a pejorative expression. The Prime Minister knows that Marxian economics only have a labour theory of value and it has no capital cost theory, and that only now with Leiberman and other highly intelligent and obviously outlooking Russian economists is it being appreciated that capital has a cost.

3.15 p.m.

If the Prime Minister is coming in here and saying that you do not have to take into account the Government's costs of borrowing money to finance its Capital Development Programme out of which the Hilton was built, when you consider the cost of the Hilton he is talking Marxian economics of a sort that was outdated even when he was at the London School of Economics. Put capital as a cost and you can do something else with the money; it is limited somewhat when you deal with a Government because Governments do not as a rule lend money, they do not go into the money business unless you are the Government of Kuwait where the Government's revenue far exceeds the needs of the people when you do in fact lend out money and support the people on the interest, the Government of Barbados cannot afford to lend out money, therefore I will not press on the Prime Minister that he should be charging interest at 9%. He has a little cushion of potential surpluses that fall into the general revenue balance, because all the money that is in Barbados is mixed, Sir, there is a general revenue balance where everything goes.

I am sure the Prime Minister will contradict me when I am wrong, Sir, he contradicts me constantly when I am right, so much more will he punish me when I am wrong, and this represents the cost. If the Government took its Capital Development funds as the 1968-69 Estimates said, the building of the Hilton Hotel has been financed as part of the current development programme, it has to pay the cost of the capital used, and I am not misquoting anybody, I can still read. However, against the share of profits receivable must beset the interest paid by Government on money borrowed to finance the project. At that time the Government said that the interest payable should be calculated as 7% of $9,927,800 - 7% of just under $10 million, $694,946. That was 1968-69; the Prime Minister now tells us that it cost much more than $10 million. We therefore have to look for some sum in the region, based upon the arguments set out when the Hilton was actually finished, of $750,000 a year before the Hilton begins to show a profit, and to speak of $500,000 as being 5% return on $10 million, if that is the Prime Minister's approach to business, I fear he will not get a directorship next year, not in any of the companies, because if he feels that to receive $500,000 on an investment of $10 million which has been financed in a roundabout way - and talking about roundabout financing, I would be glad if the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would come back in the House and perhaps give the Prime Minister some hints about this - if you have financing in a roundabout way so that you have an asset which is fortunately free from hypothecation, to use a Roman law word that the Prime Minister is trying to dazzle us all with, Sir, you yet sooner or later are going to have to pay interest on that. The Hilton has to make a profit available to Government of more than $1 1/4 million; in other words, it has to look for a profit of $1.8 million by the time the Hilton people have taken out their slice, a profit of $1.8 million or $1.9 million before it is a paying proposition.

Suppose you say that the Hilton was brought to Barbados to promote tourism and that therefore you should not judge it by the standards of an ordinary business investment in this Island; there are two answers to that. People have brought other hotels here to promote tourism and make money out of them, like the Holiday Inn, and even if you do not judge it by the standards of making a 7% or 8% return, at least overall you would like to think that since you put out $11 million or $12 million that you will get back $1 million to show for it. At least overall you do not like the taxpayers to be constantly out of pocket. You say it is not mortgaged; what use is it to carry the taxpayers down to Graves End and show them the Hilton Hotel and say "it is yours, you are still paying tax for it." You pay $2.00 at the Hilton for a drink, but even if you buy a drink outside you are still helping to pay for the Hilton's drinks because you are still paying taxation to keep Hilton, who cannot lose and is operating a profit comfortably. The figures revealed to us by the Prime Minister for actual and protected revenue show that every man, woman and child, the little children still at the Hospital two days old included, right up to the Old Age Pensioners are paying on average $180 each in terms of taxes upon the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the motor cars they drive in where they are fortunate, the gasoline of the buses that they drive in, $180 per person is the figure for indirect taxation now in Barbados. The figure for direct taxation which is income tax is $130 per person per year. This is a lot of taxation for a community which still describes itself as poor to be paying over $300 a year on average each in terms of taxation.

We are paying in terms of taxation - our tax is US$150 each which will be found to be more than actual income of more than half of mankind, and we

are still being described as a poor community. Developers, capital gainers, traditional holders of capital are making it, but the ordinary taxpayer in Barbados is the one who is having to suffer. I am aware of the Prime Minister's difficulty with a particular aspect of his revenue, and I would like to be easy because I know this is a difficult problem, but we are all taxpayers here. If I do not pay my income tax, like other hon. members of the House, like the mightest in the land, I know even the Prime Minister - I am not saying he does not pay his tax - but I know he has had great pressure personally from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue about points on which he took one view and the Commissioner took another view. Everybody in this Island has to pay his income tax, and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and his department are the final arbiters; if we do not pay we end up by losing what little we have scratched together, no doubt out of the taxation we did not pay. Why is it, nearly a year ago the Government can impose certain licence fees on foreign owned airlines in this country and the airlines are still laughing at the Prime Minister? The Prime Minister met the head of Pan American Airways secretly in Barbados three Sundays ago.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to correct the hon. member. I not only met the President of Pan American Airways at his request to discuss feeder services which I gave a Press interview about, but immediately after our discussion I took him and introduced him to everybody I could see at Seawell Airport, so how can that be a secret meeting? It must be a secret like the programme of the people on the other side as their Leader declared the other night, their programme for Barbados is a secret formula.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: This underlines what I have just said. The Prime Minister said that the President of Pan American Airways and he discussed feeder services in the region, but they did not discuss why Pan American Airways would not pay the tax the Prime Minister put on them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. May I remind the hon. member that that is not open for discussion. The House had to pass an Order. Air France is paying it. If B.W.I.A. is not paying, it is not that it is recalcitrant but because it has no money. But it has to pay, too. Pan American Airways has not paid because it was advised by some legal luminary, for the want of a better expression, in Barbados that we were still operating under the Colonial Air Navigation Act. I came in here a few weeks ago and introduced an Order, and I have signed another Order as a result of that amendment to the Act under which the Airways will either pay up or look up - whether it is Mr. Hallaby or Mr. Nelson or whoever is in the area - and we can also levy on the plane. *(Asides)* I am not going to arrest anybody; all I want them to do is to sign a cheque that will not bounce. Unfortunately, the senior member for St. James is not here to advise us if it bounces, but, if it did bounce, I would have to seek advice from him as to how I should get the money.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, the Prime Minister will correct me. I think that what we introduced was legislation to enable us to amend certain Privy Council Orders in Councul. I have not yet seen the new Order which the Prime Minister says he has signed, but I look forward to see when the Prime Minister will so far offend his friends by levying on the next Pan Am 707 that lands at Seawell Airport. I remember that Dr. Williams took a Safari around Africa, and he had to charter a plane. It is possible that the Government of Barbados is looking forward to its safaris in its own plane. I for one would be glad to go to the Airport and bid for it.

Sir, this is March, 1971; the Budget was in June, could any other taxpayer defy the Government and say: "I am not paying," from March until June? He would be digging the garden at Government House now, if he did not have the money to pay and he did not have an aeroplane on which to levy. These are substantial sums of money we are dealing with. I think that licence fees bring in $18 million, and the Prime Minister is telling Mr. Hallaby: "You ought to pay this, because we have an airport to build and develop." The Prime Minister talks so big in here; he says you will have to pay because it is the law, but when he talks to Mr. Hillaby, he smiles and explains that we do not have much money and he should pay the money so that we can get the airport built.

Mr. Speaker, there should be one law for all. One law for the old age pensioners who found that there was not enough money in the Treasury last week to get all, and one law for Pan American Airways. If licences are going to be an increasing share of our revenue; if the tourist trade in the form of carriers are going to have to contribute to the revenue of this Island and ease a little of the burden which falls upon us now, then there must be one law for all. Little newspapers are being prosecuted for $1.00. Lawyers, even when they do pay theirs by the 31st March, find themselves in trouble because the Registry Clerk has not posted the entry. All of us have to pay our taxes, and the law must apply equally for all. I must press on this aspect of this year's Estimates.

Sir, there is going to be a great deal of discussion, I anticipate, in Committee. I see that the hon. junior member for St. George is having a rest in anticipation of the task that he will have to endure in the fortunately more comfortable chairs than he has been in the wont of using in the past. In passing, Sir, I hope the Standing Orders are going to be observed in Committee in one particular respect. I am not a man for time-wasting, but if you want to change the Standing Order you should change it by amending the Standing Order and not by interpretation. An Acting Chairman, Sir, cannot accept a closure motion. This is well settled in the Standing Orders, and I hope that the Clerks will give honest - I am sure that they will give honest - and competent

advice on this particular point. Clerks-at-the-Table of the House of Commons have been consulted on this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope that the competent advice, which I am sure they will give, will be accepted by members on both sides of the House.

Mr. ADAMS: That, Sir, is by the way. I just want to reiterate somethng that I stressed very strongly in here and outside. This is a $100 million expenditure. Never before in the history of Barbados has so much been spent for the benefit of so few. I am not one that measures the prosperity of a country by the amount of taxation people pay. There are simple equations to public finance; expenditure equals taxation is one of them; expenditure equals taxation plus loans, to be more precise, is the overall equation. This year we do not even have that, becuase the loans are to be financed according to our projections, and the capital development is to be financed according to our projection exclusively from loans. When dealing with Current Estimates we have $98 million out and $97 million in, and since it seems that there is some little fetish adhered to in the Ministry of Finance that you must always underestimate your revenue by $3 million or $4 million, so that the Prime Minister can say you have a surplus due to wise financial management at the end of the year, we have to assume that a figure of $97 million means that taxation is going to be over $100 million.

Sir, taxation of this size is not a measure only of prosperity, it is a measure of inflation, and that is precisely the reason why there has been the spectacular leap in taxation over the last 10 years. Taxation goes up every year not only because the people are overburdened, but because the value of the dollar is less. The allowances at income tax level have remained where they are for I cannot tell you how many years. That is a form of increased taxation, because when you have inflation it inflates people's incomes. The allowances stay at the same place as they were before; so the people are paying more taxes although the rates of taxes have not gone up. This has been the Prime Minister's device for saving unpopular taxation rises. It is inflation. It is allowing an unbridled money inflation to inflate revenue, but in the long run also inflating expenditure.

I am not going to dwell too much on this, Sir. Again this is more appropriate to another speech, but we are considering the Estimates. The Prime Minister tells us, as far as I can understand, that, although we can move reductions in particular Heads, the Government will not tolerate them because their very clever Estimates Committee....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would avoid falling into the cardinal error, which he has just committed, he should attend the House early and not have third-hand reports of what I have said. He is very fond of misquoting me.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I was in here and I heard the Prime Minister say that we can move a reduction; it is open to any member to move a reduction, but we cannot expect, after these Estimates have been gone over carefully, that the Government will necessarily accept the reduction.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, the hon. member is now a little more accurate. He said "would not necessarily", but he did not say that the first time. He said that we were not going to entertain any change in the Estimates as they stand. I always listen to him very carefully, Mr. Speaker, although he is often deceived because I appear to be doing something else. I have trained myself to listen to him very carefully even when I am sleeping. Even when I am sleeping I have both eyes open when he is on his feet.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad the Prime Minister finds it necessary to pay such careful attention to my speeches. I must say that the last person I heard repeating the sentence he has just repeated was a former Prime Minister and a former Leader of the Opposition. He used to tell me that every week. It seems that when you reach a certain position in Government, you find it necessary to listen to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas; but that is only by the way. My actual recollection of what the Prime Minister said was that he was not going to entertain it. "Necessary" may be what I have just said to compromise the situation. That is my actual recollection, and I think it might be borne out by the Shorthand Reporter when it is published; but the point is this: how can he possibly tell us that there is serious estimation when he knows that for every year that the Opposition moved to reduce the Capital Estimates, the Opposition's estimate would end up by being more accurate than Government's; that for every year we went through the Capital Estimates and said they can't build that, they can't do that, they do not intend to do that, that is only for deceit to fool the people in Saint so-and-so, reduce, we would end up with a better estimate than the Government.

Mr. Speaker, let the Prime Minister deny that every year the Estimates are far under what they are, and whatever the form of words the Prime Minister used to indicate he would reject any reductions in the Heads, what he meant was that the Government intends to stand by this. If the Prime Minister said that by convention the Opposition moves a reduction in order to demonstrate a lack of confidence in the administration of the Department concerned, and that therefore the Government could not entertain any reductions because this is a traditional vote of no confidence in a Department, he would have me over there with him; but he knows it is the right of any hon. member to move a reduction, but despite his nearly twenty years now in Parliament bar a break when he lost his seat, he still does not understand that a reduction is moved not necessarily to reduce a vote, but as a reflection on the administration of the Department concerned.

Well, Sir, I do not know if any hon. members of the Opposition will be moving reductions in any of the departmental Estimates. I imagine when we reach Head 109 we will have something to say. I hope that will not be too long delayed, because like members of the Government, I like the Estimates to be over early. I like them to start late and be over early, and I like the thought of the Estimates starting at 12 o'clock so that all hon. members can give their attention. Never let it be forgotten, and I wish the Leader of the House was here to hear this, that sometimes where only one or two hon. members are here on the Opposition benches, they may find it necessary even if it is not their subject, to hold the fort for those whose subject it is until those whose subject it is arrive, and if you make it impossible for the full House to debate the Estimates, you may make it more likely that one or two sportsmen, unaware of what the sportsmen on that subject may have to say, may spend the extra time you think you have available talking to allow a particular person to get to the House. Consider it as a matter of commonsense. I do not want to have to put too great a burden on certain hon. members on this side who are able to get here earlier than other hon. members whose mode of earning their livelihoods demands their attendance in other quarters during the early morning hours.

I am sure that you do not welcome attendance at the Honourable the House of Assembly at 10 o'clock in the morning when the Deputy Speaker is in London.

Sir, the Opposition is not going to vote against the Appropriation Bill, but subject to those general remarks we intend to support it, but to parade on the individual items in Committee, especially when we get to the Capital Estimates, because this electioneering estimation must stop. I have every confidence that this will be the last year in which we are going to get it developed to such an appalling degree, but we will want to make our feelings felt by all hon. members in this particular aspect of this year's Estimates.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I just rise to say very briefly that the main stricture which has been levelled against the Government by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is that the Capital Estimates are inflated; he does not have any quarrel with the current account. He also goes on to insinuate that this is done for electioneering purposes. I should like to make the position clear. We go to the public of Barbados with a programme; we do not go as Government officers who are going to draw their salaries until they reach the age of 55 or 60 regardless of what happens or who is in Government. We go to the public with a programme, and therefore having taken a serious programme which is capable of implementation, we normally expect to get that programme carried out, and therefore we frame out in our development programme all the things that we have projected in the programme which we put before the Chamber, and a few more that we have considered necessary from time to time. It is not for a Government to say that the Public Works will not be able to do something this year and therefore we cannot put it in the programme.

There has been much underspending in the capital vote from year to year, and it is due mainly to two factors: (1) a shortage of personnel at the professional level and (2) a shortage of personnel at the subprofessional level. The reason for (1) is competition for trained personnel and academically qualified personnel by other countries and private institutions; and (2) it is a shortage being experienced all over the world in the sub-professional grades. Furthermore we cannot get the Public Service Commission to act as quickly as a person in private enterprise in recruiting people. For instance I am not criticising the Public Service Commission as such, but what I am saying is that it is less practical in Government to move the right person into the right place because of the procedures that we have to go through. When a private employer wants an engineer or architect to work for him, he either rings up someone or advertises for a person with the necessary qualifications, and when that person arrives, or a group of them may come in to be interviewed for a particular job, what happens is that if the employer discovers that he cannot get an engineer or an architect to work for the salary that he advertised at, all he has to do then is to say that he will give him a house, a motor car, two maids, a gardener, an ox and a donkey and whatever you want because he wants this job done, and he then will increase his salary and give him all the perquisites, and within a day or two he has a qualified person to do the job. In the Public Service in the Ministry of Communications and Works, it is largely responsible for carrying out the items which are voted by this House under the Capital Estimates, we cannot follow that procedure because the salaries are laid down by Civil Establishment Orders, and then the Public Service Commission has to go through the laborious process of recruiting personnel and interviewing them. Sometimes people write in and say they are interested in an appointment in the Barbados Public Service and there is no vacancy for that particular job, and the day after the Public Service writes the letter saying that there is no vacancy, a vacancy may occur. So the result is that we may be short of seven engineers in the Public Works Department, that is, the Ministry of Works.

Now the hon. member is making two suggestions: either that we are inflating the Estimates for political reasons which I have just discounted as pure unadulterated nonsense, because everything that is in the Estimates has been more or less voted upon in the Development Programme which is laid before this House, and which is even now coming to its close, and there is a carry-over from one year to another in the construction of schools, roads and so on, and we cut off dead on 31st March and say we are not revoting money,

3.45 p.m.

but I want to make it clear that this is the programme we wish carried out, it is in our interest to have it carried out but it cannot always be carried out. We cannot be prophets of doom at this stage and say there is no point in putting what we promised the people we would do in respect of water services or electrification and so on, because public works does not have the personnel, we have to do it and try to get action on these matters, so it is not a question of inflating Estimates at all. The only other thing that the member who has just sat down would want me to do is to spend the money regardless even if we throw it in the careenage, so that we can come back and say that all the money we voted has been spent. If we turn loose the amount of money we have in the Capital Estimates in two large quantities for the Ministry of Communications and Works, I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this money will not be spent on the projects for which the House of Assembly ordained that it should be spent. No Government in this world can control the level of output of departments like a works department, and the output that they can cope with is conditioned by the number of professional and subprofessional staff that they can manage to recruit from time to time.

I want to make it clear that the Capital Estimates contain substantially what this House has already approved three years ago in the development programme which is now in its final year, and secondly that we cannot set out a programme which is short of our expectations or which does not contain the measures that we told the electorate we would have enacted and implemented on their behalf. There is not a question of inflating any Capital Estimates, the only headache, Mr. Speaker, is my headache on how to raise the money to carry out this programme provided that the works department finds itself in a position to carry out the programme, and we have done everything we possibly can to bring the work force and the professional staff of the Ministry of Communications and Works up to full strength, and sometimes we have a temporary amelieration in the situation that six months after we recruit an architect or engineer he is taken away by a private firm and given two or three times the salary, or by the Government of the Bahamas, so that is the situation, and I do not see how it can be a criticism of the Government, the fact that we have projected to spend in this financial year $31 million on capital account. We may end up by not spending that amount at all, but it would not be for the lack of trying, and at the same time I would like to assure the House that I am not going to let this money be released until I am satisfied that it is going to be well spent. Does the hon. member want that or does he want us to let loose all the money to them without any supervision of the workmen and so on, so that we will be paying four or five times as much to have a project completed whether it be building a school, a reservoir or improving the airport, we will merely be spending four or five times what it should cost just to pay lip service to a theory that whatever you vote in the Estimates should be spent as quickly and recklessly as possible.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for 1971-72.

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

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

HEAD 1 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head 1 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $42,695 under Head 1 - Governor-General stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 5 there is the sum of $26,314 for the payment of unestablished staff, and the note reads that His Excellency the Governor-General pays into the general revenue a fixed annual contribution of $2,000 towards the wages of Government House staff. If in the light of the change of things, increase in staff etc., etc., and considering all the other services available to the Governor-General, could the amount still remain fixed at $2,000 annually? Is it not time for a review of this amount? Mr. Chairman, in 1969-70 there were 13 members of this unestablished staff; in 1970-71 there were 14, and for 1971-72 it is estimated at 14, so why should the amount remain fixed at $2,000? It is time for a review of this and I would certainly like to hear what the Hon. Minister has to say about it.

There is one other point pertaining to unestablished staff, and we are going to enquire throughout the Estimates as to the length of time people who are categorised as unestablished staff have been serving in the various departments, because we remember that the Minister of Health last year told us he had made provision for having quite a number at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who had been unestablished for a number of years put on the established staff, and we wonder if there can be any reason why the opportunity was not taken for a general run through to see why in this department these people who have been serving for a number of years should not have been on the established staff.

3.55 p.m.

On the last occasion the Governor-General received an increase in the same way as anybody else and, as a consequence, his contribution should be greater.

Mr. Chairman, one other point that comes to my mind is that the number of Unestablished Staff is now 14. In 1970-71 the expenditure amounted to $26,320, and it shows that there has been a decrease of $6. That is for staff wages, Sir. What could be the cause of all of this? Mr. Chairman, there is an amount of $3,256 wanted under Item 6 to meet the cost of stationery, incidentals, and general office expenses. In 1970-71 it was an amount of $2,150. Last year the Note referred to Items 6, 7, 8 and 13, but for some reason they have now put all of this under Item 6. The amount asked for is $3,256. In any case, it constitutes an increase and we want to know about it. *(Asides)* This turning off and turning on of the air conditioner is what is making people sick, Sir. I understand that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has stiff neck.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are still dealing with Head 1.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, one must take into consideration the fact that the Governor-General is provided with lighting, heat and fuel at a cost of $3,950 per annum. It means that, as at Note 7, when we see that the amount asked for is to include the cost of operating lift and pump and includes water rates and other charges, it is not too much for us to ask what are these other charges. The Note should contain sufficient information to explain away any question of doubt.

Now, the Governor-General, Mr. Chairman, finds himself enjoying a position in this community which is not, I should say, handed down even to our old pensioners. At Item 11 it is noted that we passed an Act in the legislature - Act 1966-14 - for an allowance in the sum $1,200 in lieu of refund of duties on articles purchased locally by the Governor-General.
4.05 p.m.

What we are concerning ourselves with is that it is too much when compared with the suffering that we know exists amongst the poor people of this country. We do not want at this stage to question its usefulness and the purpose which it is really serving, but if a refund is to be given on items purchased locally by the Governor-General, there are other people in this community, and I refer specifically to Government pensioners, old age pensioners and those old people who have served this country well for many years and are now perhaps their last days, for whom I would like to see some such system introduced, even if it were a case where consumers were called upon to pay a consumption tax by direct purchase, and every person over the age of 65 or in the case of old age pensioners who are 68 could be relieved of having to pay such a consumption tax. The Governor-General is enjoying all this, and we would like to see it passed on to the poor.

Now at Item 13 - National Insurance Contributions, this brings me back to the point where the sum of $2,195 must be provided for the purchase of national insurance stamps for Government House staff. We should like to know if the staff includes the unestablished staff of 14 for whom $2,195 in insurance stamps will be purchased, because if that is the case, it makes out a stronger case why the Governor-General ought to be called upon to pay a greater sum than $2,000 towards the wages of this Government House staff, and here as at Item 5, note 5, the fourteen unestablished staff are referred to as Government House staff. It could hardly be separated now at Item 13 unless there was some special reason for it. I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has to say on this.

Under Item 14 we are going to have under furniture and fittings $1,300 for the purchase of a refrigerator, typewriter and carpet-cleaning machine. Really and truly the Leader of the House would agree with me that it is not fair merely to have a note reading "purchase of refrigerator, typewriter and carpet-cleaning machine." Our questions must be, are these replacements, is it a case where you never had a refrigerator before, or are you adding another refrigerator to the ones you already have in service? Is it a case where your typewriter is bad and has been condemned by a Board of Survey and you are now asking for a replacement? All this could easily have been explained in the note to avoid us having to ask these questions. With respect to the carpet-cleaning machine, is it a case where they never had one at Government House before, and if so, what has gone wrong with it? Has somebody carried it away or is it broken down beyond repair? Has it been condemned and are you now seeking a replacement ? I would like to hear what explanations, if any, the Minister has to offer on those points which I have raised.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a general point which I am sure must not have escaped the hon. member. In the total appropriation for this Head in these Estimates, there is a net decrease of $11,736. This means that in spite of the fact that there have been increases, on items, equally there have been decreases in others; so on the whole Head of Governor-General we are spending $11,736 less this year than was appropriated last year. There is a net decrease and not a net increase.

In respect of the first question he asked, I think the hon. member would remember that last year as a result of the salaries revision we increased this sum which was appropriated in respect of Item 5. The hon. member will remember that before that the contribution which the Governor-General paid to the general revenue as part of his contribution to the wages of the staff was $1,500, and it was raised last year to $2,000 as a result of the salaries revision. It is a fixed percentage, and when we get to the other Head which deals with the appropriation in respect of wages for the staff at Culloden Farm, the hon. member will see also that last year, I believe, that was raised from $400 to $600.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I want to draw to the Hon. Minister's attention that he employed 13 staff previously, and last year he employed 14.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Would that itself make a difference to the percentage? Anyhow the next point is this: the hon. member queried the contribution to national insurance for which $2,195 is appropriated. It is the same amount as last year and the note of course says "to purchase national insurance stamps for Government House staff."
4.15 p.m.

The hon. member knows that the Government is committed to paying its own share as an employer to the National Insurance Board for the workers it employs, and people employed at Government House are people paid ost of the public treasury, so there naturally has to be an appropriation as the Government's contribution to National Insurance for the staff which works at Government House as for the staff which works in any other department. Unless I miss the point of the hon. member's question, I do not see what was wrong there.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the point that I am making is, I understand the Minister to say that the amount we are now appropriating for the buying of National Insurance Stamps is the same amount this year as it was last year, and if you have increased the staff and salaries, why is this so? In the case of Government House, we find that the situation with regard to the employer as in the case of Government, but we also have a situation whereas in the case of Government House the Governor-General has to make a contribution towards payment of salary, so however one may look at it he is somewhat even remotely an employer in some measure if it is in respect of one per cent or whatever percentage he makes a contribution towards the salary which pays these people, and you cannot dismiss that from your argument.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In respect now of the question asked about Item 14 I have been advised that the refrigerator and the carpet cleaning machine are new items and that the typewriter is a replacement.

Mr. HINDS: What has happened that you have got to ask for a new refrigerator for Government House? Because it is Government House, we are not prepared to take up the taxpayers' money and provide a new refrigerator, is it a case where they never had a new refrigerator before?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The refrigerator and the typewriter are replacements. (Mr. HINDS: This is a different story now.) Even the hon. member does not always hear when he is told everything.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House just said that the refrigerator and the carpet cleaning machine were new items and that the typewriter was a replacement. If he is now varying that, let us hear what he is saying. I am quite different from the Prime Minister, the day I have to wear hearing aids I am going to wear them in here, wear them in Washington and wear them anywhere at all. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have never worn hearing aids in my life.) Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister wore hearing aids when he went to the White House to meet President Johnson.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not under Head 1.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have pictures of the Prime Minister wearing hearing aids; I will produce them in this Hon. House if the Prime Minister wants me to do that. His best friend sent me those pictures.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take a seat?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will bet the hon. member $2,000 I have never wore hearing aids in Washington or anywhere else, that is what he printed in his newspaper. If he will give the Speaker a cheque and certify it at the Bank, I will certify mine but I will check first to see that I have enough money, then I will prove to him that I never wore hearing aids at all at any time in my life, not even to try them out.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am suggesting that the Prime Minister should bring a case against the newspaper, but if he is going to bet $2,000 I will take him on with the $2,000 but he will have to bring a case against the newspaper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All that is not under Head 1.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. junior member for St. Peter is breaking new ground this afternoon, he is detaining the House even before the House has started its work. Anyhow, the refrigerator and the typewriter are replacements; it is the carpet cleaning machine which is new, and I apologise to the House for misleading it.

Mr. HINDS: We take it then, Mr. Chairman, that the refrigerator and the typewriter have been duly condemned by a Board of Survey and that they will be offered for sale at the appropriate time. This is the taxpayers' money we are looking after, Mr. Chairman.

The Leader of the House has been very careful to avoid replying to the question of the drawbacks and seeing, if humanly possible that Government pensioners and those people who are 68 years old and over should be made in some form or fashion to enjoy benefits similar to those that now accrue to the Governor-General. What means can Government devise to let these poor people share in this? Here is a case where one man, the Governor-General is benefitting, it means $1,200 to one individual, what could it mean in respect of the lives of these numerous people?
4.25 p.m.

It might be 3¢, 4¢, or 5¢ at a time but, nevertheless, it might mean something. I should like to hear what the Minister has to say on this. With regard to the Unestablished Staff, I want to know how long these people have been on the Unestablished List. Why are these people still on the Unestablished Staff?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Sir, if those people are on the Unestablished Staff, it does not rob them of their pension rights, or any of the things that they are entitled to as employees of Government. It is not a question of acting or temporary staff. Unestablished Staff is a category of Government employee, but such persons are covered by the appropriate Pensions Act and their rights are guaranteed.

The question that the sum of $42,695 under Head 1 – Governor-General – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 2 - SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 2 – Services Commission – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $721,433 under Head 2 - Services Commissions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to make a few comments under this Head. I know that the Government is not responsible for the Public Service Commission and its operations and only for its appointments periodically, but Parliament is responsible for voting money for the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Commission is accountable to Parliament. I know of at least two cases where people have been suspended from their jobs for at least two years and to this day, despite repeated attempts to have a final decision reached upon matters, no indication as to when it will arise has taken place.

Sir, this is the public's money that we are playing with, and we must voice our objection to this method of dealing with personnel relations. The Public Service Commission are responsible to Parliament I am not blaming the Government. I am saying as a Parliamentarian that, when dealing with people who have to look after votes and the payment of acting allowances and so on, the Public Service Commission must understand that they must work faster and deal with matters in the light of the speed one expects in 1970 and not continue as in the 1920s.

It is a shocking state of affairs that any tribunal responsible for dismissal or appointment can have people for two years who are just sitting down without knowing their fate. There is an officer in the Ministry of the hon. junior member for Christ Church by the name of Inspector Welch. For over two years Inspector Welch has been suspended. *(Asides)* Of course he has been paid three-quarters of his salary, but any human being will get fed up of this situation. There are also other cases of officers who have been suspended for a long period.

I would move that this Head be postponed until we can get information from the Permanent Secretary concerned with a view to finding out how many officers have been suspended and for how many years they have been suspended. I would move a reduction of this Head in protest of what I would regard as the cumbersome and inefficient manner in which the Public Service Commission operate. Nobody can tell me that if you are in charge of personnel relations in a country and you have the power to appoint, dismiss or suspend people that you should take two years to deal with a matter. What kind of procedure would you be adopting? I feel that it is inefficiency.

If the Chairman of the Public Service Commission does not have enough guts to do his job, then let us get a new Chairman; if the machinery is too cumbersome, then get new machinery, but it is shocking that for two years these things should go on. It is no wonder that some people regard the Public Service with contempt when the Public Service Commission are operating in this manner. It is a very serious matter, and it is prejudicial to the smooth operation of the Service. The Public Service Commission are definitely accountable to us, because there is nobody above the law and above Parliament. I should like to hear from the Minister on this matter. I am not casting any blame on the Government. The only thing the Government did, was to appoint the wrong people. I do not care who is on the Commission. *(Asides)* Carter is a D.L.P. yard fowl and everybody knows that.

The whole point is that the Public Service Commission should have a full-time Executive Chairman who would go to work at 9 a.m. and leave work at 4.30 p.m. every day. You need a person with executive powers who could devote his full-time attention to matters. Your instruments of delegation should be changed so that certain matters may be dealt with immediately and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission should have the power to schedule what are priorities and what are not. If I were the Chairman of that body, you would have to give me the powers.

I am putting the entire blame on the Public Service Commission, and I hope that they will hear what I have said about them. I am saying that the public is dissatisfied with the manner in which they are carrying on their function and it is time that changes be made. Unless the Civil Service is efficient the Government will not be efficient. If the machinery is inefficient, you will have an inefficient Service. It has reached the point where people are fed up and dissatisfied with things.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, the hon. member is remonstrating over the fact that certain public servants have been suspended for two years. I do not know where the hon. member has been living, because we had an employee in the Public Works Department who was suspended on full pay for 7 years; he was working somewhere else in the meantime, and then he demanded reinstatement for all his years of service for working somewhere else. I have no control over that.

Sir, some hon. members over there are so proud of their contribution to the Constitution that we devised in London and which was amended along lines that they put up - you cannot give the Government too much control of this; do not let the Government do this and that - *(Asides)* How are you going to get efficiency in the Public service in Barbados when I can walk into my office morning after morning, see new faces, and when I enquire about the matter I am told that for the past 5 days the people were working there. At one time it took place for 7 weeks before I found out that an officer was working permanently in my office. The Public Service Commission do not consult me when they transfer officers. They move somebody from my office and send him to New York; they send somebody else to Washington and so on. I have no control over that, but that is what the Opposition wanted. The Opposition did not want the Government to have any say over the Public Service. I am telling you that up to the day before yesterday somebody was transferred and I was told about it after. I do not want to call names. I think it was last Sunday that somebody went to New York. *(Asides)* I heard of it by accident at the Aiprort.

4.35 p.m.

I only heard because I was at the Airport. *(Asides)* I was at the Airport and somebody said "hey, she didn't use to work in Communications and Works as Secretary to the Minister?" I asked who and the lady was pointed out. She was transferred to New York. I have no control over that at all. The only thing they want to consult me on is the appointment of Ambassadors, but I am telling you now that people are moved out of my office daily practically, and when I spoke to the Personnel Officer .... (Mr. HINDS: Do you go to your office?) I hardly leave it. (Mr. HINDS: Do you mean you do not live anywhere?) What I am trying to tell the hon. member is that at one time there were 440 vacancies in the Public Service. You will remember that after the Puisinelli Report I informed members of the House that I did not see how people were educating their children at private schools and the Government was educating some for nothing at public secondary schools totally subsidised by the Treasury, and the majority of the students were leaving school with one and two certificates instead of the four or five required by the Public Service, and I said that I did not see how it needed certificates in physics, mathematics and English Literature to sell stamps in the Post Office; so we have instituted a policy now where you can enter the Public Service with one certificate and get all your increments up to the maximum, but you cannot move into the Administrative or Executive grades unless you apply yourself .....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Hon. Leader of the House denied that you could enter the Service with one certificate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He does not deal with these matters; I deal with them.

Mr. HINDS: He denied it in a question asked by me.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But I told the House over two years ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. HINDS: You know one thing but you now pass it on to him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, the hon. member must forgive me. When he states something, my first instinct must be to deny it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not see anything to be ashamed of. I told the House that I did not make any kind of sense to me that we had 440 vacancies. Either we did not need those people at all .. *(Asides)* We are up to full strength in the Hospital because we have drastically revised the nursing service and the training of nurses, and the programme is now up to scratch, and furthermore we are employing supernumerary nurses whom we did not even have jobs for because a lot of qualified people have come back. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will hon. members please observe Standing Order No. 29(6). While a member is speaking all other members shall be silent or shall confer in undertones only.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Hon. Minister has just told me that there were 36 young women and maybe a few young men as well because he had them trained in England too, who are qualified and for which there were no vacancies at all. We were up to full strength fifteen months ago and we have had to create supernumerary posts for them. I am not discussing the Hospital because I am satisfied from all I have been told by the Matron and by the Minister that we are up to full strength. What I am saying is that Mr. Puisinelli pointed out the deficiencies in the Public Service, and whatever the member may have said about not being acquainted with what goes on, as I said, I myself do not know everything that goes on in the Public Service, we have admitted people with one certificate, and I think that ought to be our sustained policy. A lot of these people are presentable, can handle themselves, speak to the public, sell them stamps and even do clerical work of a certain nature, and I think that our requirements of four or five certificates are much too high. The persons entering the Public Service today with four

certificates at Ordinary Level and two at "A" Level are probably starting close on $200 a month because they are now getting credit for the certificates; but what we do have is a kind of efficiency bar that if you want to graduate into the administrative and executive branches of the Service, you have to demonstrate that you have been industrious by passing a few more examinations or passing the qualifying examinations. That is a little off the point that the hon. senior member for Christ Church made.

I cannot join in any outright condemnation of the Public Service Commission because their appointment was recommended by me in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is not so.) How do you mean it is not so? You have just come in here and want to tell us what the law is about here. Lend him a copy of the Constitution. The first thing a politician ought to do is to acquaint himself with the Constitution of Barbados and all the Laws and Standing Orders. When you come in here and make a statement like that, you are not taking your job seriously.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is .....

Mr. HINDS: I have not finished my contribution on this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There may be a case for appointing a full-time Chairman, but when it was put to me the suggestion did not come from a quarter from which I had the utmost reliance, and it appeared to me that the person who put up the suggestion was looking for a job in his old age, and I had to view it in the same way that the hon. junior member for St. Lucy views the statements made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. It came from the wrong quarter, but I am prepared to examine this with the Leader of the Opposition and let us have a discussion on it with the Personnel Officer and with the Attorney General. I am not happy about the situation, but what can I do? If they can change people from underneath my nose without even having the courtesy of introducing me to the people in the office and saying that this is your new typist or new clerk, I am not surprised that they suspend anybody for two years. We had a case of a man suspended for seven years who is drawing full pay from the Government and working in a job, and he has got credited with those seven years for the purpose of computing his pension. That is a case that happened in St. Andrew just before they were building the East Coast Road. The statute of limitation would apply.

Mr. St. JOHN: Seriously I really think that it appears to be pretty unanimous that everybody is dissatisfied with this functioning, but what I want to get across to these gentlemen who are responsible for this thing is not to let them get the idea that they are not responsible to anybody, because they are responsible to Parliament and every year when the Service Commission votes comes up, we are going to deal with this matter because modern personnel practices are definitely against this tendency of keeping people in the limbo for such a long period of time, because somebody must be acting in the job which this person is supposed to be doing. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Unestablished staff.) Is a Public Health Officer on the unestablished staff? (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The case I referred to.) But that can be cured because the Public Service Commission can delegate powers in relation to these appointments of unestablished staff. I know there are general orders in the Service right now, but it seems definitely to be a case which calls for more attention being paid by the appointees of the Public Service Commission to the day to day problems.

4.45 p.m.

You do not abolish a church because you do not like the Minister, you would not abolish the whole Anglican faith because you do not like the Bishop, you do not do that, what you do is to remove the offending sore. We had to argue this in the interest of the Service itself because the Hon. Minister bragged and boasted in the House that school meals appointments were under his sole discretion and control, and a little later on he will account for that too. The political patronage that has been introduced by you all is so rampant in Barbados that we needed a little check and brake. If we allowed you to appoint them lock, stock and barrel, everybody in Barbados would have to have a Party ticket before they could get in, and there would be some people who could make a useful contribution to the service, but they do not want to sell their souls on hypocrisy, because do not fool yourselves, many of your Party ticket holders are also ours. Everybody would not do that, but the basic point is that I want it communicated to the Service Commissions that Parliament as a whole, both Government and Opposition, agree on one thing and that is that this must stop.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman is the hon. member suggesting that I should call for the keys for Flodden like brother Bruce did in Baxters Road? That is the way it sounds, that we should call back for the keys and send the whole lot of them home, but who would appoint the Public Officers? It might be a good idea to have a joint committee of both sides of the House so that Civil Servants would realise they have to carry out Government business, but there would have to be certain guarantees and understandings.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is the question of overseas recruitment. It is within my knowledge that Mr. Hammond, a former Headmaster of Harrison College, is at present what me might call a recruiting officer or a recruiting agent in the United Kingdom for our Public Service Commission here, recruiting staff for Harrison College and other like institutions, but what I am concerning myself with is this; this is something I would like to hear the Minister express his views on. Mr. Hammond is being paid at the rate of one guinea per minute for interviewing these applicants, and if an interview lasts for fifteen minutes Mr. Hammond gets fifteen guineas. My argument is this, Mr. Hammond was last in Barbados and knew something about the

people of Barbados somewhere like 1965; he is now completely out of touch with the hopes and aspirations of the people of Barbados. What Mr. Hammond has been doing since then is recruiting officers to come to Barbados and giving them all sorts of fantastic ideas. He has been recruiting staff and making them believe that they can easily get their children into Government institutions here, he has been making them to believe that they can rent houses at much cheaper rates that are really available to them, and after the people come down here and find out that conditions are not what Mr. Hammond made them to believe in England, they become frustrated and the children whom they have come to teach suffer as a result.

We want the Minister to look into this; is it right? Is Mr. Hammond a fit and proper person to be receiving that kind of money? This is something that needs some sort of an investigation; after all Mr. Chairman, this is the taxpayers' money and what we are concerning ourselves with is this, when an officer is recruited and he comes down here to find that conditions are not what Mr. Hammond caused him to believe they would have been, that is a different story altogether. Nevertheless, one guinea per minute has been Mr. Hammond's pay, and I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has got to say on this.

At Item 14 you have an amount of $900 for overtime, and the note reads: "Payment of overtime for extra work involved in connection with additional posts in the Public Service". What are these additional posts? It must really be when they suspend people and do not pay them. What is the extra work involved in all this that you can tell us now you are going to spend $900, and this, Mr. Chairman, is based on the fact that you did not have any last year. What has brought it all about? Surely the Minister would be in a position to explain all of this.

There is this Item 14A, a house allowance of $1,440 payable to the Chief Personnel Officer. Upon what is this based? If the Officer is a Permanent Secretary the note should have conveyed this to hon. members, and should also give us the authority for it. It is when we get a reply from the Minister we are going to give him what we know on this. This is rather subtle way of introducing a matter of this sort.

4.55 p.m.

The Note does not have any such information. *(Asides)* For your part the Opposition should not have any notes. *(Asides)* In that case it would have become statutory expenditure. The Notes should have explained what hon. members are now trying to say. Nobody can get away from that.

With regard to Item 16 - Payment of Passages the sum of $65,000 is asked for to provide for payment of incoming and return passages of officers recruited from overseas and baggage and incidental expenses incurred while travelling. We are satisfied that there have been instances where officers recruited from overseas have not been treated as fairly as the Note here would have us to believe. There have been a certain amount of shuttling from office to office with various officers trying to pass the buck from one to another thereby leaving the newly recruited officer suffering. In the long run he becomes disgusted when he finds that there is no redress for insurance and so on. One has to wonder whether it is not a case where Government is not insisting on proper insurance coverages being entered upon by all of these people who are being recruited overseas to cover their baggage and so on.

Mr. Chairman, things are very difficult where the interpretation of these insurance clauses is concerned. One problem that will arise in the case of many of these officers is the coverage against total loss in a case where an insurance company has accepted that baggage did not reach its destination. Time and time again we have been satisfied that the Service Commission did not render to these newly recruited officers sufficient attention to help them to settle in on arriving in this Island. They were given an impression which will take, perhaps, many months to be removed and it is not something that we would like to see happen in the future. We are counselling the Government to prepare the officers in the Service Commission to be a little more understanding with the problems involved with some of these officers who come to this Island for the first time.

Sir, we appreciate the fact that having been badly tutored by Mr. Hammond at the other end, can cause them to come here expecting too much; so one has to act in a manner which will counteract what has been put to the officers in the first instance. We should appreciate it if something is done to even out things to the mutual advantage of the institutions that these officers come here to serve, because the taxpayers, in the long run, will have to pay for it.

Mr. Chairman, when members of the Public Service Commission interview people locally, are they paid for it? Is it customary for the Commission to appoint a Recruiting Officer depending on the office to be filled? In such a case we feel that the Recruiting Officer should be paid, but if members of the Commission carry out an interview, are they paid for it?

With regard to the Police Service Commission, exactly what is this body doing? There is nothing to which any member of the Force can point. One had thought that the personnel of the Police Service Commission had been chosen with such meticulous care that there would be little difficulty in their faltering when it came to the question of bringing expertise to bear on their tasks, but I am saying that the entire Police Force is disappointed with the Commission. It might be a case where some of the members of the Police Service Commission are too tired, having retired for so long. They do not have anything to contribute at this stage, and the Police are fed up with them. It is time for a

review of their appointments, and we should endeavour to get people to bring to bear on such a task the type of mentality that is in keeping with the aspirations of a comparitively young Police Force.
5.05 p.m.

It is not an easy thing to ask these old broken down men for the most part to sit at the Head of an organisation to preside over the affairs of an up and coming body. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What are you dealing with?) I am dealing with Item 21 for the benefit of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, because I have often told him that he is a headmaster, but he does not always possess a master head.

Now, Sir, we would like to see a happier force, and much depends on what these members of the Commission can do in helping to build this up.

Under Item 22 - Overseas Service Aid Scheme - we are asked to vote $77,800, and the note tells us that it is partly recoverable from the British Government. Here again the work of the Public Service Commission, Police Service Commission, Judicial and Legal Service Commission and all the Commissions must be brought into play when it comes to the selection of personnel to benefit from these schemes. A lot of friction has been generated because of wrong decisions having been made. It is a case where people who know themselves to be entitled for consideration and who have worked hard and put their all into it are overlooked, and no satisfactory explanation is offered when pitchforking takes place. This, to my mind, makes for general dissatisfaction amongst the various bodies that are served by these Commissions, and the sooner we can get about to having a re-examination of them as a whole, the better it may be for us all.

Under Item 28 - there is a request for $2,976 to meet the cost of a copying machine. I would like to know what is the cost of that copying machine and the type of machine that is going to be installed. Is it a Xerox type? With regard to the air-conditioning unit, what is it going to cost? I should like to know too about the Cabinet, chairs, desks and fans. I wonder for whom is the air-conditioning unit going to be acquired. These things could be hardly for the same office because if you are going to have an air-conditioning unit, you would hardly need fans for the same office. If you are going to have desks, undoubtedly you must have chairs. I would certainly like to hear from the Minister a breakdown particularly of Item 28 and a reply to those points I have raised under the other items.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member wants a breakdown of Item 28, and he wants to know what type of copying machine and if the air-conditioning will be used for the same room as the fans. Some of the questions which the hon. member asked are, in my opinion, nonsensical because we know what the Service Commissions office is like, and no one would expect you to have a fan in the same room in which you have an air-conditioning unit installed. This would be madness and I do not think that the public service of this country is so bad. There are several different offices at Flodden. The price of the air-conditioning unit is estimated at $885, and the copying machine at $850. We believe that if maximum production is expected from offices in the Public Service, they should be as comfortable as possible, and this is why we support providing air-conditioning units in rooms that are very hot. We also provide fans for rooms that are not as hot, but have a reasonable amount of ventilation although heat is generated especially in close rooms. The hon. member would appreciate that Flodden is an old building with several small rooms, and we want the public offices to be as comfortable as possible especially when we expect production from them. It is not stated in the file here what type of machine it will be, I refer to the copying machine, but if the hon. member would like me to get the type of machine and let him know tomorrow, I will do so. I do not think there is anything further we can answer on this.
5.15 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, however nonsensical some of these questions might be, the point is this. Last year they bought a fan and cabinets, this year they are coming for an air conditioning unit, fans and a cabinet; in other words, they have taken the "s" off the cabinets and put it on to the fan. Is it a case where you have installed or set up more offices in Flodden? Have you employed more officers? What is the cause for all of this? Is this something you did not know last year? What has brought about this condition? What is the situation as regards Mr. Hammond recruiting these people at a guinea a minute? What can the Minister tell us about it? What about his misleading people? We asked what is the extra work involved in connection with additional posts in the Public Service for which you are going to pay $900 for overtime; what is all of this?

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has raised several points on several Heads; let me first dispose of the point raised about Mr. Hammond, and I think the Mr. Hammond to whom he refers is a former Headmaster of Harrison College. I wish to state that Mr. Hammond is not an agent of the Government of Barbados, he is not a servant of the Government of Barbados, he is not a servant or agent of the Public Service Commission. It may well be however that since the Secondary Grammar Schools arrange their own recruitment, that Mr. Hammond acts for them in some capacity in the interviewing and recruitment of certain overseas staff which join these schools from time to time, but if he does so he does so as an agent of the Governing Bodies of these schools and not as an agent or employee or instrument of the Public Service Commission.

Furthermore, it is the view of the Government of Barbados that all the agencies of Government, departments, schools, Ministries or whatever they may be who have to have recruiting done for them overseas should work through the appropriate High Commissions and Embassies wherever these are accredited in overseas countries. That is our view, and if this is done there is no need for persons outside the Embassies' staffs to be mixed up in this kind of business, but I wish to say quite categorically that Mr. Hammond is not an agent of the Government, he is not an agent of the Public Service Commission but may conceivably be acting as an agent of the Governing Bodies of some of the Grammar Schools.

Mr. HINDS: Am I right in understanding that the Minister is saying that some of the Governing Bodies of these schools employ Mr. Hammond, or that he works for them?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said that since the Governing Bodies of these schools do their own recruitment of staff and the Public Service Commission does not do it for them, it is conceivable that they may employ the services of Mr. Hammond or any person they feel like in interviewing people in countries outside Barbados.

Mr. HINDS: From what funds then would Mr. Hammond be paid?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said it is conceivable that he works for them, but if he works for them we do not know whether or not he does, but if he does do anything for them they will have to find the funds for paying him. Nothing is appropriated by Government for any such purpose.

Mr. HINDS: A physics master was recruited by Mr. Hammond, he is one of the last people recruited by Mr. Hammond for Harrison College; the interview lasted 15 minutes and Mr. Hammond had a guinea per minute. Are you sure that none of the money from the Service Commissions vote is going to pay Mr. Hammond?

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: The hon. member knows as well as I do that a physics master at Harrison College will be employed by the Governing Body of Harrison College, will be recruited on the staff by the Governing Body of the school and not by the Public Service Commission; he knows that.

Mr. HINDS: At Item 14, Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister to explain an amount of $900 to pay for overtime work involved in connection with additional posts in the Public Service; we want to know about these additional posts.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is no big thing, this is just overtime for the work of Service Commissions itself. They are even working now, at twenty five minutes past five, as they do quite frequently on several days of the year, therefore overtime is a necessary expenditure under this vote.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it would appear as if the Leader of the House is just prepared to jump to his feet, offer some sort of explanation and just rely on you to put the question. We are asking for an explanation as regards these additional posts; on what rate is this overtime arrived at? How do you know you are going to spend $900? You did not have any last year, what is the rate per hour you are going to pay these people for working overtime?

At Item 16 there is an amount of $65,000 for the payment of passages; which Travel Agent are you spending this money with? We know that B.W.I.A. cannot get one dime out of this at all because everybody in Barbados has been told by the Prime Minister that B.W.I.A. has been overcharging and robbing them, and that so many summonses were to be issued, and certainly the Government should not be patronising B.W.I.A. in all of this. This is $65,000 of the taxpayers' money are you going to spend money with people who are robbing the taxpayers?
5.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is where the amount is being increased by $25,000. How are they spending the money?

ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I should like the Minister to give me some information regarding this matter. Item 16 provides for payment of incoming and return passages of officers recruited from overseas and baggage and incidental expenses incurred while travelling. Now, $65,000 is a lot of money, and I should like to be told how it is being spent. I understand that one of the Travel Agents is favoured in this respect. Can the Minister tell me whether the money is divided among the Travel Agents? I remember that the Prime Minister said that he would prefer to see the Travel Agents get this business because they, in turn, would pay trade and other taxes in this country. I agree with that, but I know that things are not working out as the Prime Minister intended.

With regard to Item 14 - Overtime Allowance - the Note says that the money is provided for the payment of extra work involved in connection with additional posts in the Public Service, and not general clerical work as the Hon. Leader of the House pointed out. Primarily, I would like to hear something about the way in which the money is spent on passages.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If this were a Head, Mr. Chairman, which concerned a Government Department or a Ministry, hon. members would be entitled to ask and we would be pleased to answer any of these detailed questions which would arise in the course of the debate. We are dealing with Head 2 - Service Commissions. They control their own expenditures and their own appropriations. I, therefore, would be unable to give hon. members any of the detailed information which they seek. We do not interfere with that at all. They arrange their own

business; their appropriations are given to them and provided by Parliament, and we on this side of the House do not interfere with their arrangements or their expenditure in any way. I am unable to give the hon. member, as much as I would like to, the information which he is seeking.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is absolute madness. In other words, the Hon. Minister is suggesting that $65,000 can be spent without any Ministry knowing about it. Is he suggesting that $65,000 for passages can go to one Travel Agent in this country? It is absolute nonsense to say that because the money is given to the Service Commissions we cannot ask how it is spent. Is the money being spent on first-class passages?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member suggest to me what Ministry would be responsible for it? The hon. senior member for the City was at the Constitution Conference in London. The Public Service Commissions is a law unto itself. I have no control over.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Ministry of Finance must be responsible for it. If this money is misappropriated, who will be responsible?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Auditor-General will report the matter to the House. *(Asides)* No Minister has any authority to direct the Public Service Commission to whom they should give agency fees or from whom they should buy tickets. We are not concerned with how they spend it, provided they spend it in accordance with the law.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I put it to you that directions are given as to how the money should be spent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are not concerned with how they spend the money so long as they spend it in accordance with the law. May I explain something, Sir. In the Ministry of Finance we are concerned with requisitions to incur expenditure in every financial year. You cannot embark on a project unless you seek aproval in the form of a requisition to incur expenditure. It is not part of our business to tell them that they must give A.B.C. Travel Agency, Mr. Jemmott, DaCosta or anybody else the trade. As long as they spend the money for the purpose for which Parliament voted it, that is all with which we are concerned.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You have said that B.W.I.A. should be prosecuted for charging increased air fares. If they spent the money with B.W.I.A., would they be spending it correctly?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should like to tell the hon. member that Government does not pay the increased fares charged by B.W.I.A.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the Prime Minister going to tell us now, as he has said already, that the Travel Agents pay and then the Government pay the Travel Agents? Is it a case where the Travel Agents pay the higher fare and then bill the Government for the higher fare?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have made a statement that when the increased fares were put on they were not approved by the Air Licensing Authority, and I gave instructions that in no case should a fare higher than the approved fare be paid. It is within my knowledge - I cannot tell you what happened last week or week before last - that we were not paying for passages anything more than the ATLA approved rates.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That is not so; the Service Commissions were paying the increased rates.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Do you want me to bring the documents? I am nothing to do with the Service Commissions. I am saying that in my office and in the Ministries for which we are responsible I have given instructions that the increased fares are illegal. *(Asides)* So far as prosecutions are concerned, that will depend on the general public supplying us with information. (Mr. BOLDEN: "I can give you a ticket now if you want it.") You should take it to the Director of Public Prosecutions. 5.35 p.m.

We issued a statement in the newspaper inviting people to supply the Commissioner of Police or the Director of Public Prosecutions with information by which we could bring cases against them. *(Asides)* It is now a question of allowing..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members not addressing the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know what they are talking about. I am trying to make my position clear. I do not know whether the Public Service Commission was paying higher fares or not. I issued instructions to all Ministries and I further put notices in the paper inviting the general public to supply information to the appropriate authorities so that cases could be brought. The Attorney-General as a Minister of Government has no authority to bring any cases against anybody, far less me. It is the Director of Public Prosecutions. *(Asides)* We are discussing the Public Service Commission. All hon. members on the other side should know the constitutional position. I am not in a position where I can answer the questions, and I do not intend to put myself in that position. I have to suffer at the hands of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the Prime Minister would give way, I wonder if the Hon. Minister would be in a position to say then how they arrived at an increase of $25,000. Does the Public Service Commission just send in a piece of paper saying that they have allocated another $25,000 and you bring it and ask Parliament to vote

for this? Not so long ago I heard the Leader of the House telling this side of the House how $900 would be spent and why they had to spend it. Now in this $65,000 he says there is no Ministry responsible for it. All I want the Minister to say is how they arrived at the additional $25,000 to make the total $65,000. I would be grateful if the Minister can tell us this. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can't.) Then you would have to resign.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member does not know anything about procedures. He would be surprised at the financial procedure which has to be undergone for any spending on any project. He did not even know there was such a thing as the Central Planning Committee existing in which we have thirty-eight members that refused every proposal of the Ministry of Communications and Works to embark upon any project. (Mr. ST. JOHN: That is an obstructionist unit.) It is not an obstructionist unit; it puts the brakes on where the brakes ought to be applied. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members must please observe Standing Order No. 29 (6).

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Every Statutory Board, every Department of Government, every Ministry round about September or October in every year submit their proposals for spending in the next financial year. That Committee is called the Estimates Committee and it goes on sitting every single day five days a week for about two and a half to three months, and that is how these Estimates are prepared. Presiding over the Estimates Committee is usually the Minister of Home Affairs, Senator Greaves, or the Attorney General, Senator Smith, because there must be Ministerial representation, and each department or Statutory Board, as the case may be, justifies the money that it wants to the Estimates Committee. If they say they had to spend so much on passages last year and they are recruiting so many people this year, the Estimates Committee then says that $65,000 should be enough; but no Minister is then responsible after the Estimates are passed whom they give bookings to or anything like that. We have absolutely no control over it, because they are as independent an authority as the A.D.C., I.D.C., the Urban Development Corporation or any other Statutory Board. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: They can pay above the price which you say the Government should pay.) I am not aware they are paying above the price. *(Asides)* I know nothing about it. I can tell you what happens in my office. Do you mean to say when somebody carries away money from the Treasury I must know that too? If somebody holds back vouchers for the St. Vincent and St. Lucia Governments, must I know that too? I would have to be an accomplice or accessory before the fact, and you are accusing us of being accessory before and after the fact of the way in which the Public Service Commission dispenses its patronage, which is nonsense.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, nobody is accusing you of that. You made a statement of what should be the policy of Government, and that statement was that you were not going to pay more than the normal fare. Is that you said? (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The authorised fare.) Now your Estimates Committee comes up before you with $65,000 which is $25,000 more than they wanted the year before. Are you suggesting that presiding over that Committee would be Senator Greaves or the Attorney General representing the Government's policy and they did not make a statement on how they are spending this money?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let me explain to the hon. member. If whoever is representing the Public Service Commission comes before the Estimates Committee and tells the Committee that they are recruiting more people or that for this year for other purposes they need more money for passages because they estimate so and so, normally nobody would question that; but if they come and say they want more money because air fares have gone up, I would find it very difficult to believe that either one of the Ministers whose titles I have referred to would accept that at all from them. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: But they have accepted it. They are paying it.)

I have just been informed that the reason for the increase is not due to increased fares. *(Asides)* You know what happens during the Estimates. We have people here who keep all the files and who advise us. Members ask us questions about day to day details of administration that it would be impossible for Einstein to know, far less anybody like me. The reason for the increase that I have been given is that there is an increasing number of persons being recruited from overseas both Barbadian and non-Barbadians, because the skills are not available locally. The Estimate is based on the number of vacancies which exist at the moment. It is estimated that $65,000 will be spent by the end of 31st March, 1971. This sum includes a supplementary estimate of $25,000. *(Asides)* You are making a statement of fact and want me to say that the increase is due to what you believe it is for, but I am not in a position to do that. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Not what I believe.) I have given you all I know. I am nothing to do with the Public Service Commission. As far as I am concerned, it is a necessary evil.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, in other words, you made a statement of policy, your colleagues presided over the meeting and then they can go contrary to your statement of policy.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But this is not so. I have just read out a note to the effect.....(Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am not questioning the increase.) What are you questioning then? You are saying that the increase is due to increased fares and that we allowed them to give increased fares.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am not questioning the increase for this year over last year; I am questioning the air fares.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Are you dealing with air fare or the Public Service Commission? Would the hon. senior member for Bridgetown explain what he is dealing with?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Item 16 refers to payment of passages.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I understand from the other side.....

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW: I was answering the hon. member. Where does it say that this is due to increased air fares? (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Nobody ever said so.) I understand this is what was said.
5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, please ask the hon member for St. James not to shout when another hon. member is on his feet. (Mr. CRAIG: Oh, Barrow, sit down and stop talking nonsense; whom do you think you are talking to, you nuisance?) I am asking the hon. member to follow the rules of the House or we will be here for three weeks. I am telling the hon. senior member for the City that there is no.....(Hon. N. W. BOXILL: He has no more right in here than anybody else). If the hon. member wants to direct anything, let him join the Transport Board. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I do not know why you do not ask him to sit down or something). I am merely saying that nowhere in the explanatory note or on the floor of this House has anyone offered the explanation that the increase in travelling is due to increased air fares. This is what I understood the hon. member to say, that we allow Ministers to pay out more air fares than in the Government policy, so I do not understand what they are saying at all because we have explained that we had to come for a supplementary of $26,000.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that my side pays rapt attention to what the Leader of the House said; he said no Minister is responsible for this. Am I to understand that if an estimate for $1 million was put in here to send it upto $1,065,000 there would be no question by any Minister so that they would just bring it here and expect us to pass it? The whole problem is that the Government is well aware of the fact that they are now caught napping, they know they have been supporting a certain travel agency in Bridgetown, paying for passages through B.W.I.A., and they are now refusing to answer these questions as to exactly whether they are going through B.W.I.A. or not after telling the public not to pay a higher fare than what was authorised. The Leader of the House is telling me that I am to sit here and vote for $841,218 to hear that there is no Ministry at all responsible for almost $1 million of the taxpayers' money. That is what he said, he said he cannot answer because no Ministry is responsible for this. No Minister is responsible for $841,000 of the taxpayers' money, and we must ask them to have it completely deleted; it is as simple as that. They have given no reason up to this very moment for it; somebody can just walk in here and bring almost $1 million and ask us to vote for it and run away with it.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is a little shocking to hear the man who is responsible for finance in Barbados coming into the House of Assembly and saying that the Ministry of Finance has no responsibility in relation to these matters.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the Ministry of Finance - and I am the Minister and I am in a position to know, I have been doing the job for longer than any other Minister in Barbados - is not concerned with whether Mr. A or Mr. B books a passage for an officer, this is no part of the responsibility of my Ministry. I want to say right here and now that in so far as travelling expenses are concerned, I have issued two directives, the first is that no unauthorised increases in air fares should be paid by the Government. I issued these instructions, whether Service Commissions received them or find themselves bound by them I am not in a position to say, I issued them, I do not act as messenger as I heard the gentleman on the Sanitation Board has to take up cheques to certain people to pay them, that is not the part of a Manager, people should go into the office and collect their money, no Manager has any right leaving any office to oblige Mr. Brown by delivering a cheque to Mr. Brown; similarly it is not the job of a Minister to ring up anybody in any Government Department to say "give so and so a pick today and give so and so a pick tomorrow", but as a question of policy, I issued a directive years ago - and we have had discussions in here about it - that Departments of Government should not give all their patronage to a single Travel Agency, they should not single out DaCosta's or any other agency for their patronage, but there is no law against it. As a matter of fact, you do not have to go to an agency at all, it is not necessary for a Department to go to an agency, but some of them claim that they find it convenient, they get efficient service from some people, and in spite of that we issued instructions that they should spread the work, amongst all the Travel Agencies without any discrimination. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: And are they being carried out?) I am a policeman, I am a policeman for public finance, not for patronage.

They do not understand what Government is about, Ministers lay down policy; unless there is some penal sanction how can you go day after day asking people whom they book passages with? That is not a Minister's job. If the hon. members know that certain Travel Agencies are getting preferences and they want me to say that it is the feeling of the House, as well as my own feeling, that this should be stopped, I would do that tomorrow morning before I come in here and bring a copy to show you,

but I will put in the letter that it is the feeling of the House. The point which I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that nowhere in the explanatory note to these Estimates under Head 2 does it say that passages are being paid in excess of those which have been authorised by the Air Transport Licensing Authority, or that patronage is being given to an expatriate organisation to the dereliction of the Barbadian concerns. If you want me to issue another directive I will issue it tomorrow morning.

Mr. St. JOHN: Yes, I notice the Minister of Finance has backtracked considerably because the procedure is that the Minister of Finance and the Financial Secretary have responsibility in regard to expenditure of funds, and if the Government had a policy in relation to the purchasing of goods and services, the Chief Personnel Officer who is the Accounting Officer under Service Commissions would have to carry it out, if not, he is surcharged; if not, it is a ground for dismissal because you must carry out the policies of the Ministry of Finance in relation to this. Once you come to spending money which is a vote of the Legislature, all Accounting Officers must carry out the financial rules, the Auditor General can bring it to his notice, the Financial Secretary can surcharge, and last of all, if they do not carry them out, they can be dealt with in here. That is what Parliament is for, to see that if the policy as laid down by the Ministry of Finance for that purchasing service, that there should be no special favouritism.

5.55 p.m.

The truth of the matter is very simple. One Travel Agency gets all of the business because it passes on.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is misleading the Committee. I have concrete proof that it is not true that one Travel Agency gets all of the business.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Would the hon. Minister name the Travel Agency with which Government has been doing business and the amount of money spent at that Travel Agency?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to say to the hon. senior member for St. James that some people use the term Government very, very loosely. Like the Health Inspectors when they have to go around and explain the new Regulations to the people, and the people say that doing certain things would cost too much money, the Health Inspectors tell them: "Blame the Government." The Government in that case, of course would be the House of Assembly, the Senate and the Governor-General, because all of us passed the Regulations. Of course, I have discerned, as far as the hon. member is concerned, that his knowledge of the machinery of the Government of Barbados and the Constitutional set up is severely limited and deficient. The Government does not say how to do something; the Government directs that it should be done.

Now, the hon. member on his immediate right can tell him that the test of master and servant depends on not only telling a person what to do, but how to do it. There is no contract of employment or relationship of master and servant between the Government in its right as the Government of Barbados, or the Queen in her right as Government of Barbados, and a Government Officer. I am in a position to know. There is no such relationship existing between a Minister and the members of the Public Service. In the Ministry of Finance we say that Parliament has voted $65,000 for passages; you can only spend that money on passages; we cannot tell you how to spend it or when to spend it, but from time to time in an effort to assist the Public Service in the discharge of their duties in dealing with what has been voted by the Government, we issue administrative directives. There is no penalty that we can impose on a Public Officer, who is an Accounting Officer and uses his discretion and says: "The reason why I did it like this is that I get more efficient service from a certain firm." That may be an excuse, but how are we going to get behind it? All we can do is to issue another directive. I have no knowledge that one Travel Agency gets all the business. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the junior member for St. Thomas addressing the Chair? (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: "Why do you not try and listen to what he is saying; he is only keeping back time! ") I cannot hear the hon. member.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you may recall that I gave way to allow the Prime Minister to rise. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas was about to answer a question I have asked, and I should be grateful if he would continue.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Is this an inquisition?

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member said that he knows for sure.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I said that and I have stopped there. *(Asides)*

Mr. St. JOHN rose --

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for Christ Church is addressing the Chair. Will all other members be silent?

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the understanding on this side is that as a result of the statement made by the Prime Minister about not paying unauthorised fares, a Travel Agency has offered the Spending Department giving them trade, in return for a certain amount of business, fares at the reduced price, but they themselves would pay the full fare that is charged to B.W.I.A. That is the matter in a nutshell, (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: " I have never heard that.")

Mr. Chairman, I do not want anybody in here to get the impression that the Minister of Finance can say that, as far as Government's spending is concerned, the Ministry of Finance cannot give directions as a matter of policy as to how goods should be purchased, either by tender or otherwise or how services are to be obtained.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, all of that is laid down in the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Rules made thereunder in 1964. In other words, no Minister of Government or the Financial Secretary has any right to tell anybody in a Department that he must buy goods from a particular store. Selling plane tickets, as far as I am concerned, is the same as selling salt fish.

Mr. Chairman, the question is that the sum of $721,433 be.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is a question of $900 for overtime. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, are you going to allow the junior member for St. Thomas to get on like this?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, you have already put the question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Item 14 deals with overtime in the sum of $900. I particularly asked for an explanation about this overtime, and we have not heard any explanation to satisfy us about this. This Note is worded to suit fools. *(Pause).*

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

Mr. HINDS: I am waiting for the information.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the overtime is for the staff of the Chief Personnel Officer's Department, and the additional posts are, of course, the posts taken over from the Local Government I believe there are 500 of them.
6.05 p.m.

It is the servicing of these and the recruiting of these posts which from time to time require the staff of the Chief Personnel's Department to work overtime.

Mr. HINDS: Were these posts taken over from the Local Government Commission? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 500.) And recruiting is to go on into the new financial year? Now, Sir, if there are 500 of these people that the Department will have to deal with in the financial year, how is it then that the amount of overtime money comes only to $900? How do you arrive at this overtime figure and on what is it based?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The overtime is not for the 500 people; it is for the typists, or stenographers or whatever they are called who would have to work, say, two evenings extra this month, another two or three evenings next month in connection with the recruiting and servicing of these new posts, otherwise you would probably have to recruit an extra secretary or so on a full-time basis.

Mr. HINDS: Since the Minister has said that there might be a necessity to employ a secretary for some period, would it not have been better if Government had considered creating a post for an officer to deal specifically with these cases? They have all come from the Local Government Service and there has only been one Local Government Service, and there is only one Public Service. If the Minister is now going to tell us about appointing a Secretary, to whom would she be secretary? You should apoint a permanent officer to the post if there is such a post and give him a secretary, or you should set up a Secretariat for dealing with it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of a proper explanation from the Government side on Item 16 and the scandalous approach to the taxpayers of this country, since the Leader of the House can say to Parliament that there is no Ministry responsible for $841,000 of the taxpayers' money, I am going to move as a mark of protest a reduction by $1.00 in this vote so that the amount would then read "$841,217". This is due to the fact that the Leader of the House himself says that there is no Minister responsible for this Head, and therefore I cannot sit here and be party to voting taxpayers' money, not knowing who is responsible for it, because from what I understand from the Hon. Leader of the House, if they had brought in this afternoon with an increase of $1 million under this Head, one would be hearing the same thing.

I beg to move that the amount should now read "$841,217".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think the hon. member will get a seconder because .....

Mr. CRAIG: You are nothing to do with if I get a seconder.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am sure that hon. members understand the Constitution of Barbados a little better than he does. There is no Minister responsible for the Public Service; there is no Minister responsible for the Governor General; there is no Minister responsible for Parliament. All of these will come in these first 13 Heads. The Minister of Finance is responsible to see that public funds are spent in the way specifically ..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members not addressing the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: .....appropriated by Parliament and not otherwise. That is how the old Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions used to be worded, and this has now been incorporated into the Constitution and in the Financial Administration and Audit Act. I have said one thousand times before that once money is voted by Parliament, we have to see that it is spent for the purposes for which Parliament appropriated the grant and not otherwise, but it is not

part of the duty of a Minister of Finance or any other Minister to be a policeman or a pimp snooping around seeing whether this person is going to get a job or they are going to buy clothes from a particular store. That is not our job, and I have tried to make it abundantly clear. In other words, if they exceed the vote they can be called to order for it. If they spend the vote for a purpose other than that for which Parliament appropriated it, then the Auditor General will intervene and the Minister will refuse to sign the requisition to incur expenditure. They have to satisfy us that there is money in the Vote Book.

After we approve the expenditure of money on passages for a particular mission or anything else, it is no part of our duty to say give it to my friend or the friend of the Leader of the Opposition or any other person. From time to time this House and the Other Place express opinions on the way in which public money is spent, not that they spend it at all because we voted it for a particular purpose, but members of the House say from time to time that you should spread around work a little bit, you should buy from more than one place, and that is what I have done. I have said that you should not patronize a single travel agent because the House does not like it and I do not like it, but in the same circular directive I did not say please give Mr. So-and-So and Mr. So-and-So to the exclusion of everybody else. *(Asides)* Do you understand my position? Go and do your homework. (Mr. CRAIG: You are the keeper of the public funds. You said you did not know.) I am not aware that they are giving all the work to one travel agent. I am supposed to be a detective? You do not understand the Constitution and that is the trouble. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew reminded me today that he said in a debate in here that there is no physician under the sun that has ever been born or trained at a medical school that can write out a prescription for ignorance. *(Laughter)*

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am sure the hon. hon. member thinks we are asking him to patronize any particular person or travel agent, but we are not. The Hon. Minister seems to have the mistaken idea that we do not understand the Constitution, but to get up and make a bold statement in this House that no Minister is responsible for this Head is absolute nonsense. If you take up the Head you will see the amounts fixed by law and then the other amounts to be voted.

6.15 p.m.

It goes before, as the Minister has said, the Finance Committee, and when it goes before the Finance Committee which is either presided over by Senator Greaves or the Attorney General, they say it is the policy of the Government. You are asking for $65,000, and you will tell us why you want this amount, but it is the policy of the Government if you are spending this for passages at all that you patronize all Travel Agencies in the Island and not carry it to one. This is all we are saying, and you cannot say that you are not responsible for that, you are responsible for it, and to come in here and tell us that this Head has no Ministry, I must support the motion for a reduction by $1.00. You cannot say it has no Ministry, it must have a Ministry.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that since the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister both said that there is no Minister responsible for the expenditure under this Head, I think it becomes more imperative that we at this stage should go into it in rather great detail, because I understand that the Prime Minister is saying that the House votes the money and after that he has no control over it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say that, if the hon. member would look at the Estimates from Head 1 to Head 8, including Parliament, he would see that these Heads do not come under the direct supervision of a Minister. I am not responsible for what happens at Government House, do you think I can tell them to buy eddoes from Harrison or from St. John or Boscobelle or to buy them from the B.M.C.? Do you mean after we vote the money I have to go into the lady's kitchen and tell her where to buy eddoes from? Parliament comes under this, and I said that the Public Service Commission is not under any Ministry.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I do not at this stage want to go into the purchasing policy of the Government, but certainly the Prime Minister cannot deny that instructions have been given to certain Government Departments to buy eddoes from the Barbados Marketing Corporation. He might not have given it, but somebody else might have given it, and nevertheless, what I have said, is simply this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to make it clear that we did not say eddoes, we said that all the eddoes, particularly locally produced eddoes which are sold by the B.M.C., must be purchased from the B. M. C. because the taxpayers' money is involved. That directive did not go to the Public Service Commission or to Government House or to this Chamber because these are not departments which are under the control of a Minister. When I issued a directive some time ago - I think it may be over a couple of years ago - about spreading the work among the Travel Agencies it was in response to a debate that took place in this House, and it was merely a guide line for the people to follow, but there is no legal sanction that either the Auditor General or myself can impose if they elect to get passages from a particular place.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, I wonder if the Prime Minister will remember that he gave a directive that Teddy Jones should not bring food in here, only Darnley Greenidge.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is pure unadulterated nonsense. I do not eat in here so it is a matter of supreme unconcern to me.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I do not eat in here because physically I cannot eat the food in here; why do you not eat in here, Mr. Prime Minister?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You do not eat in here either, but you and I have different reasons.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, what I said was that I understood the Prime Minister to say that this money is voted by Parliament and after it is voted he as Minister of Finance has no control as to how it is spent. I am not misquoting the Prime Minister; that is what he said.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have control - I want to get the record straight - that it should be spent only in the way it is appropriated for by Parliament, but I cannot tell a Government Department to buy goods from a particular person, and buying tickets is like buying goods, but in response to a debate that took place in here I felt that was sufficient authority to indicate to all the Government Departments that it was the wish of Parliament, and that particularly when both sides of the House expressed a certain point of view, that that should be of an impelling nature to all public officers, but if they do not choose to obey it I have no recourse to the law or otherwise. All of us in here agree on a certain principle which I have promised to express again tomorrow morning as being the desire of Parliament, so why should we go on with the debate at all? I want to get it in its right perspective.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, would it be strange for the Prime Minister to hear that after that debate on which he said both sides agreed and he expressed the view, that foreign travel agencies are still getting all the business?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not know, because sometimes when I am going away I have to ring up my Secretary to find out what plane I am travelling on. Even inside my own office this happens, so apart from that I do not even know what time I am travelling. I would just explain this point to hon. members; I travel by B.W.I.A. in preference to Pan Am all the time, but I do not pay the increased fares. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members not addressing the Chair; let us have a little order.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I would like to know if the hon. Prime Minister would back me in presenting my ticket to prosecute B.W.I.A.? not as an M.P. but as a member of the public.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I issued a notice in the newspapers inviting people to take the evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Commissioner of Police, because they are the people charged with prosecution in matters of that sort, also the Attorney General. Send it to them; I find that when you ask people to pay a penny on some import duties such as bicycles and the like they make a big row, but Airlines can put on 50% or 100% on fares and nobody will come forward to give evidence. I would be very grateful if the hon. member will provide the evidence for the Director of Public Prosecutions or for the Commissioner of Police. 6.25 p.m.

The Hon. Prime Minister said that he made a statement that the increased fares should not be paid to B.W.I.A. It is my opinion that the Hon. Prime Minister should look after the welfare of all citizens. Here it is the Prime Minister is going to deny or back away from the fact that he knows that people are still paying the increased fares charged by B.W.I.A. If he says so, then what he is saying is: I do not know how the man in the street in Barbados lives, and I do not care." He came here this morning and talked about hotels printing tickets which were equivalent to money and he was going to stop it. Why should he not stop B.W.I.A. charging people like me $189 (US) to fly to the U.S.A. and back? He controls this country, so why cannot he do something in the matter? As a member of the public, I am now offering him the document. He must tell me if it is right or wrong.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is the abysmal ignorance - let me put it that way - displayed by members on the opposite side to the simple constitutional procedures in Barbados that worries me. If I am in charge of a Government Department, or if I am buying a ticket for myself, I can say that I am not going to pay any increased fare. I have no way of knowing who is going to travel to New York next month or to Trinidad next week. I published a statement in the newspaper so that any person who could provide evidence that the airlines were charging fares in excess of those approved by the Air Transport Licensing Authority could submit such evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions. How can I know in advance who is going to be travelling and whom they are going to demand these increased fares from? The hon. member says that I am not looking after the country.

Sir, I think that the reason why so many of them are contenders for political offices without having done their homework is that they really think that a Prime Minister has miraculous powers to produce money, powers of life and death, powers to lock up people, throw them overboard and that kind of thing. No such facility exists, unfortunately, in our constitution. (Mr. St. JOHN: "Do you want them?) No. The facilities that they are fighting so hard for, do not exist except in their imaginations. I do not want any document, you can carry it to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Contribution says that the Director of Public Prosecutions will handle such matters.

I was just adverting to the fact that Barbadians will do anything. They will go and pay increased prices in supermarkets without complaining, but when you want additional taxation for more schools and so on they will say that the Government is trying to kill them. The hon. member is a lawyer, and I know of a case in which a Legal Practitioner was charged what he considered was above the legal rate of interest and he brought a case. Why does not the hon. member do the samething?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am going to take up the Prime Minister's challenge.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Obstruction is not a point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Prime Minister say on the Floor of this House that, if I provide the necessary evidence and on prosecution, the airline was found guilty, he would provide marching orders for B.W.I.A.? If he says that, I will fly to Trinidad tomorrow and come back and institute legal proceedings for him.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, what kind of ignorance is this? The penalties are prescribed by law. You do not find a man guilty and then apply to the Prime Minister to sentence him. That has never happened.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I was speaking a few minutes ago, and I think the Prime Minister is only making himself look ridiculous at this stage. The Prime Minister has said that he has issued directives to certain Government Departments that they should not pay the increased fares. Can the Prime Minister say whether or not the increased fares are being paid? Can he say whether or not the airlines are receiving the exact fares?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: My information here today is that certain Travel Agencies say it is true that the Government does not pay the increased fares. *(Asides)* This is what I have heard today for the first time. I heard from you, I think, in here today.....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr, Chairman, on a point of order. I asked a question about this matter two years ago. I drew to the attention of the House that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas two years ago had travelled to St. Vincent at the increased fare. I even asked the Leader of the House if he would call on the junior member for St. Thomas to show him the ticket and prosecute B.W.I.A. The Leader of the House said that he was nothing to do with it. I am surprised to hear hon. members talking about this today. I raised the matter in here two years ago.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member had been in the House earlier he would have discovered that I said as a result of a debate in here, I issued a directive. The Leeward Islands Islands Air Transport Fares to the neighbouring Caribbean Islands were approved at the same time that the International Group fares were turned down; so there was nothing illegal in paying L.I.A.T. fares. As far as I know, L.I.A.T. fares are in order. L.I.A.T. is not a member of the International Air Transport Association; so they discussed things with the Air Transport Licensing Board and the fares were approved. That is the answer. The proof that the Government is not paying the increased fares has been provided today by members saying that the Travel Agencies themselves have volunteered to pay the increases. I know nothing about it, but we are not paying them. I heard of that today for the first time. I do not do any bookings.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think a new increase in air fares is coming into effect from the first of next month. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "If approved.) You had better use your good office to prevent them from being approved.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, can the Prime Minister inform the House, even if he does not know whether directives were issued to the Service Commissions, whether the $40,000 spent last year was spent on paying increased fares? I refer to the money spent last year under Item 16.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would not be in a position to answer that. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: With great respect to you, Sir, a few weeks ago I turned around to speak to the Senior member for St. Thomas and the hon. Senior member for St. Peter got up and attacked me viciously. You cannot have one set of rules for the Opposition and another set for the Government, Sir.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that those words be withdrawn. The hon. member said that I attacked him "viciously."

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw them, because he cannot do anything viciously. He is capable of doing something maliciously but not viciously.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS rose --

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has withdrawn it; I heard him.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out from the Prime Minister whether the $40,000 has been spent. Let us be realistic. If the Prime Minister is saying that he has no control over the money after it has been voted, then the only way we can get information on it is by finding out things here before we vote for it.

I would like to second the Motion by the senior member for St. James.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not rising to ask any questions.

6.35 p.m.

I am aware that it is only certain travel agencies which are prepared to aid and abet the Government in its hypocrisy that B.W.I.A. does not charge certain excess fares even now although since the capital raise, some of the L.I.A.T. fares, I believe, have been legalised. I feel that the Government continues to be hypocritical because it well knows that Ministers and others travel at illegal fares, although the Government is only charged legal ones; so I am not asking any questions. If there are other travel agencies willing to put their heads in that nose, as far as I am concerned, good luck to them. But, I am taking issue with the Government over this statement that no Minister is responsible for this vote. The Public Service Commission does not have a staff of its own. Everybody who is embraced under Item 17 - Acting Allowances, Payment of Substitutes, Item 18 - Public Service Commission, Item 19 - Judicial and Legal Service Commission other than the Commission members, are all Civil Servants. They are all subject to the discipline of the Commission which they serve, they are also liable to placement and shifting around or whatever the Chief Establishments Officer does, and the Chief Establishments Officer is responsible to the Prime Minister, not to the Public Service Commission. The vote of $520,000 for acting allowances and payment of substitutes when lapsing salaries are not available is clearly a vote directly under the control of Establishments, whether it is a vote under Service Commissions or not and all such decisions must be taken by the Establishments branch. If I am wrong, Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier today, I am sure the Prime Minister will get up and correct me.

Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister does not like the despatch with which the Establishments Officer spends this amount of $520,000, if he thinks that the Establishments Officer is not filling the posts or is putting two men in one post, he can control the Establishments Officer. So how is it possible for the Prime Minister to tell the House that these funds are not under the control of a Minister? The Prime Minister says he can only suggest to Civil Servants; he can suggest to the Civil Servants who work for the Public Service Commission just as much as he can suggest to the Civil Servants who work in any other Ministry. They are all Civil Servants. If one officer who is responsible for the payment of passages is circularised about spreading the work among the travel agencies, all can be. They are all public officers, they are all hoping for promotion, and they shift in and out of Head 2 to other Heads of the Government service. We are not under the other charges asked to pass, as you might be sometimes with capital works, payments for special people, not members of the regular Public Service. Nobody other than Civil Servants administer these votes. As regards National Insurance contributions, obviously the Prime Minister is responsible for seeing that the National Insurance contributions are made. I imagine that this is part of Establishments. I am not sufficiently *au fait* with the wheels of Government. I do not know who arranges that. Some officer must organise the payment of passages, and he is just as subject to direction as any other officer.

Mr. Chairman, I find it impossible to believe that because you work in Culloden Road you can be so presumptious as to say you do not take directions Culloden Farm. The amount of $520,000 is peculiarly within the Prime Minister's interest, because that must be peculiarly the expenditure of the Chief Establishments Office. Item 18 is the Public Service Commission's own vote for expenses of enquiries and disciplinary charges. No Minister is responsible for that in a roundabout way, because no Minister is supposed to be dealing with disciplinary charges until they reach the Privy Council level if they reach Privy Council level. That is a different matter. I do not think the Prime Minister is going to suggest that he is not responsible for that. Once he says he is responsible for seeing that the funds are spent in the manner for which the House has voted, he must be responsible for telling, for example, the Public Service Commission it can only spend this money for interviews, the cost of enquiries and disciplinary charges. Suppose they suddenly decide to spend the money on the Public Service Commission itself going to Trinidad, presumably the Prime Minister would be able to stop that from happening. That is what you call control over a vote. Of course the Prime Minister can ask where they spent the money. The Minister of Communications and Works could as well say he cannot ask the foremen how they spent the money. What is meant by control? The Leader of the House must not be mislead by what he thinks the Prime Minister has said. He is dealing with a very subtle mind if he does not mind my saying so.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I can speak for myself and I am old enough to speak for myself. What the hon. member on my left was saying was what I had said, that I cannot tell them where to buy goods from or where to spend money. I can say that Parliament has appropriated money for this purpose whether it be passages or anything else and you are not to spend if for any other purpose. There is no power of virement in a Government Department; but no Minister is in a position and should not, I respectfully submit, Mr. Chairman, be in the position where he gives directives that you must go and spend your money at Baldini's rather than at Y.De Lima's. That is the point I was making, and the point is not that we do not control the vote, because there is a Vote Book and we have to invigilate that the money is spent as Parliament appropriated, but it is no part of our job except in this particular situation where I was expressing a collective view point to the whole House that I took the opportunity of issuing a directive, but day by day I am not going to be looking over anybody's shoulder, because you did not put me here to be a pimp. I am Minister of Finance and Ministers of Finance do not have any right snooping around to see whether Civil Servants are doing their work or were doing it in the way we expect them to do it.

Mr. ADAMS: But the point is that the Prime Minister has now come around to my precise point that he is in no better or worse position *vis-a-vis* this vote than the Minister of Communications is

vis-a-vis a forman. Do not try to make us in the House believe that Head 2 is something you do not have to answer questions on, because no Minister is responsible for the Public Service Commission. Mr. Chairman, the point is that these are Civil Servants doing their duty. We have Entertainment Allowance, Unestablished Staff, Overtime Allowance, and House Allowance, and the only other Item to which the Prime Minister's argument about buying eddoes or airline tickets applies is the payment of passages, and the Prime Minister had already said that a general directive goes around. There is no question of any Minister being responsible. A different tact is now being taken by the Government that you cannot actually make the Civil Servants do what you want. That is all the Prime Minister has come around to, but it is seriously misleading the House to suggest that this is Head 2 and therefore no Minister is responsible. The responsibility of Ministers extends I can see it quite clearly, to every activity under this Head. There are certainly items in the Estimates for which no Minister is responsible. I could not imagine a Minister is responsible, to take a small item, for the grant made to the Barbados Museum. In the long run you will find that Ministerial responsibility at another level can be evaded on $4 million which is the grant made to the Housing Authority, to take extreme examples of the scale. If you tell me that no Minister is responsible for the one, it is totally true for the other; it should be true because the Housing Authority is a Statutory Corporation, but these are items under the day to day control of a Minister; so do not let us fool ourselves. For that reason I support the amendment.
6.45 p.m.

The question that Head 2 – SERVICE COMMISSIONS – be reduced by $1.00 was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:

NOES: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon'bles J. C. TUDOR, C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSSON, K. N. R. HUSBANDS and A. DaC. EDWARDS; Messrs. W. R. LOWE, R. StC. WEEKES, and J. B. SPRINGER - 9.

AYES: Messrs. C. L. BOLDEN, W. C. B. HINDS, L. S. CRAIG, ELLIOTT MOTTLEY, J. M. G. M. ADAMS, H. B. St. JOHN and ERNEST MOTTLEY 7.

The question that the sum of $721,433 under Head 2 SERVICE COMMISSIONS – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3 - PARLIAMENT

Head 3 – PARLIAMENT – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $218,538 under Head 3 - Parliament - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a few questions on Head 3. There is no Ministry responsible for Parliament? You are making sport. I want to know what is the position with respect to the Librarian, and I also want to know what is the position with respect to the former Clerk of the House of Assembly whose office was abolished and for whom I understood that the question of compensation was being worked out; I do not see any extraordingary sum in here for that. I do not see any money in here for that matter about which I spoke to the Hon. Leader of the House, that is, the office for the Leader of the Opposition.

There is an office across the road, it is not in here, it cannot be fitted in this building and therefore it cannot function, although it is functioning very effectively because it is being used for registering voters. By reason of its physical separation from the facilities in here it must have an attendant or a Secretary, because the people over here cannot service it. I understand that the original conception was that the Clerks and the Messenger in this building who would be looking after the Parliament block so to speak would be able to do it. The telephone in here cannot work over there, so it is a useless office at the present moment. Those are the two matters that definitely I want to find out something about.

What is the full position in respect of the renovations? We would like a Statement on that. Have you paid for the air conditioners? This is Head 3 - Parliament, and this comes under the Leader of the House. Last year the Leader of the House promised that Cabinet was going to send a letter to the Speaker's office dealing with the question of extraordinary entertainment; that letter has not yet come, and we want to be up to date on that. When we get commitments on the floor of the House we expect them to be honoured, and they should not be made just out of the air if it is not intended to honour them. I am sure that the Hon. Leader of the House had every intention to see that that commitment was honoured.

When we come now to Item 35 - Parliamentary Printing, we would like a full report on this. How far have we got on this? What do we intend to do about this? The situation is very unsatisfactory with the debates, so we really have at this time to get the matter of bringing the debates up to date and having the debates at regular periods printed and circulated so that hon. members can follow the proceedings. They are still way back, as I understand it. We want to get answers to these questions, and I am sure that other hon. members will have other matters to deal with, but these are the ones that occur immediately to me.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the House of Assembly elected members from a very important part, if not the most important part, of the Legislature of this country, and the Opposition in a democracy such as we have, forms a most important part of the elected Chamber. We have gone

a long way. Provision for the Leader of the Opposition should be made for a proper office with a Stenotypist and a messenger; there can be no doubt about that, and I do not think the Leader of the House or the Prime Minister will deny this right to the Leader of the Opposition. As far as I am concerned, we have made changes in this Chamber and up to now they seem not to be finalised; no proper arrangements have been made, not only for the Leader of the Opposition, but if one had to consult anyone in here, he would find it very difficult.
6.55 p.m.

I have been shown an office on the other side of this building, and I cannot see that office being serviced by anybody over here or by anybody over there. I hope the Leader of the House will take this matter seriously.

With regard to the Librarian, I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the post has been abolished. (Mr. St. JOHN: "I said the post of Clerk was abolished.") I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, it was the post of the Clerk which had been abolished. There still exists the post of Librarian at a salary of $600 a month. This is a very good salary. You come into this Chamber, you ask to see the debates for ten years ago, and there is nobody to find anything for you. If the present holder of the post has been receiving a salary and he does not want his job, then he should say so. Mr. Speaker should report the matter to the House and let us know what is the true position.

Now, $600 a month cannot be paid to the holder of the post who seems not to want the job any longer. There are persons who are trained as Librarians, and I believe that some of them do not receive anything like $600 a month. I think that $600 a month would be rather lucrative for the post of Librarian in here. I think it would take some time to put things in order in this Library. I have never in my 25 years here seen a more disgraceful state of affairs than I have seen in what we consider to be our Library where hon. members can go and look at the Hansards and so on. I feel that the Leader of the House or Mr. Speaker should make some statement on this matter. Let us advertise for a trained Librarian to do this work and bring things up to date. I think this is a matter of importance.

With regard to the question of refreshments for hon. members, this is a matter on which I can speak without any remorse. I notice that this Item has only been increased by $2,000. I do not know what arrangement has been made, but someone should be able to explain this matter to us. I am one of those who are unable to partake of the refreshments during my time here, but I should like to see hon. members getting proper refreshments. Now that the cost of everything has gone up, how can an increase of $2,000 be sufficient to give hon. members proper refreshments? I should like to hear something on this matter from the other side. If we demand proper refreshments, then we must pay for them. You cannot get proper refreshments if you are parsimonious with spending the money.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes hon. members come to this House at ten o'clock, twelve o'clock and so on in order to attend meetings of the House. There are some of us who cannot partake of the refreshments, nevertheless, we would like to see those who are able to partake of them getting the best possible. I may be told that no Ministry is responsible for our refreshments and do on, but somebody here should be able to tell us something about the refreshments vote. The Leader of the House should make a statement on this.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Leader of the House should tell us something about the provision to be made for the Leader of the Opposition. You cannot just put an office there; you must give him a Clerk and a Messenger to work in the office.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on several occasions I have told the Speaker himself that he will have to spend some money in St. Lucy. Now, we are discussing Parliament and Mr. Speaker is inside sleeping! He has absolutely nothing to do with the affairs of Parliament.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member knows that we are in Committee of Supply and Mr. Speaker almost never enters into the deliberations when the House is in Committee of Supply.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has just said that Mr. Speaker has never entered into the deliberations of Committee of Supply, but we have also heard some very interesting Rulings from Mr. Speaker. What I am concerned with is Item 24. There is no Minister, apparently, who can answer this question. The Note to Item 24 states: "Provides for payment of substitutes for officers of the House, Chaplains, reporters and typists if necessary". Am I to understand that $2,500 is to provide for a typist, if necessary, Chaplains and these substitutes? I should like to have a breakdown on these substitutes. Who are the substitutes in the House. I should be grateful if the Leader of the House would tell us about it inasmuch as Mr. Speaker is not in here. No one can tell me that Mr. Speaker cannot come in here, sit at the right of the Chairman of Committees, and tell us anything we would like to know about this Department.
7.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the information of the hon. member, the Clerk of Parliament is the Head of this Department, and I do feel that if there is any information requested, it can be had from the Clerk, of Parliament, but the Clerk of Parliament cannot be in audience.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I think you went on a Parliamentary course and you would know that no Clerk of Parliament can get up in here and say anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I know that very well. Neither can the Speaker.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker can, because he is an elected member of Parliament and his official duty in here is Speaker of Parliament. Do not tell me that

the Speaker cannot come on the floor of the House. He can vote and therefore he has the right to speak if he so desires. It is regrettable that the Speaker is not here to give us an idea, because we have nothing coming from any Minister on the other side. I would like to know if a Minister can assist this side of the House with a breakdown of the $2,500. That is all I am interested in at this point, but I believe I have something else to say on another item. I would be grateful if one of the Ministers can tell us how they arrived at this $2,500 including a secretary and a typist if necessary. What typist can you get for $250 a month nowadays? A mock typist?

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 11 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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

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

7.12 p.m.

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that now it shall revert.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When this sitting was suspended yesterday evening, we were discussing Head 3, and the hon. senior member for St. James was addressing the Chair. I do not now see him in his place.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there are some moves-in we have to make. Two of them I can think of immediately; there is one in respect of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, and the other one in respect of the gratuity for the retired Clerk.

So I beg to move that Head 3 be postponed.

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

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

HEAD 4 - AUDITOR - GENERAL

Head 4 – Auditor General – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, we have to make under this Head two insertions on page 6. Under Item 15 - Furniture and Equipment - delete the figure "946" in the column which is headed "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "1,466" and make consequential amendments. We are amending the note to the Item to read as follows:-

"To purchase adding machine, calculating machine, table, desk, chairs and fans".

I beg to move that the sum of $29,276 under Head 4 - Auditor General - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Under the Head of Auditor General, this is one of the constitutional offices, and as hon. members know, I like other members am a member of the Public Accounts Committee and I think it is fair to say that from the meetings we have had so far, it is quite clear that there is going to be a need for an expansion of this Department, because a lot more work has been thrown on this Department because of the requirements of the law for the Auditor General to audit a number of Departments. We know that the Auditor General's reports are in arrears. I am not contributing this to the fault of the Auditor General's Department, because he cannot audit if he does not get from the other Departments under the Financial Administration office, and we know that the return have been coming in very late. All the returns for 1967-68 are in and that report will soon be before the House. But I want to make it clear that many people seem to think that there is no need for internal audit in every Government Department. The Auditor General audits only at the end of the year and does such spot checks as are necessary, and obviously he is seriously limited in that by the number of qualified staff he has available to do the spot checking.

In Barbados as I see it, and I think other members of the Committee will agree from the discussions we have been having, each Department should have its own internal audit system with an officer primarily responsible to the Ministry for all the accounting functions, and there is a definite need in Barbados for a complete accounting service in which people will go into the service, specialise in accountancy, and there will be sufficient grades in the larger Ministries distributed throughout the service for people to stay in them just as they go in the Incom Tax Department and the Customs Department and become specialists in that field. That is the only way that we are going to be sure that defalcations that take place periodically in the Government Departments do not occur, or if they occur they are discovered much

more quickly, and that the accounts of the Island are sent in to the Auditor General for audit at a much earlier date, and that the finances are spent in the best manner and at the cheapest possible cost to the taxpayers of the country. I think this is a general opinion that all members on both sides can get as a result of our discussions. We are trying to get our report of the Public Accounts Committee, and I must appeal to all hon. members - we have had a great deal more cooperation than we have had in the past - to come to the meetings and let us try and finish the first report and have it before Parliament before the end of this session.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Chairman, while I must agree with the Leader of the Opposition who happens also to be Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee that there seems to be some problem not with the Auditor General but with the Accountant General to get these reports to the Auditor General. We are not sure whether it is the Accountant General's responsibility to which he has not lived up or the Accounting Officers.

One other problem which we had previous to the last meeting which I think was abortive - I arrived early and as far as I recall no other person arrived during the tweny minutes I was waiting - is that in one Department, I think it was the Planning Unit, there was some difficulty in ascertaining who was the Accounting Officer responsible for the return of accounts. We would like either the Cabinet or the Accountant General to say who is the officer responsible. What is surprising is that previous accounts had been submitted, but for one particular year there seems to have been some confusion as to who is the Accounting Officer, and this is one of the difficulties we have been having.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I just want to say that this is certainly a matter on which both sides of the House can have a common outlook, and we have been having a very careful look in Government at all these procedures and functions, and we are doing all we can to straighten them out. Somehow or other we have inherited a system in which the Accounting Officers of various Ministries are of course the Permanent Secretaries mostly, and we are wondering whether we could not so refurbish the system so that each Ministry or Department as the case may be, will have a specially qualified person to do this kind of work. He would be a sort of liaison man with the Auditor General, with the Accountant General and with the Public Accounts Committee, and it may even be necessary for him to have some special connection with the Financial Secretary and those Departments which, broadly speaking, look into expenditure control.

11.10 a.m.

I think myself that if we can get this done, two immediate ages would be evident. The departments and Ministries themselves would be able to do their own book-keeping much more efficiently and much more quickly, they would be able to pass the results of their work on to the Auditor General so that his work in turn becomes easier and he can make his reports to Parliament with greater facility. Another consequence of it would be that when the Public Accounts Committee in its own examination of yearly expenditure for the appropriations made by Parliament, they would be able to follow much more easily the methods used and be able to get answers to questions more expeditiously. I agree that we have to look at these things, and we are in fact doing this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is one point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Committee and it is this, that under Item 13 despite what the Hon. Leader of the House has just said and what the Leader of the Opposition made mention of with respect to spot checks, we find that there is for some reason which has not yet been explained, a reduction in the amount provided for travelling. It would lead one to believe that the Auditor General is so happy with the present state of affairs that his department does not see the necessity for carrying out in 1971-72 the amount of spot checking that was done in 1970-71, hence the reduction in the amount for travelling. Unless there is some explanation that can be offered for this, because one would feel that even from the speeches made here this morning the necessity would have been established for us to have an increase in this amount rather than a reduction.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It appears that this reduction is due to the fact that since there has been abolition of Local Government, travelling to Local Government offices is not required. In other words, when somebody from his department had to visit the sub-treasuries there was much more travelling required than is now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us accept what the Leader of the House has just said in respect of the abolition of the Local Gevernment system but is the Minister not aware that we still operate sub-treasuries in the various parishes? There is nothing to prevent the Auditor General from carrying out spot checks there as well as at the central office.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am not saying not, I am only saying that a lot of the work which was spread out is in fact now concentrated in this centre, and he probably therefore has to do less of the journeying outward than he would before; that is all I have said.

Mr. HINDS: What one would believe is this, Mr. Chairman, that when it might have been necessary to send one officer in the past, two were sent, in view of the volume of work that is now involved. I have some idea of what takes place at the central office here, the Rates and Taxes Division, for instance, at Cumberland Street, and there can be little or no justification for reducing this amount, and surely nobody would be willing to accept the excuse that is now being offered for so doing. It could not be the case.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member must not refer to it as an excuse, it was an explanation.

The question that the sum of $29,176 under Head 4 - AUDITOR GENERAL - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 5 - JUDICIARY

Head 5 - JUDICIARY - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $106,823 under Head 5 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6 - LEGAL

Head 6 - LEGAL - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $154,485 under Head 6 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 7 - REGISTRATION

Head 7 - REGISTRATION - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $71.701 under Head 7 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 12 there is the sum of $25,640 to pay Xerox operators and for recopying old registers. It would be good if the Minister is in a position to give us some sort of report as to the progress that has been made since this Xerox machine was installed. The Minister ought to be in a position to tell us as well if with the bringing to bear the fruits from this system of Xeroxing, if it has expedited copying to the extent that it has displaced any of the workers who were formerly employed by this department, whether on a part time basis or not, because we see here that this sum is asked for to pay temporary staff. Surely it would mean that the Registry has established a record for employing a permanent temporary staff. 11.20 a.m.

If this temporary staff has enjoyed some sort of permanence, is it not better, in the interest of the staff as well as in the interest of the Department, if a survey were to be carried out for the entire requirements of this Department? On an occasion such as this we could be presented with the full facts of the situation as it obtains there so that we would know what to expect in terms of the service that could be rendered to the public.

At Item 15 we see where our Deputy Marshals are paid a travelling allowance of $42 a month. One has to be realistic. Five or ten years ago a travelling allowance of $42 a month might have represented something, but today $42 a month, when taken in relation to the cost of fuel and gasolene, represents absolutely nothing. Even in the maintenance of the most economical car $42 a month means nothing. When one takes into consideration the fact that these Marshals have to cover the entire Island in the course of their duties and make re-visits, perhaps, as far as 18 or 19 miles from Bridgetown - in most of these cases there is no telephone communications which would enable the Marshals to know whether the person that they want to contact will be found at a particulat time - one will have a good idea of the position of things. A Marshall has to drive to the farthest part of the Island before he realises that the person he wanted to see had left home five minutes before his arrival. He has to return to Bridgetown and then drive back to see the person on some other occasion. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, I am merely referring to the Note, and I am not concerned with the amount of $24,375. This is an opportunity for me to bring before this Committee the grievance suffered by these Marshals. The Marshals may not want it to be thought that they have complained, but they have good grounds for doing so.

With regard to Item 16 - Indexing of Registers - $770 - you will find that my approach to this Item is entirely different. This amount is not to meet the cost of indexing birth, baptismal, marriage, death and burial registers. Now, who actually indexes this work, and what training does the person have? What would be of interest in determining the training that the person might have had is the length of time the person might have been assisting in this particular sphere of work and how satisfactory has been the execution of this work? Mr. Chairman, I believe that when the Leader of the House referred me to Item 15 and I said that it was statutory, my reply ought to have been that I was really debating Item 20. Anyway, I knew that I was on good ground in any case.

With regard to Item 23 - Rental of Machine - $15,000 - I believe, as I am sure you are going to find, when you come to another Head, where similar machines are being rented, the owners of these machines have been able to get the Departments renting them to pay air passages for their mechanics to come over and service the machines. One cannot consider that this is fair. If it is a case where these people do not sell the machines and prefer to rent them to various Government Departments or Institutions, one would expect that the conditions under which machines would be rented would be so carefully gone into that provision would be made for the speedy servicing of these machines.
11.30 a.m.

In other words, there is no point paying $15,000 for the renting of machines, and because the owners of these machines choose to come by boat or some other means or send an engineer as the case may be when the time comes that a machine remains lying at an office longer than is really necessary before it can get back into operation. I am wondering if in this amount of $15,000 any amount is included for the servicing of these copying machines, or if it is for the rent and nothing more.

There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that as at Item 25 under this Head the vendors of office stationery, office furniture and of ice equipment are going to do a roaring business with the Government because every Department of Government is installing additional cabinets, taking in more chairs, more fans, more typewriters and everything. In other words, everything is to be done to make the staffs of the various Government Departments as comfortable as possible. Does this mean then that we are to expect better service to the public from these Departments after the staffs have been made this much comfortable? We do not want for a single moment to deny any officer of the Government, in whichever Department he is serving, his right to work, and to feel free and give of his best, but what we do know is that there is still the odd man out who rests in the offices of Government during the day after his labours of the night before. During these hours they become annoyed when members of the public have got to call on them to awaken them from their slumber. This is not fair to the taxpayers.

We are quite willing, Mr. Chairman, to do all that is necessary to make them comfortable, but as in the case of the Registration Department, with people coming 16 or 18 miles from St. Peter to Bridgetown, we want to see the system overcome whereby these people can travel out and provided they tender the correct information, they ought to be able to get a copy of a birth or baptismal certificate within an hour of their turning up at the Department. To ask these people to leave the information today and journey back to the country and come back for the certificate another day creates an imposition, and it is beastly unfair to these people. I am asking the Minister to see to it that something is done with that part of the work of the Registration Department. I am going to stress again that there are people employed in that Department who are copying certificates from the Marriage, Birth and Baptismal Registers who cannot decipher hieroglyphics, and as a consequence, people's names are copied incorrectly. They cannot even be pronounced; and these people find themselves having then to go and have affidavits sworn to and all sorts of nonsense about bringing their parents into town for the first time, and it causes a lot of unnecessary confusion. It is better to have some senior people who are familiar with this type of work to supervise. If you have junior staff, put a supervising officer to check on the names of these people and how they copy these names to read what the old Rectors and parsons made out 40,60, or maybe 80 years ago.

We very well know that during the past two or three years and more so since 1966 when we became independent, lots of people have been storming the Registration Office to get birth and baptismal certificates for more than one reason, and more so their baptismal certificate because that is the one which normally bears the name of the child. Not in many cases do we find the birth certificate carrying the name of the child, and whilst we must admit that the godparents might have given the officer performing the baptism at the time the name and the Ministers might have spelt it the way it appeared or sounded to him, we are still insisting that the officers in the Registry who are making a copy should copy it exactly as they find it written by the Minister in those days or whatever time it might have been. Too many people I know are put to unnecessary expense, and there are a lot of young would-be solicitors just standing by, grabbing $10 from these people to get their names put right. I have spoken about it already and I am sure a remedy has not yet been found for it. It is not fair, and I would like to see that matter attended to.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter in respect of the question of registration of births and baptisms. I have had instances in which persons brought certificates which had been issued from the Church register, and when one compares that certificate with one from the Registry, the names are recorded incorrectly and one of them usually shows two different names or names spelt differently. In these days since Independence, when people are now forced to change their passports, those who go to the American Consulate find that a slight variation in the spelling of the names causes some difficulty.

I would like to see the Government institute a programme whereby the registration of births is done in block letters whether by the Police or whoever takes the registration at the time, and that the registation books are kept in print. No matter how bad a person's handwriting my be, he is always able to produce capital letters better than ordinary joined letters. Again I would like to see the Government institute immediately provision whereby the birth certificate should carry all the relevant information, and let that be the document which has all the information which people require today and not the joining of birth and baptismal certificates.
11.40 a.m.

Everybody who applies to the Police for a Passport has got to supply a birth certificate and a baptismal certificate, because persons are not obliged on registration of birth to give the name of the child and certain other information. I would like to see the Government make it possible now that all registration of births should carry the full information pertaining to the birth of the child. I would also like to see the names of the parents, and everything should be on that single document and that document be the document of force and not the baptismal certificate.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member would know that the birth certificate does not carry a name, so if the birth certificate is going to be the pertinent and relevant document, it would just show that the child is a male or a female child with no name, so the document that should be the more pertinent of the two would be the baptismal certificate and not the birth certificate because the birth certificate does not carry a name.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has been asleep for the past 50 years; he does not know what he is talking at all. Look at the birth certificate and you will see it has a column for the name, if any; I deal with them daily, so do not talk foolishness if you do not know. What I am saying is that the Government should make it possible for the birth certificate to be the relevant document, and the person should be obliged to register the name at the time of registering the birth of the child. Every birth certificate has that, "name (if any)" What they do, they put a long line in that column and they put an "M" or an "F" for the sex of the child. If the Minister is not up to date on his facts, ask him to go in the Registry and ask for a copy of his own birth certificate.

What I would like to see done also, is this, the Government should institute a system of registration of births at the place where the birth takes place. If the birth takes places at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there should be somebody responsible to go round the wards and take what relevant information there is at the time. If it takes place in a Nursing Home it should be done, and if it takes place in a private home provision should be made for that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is too much talking on the Government benches. I would like the hon. members to know that I am the Chairman and I must hear what is going on.

Mr. HINDS: Which hon. member do you mean? The one addressing the Chair?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I have seen a case which is not more than about two years old in which a nurse from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was supposed to register the birth of a child, but when the lady went when the child was six months old to get a copy of the birth certificate, it was found that the birth was not registered. She then had to have an affidavit made out, and the law says that if a birth is not registered within a specific time there is a penalty, and that is why I should like to see that there is somebody responsible in these institutions, whether at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the St. Joseph Hospital or whatever it is, to register these births. If the birth takes place in a private home another system can be devised, but particularly in these institutions where births take place there should be somebody responsible for collecting the name, date of birth and all the relevant facts, and the birth certificate should be the document. The question of baptismal certificates should have no force whatsoever, because they are christian documents. As far as I know, it is only certain West Indian countries that a baptismal certificate has that force. It is the birth certificate which ought to be the document carrying the force, and I would like the Government to consider this seriously, because it affects too many people; too many people are forced to have affidavits made in this connection.

I know of cases where people have given their children names at home and they spell these names in one way, but when they go to the Church and the Priest asks for the name, he then tells them that they are spelling the name incorrectly. Some people go through school spelling their names in one way and when they go to get a certificate the names are spelt in a completely different way. A person is at liberty to give his child any name he feels like, and he is entitled to tell that child how the name is spelt. If the birth certificate is the relevant document, then we will not have the problem of people having names on the baptismal certificate spelt one way and in the Registry they have it spelt in another. The present certificate would be adequate with a little extension or a shortening of the form, and I am sure it can work; all you have to do is to cut out the "(if any)" on the form as it is now, and instructions should go out that the form must be completed in full before handing it in; once that is done the Police Department, when you go for a passport, can accept your birth certificate as such, which would have all the relevant facts on it and there will be no question of having to apply for a baptismal certificate. I have been in England, and nobody who has ever been in England and has had to produce evidence of their birth would know that there have always been queries and people look at you in a funny way if you produce a birth certificate on one hand and a baptismal certificate on the other. I do not see that it is relevant in this day and age, and I believe Government should pay careful attention to this and do something about it, because it would save a lot of problems.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, all I would say is simply this, that when a child is born by law the birth must be registered within a stipulated time; I think it is about three or four days, I do not remember the exact time, but if it is not registered within the prescribed time a fine is payable. A child is normally baptised within six weeks of its birth and only then the parents decide what the name of the child will be and who the godparents are, so that normally when the birth is registered there is no name unless the name is filled in afterwards, but when the hon. member says that the birth certificate should be the relevant document, in my opinion, the baptismal certificate should be the relevant document because it has the date of birth, the date of baptism and the name of the child, so there is no need for all this hullabaloo. I have done thousands of these affidavits he is speaking about. All I am saying is that in my opinion the baptismal certificate is the relevant document, you cannot compel a person to give a child a name immediately after it is born.

11.50 a.m.

Are you going to make a law to compel parents to name a child as soon as it is born? That is the sort of thing that goes on in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is trying to pick a quarrel, but I have no fear of answering the Hon. Minister. He should think again. (a) You have to register a child by law; (b) Every human being must have a name tag; (c) You are not obliged to christen or baptise a child anywhere in the world. There are people in this community who have never been baptised, and they were only baptised when they went to get married or went to apply for a passport to go to the United States of America. *(Asides)* There is no stipulated time for baptising a child and giving it a name. Is the Minister telling us that we must sit down in this day and age and let people wonder about in darkness? This Government is supposed to create a policy on which to guide the people.

Mr. Chairman, if you go to Canada, England or the United States to have a baby you are told from the day you enter the Hospital or Clinic that you should prepare the name for the child, whether it is a boy or girl, because the day after the child is born the Registrar attached to the Institution will enquire: "What is your name? What is the child's name? What is your occupation? What is the father's occupation? Are you married and so on? I do not understand what the Hon. Minister is talking about. He must be thinking of the days when he was outside looking for money preparing affifavits. I am trying to prevent the people from paying him more money to make affidavits in that respect. There is no provision to tell people that they must carry a child and baptise it. What about the people who believe in the "Head-Tie Gang"? There are several Missions all over the place at which people baptise their children, and they have no local standing in this society. There are people who have been baptised at the church in Mason Hall Street. I have made affidavits for at least three people who were baptised in that church where the man had no legal right to baptise people, but because of his particular religion he baptised his followers. Their names were not recorded anywhere in the Registry, and they then had to go to James Street Church at the age of 40 or 45 to be baptised at that late age in order to get a document to get a passport. All I am asking for is that the Government say that a parent should register all of the facts pertaining to a child inclusive of its name at the time of registration, and that will solve the problem.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have several points to answer. Of the 12 copyists, 9 have been replaces by the Xerox machine and its staff of 2. Three copyists have been retained for work that cannot be done on Xerox copiers that is to say, Church Returns and copies from old volumes. Nine copyists released have either got other jobs or have been pensioned. The 2 Xerox operators are not yet established, due to pending re-organisation and division of the Department into 2 (Registrar of Supreme Court and Registrar General.)

I cannot remember what the question on Item 12 was, but the answer is the salary for 2 Xerox operators and 3 remaining copyists.

With regard to Item 15, the Deputy Marshals have just requested an increase in travelling, and this matter is now being considered.

With regard to Item 23, the Xerox Company does not sell machines. Rental is in the form of a royalty and is at 18¢ per page copied and this is counted on a meter. It is a new system and the Department feels that, to be on the safe side, we must request $15,000. Servicing is free, and the provision is for rent only.

The question that the sum of $71,701 under Head 7 – Registration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD - 8 CROWN SOLICITOR

Head 8 – CROWN SOLICITOR – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $12,164 under Head 8 - Crown Solicitor - stand part of the Schedule.

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 (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $113,260 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 11 - Overtime - there is an increase of $300, making it $1,000 asked for this year to pay overtime. The Note says: "Provision for payment for extra duties undertaken in the Ministry." I am wondering whether this is a sort of responsibility allowance that is being given to anyone. If it is not, then exactly how many people are likely to be sharing in this overtime? What are the extra duties undertaken in this Ministry? We appreciate the fact that it is the Government and every Department must, from time to time, find itself involved in what may appear to be something extra. When we look over the whole gamut of things, we might very well come to the conclusion that the reason why at four o'clock officers have to do extra work is due to the fact that somebody had been shirking or spending most of the time shopping in Bridgetown rather than attending to his duties in the Department. What are the extra duties undertaken by these officers?

12 noon.

Now we have at Item 15 - Overseas Territories Income Tax Office - $1,320, and here we find that we have to employ an Income Tax agent in the United Kingdom. Now is this necessary since we have established our High Commission and have our Consular officers? They must have their own accounting staff. How does the necessity arise for this income tax office? We are just asking for an explanation. It might be that we are ignorant of it all. What work is he doing as an agent in the United Kingdom?

Now at Item 17 - National Insurance Contributions - last year we had $1,300,000, but this year we are only asking for $91,000 under this Head. The decrease is due to decentralisation of the vote. It would be a good thing if the Minister of Finance would just tell us how this decentralisation was brought about, and where this was shifted. In other words, we realise that this amount of money has still got to be spent, but we understand and appreciate that it would be spent under other Heads. I am sure the Minister would have that at his finger tips.

Now it seems to be a popular fancy to be relieving city merchants of refrigerators by Government at this time. There is a request almost everywhere for new type of equipment. I am sure that the Government's auctioneer should have his biggest sale ever in another month or two of typewriters and adding machines and filing cabinets, because I believe that for the sum asked for here at Item 20, $9,600, there might be some replacements for some of these items sought here. I think, Mr. Chairman, those are all the points I have before me on this Head 9(1).

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The first query, Mr. Chairman, is under Item 11 - Overtime. The overtime is increased from $700 which was approved in the Estimates last year to $1,000. The actual expenditure in 1969-70 was $698, and this overtime charge is chiefly incurred between the months of September and March when the Annual Estimates are being prepared. In order to get the Estimates to the House here on time, a lot of overtime work has got to be done, and there are four officers involved. The Estimates Committee meets all day almost every day of the week so that the officers have to work overtime in order to get them out to the Government Printery and also to edit the proofs when they come back from the Government Printery, and the reason why it has been increased for the coming financial year is that we have discovered in this year 1970-71 that the amount is inadequate. Right through the Estimates you may find instances where the overtime has had to be increased because of the increased volume of work. We are now budgeting for something very close to $1 million on current account, and it means more detailed checking and so on.

Under Item 15 - Overseas Territories Income Tax Office - that is a contribution which we make for the services of an officer who looks after the question of taxes deductible from people who were employed in the public service of Barbados and that kind of thing. I will get some additional information on that; but this has always been so. We do not pay an agent in London; we make a contribution. My recollection of the matter is this: it may happen that next year we may not have this problem because the British Government has very kindly relieved us of about $80,000 in contributions which we used to make to other people's pensions. They did not make it at our request, but because some South African countries refused to pay any more pensions to Englishmen; but we think we have a legal obligation, and if anybody worked in Barbados, under the old colonial setup you had to make a contribution dependent upon the number of years' service that that officer put in towards his total pension that he would draw when he retires. The officer might have moved from Barbados to Trinidad and then from Trinidad to Swaziland and then to Sarawak and then back to Malaya. All this has to be coordinated back at base, as it were, because once you held one of the Secretary of State's appointments, you come under the colonial Civil Service, and therefore we have to make a contribution for pensions; but pensions in Barbados are also taxable, so you have to have somebody there who will work out the amount of tax due to each territory which contributes towards the retired officer's pension. This is my recollection, but I am checking on the matter to see whether there are any other duties imposed.

12.10 p.m.

Under Item 17, National Insurance Contributions, the note says that this amount is required to meet payment of National Insurance contributions for the Ministry of Finance and departments under its control, and that the decrease is due to decentralisation of the vote. We have decentralised the payment of contributions, for instance, this morning I had to send and pay my own contribution, the Government does not pay any for me. I think all the members of the House would know that this is so and that the Government does not pay any contributions for National Insurance for any of the Ministers, as far as I know, nor for members of the House. You are more or less self employed persons. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am not employed at all). If the junior member for St. Peter will look at page 115 in the Estimates he will see under Item 136 of the Ministry of Health an Item for National Insurance contributions of $415,000, whereas in the previous financial year there was no such contribution. If you go through the Estimates, Ministry by Ministry and do some arithmetic you will see a difference of $91,000 is what is left for the Ministry of Finance.

The question that the sum of $113,260 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the a firmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (2) VALUATION DIVISION

Head 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (2) VALUATION DIVISION – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $134,558 under Head 9 (2) stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Speaking on this Valuation Division, Mr. Chairman, sometime ago we passed a new Act dealing with the Valuation Division, and I wonder if the Minister of Finance can tell me what progress has been made in relation to the valuing of land under the new system of valuation, and when he envisages that this new system of valuation which was described as the most scientific form of valuation will come into being. This is most important because I am trying to find the revenue item of the Rates and Taxes Division in the Estimates, and from what I read the total taxation you will be getting out of land in Barbados is in the vicinity of $3 million. This is the general rate of $3,400,000, having regard to land values and property values in Barbados, if one takes that as $3,400,000 with the property transfer tax and stamp duties, which is another $2 million, you will be betting $5 million out of real estate taxes as opposed to some $28 million in income tax, and I am wondering whether a statement can be made as to the progress of this, because my understanding of it was that this was the method that the Government intended to use to catch some of the additional increment which has arisen in Barbados as a result of not only inflationary effort, but also as a result of the fact that many of these property values have been created as a result of the burden of taxation expended by Government in the form of development, and particularly because of the fact that we have had in the interest of the economy as a whole to seriously restrict the amount of land which is available for development. All countries in the world now recognise that it is necessary in the social interest of the country that these land values that have been created by an Act of the State so to speak must be taxed, so this is one of the means that one catches it, and I would like to know how far the Valuation Division has got, and when it is likely to be introduced.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The whole question of valuation is one which is under constant review all the time; in other words, we do not carry out a once-for-all exercise and say that these are the properties on which the rate will be levied and this is the assessed annual value. We are working now on a system of modified site values which was made possible by the Act which was passed in Parliament, and we have bought premises for the Valuation section and they were in the process of moving some three weeks ago, as far as I can remember, and therefore I believe releasing more office space for the Development Bank and for other purposes. My recollection is that if there has been any holdup of this, it is the question of the cadastral surveys, and we have projected the introduction of the system in full for some time in 1972. Exactly how far they have got, like today, I could not tell the hon. member, but the Chief of the Valuation Office has been appointed and various other members of staff, and we had the United Nations training programme which is now being completed.

A lot of Government Departments lost some valuable officers who went over there, we have also lost the very valuable services of the former Valuation Officer, Mr. Maynard, because he came to reach the retiring age, I believe somebody like Mr. Maynard could have been re-employed on contract, but I believe his health would not permit him to work any longer. (Mr. St. JOHN: He is still working). He has gone back in but strictly speaking he has retired and he is drawing his pension. (Mr. HINDS: He is working this very day). I am glad to hear that because this coincides with my feelings on the matter, that you cannot afford to lose somebody with his experience of property all over this Island, not to talk of family histories of which he is the greatest living expert in Barbados and the whole West Indies after, I think it was Mr. Herbert Sealy at Carrington and Sealy, I think that Mr. Maynard is the greatest living expert on the family histories of property in Barbados. We have Mr. Maynard there working, and his work was always up to date, and we have trained a whole cadre of new Valuation Officers under the new system with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme. I shall make enquires during the course of the day to find out exactly on what date the new modified site value system will be introduced.
12.20 p. m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it would indeed be a good thing if the Prime Minister could make enquiries during the course of the day as to exactly what is happening because, with reference to the Cadastral Survey, I am in a position to say that the United Nations Adviser is not getting the best out of the staff that he has. It would appear as if he is not sure of himself, and this has been discovered by some of the officers who have had some sort of training. The point is that the members of his staff set about to work today, prepare their maps, and when they feel that they have done a good job a new programme is introduced the following day which incorporates much of the work which had been done two or three days previously. I asked for an explanation of this method of approach which is being employed.

Mr. Chairman, it is true that the Officer is an Adviser. He might very well know what he is about, but he is not demonstrating it to the people who are working under him, and they do not have confidence in him. For instance, there is a photographer who is attached to the Drawing Office. The

photographer is only given a map to photograph, when other members of the staff would not like it to be said that he has done nothing for the whole month. There is nothing for him to do. He could better be at home but for the fact that when the time comes for receiving his salary it would be said that he had done nothing for the whole month, so he goes to work. These are facts that I am putting before the Committee, and it is a good thing that the Prime Minister is here to hear what is happening.

Now, you will find in the Drawing Office 5 persons other than the photographer, and they are now to be appointed. They are qualified officers and they have not yet been appointed. There is also in the Drawing Office another gentleman who is trained, but there is no indication, at least up to midnight last night, that he is being considered for appointment. I refer to Mr. Belgrave. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, they can be no doubt that Mr. Maynard, the Officer to whom the Prime Minister referred earlier, is doing an excellent job in the General Office. He is administering that office very well indeed, and were it humanly possible for him to remain much longer, surely there is much benefit to be derived from his so doing. There are two other officers working in that Department who had either retired or resigned: Mr. Legall and Mr. Marshall. They are back in the Service and, undoubtedly, they are people with experience and are rendering yeoman service to the Department. They are pulling their weight at one end, but at the Drawing Office end you are finding that there is stagnation.

We appreciate that the new system to be introduced, or the new maps, will consist of individual plots with all the information necessary thereto, but no real progress is being made. It is for the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance to ask what is being done about this matter, and people should not believe that in 1972 or 1973 everything will be ready.

Mr. Chairman, we are asked to vote money here for photographic supplies, but these things are either being wasted or disposed of not to the advantage of the taxpayers of this country. That is really the situation as it obtains here. These frequent changes of programme are causing considerable upsets.

Mr. Chairman, let us turn to Item 18 - Maintenance of Vehicle - $4,000. I wonder if this maintenance is for two Land Rovers. I have very special reasons for asking this question.

With regard to training, what is being done at the present moment? Let us hear what is Government's approach to this matter. We hear that Mr. Maynard will soon be going, and the same thing applies to Mr. Marshall and Mr. Legall and there may be others as well. Two young ladies and a youngster have been recruited as trainees during the past four or five weeks, but they are such juniors that they will take a considerable time to reach anything nearing maturity in work of this kind. 12.30 p.m.

What we would like to see is that they be kept on but that you bring in people who have the necessary academic qualifications but are a little riper in age, perhaps in the twenties nearing the thirties. At least that is what I think was done with those who have already been trained, but undoubtedly in respect of those three people who have just been taken on, there cannot be much to hope for from them for a long time indeed, and that in itself must slow up the progress of the Department. By all means you should train as many people as can be trained.

Now there is temporary staff at Item 14, $80,000. I wonder if this includes those technicians. You have about nine technicians, and I understand that they get just over $6 a day. How is this arrived at and how does it relate to the type of work they are called upon to do in an exercise such as this? Does it really bear any true relation to the office they hold? Does the pay that is offered them offer any encouragement for them to study further or qualify themselves any better? All these things the Minister ought to enquire into and see what he can get out of it so that when he says he is going to have this, that and the other ready by 1972, we can have them ready by 1972, although he will not be in office in 1972.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to make enquiry about one or two items, but before I do so I would like to make this statement. Comparable with other West Indian Islands, in proportion to size Barbados has more freeholders and or householders than either one of the other Islands. When the Prime Minister speaks of 1972, he means it will be in 1972, but I know it cannot be in 1972. Jamaica has been trying for a long time with this. This Act came into being in Jamaica for quite some time, but I believe most Governments are afraid of this. Knowing as I do the system which must be applied, I do not think that even in 1972 this will come about.

Under Item 14, $80,000, the note says "To meet the cost of temporary staff including labour to maintain the current and new valuation lists". This is clerical staff, I presume; so what labour would then be to maintain the valuation list other than the clerical staff? You cannot take new people to send out to make valuations. As the member who has just sat down said, you had very valuable men with a tremendous lot of experience throughout the Island doing valuations. The explanatory note says "including labour". Does this mean clerical labour or labour in the sense as it applies to other notes under other Heads? I want to know that because I want to know what this labour is doing, because there is no necessity for other labour there as I know what is done and what should be done there. I do not know if this can come into operation in 1972,

or if the Prime Minister has given serious study of the recommendations which the officer that was in Jamaica and is now here has made. If he has not, I would like to counsel him to give very serious study to them and what they will mean in Barbados to the peasants.

I do not want to say much more on this because I think the Prime Minister knows that Mr. Maynard is going back to work; he is a man who is very knowledgeable on the present system, and although he had passed the age to take the examination that was being given, his knowledge of local land values in the various areas makes him very valuable to the Government, and I agree with the Prime Minister in taking him back to work as long as it does not strain his health, because he is a great asset to this Department. I suppose the Prime Minister knows that in certain areas in this Island, not merely in St. Michael, when this new system comes into being, it is not going to be very nice. Why has Jamaica not put it into operation yet although they had it for the last ten years?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have tried to follow the questions raised by the two hon. members on the other side who have spoken. First I would like to say that in answering questions I am not going to deal with any personalities. I do not know who Mr. Belgrave or anybody else is. I do not think it is consonant with the Rules of this House that people's names should be called. I find it remarkable that people outside the Government should have public officers and other persons running to them with stories when they do not come to the person who has some responsibility. I am not in a position to know all these little personal antagonisms and reflections that people bring inside here. I have to deal with broad and general matters of Government policy whether we should have a system of modified sight value in our valuation system in Barbados and matters of that kind. I do not appoint the people; I do not dismiss them, and I am not concerned with tale carrying. I will answer questions on specific items which have been requested.

The maintenance under Item 18 is gasolene $2,400, oil $42, repairs $400, tyres $830 and contingencies $328.

As far as the photographic supplies are concerned, the hon. member said that the photographic supplies are not being used in the best interest of the taxpayers of Barbados. I have no means of knowing this. You appoint officers in charge of a Department, you appoint people or engage them on contract to do certain jobs, and if the hon. member has knowledge that the supplies are being used in the best interest of the taxpayers, he is a taxpayer, and he should know his way down to the Commissioner of Police in Coleridge Street and the Director of Public Prosecutions is available, not to Government Ministers, but to the general public for information, and if he is suggesting that there is something wrong in the supplies coming in and going out, we would be very glad to have the information, but I am not the competent authority to do this, he will have to go to the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Commissioner of Police, and he should not have any difficulty with that because he has an interest as a taxpayer.

12.40 p.m.

There are over ten thousand plans to be photographed; the photographer is employed daily in processing these plans. We have been working for about three years on this new system, the system is going to bring in more tax because it is not the antiquated 18th century system which the Local Government authorities were saddled with, for want of something better, all these years. It is a new system based on an accurate industrial survey of the whole island, and a trained appreciation of site values and matters of that kind, so it takes time. The latest deadline is March 1972; I am not swearing here or taking an oath that on the 31st March, or on the day we finish the Estimates next year, that everything will be ready and you can go and press Button "A" but you have target dates, and this is the target date which, as far as we can see from the progress which the programme is making, we should achieve if everything continues the way it is going, but I am no prophet, I do not foretell the future, I am no fortune teller....(Mr. HINDS: But you go to them, though) .....so I am not guaranteeing anything. You would say anything because you are surprised at being in here at all. *(Asides)*

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am no more surprised than the Hon. Prime Minister, let him go and take his old father from over the market in Bay Street and give him a feed. I am not as surprised as the Hon. Prime Minister, what does the Prime Minister think it is? *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please let us have some order and discipline.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: I did not object when the hon. member said that I believe in fortune tellers because, as I said, he would know about them, I do not know about them. I had better go to him because I understand there is a silk cotton tree very near to him.

Mr. HINDS: Racketeer Clarke used to give you bush baths; that is no secret.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: I am calling on the hon. member to withdraw that statement; that is a highly derogatory and untrue statement. I am trying to answer questions and all he knows is slander and abuse.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister says all I know is slander and abuse; the most abusive and slanderous person that has ever been in here is the Prime Minister, I do not care anything about him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you to withdraw the statement.

Mr. HINDS: The Prime Minister should also withdraw the statement that the only thing I know is slander and abuse.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There has been a request that the hon. junior member for St. Peter withdraw the statement about a bush bath being given to the Prime Minister; will he please do that?

Mr. HINDS: Many sick people go and have bush baths, so if the Prime Minister objects to having one, I withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Prime Minister please refrain from saying that this hon. member.....

Mr. HINDS: Withdraw the remarks; there is no question of refraining from anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Prime Minister also please withdraw the words "slander and abuse" which he used in connection with the hon. junior member for St. Peter?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the statement that all he knows is slander and abuse; if you consider it unparliamentary, you can go and look it up, but I withdraw it. When I am trying to answer politely the questions asked, I do not expect to be exposed to this kind of treatment, and it is time that the House of Assembly takes stock of itself. I do not find it necessary in the carrying out of my public duties to mention anyone, whether it is a Public Officer or a member of this House, by name or to make any unsavoury references to them, and I would be very glad if we are going to get through the Estimates that we have to be very firm that all hon. members on both sides refrain from this kind of thing. I would just warn hon. members that they are dealing with a horse of a different colour when they are dealing with me.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, I just gave the items for maintenance, I said that the photographer is employed daily and there are over ten thousand plans to be photographed. I do not know who Mr. Belgrave is or what the particular stricture is against him, but there are four vacancies for which personnel have been recommended already, so Mr. Belgrave to whom the hon. member referred to is being considered for appointment with another Government Department.

In so far as the temporary staff are concerned, the hon. senior member for the City asked me whether it is all for labour. The temporary staff would be as follows:

1 temporary Supervising Valuer - and his salary is $8,400 - (I am not sure if that is Mr. Maynard)
2 Valuation Officers
1 Clerical Officer at $2,040 per annum
1 Clerical Officer at $2,895 per annum
4 Technical Assistants at roughly $3,000 a year each
3 Draftsmen at $3,000 a year each.

and then the unestablished staff, that is, the Labourers. There are 20 Labourers at approximately $20,000, 2 Drivers, 2 Maids, 1 Watchman, I Gardener and I Weekend Watchman. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: What do the Labourers do?) I suppose they go out with the Surveyors.

The question that the sum of $134,558 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) RATES AND TAXES DIVISION

Head 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) RATES AND TAXES DIVISION – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $68,738 under Head 9(3) stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: It is under this Head, Mr. Chairman, that we would like to get some information. I would like to know what is the position with the collection of arrears of these rates; it appears to me to be of the order of well over two or three million dollars, at least on last year's Estimates alone in the vicinity of $1 million. If you take a look at the Revenue side, one see the general rate was estimated at $3,360,000, and your revised estimate is $2,600,000. This is one field in which estimation ought to be quite accurate. When Local Government was in operation one could take the valuation list, mulitply it by the appropriate rate, leave off some for tax relief and arrive at the potential revenue, and one had the question of whether you could collect that amount.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, a similar exercise could be done in this respect, and it seems to me that the short-fall in the Revised Estimates of $2,600,000 leaves a short-fall of $1 million. I know for myself that the arrears position is not good. I would like to know why, and what steps are being taken to deal with this matter. One of the problems of arrears in the collection of rates is that people sell properties and, even though notification is given by the purchaser to the Valuation Officer, there is a definite time-lag between that information being sent to the Rates and Taxes Division, so that the bills go out to the old owners. About five years ago I had a piece of land in Christ Church that I sold, and I am still getting the tax bills. When I get them I usually tear them up, because I have notified the Department repeatedly that the land was sold to somebody else. They have now gone over to machine addressing and things of

that kind. I feel that this is a very important matter, and I should like to hear the views of the Minister of Finance on this aspect of the matter. Let him tell us what is the position of the arrears. It is no use putting Estimates in the form $3,400,000 when you know that you are only collecting $2,600,000 a year, because that estimate is really one of the few occasions in which one would have an over estimate. I want the actual revenue.

Mr. Chairman, in 1969-70 one sees that the revenue was $2,101,000. You have improved and you were able to get $50,000,000 in the Revised Estimates but the true potential revenue, if one takes the Valuation List and miltiply it by the rate, is in the vacinity of $3.6 million; so that we are running constantly at an arrears of $1 million. That is not satisfactory; this is the rate which usually finances the scavenging and other services. I know that these services are in greater demand and they will cost more money and not only in wages, but in depreciation of equipment and things of that kind. People should be made to pay their taxes and the Local Government rates. That used to be a problem at one time.

Mr. Chairman, one of the claims for centralisation was that one would have a more efficient system of collecting rates, but I am not satisfied that that is so. The General Rate also used to help provide amenities in the Councils in such things as Playing Fields and even help to subsidise the Highway Revenue. It is clear that much less is being done than the Councils were doing.

I notice that they have budgeted this year for the sum of $30,000 Bailiff Fees and Court Fees. I know that Court Fees have gone up slightly. The cost of lodging complaints have gone up. *(Asides)* I am on the Judiciary Advisory Council, and I can tell you that Filing Fees in all the Courts of Barbados have gone up. You do not have it in the Estimates because it is a Revenue Head and we cannot talk on it. The Supreme Court Fees were fixed in 1957 when we were changing the Magistrate's jurisdiction, but everything has gone up. Even costs have gone up. Now, the Bailiff Fees are $30,000, and it seems to indicate that what I am saying is correct and there is an extraordinary amount of arrears. You must have new Bailiffs.

Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether it would not be good if they made a real publicity campaign reminding people of their obligations at this stage. I would also like to find out how the bailiffs are paid. I think they used to be paid a percentage or a fixed fee for each execution. The Local Government in the Southern area had discovered that this system lends itself to a certain amount of racketeering, and they had revised the system and made it a fixed fee, but other areas still continued on the percentage system. I hope the experience is not the same in the other areas.

One of the greatest offenders in respect of rates and taxes in the past was the hotels, because they had the feeling that they had been given tax-free concenssions, although it was only a write-off, that they were exempted from paying Local Government rates. It had to be pointed out to them that it was nonsense, and they never had any exemption from Local Government rates. They were the people who made the primary claim on Local Government services, because they wanted more scavenging than anybody else and they wanted it more regularly than anybody else. They wanted street lighting and everything in their respective areas, and I should like to hear what the Minister has to say on this matter.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Chairman, previous to the centralisation of Local Government, the rate payers of the St. Michael area and throughout the whole Island used to be able to pay their taxes in two instalments, but quite recently this has not been the case. There has been a very interesting case reported to me recently where a man was the owner of three properties; he sent a cheque to cover the rates for the three properties only to find that the Department wanted three individual cheques for the respective rates. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "That is true.") I should like to know what is Government's policy with regard to the payment of taxes by instalments.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, first of all the arrears. When the Local Government system was taken over by the Central Government, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance looked after most of these functions and Valuation was under the Ministry of Finance. As far as I can remember, the arrears for the three Local Government Authorities were in excess of $2 million. 1 p.m.

The arrears today are $1.4 million; so you can see a reduction reflected there in the estimate itself. It is still not a satisfactory situation because over 2 1/2 years ago I issued instructions when they told me of the difficulty of collecting through the Courts as summonses were not going out. I think that in the Bridgetown City Council they had to write out their own informations and that kind of thing and employ people to do it. *(Asides)* I now understand that all the Councils used to do it, but what is happening now is that the Courts are inundated with work and they push tax cases, I believe, right down at the bottom of the pile; so it appears to me. Anyhow, the situation certainly has improved, but it is still unsatisfactory because it means that those of us who like myself within two or three days pay our local rates are carrying the burden for all the people who are probably better off who are not being persuaded by one means or the other that they should make their contribution towards the cost of the services which they enjoy. I find it unsatisfactory and I am sure that other hon. members who pay their taxes, and I hope that embraces all of us, would also find that unsatisfactory.

The situation has improved, but as I said before, one of the main difficulties has been the system. Now the hon. senior member for Bridgetown would know that I discussed with him years ago that under the old Local Government Act and under the old Vestries Act you did not have to go to the Court at all. You could do what the Port-of-Spain City Council does every year, publish the names of the people who owe taxes in the Sunday paper - buy three or four pages which would only cost a couple of thousand dollars - and you would be surprised at the amount of money you would collect. The reason why people in Barbados pay Rediffusion is for the same reason. They do not want other people to know because if they wake up at 6 o'clock in the morning and do not hear Rediffusion playing next door, they know that that person has been more than two months in arrears, and they do not like the neighbours to know that they owed Rediffusion. In the same way I discussed this with the then Mayor of the City of Bridgeotwn when we discussed collection, because as Minister of Finance he had to apply to me for virement every time he ran short of money and people were not paying in their taxes, and I asked why don't we publish the names of the people. I went further and said to give them a month's notice that he was going to publish the names of all the people who were more than three years in arrears, and no lowabiding citizen in Barbados would have any sympathy with those people. I do not agree that if you have people who are fours, five, six and seven years in arrears in their payment of rates that you should pick on me who only got my demand note last week and put my name like Abou Ben Adam heading all the rest because my name begins with "B' , and by the time the person gets down to Zaccheus he is tired reading so he does not see that somebody owes $7,000 and I only owe $150 and I only got my demand note two weeks or so ago. What I said was to pick out all the people who were more than three years in arrears and start with them, and being a Barbadian born and bred in this country, I know my people. Not one of them would like to see his name in the papers that he had not paid his taxes, and you only had to publish another. I do not know if the hon. senior member for St. Joseph agrees with me, but they will pay the Rediffusion bills because the morning the neighbour wakes up and that thing is not turned up to full blast, he knows that something has gone wrong, the sow has gone under the counter or Rediffusion has gone out the door. (Mr. SMITH: Some of them have no shame.) They pay the Government last. They pay the instalments on the television and the furniture, they pay Rediffusion, they pay Light & Power Co. and they pay the telephone because after two months they lose this. For some reason my instructions were not carried out. I think the hon. senior member for Bridgetown himself was contemplating some such measure, but there is this silly idea that you can run a country without money and that some people must and the other people must not pay; the honest must pay for the dishonest, and if you publish somebody's name, you would lose votes.

The point is, Mr. Chairman, we have certain statutory duties to perform and we should not be afraid to perform these duties. I do not think that with the 1.4 million arrears we have there is any point going to the Magistrates' Court in Bridgetown or any other district Court in this Island. It is a considered waste of time because you are in a worse position. When you go to the Courts the magistrate may say pay $1.00 or $2.00 a month and the person may owe $300 or $400. I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church that we should take some steps to collect this money, but all I can say is that the situation has improved.

In so far as the hon. senior member for St. Michael is concerned, members on the other side expressed some concern that it could be true that a Government Officer would receive a cheque for three properties and send it back, but I happen to know about this case. The gentleman has a place just over the Bridge in Bay Street. I know the identity of the person and it was drawn to my attention, I cannot remember whether it was by the hon. senior member for St. Michael, over a year ago. I asked them what kind of nonsense that was and if they did not want the Government to have money to pay the public officers at the end of the month.

The other thing that was happening which I put and end to - I think they were doing it deliberately to try to make the members of the Government look foolish - is that people would send in and pay half of the amount owed, but the demand notes went out say on the 26th November and the law says that when you receive the demand note, let us say, in April, you should pay half then and half by the 30th November. So on the 2nd December some people who only had their demand notes for five days presented half of the amount and that was refused on the grounds that the whole amount was due and owing. Now do you imagine you owe a store money in Bridgetown and you offer half the money and they are going to tell you that they are not taking half? They should be glad to have the money. What they should do is to take the half and say within the next week would you mind bringing in the rest and explain to the people that the way the law was written, it was anticipated that demand notes would be sent out by the end of the month of April or whenever the Local Government Estimates were approved and the rate was confirmed by the rate fixing authority. *(Asides)* All you need to do is to tell the ratepayer that we were late this year in approving the rate as a result of the changeover in September or whenever it was, and as the law stands technically he owed the whole amount, but it does not mean you cannot pay part of it. I have never really been able to understand it. This is as illogical as sending back the cheque to Mr. Laurie Dash for his three properties in full, not that he paid half, on the grounds that they were three separate properties and they wanted three separate cheques. That is the kind of colossal ignorance that we have to deal with and are confronted and surrounded with day by day in the people who are supposed to be working for the public of this Island. Well, I am glad that somebody mentioned it here today. People have to use their commonsense. They

are very quick to take up a book and say the Regulations say this and the Government says this, and they do not use their commonsense at all; but you pay them short at the end of the month in their salaries and then you will read about it in some newspaper or the other that the Government does not have any money because they can only pay the Civil Servants half pay at the end of the month; but they would not collect half the taxes. They say you must pay all or nothing at all. That is their theme song both sides in collecting their money or collecting money from me and other people: all or nothing at all. *(Asides)* Well I am not responsible for that. I told you what I feel about it. I told you that it is colossal ignorance, and I have issued a directive on the various matters, and I hope the situation with the collection of arrears will improve.

1.10 p.m.

I think that the only effective way to get these arrears paid into the Treasury would be to give people warning that their names will be published, and there is authority for doing so under the Local Government Act and under the change over provisions in the Statutes dealing with the change over provisions from Local Government. There is still provision in the law, there was provision under the Vestries Act, there was provision under the Local Government Act, and there is still provision in the law whereby the rate fixing authourity does not have to go to the Law Courts and overburden them with 75,000 summonses. You publish the names and the description of the property, and within so many days within publication in the Local newspaper you can go and levy on the property. I do not think we have to put any up for auction, this is my humble belief, I do not think we have to follow it up in any ensuing year with any such procedure.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are some people if you put their names in a newspaper and even on the television they still will not pay. With respect to the $30,000 for bailiff fees, all you have said about the law and the collection of taxes, you must remember that last year for instance, tax bills came out in St. Michael around November, Christmas is the next month and the people are not paying taxes so easily around that time. If I can remember correctly, there are $14,000 taxpayers in St. Michael, and during my nearly 30 years having experience with it, you have never had any business people so to speak that you had to hound down for taxes, when the time came the Treasurer would only telephone and get their taxes; as a matter of fact they could get taxes from the Banks and places like that before the date they were due and this always happened.

The point I want to make is this, of the 14,000 odd taxpayers, you must remember as - the law stands now any woman with a little house valued at $110 a year is liable for taxes; anything above that. Are you going to put the names of all those poor people in the newspaper? The bulk of the taxes which are not paid, speaking for St. Michael, the greater proportion of them were people who got tax relief, and I was never prepared to put them in the hands of a bailiff who would go and drag out some old woman's furniture. I see $30,000 here for a bailiff; I have never used the services of a bailiff in all my years and still we got in the taxes. Despite what the Prime Minister has said, we still had less due and owning, the majority of those people whom you find not paying taxes - I would not like it to be felt that firms in Bridgetown and people who have houses worth $80 a month are not paying taxes, this is not correct, but when you get tax bills in November people are just not going to pay taxes at Christmas time. Tax bills are due around April and they are prepared to pay right after the crop, in June or something like this.

That brings me to the question of the $30,000 for a bailiff. As I understand it, the bailiff is entitled to a fee and he always gets his fee from the person to whom he goes for taxes. How long, since you are going to pay a bailiff a salary? Are you going to pay him a salary and still he is going to get paid from the people from whom he is collecting ? Of all this tax which is collected and this Rates and Taxes Division, you can tell us I suppose how much in tax relief is given or how many applications you have had and to what extent. When you collect it you have $1 million in taxes collected and then you have so many thousand dollars to take off for tax relief, and you must have officers doing this. I do not know if you are having it done under Welfare now or if you are having Welfare do it in one way and pay it back in another, but this idea of putting people's names in the newspaper, of course I am aware that there is a law for doing this. You can even put some of the members of this House in the newspaper, because some of them just will not pay. I have had too much experience in this matter and I would refer not to say much more on it because this advertising of people's names does not matter with people.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to make it clear that I never said that these arrears were owed by big firms because I happen to know that most of the Banks and big firms used to pay; at least the City Council used to pay sometimes in advance, they do that in Trinidad as well, but there are a lot of middle class people who do not pay their taxes. It may be less than $30,000 or $40,000 owed by people who are the beneficiaries of tax relief, and most of this money is owed by people in the middle income brackets who own properties, and people who carry on business but not large businesses.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am quite aware that there are some people in the middle income group who do not pay a dime, but this is because of the late sending out of tax bills. This is also a matter of the transfer of properties between Solicitors' offices and the like; you have a tremendous amount of them that although the transfer has been made you do not get the right bill to pay.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

1.20 p.m.

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

1.20 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until three o'clock,

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

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

On resumption —

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, I am informed by the Temporary Chairman that he had been called away on very urgent business, and, therefore, cannot guarantee being here now or for some time this afternoon. In the circumstances, I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, subject to his willingness, be appointed Alternate Temporary Chairman for the remainder of this sitting.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to do anything to help carry on the business of the people, but I do not think I will be able to remain here later than 7.30 p.m. I am saying this now so that the Hon. Leader of the House will know how to adjust his business.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the House that when the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and thereto it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

POSTPONEMENT OF HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) RATES AND TAXES DIVISION

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister of Finance had asked that this Head be not closed, because he was getting answers on some questions which had been raised in the course of discussion before lunch.

I, therefore, beg to move that Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division - be postponed temporarily.

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 (4) CENTRAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Head 9 — MINISTRY OF FINANCE (4) Central Purchasing Department — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9,088 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, yesterday we had quite a discussion about Government's policy with regard to issuing instructions to various Government Departments, Airlines, etc.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member quote the number of the Item.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Items 14 and 16. I should like to find out from the Government what are the instructions given to the Central Purchasing Department with regard to the purchasing of items. Can the Minister give us a Progress Report on how the purchasing operates?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to get the information for the hon. member, but the supplier is not immediately available. I take it that he wants a Progress Report on the operation of the Central Purchasing Department.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Yes.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I take it that the hon. junior member for Bridgetown has asked that question in view of the fact that the Department is properly staffed, and there can now be no question of not being able to do something in this respect or that.

With reference to Item 12 - Unestablished Staff - we find that $1,728 is required. That makes us feel that the Department is on the move, and we should be in a position to hear how the Government is acquiring certain services, with what facility or ease, and how expeditiously the functions of this Department tend to assist other Departments of the Government which must of necessity depend on the activities of the Central Purchasing Department.
3.05 p.m.

We take it, for instance, that central purchasing established locally would in itself stretch its arms beyond the confines of Barbados and we would still see the services of the Embassies and High Commissions and perhaps to some extent even the Crown Agents still employed, and we would like to know how all this is meshing in to reduce the cost of what we believe was one of the prime reasons for forcing

Government into taking the decision to establish a Central Purchasing Department.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are very few notes supplied under this item, but the office expenses as at Item 16 still look to my mind a little high, because last year it was also set at $2,720. There is no indication that any equipment or furniture is now going to be purchased.

Mr. Chairman, this turning off and on of the air-conditioners is not good. As soon as you start to get hot, they are turned on to make you get cold. This will make people ill. It is just as if you have anything in a deep freeze and every now and again you open it up and leave it to thaw. It would spoil. I know they would like to spoil me.

Office expenses last year amounted to $2,720. This year the same amount is requested, but the amusing thing is that Item 16 is the cost of stationery, incidentals, account books, newspapers etc., and then Item 17 is the cost of books and publications. Now we find the Government is embarking on a scheme of supplying the various departments with literature. We feel that this is an attempt to have the staff of the various Departments *au fait* or kept up to date with developments.

Mr. Chairman, could we have the air-conditioners put back on?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already instructed that that be done.

Mr. HINDS: It is not merely a case, Mr. Chairman, we hope, of voting money for the purchase of literature for the supply of these various departments and it is just acquired and merely tucked away in some shelf and nobody is making use of it, because in such a case it would pay us better not to worry with it at all. We are hearing that Ministers are not policemen and they are not this and that, but what we are concerning ourselves with is to see that every penny of the taxpayers' money that is spent is to some advantage, and if money is voted for a particular purpose not merely to know that it is spent and that when you are coming to the end of the financial year you have to try and get rid of the money, and so you decide to go and spend it on some books that are not worthwhile. We do not want that kind of thing. If we are buying literature or whatever it might be for any particular Department, we are doing so, we hope, to help the members of the Department to familarise themselves with what is taking place in other fields and we would like to know that it is bringing some benefit to the officers concerned.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enquire how the $3,000 for travelling under Note 14 has been computed, because I think the total number officers listed under this Head appears much less than in other Heads. The sum of $3,000 allocated here for travelling looks a strange figure to me. I would call it one of the figures produced by guestimation when one can see a Marshal is getting $42 and the Financial Secretary gets $60 a month. God knows on what basis the sum of $3,000 will be paid to the travelling officers. I wonder if anybody can explain how many travelling officers there are and how this was computed, and if they have a basis like the Financial Secretary who gets $720 a year, or the Marshals who gets a fixed figure.

3.15 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I had better deal first with one of the points raised by both the hon. junior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for Bridgetown on the progress report of the department. Rules on procedures dealing with purchases have been drafted and will be submitted to Cabinet shortly. The Civil Establishment Order has been approved and staff is now being recruited; these appointments, it is hoped, will be made by the 1st April, 1971. The first phase of operation will entail the purchasing from approved suppliers; suppliers will be requested to deliver to Government Departments on purchase orders issued by the Chief Supply Officer. The Chief Supply Officer will pay suppliers and recover from departments on whose behalf the purchases have been made. The next phase in the operation will provide storage facilities to carry stores; however, to date a decision has not been made as to the site where the storage facility will be erected.

Mr. HINDS: As for the purchasing, Mr. Chairman, of food supplies, I wonder what part the Barbados Marketing Corporation is going to play in this, or in the supplying end of it. In other words, with the Central Purchasing Department purchasing now from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, what supplies the Corporation can get hold of; is that going to be the case?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This would be a matter of detail, but I imagine that since the Barbados Marketing Corporation sells things, the Barbados Marketing Corporation will probably be one of the approved suppliers with whom the Central Purchasing Department will do business for anything which it has to sell.

Mr. HINDS: If the B.M.C. will be one of the approved suppliers, the Central Purchasing Department is doomed to failure, for the simple reason that it is known that directives have already been issued to the various Government Departments, like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Mental Hospital and like Departments that make purchases of large quantities, of food supplies, to purchase from the B.M.C. to the exclusion of all others, and this, Mr. Chairman, even if the B.M.C. is supplying at a price higher. The B.M.C. does not have to supply at market prices, so what one will find here is that here you have an organisation that has absolutely no credit rating in Bridgetown, for that matter no credit rating in the island of Barbados.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, obviously we are discussing the Central Purchasing Department of Government. The hon. member only

asked about the B.M.C. in respect of its being a possible supplier; I have answered the hon. member's question, that if it is an approved supplier, business will be done with it on the same basis as with other suppliers. We are not now discussing the B.M.C., we are dealing with the Central Purchasing Department.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to advise the hon. member that he will have time enough to deal in full detail with the B.M.C. in this very debate. When we come to the Ministry of Agriculture we will give you an opportunity to deal with the B.M.C., so hold your fire until them.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to go into any detail about the B.M.C., all I am trying to do is to point out to Government where the Central Purchasing organisation should try and avoid buying rotten eggs. The Leader of the House told us that there are going to be a number of approved suppliers to the Central Purchasing organisation, and if it is common knowledge that the main supplier that would be approved is a supplier of nothing but rotten eggs.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member is distorting plain fact; the B.M.C. could only be an approved supplier in respect of things which it sells, but the Central Purchasing Department will be buying other things than foodstuffs, if it is buying stationery for a Government Department does the hon. member think they will buy it from the B.M.C.? So if the B.M.C. has something to sell which is to be bought, B.M.C. will be one of the suppliers for that kind of thing, but for other things other people will be suppliers; it is simple enough.

Mr. HINDS: I appreciate the efforts of the Leader of the House to explain away as best he can the bad situation as it presents itself, but it is our duty, I feel, if Government is going to establish a Department, it is for us to put to the benefit of that Department what knowledge there is at our disposal, so that the Department will be able to function in the interest and to the advantage of the taxpayers, because the taxpayers ultimately bear the cost of it all.

One of the main concerns, or main fields of activity with this Central Purchasing Department must be its ability to store, that is, to buy when it is profitable to buy and to store, and to release when it is more advantageous or when the field is good for so doing, but the Leader of the House tells us that in the face of our decision to fill certain appointments by the 1st April, our rules have been printed and are to be circulated, there is not yet a decision taken as to the sitting of the Department for housing our stores; in other words, our bond house.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but are you still on Item 16? Which Item are you speaking on?

3.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Items 14 and 16. There are officers from this Department who must go from place to place to make a choice of the various supplies. When an officer goes out on a particular day and he finds that yams and potatoes happen to be in good supply and it is better to buy them on that day than any other day - *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Item deals with travelling and not with people buying yams.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are discussing travelling in the Central Purchasing Department. In other words, you are going to purchase things, and this Head is telling us that travelling will be entailed for the purpose of purchasing things. We are saying that they should not travel and purchase things and then have no place to store them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member may be trying to test the patience of this Committee. He asked for a Progress Report; I told him what the first phase of the operation would be, and I said that the next phase would provide storage facilities to carry stores, but that a decision on the sites has not yet been taken. He must suppose that the people who are doing this work will know what they are doing. They cannot be so silly as to embark on ordering tremendous quantities of equipment and putting them in the middle of Broad Street. You must give them credit for knowing what they wish to do.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, somebody must be credited with knowing what should be done in this Department, but up to the present, as the Minister has told us, staffing has to be embarked upon.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, certainly within the last few weeks or months the House approved a Civil Establishment Order. This approval is reflected in the column Statutory Expenditure, so the money for the staff is provided. I said earlier that the Civil Establishment Order has been approved and the Chief Personnel Officer is at the moment recruiting staff whose appointments will be effective by 1st April, 1971.

With regard to travelling, the provision of $3,000 covers travelling for 5 officers and it has been calculated at the rate of approximately $50 a month.

The question that the sum of $9,088 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) RATES AND TAXES DIVISION

Head 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) Rates and Taxes Division – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the resumption of consideration of Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. senior member for Christ Church has asked for information on Item 14 - Bailiff Fees and Court Fees - and he wanted to know the basic renumeration for the Bailiffs and whether they were on a salary or not. My information is that the $30,000 which is requested under this Head is to cover the cost of 6,000 cases of taxation at $5 per case. The Bailiffs are being compensated, therefore, on a flat-fee basis and not an *ad valorem* or percentage basis, and then we recover 75¢ from defaulters against whom judgement is recovered, whereas the Bailiffs before used to be paid so much....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please speak a little louder.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well, it would not be my fault, it will have to be the amplification equipment. I do not think it was on, Mr. Chairman, but it is on now. The Bailiffs are being compensated on a basis of $5 per case, and it is anticipated under Item 14 that 6,000 cases should be dealt with in the forthcoming financial year: 6,000 cases on the basis of $5 per case, the defaulters paying 75¢ per summons. The previous years' comparisons in the City are that $15,600 was spent in the years 1968-69 and 1967-68. In the Southern District $10,000 was spent in 1968-69, and $16,800 in 1967-68. In the Nothern District $10,000 was spent in 1968-69 and $22,500 in 1967-68, so that in the financial year 1967-68 $54,900 was spent in Bailiff Fees, and in 1968-69, the last complete year for which we have the figures, $35,600 was spent.

Now, the Estimates for 1970-71 included for $30,000 which was not used, and the reason why it was not used in the financial year 1970-71, which you will see here in the fourth column, was due to the fact that certain Legal Forms had to be amended - distress warrants and warrants for sale - under the Local Government Act, 1959 (55).
3.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is one other point which I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee, and it is under Item 12. On a previous occasion I remember suggesting that the Sub-Treasuries at places like Folkestone in St. James, at St. Andrew and these places where money is collected, that the Clerks there, ought to be given police protection in the wave of armed robbery we have known taking place in this Island from time to time. It is known, Mr. Chairman, that even the Police have received threats to blow up the Treasury Building. One never knows how far people will go with these things, but we feel that in these somewhat remote areas where these Sub- Treasuries are placed, it would be well if some consideration can be given to letting these people who are dealing with money - and we never know how much money they may receive on any particular day - have police protection. I would certainly like to hear what could be done about this. I understand that up to this present day, they have not been given this protection, although it had been requested on a previous occasion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I asked a question about police protection for people at the Sub-Treasuries.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think the hon. member ought to distinguish between a question and a statement. How could it be a question when he is suggesting that these people should have police protection? In other words, he is making a statement to the effect that there is no police protection now and he thinks there ought to be police protection. We will think about it, but that was not a question.

The question that the sum of $68,738 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (5) DATA PROCESSING UNIT

Head 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (5) Data Processing Unit – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $108,798 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (5) Data Processing Unit - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10– ACCOUNTANT GENERAL – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $93,042 under Head 10 - Accountant General - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 15, there is an amount of $14,000, and the note reads "To meet the cost of Stationery, incidentals, maintenance of furniture and equipment and other office expenses. Also includes provision for the purchase of pension cheque forms and payable orders"

Now I believe that this might be the appropriate time to enquire of the Minister of Finance what is the

position of the pensioner who receives two pension cheques each month. In other words, the pensioner receives what was called a Local Government and a Central Government pension; but when there is an allowance or a bonus that is given to pensioners from time to time, the pensioner who receives two pay cheques at the end of each month only gets one bonus and not on the other. Does the Minister of Finance consider this to be right, or is it necessary for an adjustment to be made somewhere?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The pension is paid in respect of a person and not in respect of a cheque. We have cases of people writing us from the United Kingdom and telling us that they were getting pensions from the Trinidad Government, the Uganda Government, the Northern Rhodesian Government Nyasaland, Swaziland, Malta and Barbados and they want us to pay the full bonus or the increase in pensions in respect of each. In other words, we must pay the full amount, Trinidad must pay the full amount so that they would end up receiving perhaps six times as much as they earned during their service, and what we do is that we pro-rate the additional emolument which is paid to the pensioner according to the amount of money which we pay him by way of pension as contrasted with what he receives from all the other people.

The point I am making is that you are paying pension to a person for a particular purpose because of increases in the cost of living, and therefore the person who did ten years with the Local Government Council and twenty-five years with the Central Government cannot expect to be in a better position than the person who did the full 35 years with the Central Government or with the Local Government, and that is the policy, and we are trying to carry out the financial rules in this respect and all the other pension Acts, and I honestly do not see a case made out for paying them a separate additional bonus. I really have not been convinced that there is such a case.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 16 - Allowances for Shortages - it is common knowledge that last year and at least in this financial year or the previous financial year there has been an unusual amount of shortages. Indeed a Supplementary Resolution was brought there to cover some of them not so long ago. What I want to know is whether the full extent of the shortages in the Treasury has not been cleared and if so, what is the amount, and whether provision should not be made now for it rather than having to come back down with a Supplementary Resolution. I would also like to know what steps have been taken to prevent a similar occurence. I heard, I think yesterday, the Minister of Finance say that they were introducing a new system of payments, and that the Data Processing Unit together with the departments would be responsible to a large extent now. As I understood it, there was some question in the Accountant General's Department of the rapidity with which machine operators move out of the service, and it may be that the present grading of machine operators, having regard to the fact that private enterprise pays so much more, needs to be looked at.
3.45 p.m.

These are the reasons which are being given to some extent to the lateness with the accounts to the Auditor General.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: In the first place, I should like to make it clear that the payable order system is being introduced, not to eliminate entirely any chances of fraud, I never professed that to be so, I do not know how it is going to work in that respect, but it is to save delays in the payment to members of the public and other people who draw money from the Treasury, to make it simpler, to simplify the method of payment where each Department will be responsible for its vote and people will not have to go to the Treasury day after day finding out whether there is a voucher there for them. A lot of the defalcations which we have suffered in the Treasury have been due - let me deal with the immediate cause - to the fact that vouchers will be lying in there for months and employees would not look for the vouchers, and I do not want to prejudge anything, maybe they did not want to look for them, and they keep telling people there were no vouchers there for them yet. Most of the defalcations, as I understand it, are in respect of payments to other Governments and not in respect of payments to persons in Barbados, but we discussed in the Public Service Commission yesterday - and I want to say this, that I have always said I feel that when a person works in a Ministry he should have had about five years working around the various departments in that Ministry before he even comes in the Ministry as a Long Grade Clerk. I have said this, the Public Service Commission has taken no notice and they brought people straight from school or straight from idling at home and put them straight in Ministries.

I have also said, in respect of the Treasury, you should only have people working in the Treasury whose work has been established, but there is a very high turnover of personnel in the Treasury, so much so, Mr. Chairman, that the Head of the Department does not know the names of 75% of the people working in there. I know that is a fact, so when you are in a position where you do not know whether a man sitting at a desk has come in here from Tobago to spend the day, or whether he has been posted there by the Chief Personnel Officer, it is a very sorry state of affairs. I am just making statements of fact, I am not making any criticism, I know that is a fact. What we have done, we have appointed a Barbadian qualified Accountant with a team to go into the Accountant General's Department and look at the whole organisation and methods of the Department; I have a report now from that officer on my desk and already we have taken measures to implement many of the suggestions he has made. Due to the linear layout of the office, people are walking up and down behind the counter all day long, going and chatting with a friend here, going down

at somebody else's desk and that kind of thing, and this is a matter for drastic internal reorganisation which has to be done.

I have no power over transfers, the last Chairman of the Public Service Commission felt that he would know more about the day-to-day imperatives and demands of the Public Service than the Establishments Officers, myself and the Chief Personnel Officer, and he point blank refused to delegate the power to transfer across from one department to another day by day to anybody, who he said would have to be responsible to a politician. We have to be responsible and answer questions in here on everything, but if somebody does not turn out to work we cannot second somebody from my office or another office to go and fill that gap, they have to wait for a meeting of the Public Service Commission or get the consent of the Chairman of the Public Serivce Commission to a transfer. We are not talking about demoting a person or anything like that, but moving a person across at his equivalent level. These are my problems in administration and he strenuously objected and made all kinds of nonsensical statements - with all due respect, I can only call them nonsensical - which means that he is more politician than anybody else.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, is this the Chairman of the Public Service Commission?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The ex-Chairman of the Public Serivce Commission.

Mr. ADAMS: Am I right in hearing that the Prime Minister is attacking the ex-Chairman because he did not wish him to interfere in the day-to-day appointments in the Service?

Rt. Hon. E .W. BARROW: I am not attacking him, I am saying that he made nonsensical statements. If you call that attacking somebody, you know the gentleman, you would know whether he is capable of making nonsensical statements or not. When anybody accuses the Government of politics, that person is a politician. That is the way I feel, because all he means is that your politics do not agree with his, but in the interest of efficiency, I personally feel that the people who are involved in the day to day administration, not me, even if it was a committee to which it was delegated, should have authority to say "we do not have a Chief Clerk today and the Magistrate cannot sit," we will send somebody up there and not have to wait for a meeting of the Public Service Commission. What we have been having is a kind of procession of people through the Accountant General's Office, people who are untried and unsound, so this is the problem we are faced with.

I am very glad to say here that the Accountant who is now in charge has made a lot of suggestions which I hope will be implemented. I am not in a position at this stage to say what the out-come of the defalcations are, I do not think that they are any more considerable than what we have already requested the House to vote , but one of the things the Public Service Commission did was to move somebody from the Post Office who was suspected of embezzlement and put him in the Treasury, straight from the frying pan into the fire, to make it easier for him. The person has gone to the United Kingdom, I understand, but this is the kind of thing they do, and I honestly do not feel that anyone should have anything to do with the Accountant General's Department unless he has spent at least five years in the Public Service, and no one should work in a Ministry unless he has five years working around the departments that he will have to be in correspondence with, so that when you get promoted to a Ministry, even as a Long Grade Clerk, you would know you are on the way up to becoming a Permanent Secretary even if you are going in the Ministry as a Long Grade Clerk. I cannot agree that where you have to deal with secret documents and high policy that you should have people who do not even have proper indoctrination as to what the Public Service is about to go into a Ministry, and I have said so, time and time again, but there again we have no control over the recruitment or deployment of people below the rank of Permanent Secretary. I can say where a Permanent Secretary is to go but I cannot say who comes into the Ministry to work.

As I said yesterday, people come into my office, I see them there, I think they are visiting or they want an interview, and then after seeing them there for about five days I realise they are working in there; nobody has the courtesy to tell me "this is Miss Jones who has now come to work as a Secretary or Mr. Brown who has come to work as an Administrative Assistant" or anything like that. Some of them I know by accident, and that is how I realise they are working in the Government Service at all. If I were running a business I could not have anybody working in my business whose name I do not know. I do not want to know all their antecedents, but I want to know what kind of case histories they have so far as their jobs are concerned. All of that is supposed to be the hidden secrets which cannot be disclosed to politicians; you cannot say whether a man has good reports to a Minister from in his department, you go in the office a morning, you find somebody there, take him or leave him whether he is honest or dishonest, capable or incapable, we have to do the best with the material which they saddle us with.

I do not want to employ Public Officers, I want to make that clear, but I would expect that in my office in which I have to do 27 different port folios with a staff of about five people, that at least the five people would be capable people. I am not saying that what I have now is incapable, but I should have some kind of say on the quality of people who are recruited into my office.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, do these 27 different port folios include those of Governor-General, Public Service Commission and other Government Departments for which the Prime Minister said yesterday no Minister is responsible, Sir?

3.55 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If you like you can go through the Estimates and check, but I did not get up to speak on that. Do you expect to have 15 Ministers if you have 15 members in a House? You cannot appoint a Minister for every subject. The fact is that we are living in a country with limited finance and somebody has to take all the residue of the work. At least I would like some staff to deal with some of these subjects, but I am not complaining. I have already given up Home Affairs, Town and Country Planning and so on because the volume of work was beyond what my staff and myself could cope with. Of course, everything still has to be channelled through my office. I am not at the moment in a position to give any figures on defalcations, but I do not think that there are of any considerable amount.

The question that the sum of $93,042 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (3) Data Processing Unit – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 - PENSIONS

Head 11 – PENSIONS – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,323,366 under Head 11 - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not quite understand Item 21 of this Head. There seems to be some slight misprint in the body of the detail of the expenditure. The vote is $700 for, as I understand it, retiring members of this Honourable House. It seems to me that before March next year -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking on Item 21 for $700?

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that is voted by law.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand it. It should not be voted by law, because you cannot anticipate who will retire or what amount should be appropriated. I wonder whether the Prime Minister can explain this. It is very reasonable to expect that by March next year certain members of the House Assembly will not be here.

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW: Mr Chairman, we cannot presume that somebody will not be returned after a General Election, so we cannot put in hypothetical sums in the Estimates. There is no age limit at which we know that members in here will retire. This sum is probably in respect of the late junior member for the City.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, that baffles me. I do not want to detain the House too long but I, perhaps have a little knowledge which may assist hon. members on this point. The former junior member for St. Joseph was paid a retiring allowance, and I have not seen any supplementary provision for it. From what could he have been paid, and what is the point of putting in $700? As a matter of fact, nothing is fixed by law. If this were genuine satutory expenditure, I could not speak on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I can see, I can only go by what is written in the column.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, it is possible to argue that this is a mistake and there is nothing to justify it. There is nothing in the Retiring Allowances Act that permits, to the best of my knowledge, an amount of $700 to be put in, so it could not be statutory expenditure.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is getting the information, I will speak on Item 16 - Ex-Gratia Gratuities. There are still a few people who were caught under the Local Government Pensions provisions. I have drawn the attention of the junior member for Christ Church to the fact that there were a few Bath-Keepers who were hired by the Councils at an age when they should not have been taken on, apparently, but they worked for 10 years. These people were dealt with as special cases; the Interim Commissioner of Local Government knew of them and special representation was made for them.

I wonder whether this $40,000 will cover them, because Item 16 states: To meet the cost of ex-gratia awards to employees who have served for over 5 years but would not qualify for retiring benefits under the Pensions Act 1947 or the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1961. That does not seem to cover them, because they do not come under the Pensions Act nor do they come under the Casual Employees Pensions Act. They come under the Local Government Pensions Act and Local Government Regulations. Is it the intention that they should not get anything? They are eligible for something. The hon. junior member for Christ Church knows of the two Bath-Keepers .There are certainly two Bath-keepers that I know of. One served in Christ Church for over 10 years, and one served in St. James for over 12 years. Of course the one who served over 12 years could not be eligible for a pension because when they took him on he was over the age, but he had served continuously even up to the abolition of Local Government. When the Local Government was abolished before Statutory Board was set up, he was still asked to continue to serve.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, such cases are dealt with on their merits. In cases where people have worked for over 5 years they are given ex-gratia awards. I know of the case to which the senior member for Christ Church has referred to. The man was a Caretaker at St. Patricks. His estate will get the money because he is already dead.

4.05 p.m.

There is one particular case I think the hon. senior member for Christ Church is referring to. It was the former bath caretaker at St. Patricks. His estate will get it because it was recommended, but I think he died in the meanwhile.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 4, there are a few old men who are seen about from time to time who lay claim to having been to the War. They were enlisted, they said, in the West India Regiment and served in the First World War, and they do not get any allowance although they feel they are entitled to receive something. I would like to know on what basis this allowance or gratuity is paid and if all these ex-servicemen who are entitled are receiving, and if not, if there are any whom we know are entitled to something, if consideration could be given to them and let them get what is theirs, or if not, let them be told that there is nothing for them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Under Item 21, the amount there is in respect of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, but there should be an additional amount in respect of the former hon. junior member for St. Joseph. At the time when these Estimates were printed, that had not been computed. I remember authorising the payment of the gratuity, and I think there must have been a special Resolution for that. I remember authorising this way back in October or November last year. According to the law I am supposed to authorise the payment of gratuities and pensions when computed and this was done within a few days, but surely it should be shown here somewhere because it is under the authority of this Act and not under the General Public Serivce Pensions Act, and therefore an amount should be moved in, but I am checking on this right now, and we can possibly go on to Head 12.

I would therefore beg to move that further consideration of Head 11 be postponed.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing under Head 12 to be appropriated because that is fixed by law. We can therefore move on to Head 13 - Customs, and the amount is to be found on page 28.

Before we move on, perhaps to clear up Head 11, it is self-explanatory, because as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has been reminded, it is under the column of Statutory Expenses, and so we do not have to appropriate it, and the pension of the former hon. junior member for St. Joseph is being paid under the authority of that statute in the first column; so it does not have to be appropriated; but in the total figures there would have to be some kind of change in the unappropriated and appropriated Estimates, and I believe the figure is $6,000. It has been paid and it is being paid under Item 21, the first column, fixed by law.

I beg to move that the sum of $1,323,366 under Head 11 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS

Head 13 – CUSTOMS – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment under this Head. Under Item 15 - Overtime, the figure "24,000" should be deleted and the figure "27,000" should be inserted, therefore the total will now be changed from $136,362 to $139,362.

I beg to move that the sum of $139,362 under Head 13 - Customs - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 14 - INLAND REVENUE

Head 14 – INLAND REVENUE – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $45,700 under Head 14 - Inland Revenue - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 - STATISTICAL SERVICE

Head 15 – STATISTICAL SERVICE – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $101,445 under Head 15 - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I just throw this out. The item to which I particularly attach my remarks is Item 18. Although Barbados has caught up after an interval of seven or eight years with automatic data processing and the like - I did not address under Head 9 on this and I would not try to trespass too far in that direction - dealing with the rental of these machines, I wonder if the Prime Minister is aware that in the last couple of months serious doubts have been expressed in Britain about the value of the data processing units which were brought into use in the years 1959-60 and certainly extended through the last seven or eight years for the purpose of Government statistics. The whole concept of logic flow charts and Inland Revenue assessments and the use of computerised methods of operation with purchasing is all being doubted now, and is being analysed by various people.

4.15 p.m.

I am not complaining about the Statistical Service, all I am saying is that the value of computerised Government Services is being used, certainly in the Inland Revenue and in purchasing offices in the British Civil Service, it is being questioned. Their methods are being questioned, and I wonder if the Prime Minister is aware of this and if it has any application to what is being done in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Government's Statistical Service has been computerised for a very long time. We rent machines chiefly from IBM, as far as I can remember, for the Statistical Service at the Garrison. The Data Processing Centre has its own functions to perform and new departments are being taken over, payrolls are being dealt with now, the Department of Inland Revenue programmes are being written and its programmes are being run. At this stage there will be as many experts as we have people working in the Data Processing Centre; this is natural, because everybody is new to the job and therefore everyone thinks that he knows more than the other person, so it is very difficult at this stage to evaluate the systems which will be designed for various departments, and you can buy a system from IBM and it will cost a lot of money, it may cost you $60,000, but we have people there who have volunteered to design programmes, and systems for the various departments, and therefore you have to give them an opportunity to prove whether the system is really going to work as effectively as another system, but we are saving a lot of money by letting the officers in the Data Processing Centre get the experience of writing up these programmes and so on themselves rather than buying a ready-made package from IBM or from anybody else.

I think we are less than a year old, and I think we will have to wait for another year to evaluate the working of the system. Naturally you will get criticism. I heard some rumours a little while ago coming from one officer, he did not tell me directly, he told it to a third person who told somebody else, and he had never done computing before me, and I do not know anything about it. I went on a little coldpone course in Mexico, that does not make me an expert on anything, except that I understand now what it is all about, but I am not an expert. Every one of them in there now is a big expert because they are the first group in Barbados to be thrown together in a couple of rooms, so every one wants to have his own particular doctrine manifested. This is not a criticism, it is natural in setting up a new department you get a long pushing and shoving and manoeuvring and that kind of thing all over the place, but I do not criticise them because it is exciting and it is new and everyone wants to be the Archangel Gabriel, and that is all that has happened, we get this every day. I think that I invited the hon. members to go over there, either in a group or individually, and talk to the Development Officer and the Manager of the Centre, not to the subordinate staff unless you talk to them first; I do not think it would be good for discipline. I think it would be illuminating for members to see how the system is working, I think it has made remarkable strides in the very short time, but the Statistical Office has its own equipment.

We cannot at this stage say whether it would be a good thing to amalgamate the two offices; this is much too early, because there is alot of work to be done independently of statistics, such as payrolls, income tax and matters of that kind. I think we ought to get this organised before we even begin to think of rationalising the equipment that we have by letting everything be done on the 1401.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Prime Minister for his very ample explanation of what is going on. Just in parenthesis, before I turn to the other item that I am going to ask about which is Item 23, I might say that I have never been one that believes that computerised systems do away with ordinary labour. Computers seems to generate as large a bureaucracy to control those who are in charge of them as those who originally did the job manually. Some day perhaps there will be a computer in Barbados with will collect all the bills - it is perfectly feasible to do - collect all the bills, Rediffusion, telephone and the electric bills and cut off your telephone automatically or electricity, natural gas, water, etc., cut it off automatically if it is not paid so that nobody can give you a break, all you have to do is go and pay and put in the card and start it up again. I am sure that when that day comes that whatever private firm has a computer is going to be employing more people to run that computer than all the Clerks who work at W.H. Bryan collectcng the arrears from these different services, and in the utility companies themselves sending out bills; I am sure of that.

Item 23. I would like to ask some questions about the census. Is it true that the census, as with all Barbados census, has once again revealed that there are far fewer people walking about Barbados than the official statistics suggest? I know that wise heads are sometimes nodded in the fundamentalist Churches, and the quotation that God did not intend his people to be counted is quoted whenever these facts happen, but there must be some explanation that those in charge of the census can give. I am told that during the war 220,000 ration cards were issued, in 1942-43, with rice, child rice, special rice and so on, that ration cards were issued for that number of people, and at the end of the war a count was made and there were only 192,000 people in Barbados, without the benefit of any substantial emigration between 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946.

Well again, although the statistics appear to be kept extremely carefully in the Registration Office so that when the population actually falls, because emigration has been substantial of all that appears, that yet the census figures consistently show a smaller figure than the estimated count which has been worked out on the basis of the number of

registered births., I cannot see it; if we are told that there are more people in Barbados, I would assume that the St. Lucians, who find themselves being reviled from time to time by hon. members on the other side, are swimming ashore in greater numbers, or that people are managing to get off yachts, as even hon. members on this side have sometimes suggested, but when you have the number of births on record at the Registry, the number of deaths on record at the Registry, the so carefully kept movement statistics at the airport, every single passenger putting in a landing card, when you have that, how can you get the population to be 10% higher than it actually is, or whatever figure you arrived at? We have no land frontier, nobody can swim to Barbados or nobody can swim out of Barbados, which is the instant case. I cannot believe there is any large scale decamping from unauthorised places of embarking in Barbados; how does the census consistently show fewer people in Barbados than all estimated figures? I would be glad if the Prime Minister could give the preliminary census count and the population estimate for the same base date.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think the answer to that is very simple, what the hon. member says is correct. The provision census statistics disclose a smaller resident population than the statistical abstracts and the estimate is not based on an actual survey, but actual arithmetic, that is, you assume that your last total is correct and you subtract the number of deaths, you add the number of surviving male and female infants, and the number of persons coming into the island, and then you subtract the departments.

4.25 p.m.

That roughly is how the figure is arrived at. Where the discrepancy arises I cannot really say. All I can say is that it is a fact that when we do the actual head count it discloses a smaller resident population than the estimates have projected. I cannot venture to give a reason, but another explanation, of course, is that your base figures may be wrong originally and you carry forward this mistake all the way. It is a fact that it is 5,000 or 6,000, but it is not 10%. It is probably less than 2 1/2% out.

Mr. ADAMS: Is it possible that the head count is wrong and that the census itself is at fault? There are only a limited number of explanations. Arithmetic is a very useful instrument for arriving at correct figures. Once you start with a previous census count, you cannot say that a figure is wrong. All of these figures are projected from the census count in 1946, and they were accepted then as correct - 192,000. There was another census in 1960 and further projected powers in the 1960 census, so you cannot now say that the figures are wrong. The first great overestimation came in the 1891 census when they thought the population was even than around 200,000 and discovered it was much smaller than when they had the count. Now these days are days of accurate registration of births and deaths. As a result I believe that the very inaccurate estimated population in the 1890s and the then census count the registration of births was made compulsory.

I am not sure of the exact year in which this discrepancy first occasioned the passing of legislation designed to ensure accurate registration of births. I do not believe that there can be more than a dozen concealment of live births in Barbados in a year. There may be some slight concealment of still births. Undiscovered infanticide is the same as concealment of live birth. I do not believe there is anything in that and it cancels itself out because there would be no record. Is it then that there is widespread concealment of deaths? That is the only thing that could be responsible for the population shortage.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of things about these modern census problems get me worried. I remember that several years ago it was said that one of the causes that precipitated the Nigerian Civil War was that, apparently, for certain political purposes to inflate populations or certain parts of Nigeria, whole towns were discovered by the Census Officers that were not there before; some places found that the population had grown smaller, and other places found that the population had grown larger to assist the political deviousness of various forces that were then in the Government. That makes me very distrustful of all censuses. I would certainly like to hear an explanation from the Census Statistician who can tell me how so statistically perfect a method of adding the births and substracting the deaths, and adding the immigration and substracting the emigration can go wrong. If every passenger that passes through Seawell is checked, then how can we go wrong? Even 2 1/2% is a substantial error. It is a long time since I have done my statistics, but a rapid variation by 2 1/2% of an expected norm is outside the ordinary standard.

I am concerned with the continued obesession of the censuses taken in West Indian territories with the racial malaise, if I may say so, of the population. I see that we are still putting down censuses in terms of white, coloured and black. The figures will reveal that. I am one, Sir, who has never yet met anybody in Barbados who does not have some dilution of a racial European stream. I have never yet met or seen a Barbadian who did not have what we call white blood in him. I wonder why we are wasting time in instructing Census Officers that they must look at people and work out whether to put them as White, Coloured or Black. If it is thought necessary to maintain statistics of unmixed populations, that is, the Asians of one variety or another, or persons of European origin in our midst, let them be maintained as White, Chinese, Indian and so on. I fail to see the justification any longer in this Island for classifying people as White, Coloured or Black.

I think I can still surprise hon. members with a few things. If you go to the Government Savings Bank to open an account you have to say what colour you are, and they are still persisting with that practice. I did not know that there was white money and black money. I thought it was either green or red. Why continue this sort of thing in the census? In Bermuda the population, I believe, is divided into White and

Non-White, and they do not go to the extremes of St. Lucia and Guyana and talk about European White and Portuguese White and so on. In Cuba, Sir, I am informed that they seem to have the opposite estimation from us. Persons of a certain shade, to use the old-fashioned language, are all classified as White, and other persons are classfied Black; therefore, the population roughly speaking is Black and Non-Black. Now these things come and go. I would be glad to see them not classified as such at all.

Mr. Chairman, in the United Kingdom, I think I am still right in saying, the population is classified as persons. You cannot get statisics from the Census Department which deals with the United Kingdom population of who lives in England and is White and who lives in England and is not White. If we have to have it in Barbados, then let us rationalise it a little bit. Let us not have it on a basis of past prejudices, past foolishnesses, by giving Census Officers unnecessary burdens in this day and age to pursue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is a discrepancy between the population estimates of 253,000 and the preliminary census count which discloses a population of 238,100. Sir, that is over a ten-year period. The explanation appears to be that there is no compulsory checking with the Immigration Officer for people leaving the Island. In other words, people complained about the delays involved in checking in at the counter and then having to go to the Immigration Officers. The Tourist Board complained that several people were unable to catch their planes because of this queuing up. We abolished having an immigration Officer through whom all departing passengers had to go in order to get on the plane. Now, we only have Immigration Service for people coming into Barbados, and we rely on the airlines to inform the Immigration Service of the people who are leaving the Island on the airlines. There is no officer in charge of outgoing emigration at Seawell Airport.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I will tell the Minister that an Immigration Officer was posted there just over a week ago.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we are talking about a ten-year period. Two weeks ago an Immigration Officer was posted there, but we are talking about figures from 1960-70. I am saying that during this period we found out that the airlines were not doing their duty in notifying the Immigration Office accurately of people who were leaving the Island permanently. I suppose it is difficult, because you will have to see how many have return tickets, and even if they have return tickets many people buy return tickets for the United States, the United Kingdom and other places and just disappear off the face of the earth.

4.35 p.m.

Even the efficient U.S. immigration service cannot find a wily Barbadian when he wants to disappear, and when they do find him it is because he wants to be found, and he has already married a United States citizen, and therefore they have to let him come back home, and they cannot prevent him from going back up. We know, as the Consul would know, that this happens all the time; so this is really where the discrepancy arises. Now that we have restored the Immigration Service for out-going passengers, we hope to get much more accurate statistics.

In so far as this qualification of Barbadians is concerned, the University of the West Indies and the United Nations Organisation met together with the Census officers and devised the forms. It is a common U.N. form. I do not like this classification. There should be a time at which we should be able to say "I am a Barbadian citizen."

There is a whole belt in the United Kingdom in which over 150,000 black people from Africa disappeared into the population 113 years ago and nobody goes to question them as to whether they are African or West Indian or white or patriots and even now members of the House of Commons object to immigration and labour statistics being kept on the basis of whether a person is white or black. I remember when I was first travelling abroad with a schoolboy's team or something and I did not need a passport, I got a permit and a police corporal sat down and classified me as light black. I do not know what light black is. I know there is a lighter shade of pale, but I did not know there were light blacks and dark blacks. If you are black, you are black. I think the hon. senior member for St. Thomas regards himself as a black Barbadian. I do not want any classification of my blackness; so I think the first thing I will look into is this business of the Government Savings Bank. There should be no need even for the purpose of identification to ask a man what colour he is, or voluntarily classify him according to whether you think he is white or black, coloured or light black. I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Thomas that people in Barbados are so mixed up that I doubt there is a Barbadian who was not born here or who was born here who does not have African blood or does not have European blood; so we must abolish all this nonsense. This has got to do strictly with the Statistical Service, but I assure the hon. member that in so far as the Savings Bank is concerned and any other Government Institution, your identification card will have to speak for itself. I do not think there is any other question.

The question that the sum of $101,445 under Head 15 – Statistical Service – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (1) CABINET

Head 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (1) Cabinet – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $392,655 under Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office (1) Cabinet - stand part of the Schedule.

There are certain amendments which have to be made to Head 16 (2) beginning with Item 14. All the numbers of the items in the third column will have to be deleted and renumbered because we are deleting Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation $225,000 from the Estimates, and then Item 15 becomes Item 14 , and in sequence all the way down to Item 20 which becomes Item 19. The next Item will be a new Item which will be "20" and then from Item 21 will remain all the way down. So after the new Item 19, we wish to insert Item 20 and that will be "Membership of Institute of Air Transport," $1,000. There is no correction on page 33; the corrections I have been dealing with are the corrections on page 34.

I beg to move that the sum of $392,655 under Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office (1) Cabinet – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I see an item here for conferences for $275,000, an increase of $45,000, and I see a most charming item, Item 15. No wonder the Prime Minister skipped page 33, an item for contigencies also raised by $45,000. It was $5,000 last year and its has gone to $50,000 now. These contingencies are payable on the authority of the Cabinet. We have had in the past in here an example of what can happen with this authority of the Prime Minister and authority of the Cabinet Contingency Funds.

4.45 p.m.

Contingencies payable on the authority of the Cabinet, expenditure met only on the authority of the Cabinet. We have had in the past in here an example of what can happen with this authority of the Prime Minister or the authority of the Cabinet on contingency funds. When the Government Hospitality Fund was seized on many years ago, it was increased and it was used to give the Ministers a secret tax free allowance of $100 each and the Prime Minister $400 a month without having to reveal it to Parliament or to the people. Were it not for a Minister who came out and said how he was getting $100 from the Government Hospitality Fund tax free, perhaps getting on to the equivalent of what hon. members have since voted themselves in here in the way of duty free allowances, and were it not for a Minister who said that, we would not know about it, we would not know why it was the Government Hospitality Fund was going up.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to correct the hon. member, there is nothing secret about this, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and certain Heads of Departments were allowed to incur expenditure under the Government Hospitality Vote for Government hospitality, and each Minister if he had to entertain anyone could get permission from Cabinet, and we have worked it out in that particular year and decided it would be administratively more feasible to give a fixed allowance to each Minister in respect of hospitality instead of having to submit all these bills, and this has now been regularised immediately after by having a separate allowance for Ministers in the same way that Members of Parliament got separate and distinct allowances, so there is no need to cast aspersions or anything like that, it was money legally incurred but it was only quantified at $100 per month. It is only a question of method.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I enjoy the Prime Minister's verb there, "regularised." It was later regularised by a proper vote; that is all he is saying. Mr. Chairman, I could probably tell the Prime Minister one or two of the details he left out which I have heard from, I think, the Hon. Leader of the House, that although they had $100 a month entertainment, every $25 could still be vouched for and collected out of the remainder of the fund after the Prime Ministers have finished with it. Entertainment over $25 or over and above the $100.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: For the simple reason that if there was, say, a Health Ministers' Conference here, and the Minister entertained delegates at a Cocktail Party, you could not expect him to pay for a $400 Cocktail Party out of an allowance of $100 a month; that was the simple reason, and Parliament has since approved much more than $100 a month.

Mr. ADAMS: I suppose if we examine the vouchers there would not be one voucher where the Minister had taken a group of friends to the Hilton Hotel, perhaps unconnected with any Health Ministers' conference or anything else, and there would not have been one voucher from the Hilton Hotel for the Minister and six friends that came to over $25. You would not find one voucher in all the years with the $100 a month allowance where a Minister had had a private luncheon over and above that allowance.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: As a Matter of fact, I disallowed one in which the bill was $25.11; it was a former Minister who is not a Minister now. Although it was 11¢ over I considered it so close to the border that he would have to do without it and spend it out of his own allowance.

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Sir, every time he rises he is revealing that the ammunition we are firing off is not dull. I am saying that there have been occasions where private entertainment of quite small amounts was vouched for by the Ministers. Now, Sir, in my opinion the Government go ashamed. I remember the Hon. Leader of the Opposition pointing out that the thought of Senator H. A. Vaughan, as he was then, ever spending $100 a month on entertaining anybody was only a bad Barbadian joke. All of this has been gone into at some length; there are some Ministers who regard that $100 a month not as an entertainment allowance, but as a cost of living allowance, and after all the Ministers who come in here and explain that they think Ministers should be better paid and the Prime Minister should be the best paid person in the country, and therefore naturally if you are hesitant

about voting to make Ministers as a class the best paid professional people in this country, if they are hesitant about voting for such funds, why then, you must find undercover ways of doing it, and the Government Hospitality Fund was used as an undercover way of doing it. The Government has got ashamed and they do not increase the Hospitality Fund now, and they no longer raid it for entertainment of that sort, but now I see a fund here for contingencies, then to the next, Conferences and Delegations.

Sir, it is an open secret that after a particular Minister had the travel of his wife paid for to go to a conference that the rest of the Cabinet insisted that every Cabinet Minister must have the right to carry a wife abroad at Government expense in a certain system of rotation. All of these things truned up. I think I was present when the allegation I have just made was exposed to one of the Ministers - I do not see him now in his seat - I think I was present when he heard it for the first time, so these things although they appear to be private and quiet at the time they have a way of coming out. The conferences vote out of which such activities are carried on, is going up by $45,000 a year. The conference vote, I invite the Prime Minister to correct me if I am wrong, now includes a vote for a certain amount of travel for the wives of Ministers. I want to know what the contingency vote includes. Where is this sudden increase in contingencies in Barbados of another $45,000 a year? From $5,000 a year, none of which was actually spent according to the Estimates for 1969-70, there is no actual expenditure listed that I can see for this amount for contingencies.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Contingencies are always spent almost right up to the hilt, and the regrettable part of it is that my office gets the least of it, and what we have done is to amalgamate the contingencies vote under other Heads and put everything under the control of the Cabinet. Certain Heads had contingencies votes, and I am looking for this now, but we put this under the control of the Cabinet, it has nothing to do with travelling or anything like that or with Ministers' wives. As a matter of fact, I think there is a reply to a Parliamentary Question which will be tabled shortly, which discloses that over the two or three year period the hon. senior member for St. Thomas asked about three wives of Cabinet Ministers travelled abroad on invitations from foreign Governments where they were not paid hotel expenses out of this Government, but merely their passages, and there were 153 Government Officers' wives who travelled during the same period. 4.55 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: What about George Moe?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He is not a Government Minister. The member of the Public Serivce to whom the hon. member referred is not a Government Minister. What I am saying is that it may be approximately 157 or 154. During the period covered by the question of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, three Cabinet Ministers' wives travelled abroad, and during the same period 150 Public Officers' wives travelled out of the public Treasury; so what you are saying to me now is that a Minister in the Government should be in a worse position as a Minister of the Government than he would be if he were in private practice or working as a School Teacher. That is what I am saying. I am not here to look at any Item on Contingencies. *(Asides)* I am sorry I interrupted the hon. member.

Mr. HINDS: There is a reduction in the Police vote.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am looking for it now under Home Affairs. We do not think that the Police should be allowed to spend money on contingencies unless the Cabinet knows about it. My recollection is that the vote for the current year was $10,000, because there was a supplementary of $5,000. In so far as the Conferences were concerned, we had to come for a supplementary and the amount was $275,000. We have elso reduced Item 61 under External Affairs out of which External Affairs paid for their particular O.A.S. Conferences independently. We do not think this is right; we think we should show the whole vote for Conferences under this Head. We were $51,000 under what was spent last year under this vote when we amalgamated the two Heads.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am holding on until the hon. member comes back. No answer has been given on the question of contingencies. I know that a certain amount is spent on Special Security under this vote, but what else has been spent under this vote? Last year, when we dealt with Conferences, the Leader of the House came in here and laid a Statement as to the number of Conferences attended and by whom attended. Do not the civil servants think that we deserve that this year?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that was when we were doing the supplementary for that year.

Mr. St. JOHN: No, I am talking about the Estimates. Last year you said that there were 90 Conferences. You said that we had a complete review of the totality of the Conferences that people were attending in that year and who would be attending them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member will be surprised to know that since then we have set up inside Government a Standing Conference Committee before whom all proposals and all intimations of Conferences to which this Government is invited to be a participant go, and they then recommend to the Cabinet the Conferences, Seminars, etc., which they think would be proper and of advantage to this Government, so that we do not now accept every invitation or participate in every Conference to which we are invited.

Mr. St. JOHN: You should still give a Report. Last year you said that, as a result of the strictures from this side, the Government had agreed to curtail their activities at these Conferences, and that you

would set up a Committee to evaluate the benefits from each particular invitation. We would like that Report, because it would be useful at this stage.

With regard to Government Hospitality, the Hon. Leader of the House promised on the last occasion that a letter would come, and that he had the authority of the Cabinet to say that a letter would come to the office of the Speaker indicating that in the case of extraordinary entertainment when people come here from abroad - you will call that the separate entertainment for the Speaker has been cut out - *(Asides)* It cannot come under the C.P.A. vote, because not only C.P.A. people come here. You have Commonwealth Parliamentarians and then you have people like Ambassadors and so on who have to be entertained. The Leader of the House promised to send down a letter, but it has not yet come. This is a whole year and a letter has not reached the Speaker's Office. We know that the wheels of the Government turn slowly, but we did not expect them to be so slow. Have we taken one year to receive the letter? That is a very high rate of productivity!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows the old background to this problem. I had given the House an undertaking that the Cabinet would honour any bills sent in by Mr. Speaker if he had to entertain in his public capacity over and above the limit of his allowance. I have not heard in the last year whether this has been so.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I have not explained myself carefully. You will notice that the President of the Senate gets a specific hospitality allowance of $1,200 a year. Hitherto the Speaker used to have a separate column showing that. When the duty-free allowance was fixed for all members, the Speaker's allowance was fixed like all members. That has nothing to do with the question of hospitality. At the time it was agreed and the Leader of the House gave a commitment that a letter would come showing that entertainment above a certain amount would be paid, but the letter has not come. *(Asides)* I do not believe you were insincere in your promise, otherwise you would have written the letter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, an undertaking in Parliament is better than a letter. I am not quite sure form whom the letter is to come. Maybe, I will ask from whom the letter is to come. Maybe, I will ask the Cabinet Secretary to write a letter this week. I was not here when the undertaking was given, but I know about it; therefore, I assumed that the letter had been sent. It is nothing to worry about, because we intend to abide by that decision. Right now what happens is that the Speaker and the President of the Senate use the C.P.A. vote when they want to have extraordinary entertainment. 5.05 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: That is correct once the people are C.P.A. members, but we are having people from the Latin American Parliament coming here now and again, and I see we have a notice now from the Belguim Parliament. That is not C.P.A. and some question arise as to whether it is C.P.A.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I want to say this because although I think both sides of the House understand what we are discussing, certain things will have to be made clear. The entire House was in the same mood and had the same attitude towards this matter. The House was unanimous in what we did last year and the House is still unanimous because it is not asking us to vary our decision of last year. We will send a letter saying that if you have anything over and above what you are getting, we will honour it.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would permit me very briefly, I want to return to something I had started to speak on when I was called out to the House. The Prime Minister is drawing a distinction between the wives of Ministers and the wives of public servants. Again I would be very glad to be corrected if I am wrong in my estimate of the situation, but my understanding is that it is only since my question was asked that the new formula for ministerial spouse travel has come into force, because my question is getting on to a year now, and at that time my information had been that there were particular instances about this. I like things to be equitable and I like things to be open. If it is decided that there is some formula by which wives of Cabinet Ministers are permitted to travel abroad with them or husbands of Cabinet Ministers are permitted to travel abroad with them or husbands of Cabinet Ministers if ladies should enter the Cabinet it should be open; it should not be anything to hide or keep secret. I would find it very hard to argue against a decision on a long conference to carry a Minister's wife abroad. If a Minister is going to be away for a long conference, the Government would be administered better and the work he is doing at the conference my be discharged better if he has some element of domesticity about him. It is not that we have here Ministers who will walk about at night if they do not have somebody to keep them in their hotel rooms, but I have experience.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: I would not like to bring tales out of school, but let me take it on the Caribbean area rather than localise it too much. From my conversations looking at the whole Caribbean, I am not saying whether Barbados is included or excluded, most Ministers are not really too happy in having to travel abroad with their families; so do not think that any Minister in Barbados is saying that his wife has to go on this or that trip. I want to make it as catholic as possible. When you go to Caribbean Conferences, you tend to get laughed at if your wife was with you. They say that you are really a hen-pecked husband and you cannot surge and cannot be with the boys and that kind of thing; so don't get the idea that any Minister anywhere in the Caribbean is particularly anxious that his wife should travel with him. *(Laughter)*

Mr. ADAMS: I thought that in talking to our Cabinet that in fact I would perhaps be speaking to a

number of the more uxoriously-minded Ministers, because I do not see any of our Ministers who give me the impression of being men that like to travel without their wives. I know that I take a holiday ever so often in North America or in Europe. I may nanage to scratch together enough to get there every other year, and I know that without fail, even if it is the Independence Conference, my own family will not be far away when I travel, and it would be comforting to think that all of us who are called upon to travel abroad in the service of our country, if we preferred the uxorious life, could have it but it should not be secret. There should not be any opportunity of asking who paid for Mrs. X to do such and such a thing. It must be talked out.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is nothing secret about this. The hon. member has asked a question, the reply to which is ready. When we came for a supplementary for conferences, the Minister of Health mentioned this business, but we have been receiving invitation after invitation to long conferences in which complaints were being made, not by the Ministers, that they were shut out - I do not know if the hon. member is reading me - and how is it an invitation has arrived and my husband has not even told me about the invitation. We did not feel at that time that it was something we ought to look into too deeply, but pressures were built up and it leaked out that these invitations were coming and not reaching home. Hon. members have to appreciate our position. If you want to maintain domestic tranquility as the American Declaration of Independence says, there are certain things which you cannot keep in the dark. We are not keeping anything in the dark from the House. There were other people who were being kept in the dark about the invitations, and they read in the Trinidad Guardian that Mr. So and So was there and Mrs. So and So was there; so we have placed a limitation on it and said that not more than one invitation a year can be accepted for a Minister, and actually the average is working out at about one-thrid of an invitation for the whole Cabinet per year. I wish the hon. member would not press me because we might have to say things that might cause certain disturbances in other quarters. We are fully aware of the fact that we are taxpayers. I assure the hon. member that there is nothing clandestine about this at all, and we do it on invitation, and as the hon. member has said, there are invitations in which it is actually beneficial to a delegation that there should be a lady who can go around and entertain.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I observe that my colleague and the Prime Minister had a little gossip thing here on the Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what item is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. CRAIG: I am going to deal with Items 13, 15 and 17. It is all right for my colleague and the Prime Minister to have this little sort talk about wives. I am not in this sort of thing. I would like a breakdown from the Prime Minister as to how Government proposes to spend an additional sum of $45,000 in contingencies which is under the control of the Cabinet, because to go from $5,000 to $50,000 is a lot of money to think about. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I can answer that right away.) All right, you are going to knock the steam out of me by answering that right away. You break it down and let me hear how you are going to spend this $45,000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know if the hon. member was in his place when I began to give an explanation, but by the very nature of the vote "Contingencies" you cannot give a breakdown because it should be specifically appropriated if you know what is going to happen. Let me explain. In the first place the expenditure this year up to now has been $10,000 because we have had a supplementary and then we discovered that when we had certain things at the Treasury, we firstly in some cases had to invite experts, and secondly we had to scratch about looking for a vote in twenty-four hours' notice to send certain Sergeants and Inspectors to interview people in the United Kingdom. This has been happening with frequency, and we do not think that we should put a contingency vote under the Commissioner of Police unless the Cabinet knew about it. This is nothing to conceal. We cannot calculate with any nicety, but any time you want a handwriting expert or somebody like that, or you want to send an Inspector up to interview people in the United Kingdom, we feel we ought to know about it, and not put it under the control of a Head of a Department. I am just giving an example of what can happen. 5.15 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: If the Hon. Prime Minister would just give way for a minute.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will give way, but I am just giving an example of what can happen. In the United Kingdom in matters like this, extraordinary expenditure of this nature that cannot be forseen is voted under the Consolidated Fund where you cannot even question it, but we have put an amount in there which we are guessing. We cannot calculate with any nicety, but by the end of this year we should know the exact amount that would be desirable for the contingency vote, but we feel it should be under the control of the Cabinet, not that the Cabinet should send somebody but if you want to send anybody we want to know what is going on that somebody is being sent. I will give you and example why it should be under the control of the Cabinet. I have had a case in which some equipment broke down and we never got it back from an American firm, and then when I asked what had happened with the equipment they said they did not send it back. We made representations and then we got a gift from a foreign Government of equipment to sort of keep us quiet because they did not want a big noise that an American Firm did not return our equipment. I thought that this was wrong; our wireless equipment broke down and it was sent back to be repaired and up to now it has not come back, but when we made representations to this firm the Government of the particular country said they would give us equipment. I do not think that any

gift should be made by any foreign Government to this Government unless the Government knows about it at least, if not the House as well, and if we had money for contingencies we could have replaced the equipment and then sued the Government as well, but this is the kind of thing that goes on all the time. I would just say finally that what I am trying to emphasise is that with the contingencies vote you cannot anticipate, but the Public Accounts Committee can then look into the contingencies vote and see if it is well spent.

Mr. CRAIG: Since the Prime Minister has given his explanation, Sir, and he cannot say exactly how this money is going to be spent, what I thought would have been the ideal thing would be to remove the $5,000 vote they had last year and put in a token vote of $1.00, and then you would have to come back to Parliament and say exactly what you need this money for and what to do with it, but to give a specific figure of $40,000, one can only conclude that the department under which this comes must have come to the conclusion that they need $X thousand to do a particular job, but do not tell me that you do not know what you have to spend but you can say approximately $40,000. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: $10,000 was voted this year.) It was $5,000 last year and it is $50,000 now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to explain something; the contingency vote is used like a long stop as well. For instance, if a child or somebody had to have an emergency brain operation or something like that and the vote under the Ministry of Health was not sufficient, and we got a telephone call, we would circulate a round robin and authorise that it be paid out of the contingency vote. It is used in cases of emergency where we cannot come to the House with a supplementary because of the time factor. This is the principal reason; we have assessed all the demands which have been made and so on. I am telling you the purposes for which the vote has been used; it is used for things that are not foreseeable, it is not used for anything that we can say we need for this or for that.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, my whole argument is this, the Prime Minister states that it is used for things unforeseeable, but how do you know it will not be $60,000 or $80,000? Why have you arrived at the figure of $40,000 more? How do you arrive at this figure of $40,000 more if you do not know exactly what you have to spend it in? Why have you arrived at a figure of $40,000?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It can be $100,000 or $30,000. What I am trying to explain to the hon. member is this, we have a great problem in the Ministry of Finance when emergencies arise to fit in something, and I have questioned this several times when we have had to send people abroad and there was no money in the contingency vote, and it was an emergency. Sometimes we ask the opinion of the Attorney General and he says it could possibly come under Conference and Delegations, and you will find several instances where this has happened, but I as Minister of Finance am not satisfied that when we send an inspector or somebody up to the Montreal General Hospital for an operation, I am not satisfied in those cases that it should come out of Conferences and Delegations, and I have queried it several times. It is a question of the time factor involved with a money resolution. I am being genuine about this, and I have personally tried to quantify these occasions on which things were border line with one vote or another and we put it under contingencies and it is all accountable.

If the money is not spent it lapses at the 31st March next year and will be in the Treasury. We came back for a supplementary this year, but there were several other occasions on which we used other votes which the Auditor General has not really questioned, but he might ask if it is really proper charge under this Head. The fact that it is an emergency is nothing to do with the Auditor General but we have had to get legal opinions wherever it was possible to send people under this. The classic example - the only reason why I mention this is because this is the latest one I remember - when we had a case and the Director of Public Prosecutions said he wanted certain evidence collected, we had to send somebody up under Conferences and Delegations when it was neither a conference nor a delegation, it was a one man delegation going to collect evidence, and that alone would have been $2,000 to $3,000. We cannot say whether it is going to happen next year or not, it is not going to be spent for travelling for any Government Ministers or hospitality or anything like that or for any election purposes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the point which I am driving at and which the Prime Minister is trying to get around by saying all this sort of thing about a child going for an emergency operation, we know there is a medical aid scheme. I can appreciate the Prime Minister is telling this House that this is for a case of emergency; what I am trying to pin the Minister down to is this, why $40,000? Why not $80,000? You must have known what you are spending today that you can say $40,000 more, why not $42,000?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If you want it $42,000 I will make it $42,000.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not want it $42,000, make it $5,001.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It has been proved consistently that $5,000 is not enough in these other cases that have been charged, and I am not satisfied that in the emergency they should have been charged under this Head, and what we are trying to do is to pull them together under one vote rather than stretching - I am not suggesting the Attorney General or anyone else or the Senior Crown Counsel stretches the interpretation of a vote - but there have been emergencies in which we have had to go to Conferences and Delegations which in my hunble opinion were not strictly in accordance with the interpreta-

tion of the vote, if you understand what I mean, but were on the border line. These things arise like if somebody has to go away tomorrow and that kind of thing; in other words, I have analysed occasions on which there is room for argument as to the appropriate vote, and that is how I have put in the figure of $40,000. Does that satisfy the hon. member?

Mr. CRAIG: The Prime Minister is saying, Mr. Chairman, that this additional $40,000 is for use in cases of emergency. Let us assume that there was an emergency that would cost $150,000, what would be the position? Would the Minister have to come back to Parliament and get the additional money? 5.25 p.m.

Would the Minister have to come back to Parliament to get the additional money? Why put in the additional $40,000? I am worried about this specific figure of $40,000. If the emergency is more than $40,000 he will have to come back to Parliament. Why not come back to Parliament when it is necessary? I believe that this House should agree to a reduction in this vote to the original $5,000 and that would be good enough.

Mr. Chairman, I do not like this $50,000 for Contingencies. In the Government Hospitality Vote, is an additional $36,000 and that is $86,000 in the hands of Government during the election year.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member does not understand the Constitution of this country. This Government has a trained Political Scientist and I want him to understand that. I was brought up in an atmosphere..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would challenge the Prime Minister to get a job anywhere in the world as a trained Political Scientist. He is a half-baked Political Scientist.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am a half-baked Political Scientist, but the dough with him has not even been mixed. He is an unbaked Political Scientist.

Mr. CRAIG: Do not..... *(Asides)*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Do you think that anybody would write out a voucher for himself and go to the Treasury to draw money, and there would be no Auditor General or Public Accounts Committee to check on it? We are dealing with a Budget of over $100 million, and we are saying that there are occasions frequently arising where it is not possible to come to Parliament for a specific vote and for which there is no clear provision, and we are asking for a Contingency Vote of $50,000. If the money is not spent it will lapse and go back into the Treasury. I have made a rough calculation of the occasions on which the tax on a particular vote has been heavy because there was an emergency and it was not possible to come to the House with a Resolution. It is not possible to breakdown what a contingency is because the very nature of the term means that it is not capable of being foreseen by any human ingenuity.

Now, during the past three or four years when we ran out of the vote for people to go abroad and so on, we had to send them willy-nilly out of different votes. I am trying to do things constitutionally. If the money is not spent it will lapse. Apart from the money which is paid into the Treasury as my salary and other emoluments, I want the hon. member to know that no Minister makes 5¢ out of the Treasury of this Island. It is quite improper for any hon. member to get up here and suggest that we are putting in $40,000 for our election expenses, and I think the hon. member ought to withdraw that.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, withdraw what? I am sorry if I aroused the anger of the Prime Minister when I said that he was a half-baked, trained Political Scientist. I will withdraw that and substitute a self-styled Political Scientist.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned over these Conferences and Delegations. If we were to examine the Approved Estimates for 1967-68 we will find that the amount at that time was $75,000. In 1971-72 they are asking us to vote something like $200,000 more over a period of three years. I refer to Item 13. This brings me back to the point when the Minister of Finance walked out of Sherbourne and broke up the Conference, and today he is putting upon this country an additional burden of $200,000 which the taxpayers are finding it difficult to carry. When we come to External Affairs I am going to talk all night. In three years this amount rose from $75,000 to $275,000. It is a good thing that the Prime Minister is a trained Political Scientist or Economist. If he were not a trained man, I do not know what would have happened to this country. There is no wonder that we hear that one morning we will get up and find that we have no land. I would not be surprised if we got up one morning and found that there is no money in the Treasury, because of the way they are going on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in 1968-69 the actual expenditure was $164,615 for Conferences and Delegations.

Mr. CRAIG: The Approved Estimates for 1967-68 was $75,000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in 1966-67 the actual expenditure was $125,000. In 1967-68 there is a figure in the Approved Estimates for $75,000, but that was not the actual expenditure. My recollection is that it was in excess of $125,000. When the hon. member is quoting let him quote actual expenditure increases.

Mr. St. JOHN: There is a column in our Estimates for actual expenditure, and that shows how bad your accounting system is. There is nothing here to show the actual expenditure.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: For this year one cannot write in the actual expenditure until the 31st March.

Mr. St. JOHN: There is actual expenditure for 1969-70 and the column is blank. I am talking about last year's financial year.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know what the actual expenditure was, but the Approved Expenditure in 1969-70 was $190,000.
5.35 p.m.

What was actually spent in the year to which the hon. member referred was $164,615, that is 1968-69. In 1969-70 $190,000 was approved. The actual expenditure for the year 1968-69 was not $75,000 but $164,615. (Mr. CRAIG: What was the $75,000 for?) I do not know how that got in there, but the Estimates for last year show what the actual expenditure was for 1968-69.

Mr. CRAIG: Have you seen the $75,000 there?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is in the Approved Estimates. At this stage we do not deal with what has been approved. You deal with that this year or last year, but when you have the out-turn figures you cannot say it was $75,000 when you actually spent $164,000. You are making a comparison.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, listening to the Prime Minister on each occasion that he rises to speak, he is becoming less and less convincing in what he is saying.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know the hon. member is new, but I wish, Mr. Chairman, you would ask him to refrain from introducing personal matter into his introductory remarks when he rises to make a point. If he rises to make a point and he has a real contribution to make, let him get on with the business of the people of Barbados. I have no desire to be personal with him; so he should refrain.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: There is nothing you can tell me that I cannot tell you back. Mr. Chairman, as a classic example, the more the Prime Minister speaks, the less convincing he becomes, and his rising just now is a classic example of that. We have got to a stage where I do not think the Prime Minister really believes what he is saying, because the Prime Minister at one stage said that this Contingency Vote is for the purpose of getting expert witnesses from England to bring down here. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say that.) The Prime Minister did say so. He used the words "experts in hand writing".

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW: Let me make this distinction. I am on a point of personal explanation.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am not giving way on a point of personal explanation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If he rises on a point of order , I would give way.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the Standing Orders say that a Minister may rise to give a personal explanation on something on which he is misquoted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has risen on a point of explanation. Let the Chair hear it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Do you rule that I must give way?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am only asking you to allow me to hear it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: No, Sir. Either you rule that I must sit down because he has risen on a point or let him sit down. *(Asides)* The Prime Minister knows I am a young member in here and I do not want him to tell me so. I am not giving away unless you rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say for the third time that the Hon. Prime Minister has risen on a point of explanation. I have asked you to allow me to hear it. If it is not a point of explanation, I will stop him and allow you to carry on.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I want to get it quite clear . I do not question your ruling. Do you rule that I must sit when he rises on a point of personal explanation?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you to give way and let me hear the point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I do not like to be discourteous. What I did say is that you may want a handwriting expert, because there is a vote for expert witnesses and so on. You may never have a case or you may want independent information on something, and that person may not necessarily be a witness, but I never used the word "Witness" when I talked about a handwriting expert, because I am aware that there is a separate vote for that, and this is one of the occasions in which I am satisfied that to bring down somebody whom you do not use as a witness is not really in accordance with the spirit under which the money is voted. That is my explanation.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: You see as I said, the more he speaks the more unconvincing he becomes. *(Asides)* He is fortunate to have had a son, and I am fortunate to have had a father; but you cannot say the same thing. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I have no claim to being an immaculate conception.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister, as I understand it,..... *(Asides)* If you want me to call you something, you would have to go outside because what I would like to call you would be entirely unparliamentary. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister is saying that this Contingency Vote could be used in circumstances where the Government would require expert advice, for instance, in handwriting. This cannot really be used in this item under this particular Head because under the Police there is an item which calls for Scientific Investigations Expenses and certainly that vote would cover that sort of thing.

It is rather strange that a Contingency Vote is going to increase by four times the amount it was in the last year. From the very nature of the word "contingency", nobody expects you to say that it will be spent on A, B, C, or D, but in increasing the vote it must bear some relationship to what has been spent over the past years. If the Minister of Finance can show some sort of basis for increasing it by $40,000, we on this side would be satisfied, but he should not merely say that it was $10,000 last year and it is going to be $50,000 this year. It must be based on some sort of statement. No Civil Servant can push anything in a Cabinet Minister's hands and say it was $10,000 last year and he feels it should be $50,000 this year. If a Minister is worth anything, even before coming to this House he must ascertain why they are asking for an increase of $40,000. What evidence do you have to show that there is a likelihood that you would need four or five times the amount of money you had last year. I do not expect the Prime Minister to tell me he is going to spend $10,000 to send somebody to Canada or $5,000 to send somebody to America. What I do expect is to see a basis for the increase.
5. 45 p.m.

Why do you increase it to $50,000? The actual amount spent last year was $10,000, based on what was spent over the last three or four years. Are you now asking us to vote in one year the amount of money that was spent over the last five years or even more than that? There must be something wrong there, we cannot accept that you are going to spend in this one year in a contingency vote the same amount of money that you would have spent probably over the last five years, there must be something wrong, what is the basis for it? Do you mean Civil Servants just push something in your hand and you just come down here and say it? On what do you base the increase by five times? How do you justify spending in one year perhaps the amount of money you spent in the last six or seven years? How do you justify this?

The other point. The Prime Minister has said this money is to be spent under the direction of the Cabinet; they have to apply to the Cabinet, and he gave an example of the Director of Public Prosecutions saying he would like somebody to come back from England or interviewed in England. It raised this point, that if the Cabinet feels that the Police should not go to England to interview that particular person the money will not be granted. Whatever the Director of Public Prosecutions may feel as regards the prosecution of a person, if the Cabinet feels that that particular person or some particular person in Barbados should not be prosecuted, they will not grant it. It boils down to this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, there has been no single occasion on which the Director of Public Prosecutions has asked for money for any purpose that it has not been granted. The hon. member is suggesting that we would condone wrong doing and prevent the Director of Public Prosecutions from doing his job. I would invite him to go to the gentleman's office tomorrow morning and ask him if at any time since he has been working there, he has made a request that has not been complied with.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: When we deal with condoning wrong doings, I will not deal with the Director of Public Prosecutions, I will tell him about the wrong doings of the senior member for St. Andrew that he is condoning. Nevertheless, what I am say- is this, if under this vote the Director informs the Cabinet that there is somebody overseas to be interviewed, if the Cabinet decides that that person should not be interviewed, or in their own wisdom, whether it is for political reasons or for any other reasons, they feel they do not want that person interviewed and that interview would of necessity hamper the prosecution of any particular individual, then it would be just giving the Cabinet an indirect way of controlling prosecutions in certain cases. Everbody knows the case which he is speaking about, the case which involved the Treasury, where he had to go to England to interview somebody, and that, perhaps, is not the only case, but if the Cabinet decided that it did not see the necessity for doing this, what would have happened with the Director of Public Prosecutions if the witness in England was a material witness? It would mean that the person would not have been interviewed and therefore justice would not have been done in the circumstances. It may very well be that in those circumstances if you want a vote to meet that, what is wrong with the Commissioner of Police having that vote?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, what worries me under this particular Head is that when we look at Items 15, 17 and 18 we see an aggregate sum of $91,000 which is being placed at the disposal of the Cabinet to be spent as the Hon. Prime Minister so desires. Furthermore, to my mind, when we loolk at the main sum for contingencies this cuts rigt across the principles as enumerated in this Committee for the past two days. The Government has just spent

quite a lot of money on the Data Processing Unit, and earlier today under another Head dealing with the Statistical Department further sums were appropriated.

Mr. SMITH left the Chair and Mr. HOPPIN resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the junior member for St. Joseph proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN: As I was saying, in order to keep proper statistical figures, and in order to inform the public of the ways in which the taxpayers' money is spent, I believe that in coming here for a block sum of $50,000 is defeating the very purpose for which we are placed here by people, which is to keep a careful look over the taxpayers' money. No one can ever have or can ever keep proper departmental figures, there are no future Estimates which one can sit down and rely on if one is going to say that year after year the Prime Minister is going to pick from here, there and elsewhere and come down for a block sum of money and tell you that this is for emergencies if somebody wants medical treatment, a policeman wants to go this place and somebody wants to go some other place. We keep asking about how the sums are arrived at in the Estimates. The Minister of Finance does not even know how he arrived at $50,000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I did not say that I did not know how I arrived at $50,000; I explained that by the very nature of contingencies you cannot say what is going to arise beyond the ingenuity of a human being in the course of a forthcoming year, and I said that I tried personally to quantify the occasions which in my opinion I considered that it was a border like case whether a particular vote could have been used for an emergency, and I do not have the little piece of paper that I did the exercise on, and I arrived at this figure I said it may not be spent or we may have to come back for more. It is almost impossible for me, by the nature of the items on which it should normally be spent to say that this is the amount of money that is going to be spent. I cannot do any more; that is my explanation.

Mr. CRAIG: Just on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, would the Prime Minister be able to state if there are any other Ministries with contingencies votes apart from the Ministry of Finance? 5. 55 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. In the Ministry of Health we have an amount of $12,000. The explanation I should like to give is this: a contingency is an unforseen matter which will arise and has to be dealt with hurriedly and in respect of which no provision is made. To give you an illustration, quite recently I had to seek the Cabinet's approval for releasing about $1,200. I think I had to seek approval on two occasions; the last was $1,011 and the first was for $485. On two occasions I had to go to the Cabinet for permission to utilise the contingency vote to pay for a lorry which was ordered from the United Kingdom and was held up during the strike. It was delivered only recently and the price had gone up. About $1,500 had to be spent from the Contingency Vote in the Ministry. Unless you have a reasonable amount of money to use, there is no point in having a Contingency Vote at all. If you have to come here for one dollar every time you need it, then it would not be a Contingency Vote, and you will find that the machinery of Government will break down. You cannot push your hands in the Contingency Vote just like that. You have to proceed by way of a Cabinet Paper before you can spend money from that vote. The Contingency Vote is well protected.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I asked that question because I realised that there was a Contingency Vote under the Ministry of Health. What about the Contingency Vote in the Ministry of Housing?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing Housing.

Mr. CRAIG: We will be discussing Housing just now, Sir. We are now dealing with Contingency Votes. There is $40,000 voted for the Ministry of Finance alone and another $12,000 for the Ministry of Health, but no other Ministries have been given Contingency Votes. Why were the other Ministries not given Contingency Votes?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is a simple explanation as to why it should be in the Ministry of Finance. As a matter of fact my office benefits the least from this vote. Any Ministry in which an emergency arises, can come to the Ministry of Finance and get the money. Whereas they cannot go to the Ministry of Health's vote, because that is strictly for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If it is under the control of the Cabinet in the Ministry of Finance, it means that even the Ministry of Health, although it has its own vote, if it runs out of money will have to go to the Cabinet for permission to spend it.

Mr. CRAIG: Why not have all of the Contingency Votes under the Ministry of Finance? Are there only two Ministers who could deal with Contingency Votes? Is the Minister of Health the only one you can trust? I am not accusing any Minister of anything. I am merely asking why is it that you have $12,000 in the Ministry of Health and $40,000 in the Ministry of Finance? Why not put everything under the Ministry of Finance? *(Asides)*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, nearly all of the Ministries have some sort of Contingency Vote of about $5,000.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, that makes it even worse. Every Ministry has a Contingency Vote, and then there is a big sum of $40,000 in the Ministry of Finance. The whole question is that we come here, we ask a question, and we do not get the answer. Nobody will know where the money is coming from and how it will be spent. You will have to wait for a

long time before you get the answer. Next year it will be a precedent set. They will come here and ask for $100,000 because they got $50,000 this year. If you should put all Contingency Votes in the Ministry of Finance, how can you prepare proper statistics for the various Departments? If you are dealing with the Police somebody in that Department should know at what level it will run, so that next year you would know what to ask for. How can you prepare proper estimates when the Prime Minister says this is the figure he will use? If the Prime Minister cannot tell us how much money he will need, then he might as well put in a token vote. When there is an emergency he can come here and we will deal with it.

Mr. Chairman, I have had a letter sent to me saying that in the interest of urgent public business I should attend a meeting of the House. The Hon. Minister of Health talks about ordering a lorry, about the strike in England, about spending $1,500 from the Contingency Vote. That is a feeble excuse. If the strike in England lasted eight weeks there is no business place in Bridgetown which would not have known that the new goods would cost more on arrival. In business you take the goods and you have 30 days grace in which to pay.
6.05 p.m.

Is the Minister going to tell us that nobody trusts the Government sufficiently well now, that they refuse to give up the goods until they get the money, and that the goods were so urgently needed that he had to dip his hands into the Contingency Fund to get $1,100 to pay for a lorry? This is the most fallacious excuse the Minister can ever hope to put on anybody in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I have not said anything of the sort; that is what the hon. member is trying to say. I merely quoted an instance which happened quite recently where we had to draw from the Contingency Vote in order to meet the price of a truck where the price had gone up by $1,500.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, illustrations are meant to reflect a general pattern or correct method of dealing with something. The Minister is offbeat today. The Prime Minister said one thing; he says that this is for when something is to be done in a hurry and you cannot come to Parliament. The Minister of Health's example is something quite different: a strike in England lasted nearly two months and he says he had to go to the Contingency Vote.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am trying to explain to the hon. member the various cases in which contingency votes are used, and, what I am telling him, happened here quite recently.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the Minister is trying to fool the House. If he can fool those over there, he cannot fool me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member not to make that statement. Please withdraw it.

Mr. BOLDEN: He is misleading the Chair if nobody else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not misleading me either. Will you please withdraw that?

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to withdraw that. I bow to your ruling. I am saying that the circumstances for dealing with the Contingency Vote as explained by the Prime Minister are not what the Minister of Health is trying to tell me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am quoting an exact precise case which happened quite recently. I am telling you what has happened and what a Cabinet Paper can prove in my Ministry. I am not guessing at anything. I am giving the actual facts.

Mr. BOLDEN: In my view, it was used wrongly. In my view the Hon. Minister has just displayed that he does not understand what contingency means, if he talks about paying a bill for a motor lorry that was imported here. I have seen Supplementary Estimates in this House calling for extra money to pay for a pick-up at Highways & Transport and to pay overtime, etc. What is he telling me about a Contingency Vote to pay for a lorry? This is the reason why the public at large outside is suffering like this, because if you have Ministers using that sort of money in this way, things must go wrong. This is why we are worried about the $50,000 now. At any one period can you get up and show us a breakdown of how this money has been used for the last six months? If there was a token vote and they came to the House after, the House would be able to decide whether the cause is a fit one and the sum which is being voted is a sufficient sum; but to put $50,000 at the liberty of somebody on a gesticulated figure is, in my opinion, bad management of Government monies. The Hon. Minister must try and justify it, because he is the only other Minister that has a little bit to deal with. The rest have got $5,000 according to the Prime Minister: there is $50,000 one side, $12,000 on the other side, and the rest has gone down the line. I disagree that it justifies the cost of the Data Processing machine downstairs where the Government is collecting statistics in every Department. It does not give ss proper figures at the end of the year from the Statistical Department, and then if somebody queries why the sum has been put in, the Prime Minister says that he cannot find the paper he worked it out on. What happened to the Estimates Committee? What happened to the Civil Servants who prepared it? All that has gone through the eddoes. It appeared on a piece of paper, nobody knows what was put in; therefore everybody in the House and the Committee must sit down and say that $50,000 are to be given on one side and nobody knows how it will be spent. Ask a question and you get an answer most probably nine months from now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand what this talk is all about. The point is that from left to right on that side they have said that they are not in favour of this $50,000. They have deduced certain agruments, they have made certain statements....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt the Hon. Minister, but I want to know what item the Hon. Minister is speaking on.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If you are too stupid to know, I do not have to tell you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. senior member for St. Andrew addressing that remark to the Chair?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That was an aside.

Mr. CRAIG: Ask him to withdraw it, because I was on my feet at the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member said it was an aside.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are three hon. members on their feet. Let us have a little peace and order in here please.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member must withdraw the remark.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the remark. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I take objection to the remark used by the hon. member.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I withdraw the remark. I cannot be held responsible for his inability to understand. Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. James said he was moving a reduction of the vote for $50,000 for contingencies. He is at liberty to do it. He moved yesterday a reduction of another item by $1.00, but it is still in the Estimates. (Mr. HINDS: You have your numbers.) We have them. You will put in your $50,000 if and when you get your numbers, and we will fight you over here. So if you feel you should move the reduction.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 29(6): While a member is speaking, all other members shall be silent.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Everybody over there is getting up and saying the same thing. They are saying that there is something clandestine in this, there is something secret.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, is the hon. member saying that once you have the numbers you do what you feel like and you do not care what anybody else says?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not deem that a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Certain people will understand what I have to say, others cannot. Hon. members on that side have said that $50,000 is too much, and somebody has suggested putting in $5,001 or coming to the House every time there is an emergency. If there is an emergency, somebody may die before a Resolution is passed in here, because every time a Resolution is brought to this House, there have got to be ulterior motives. All I say on that is that those who speak with ulterior motives are those who are to be suspected. Mr. Chairman, it takes time to prepare a Resolution. You have got to prepare a Cabinet Paper, your Clerks down the line, your Assistant Secretary and Permanent Secretary and then the Ministers have got to approve the Cabinet Paper, and after it is approved by Cabinet, it has to be prepared for the Legislature where the work of the Cabinet Secretary is involved, the Financial Secretary is involved and the Printery is involved. Hon. members debated here a few weeks ago the fact that the Printery was overworked and that there was too much pressure on the Printery.

6.15 p.m.

The point I am trying here to establish is that in this vote of $50,000 unforseeable accounts or emergency payments may have to be made on about 30 occasions; are the hon. members on the other side who are suggesting that we come to the House on every separate occasion that there is to be a vote for an emergency, that we must come on 30 occasions involving costs of work in three or four Ministries, the Printery, the time of hon. members here? I would just ask a representative from the Ministry of Finance to work out for me approximately what it would cost to bring a Resolution to the House, and it costs a considerable amount.

We do not come down here with Resolutions cyclostyled, we come down here with a printed Resolution which has to go through the Printery and take up the time of the officers there. The point I am making is this, that when you take into consideration the amount of money involved in bringing these money resolutions to the House, it is in the interest of the economy.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, would the Hon. Minister in the course of his speech please tell this House how much money they spent out of Contingencies last year?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: How much have they spent and in what have they spent it? Give us a breakdown on how the $5,000 was spent last year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that is not a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The point is that you may eventually be spending in Public Offices' time half of the amount of the Contingency vote to come here with 30 resolutions to meet unforeseeable expenses. There is, however, justification for having a large Contingency vote since funds from that vote can only be spent with the approval of Cabinet, and you get the approval of Cabinet for any resolution coming to the House, so at any rate the money is

going to be spent whether it is spent from the Contingency vote or whether you come to the House on 30 different occasions to have resolutions passed. If the money has to be spent it will be spent. After the Cabinet approves it, the Accountant General does not pay out one cent under any particular Head in the Estimates unless he is satisfied that the money, is spent for the purpose for which it was voted or with the correct authority, After the Accountant General has paid out this money the Auditor General has got to comment on it in his report. There is a Public Accounts Committee which we on this side established years ago; the Chairman of this Public Accounts Committee is the Leader of the Opposition he can call the appropriate number of meetings that he wants, but I understand that the last meeting of the Public Accounts Committee that was called, the only person why turned up was someone from the side of the Government, the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. SPRINGER: On a point of order, I want to say this. The first meeting called by the present Leader of the Opposition was attended by me and by me alone.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew made reference to the last meeting, and if the hon. member arises on a point of order he has got to speak on the last meeting.

Mr. SPRINGER: The last meeting was called for 2.30; I arrived at 2.25, left at 2.50 and no other member attended.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. SPRINGER: One other thing I would like to say, there seems to be the feeling by the other side that this side that this side must form a quorum, but if all the members on that side attend it only needs one member from this side to form a quorum, and at no time has there been a meeting called in which at least one member from this side did not attend to form a quorum.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the hon. senior member for St. Michael is inaccurate in his recollection. On the first occasion when a meeting was called, when I was a member, I attended; on the second occasion there was no quorum, the hon. senior member for St. Michael was in fact present. On the second occasion the junior member for St. John, the senior members for St. Michael and St. George and myself were all present, as I recall, and it is only the last meeting which since the Chairman, himself did not attend, I wonder if it was summoned by his authority. Certainly I had sent beforehand to say I would not be present. I definitely was not here the last time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: I was here on the first occasion; ever since I have been a member I have attended. The hon. senior member for St. Michael must get it right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point has been made.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to establish the point that the hon. members on that side have no case at all in this issue, because I would like to know from them on which occasion or on how many occasions in the last nine years have we brought a resolution to this House for money that did not get the assent of the House or that was not passed, and in order to have it passed it has got to be approved by the Cabinet and brought here, so whether the Cabinet decides or agrees on certain expenditure, whether they spend that money from a Contingencies vote with the authority of the Cabinet or bring it here, it is going to be passed and spent, so when hon. members get over there and say you have $50,000 and you want to spend it the way you want to spend it, there is adequate machinery which this House has at its disposal to question how that money is spent. The Accountant General will not approve a voucher or does not pay on a voucher unless it has the proper authority or unless it is a proper charge on the vote. The Auditor General has the means of checking to see whether the money spent was spent in the right direction.
6.25 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think the hon. member is straying a bit here. *(Asides)* It looks as though you do not want me to talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are entitled to speak, but I cannot hear you. I am supposed to hear what you are saying, because if you say anything unparliamentary I will have to ask you to withdraw it. Anyway, I do not think you will do that. Please speak louder.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am merely saying that the Auditor General cannot question contingencies, and the hon. member has made an incorrect statement. When the voucher comes from the Cabinet, who would question it?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Auditor General is not satisfied that the money was spend in a proper manner, he can make mention of it in his Report to this Honourable House. The members of this House will have an opportunity to read the Auditor General's Report and comment on it. Over and above that in 1964 this Government established the Public Accounts Committee, and the members of that Committee can question the invalidity of expenditure. It must be remembered that the Public Accounts Committee was established in our time and not in their time. The Leader of the Opposition and members over there have control of the Public Accounts Committee and its meetings. They have control over what should be discussed at the meetings, when the meetings should be called, and they can question anything in that Report.

Now, a vote like this, if used in a proper manner, must result in savings for the country, and it should not be used in the manner suggested by certain hon. members. Do you want us to come here twelve or thirteen times whenever something is needed

urgently? Every time we have to come here for money under the Contingency Vote it will cost us approximately $300 when we take into consideration the cost of printing documents and so on. Multiply that amount by 20 or 30 times and you will see how much money you will save. You will still have an opportunity to have any wrong doing exposed by the Auditor General. If the Auditor General does not agree with something, he can question it. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, if the Auditor General says that he is not happy about how a vote is spent.... *(Asides)* What the hon. member is suggesting is not true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. senior member for the City addressing the Chair? He is too loud!

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Minister is giving this House the impression that the Auditor General can question a voucher going to the Hilton Hotel to send 5,000 gallons of rum to St. Andrew.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not consider that to be a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. senior member for St. James is accustomed to sending rum to the people in St. James, I want him to understand that the people in St. Andrew buy their own rum. I cannot understand this kind of argument. The Auditor General can say that he is not happy about the way any vote is spent, and hon. members will have an opportunity to question things in the Public Accounts Committee. If they do not perform their role as a proper Opposition in this country, we cannot be held responsible for that. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is too much noise in the back room!

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: When was the last Auditor General's Report submitted?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, let us say that the Auditor General's Report was tardy. I am still saying that the Auditor General's Report being delayed, cannot stop the Public Accounts Committee from functioning. You can tell us when last there was a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee which has to be called by the Chairman who is the Leader of the Opposition. We established the Public Accounts Committee in 1964, but no meetings have been held during this session. The members of the Opposition are supposed to be the watch dogs. *(Asides)*

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot reveal the proceedings of any meeting, but I am in a position to ensure the hon. member that he is just talking nonsense. The Public Accounts Committee has been meeting; we have had the Auditor General as well as a number of civil servants whom I see present today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the hon. member be asked to withdraw that statement that I am talking nonsense.

Mr. ADAMS: Is nonsense unparliamentary, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion I do not deem it so.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It may not be unparliamentary, but I suggest that it be withdrawn.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, even though it is not unparliamentary, I will say that he is making a mistaken statement. The Public Accounts Committee met; the Auditor General attended meetings, and we will soon be dealing with the Housing Authority.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I have no fear. Just as they reach the Housing Authority they will reach everything else, and the results will be the same. Mr. Chairman, I feel that an indication as to how we feel on this side about it has been made. They can talk; they may not vote for it, but it will reflect on the people of this country.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I understand that certain observations have been made about the Public Accounts Committee in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on this Head?

Mr. St. JOHN: I am speaking under contingencies and the need to be careful in giving blanket votes because of the fact that the Public Accounts Committee does not function. The Public Accounts Committee is now investigating the 1966-67 Auditor General's Report.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the Public Accounts Committee is now investigating the 1966-67 Auditor General's Report because of the inactivity of the Leader of the Opposition and the Committee not functioning. If he were doing his job as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee over the years, they would not be now discussing the 1966-67 Auditor General's Report.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the monumental ignorance displayed by the hon. member is very great. The last Leader of the Opposition only came in here in 1966. Because of the fact that the Government does not recognise that it needs a proper and efficient accounting system in Barbados, it was not possible to get these Reports. Now, 1966-67 was the last Auditor General' Report. The Auditor General has not reported on any other year because the Departments will not send in their accounts. It shows that the hon. member does not know what he is talking about. He only knows about one thing, and that is how to borrow $1/2 million.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You have to be good to do that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN: You should be honest when you borrow it. We will get around to the Housing Authority. What is hurting the hon. member about the

Housing Authority is that he had to come in here himself and say that the general public has it deeply embedded in mind that he was stealing money. He said that in here. As the Prime Minister will tell you, Mr. Chairman, sometimes a twisted conscience, or the burden of guilt is so great that you have to confess, and that is what is happening to the hon. member.
6.35 p.m.

There are two things I would enjoin hon. members not to do; firstly do not address me as the Prime Minister. I am the senior member for St. John and I am proud of it. You can leave the "honourable" out. The Speaker's says "the Rt. Hon. Learned and Gallant"; I do not need all of that. You should say "the senior member for St. John." I am no Prime Minister in here, I am still the senior member for St. John after fifteen years.

The other thing I would like to say is that I do not like to be quoted or misquoted because the devil can quote the Scriptures for his own devices; so I would ask the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition to refrain from quoting me. I do not want to be quoted. I do not see myself as a historical perspective or like Confucius or anybody like that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, as far as I am aware, there is a law on the Statute Book of this country which deals with criminals and with thieves. When people steal, they are taken before the Law Courts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt the hon. member? We are discussing.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You allowed the hon. senior member for Christ Church to return to this, and all I am saying is that any time a man steals in this country, he is dealt with by the law. Let them take legal action for the statements they are making.

Mr. St. JOHN: I do not have to take legal action. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew came in here and said that he is proud of what he did, but there is no law to prevent the public from believing it, and there is never smoke without fire.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order, please.

Mr. St. JOHN: As I was saying, Sir, the position with the Public Accounts Committee is that more progress has been made of late than has ever been made in the history of public accounts in Barbados, and I have always said that the hon. senior member for St. Michael is one of the most cooperate members of the Public Accounts Committee, because of the three meetings we have had, he was there on every occasion. There were to be three other meetings. We were not able to get a quorum at the two meetings before the last, and on the last occasion only the hon. senior member for St. Michael came, but we are endeavouring to get a report to the House by at least the end of the next two months, because we have gone through a lot of the Heads, and I can assure the House that it will get a report if we can get a quorum. As I said earlier, we are getting more cooperation now than we have got before. We do not have a quorum and we have to depend on the cooperation of one member from the other side, and as I have said, the hon. senior member for St. Michael has cooperated repeatedly. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: How many times have you been?) I have been to at least four meetings and this is on the record and the hon. senior member for St. Michael can tell you that; and we will get the Report.
6.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has made out a wonderful case, that if one were to take him seriously this Hon. House would find itself being asked to transform the whole Consolidated Fund into something to meet emergencies or contingencies, because it has been demonstrated to us in no uncertain terms by none other than the Prime Minister in this case that even he is not certain as to the meeting of contingencies.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I never made any such statement.

Mr. HINDS: That is no point of order, I never said the Prime Minister said that. Let him sit down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not yet heard the Prime Minister's point.

Mr. HINDS: The Prime Minister said he did not say what I said, I never said the Prime Minister said so, and I will ask him to put on his hearing aids. I am serious when I say that, Mr. Chairman. What I am saying is this, the amount of $50,000 at Item 15 for contingencies is the most dangerous one, and nobody on this side has any confidence whatsoever in the Cabinet of this country and that is where we must be afraid. We have no confidence, and all of our arguments here today are based on this; absolutely no confidence in the Cabinet and you will find that the note tells us that the expenditure under this Item is made only on the authority of the Cabinet. I heard the Prime Minister say that anybody suggesting that this $50,000 is to be earmarked for election expenses ought to be made to withdraw it, I heard him say so. I do not want to say so because I do not want to have to withdraw it, but I want to ask the Prime Minister if he wants to tell us that a general election can be termed an emergency or contingency in this country for us; I am going to answer him, nothing of the kind.

Rt. E. W. BARROW: I will answer the question.

Mr. HINDS: Sit down until the question is put to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, any time that a question is asked of a Government

Minister he is entitled to stand up there and then and answer the question rather than wait until he is asked 73 questions. The hon. member asked - frivolously I can only take it - whether a general election is an emergency; all I can tell you.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I never asked if a general election is an emergency, I want the Prime Minister to understand that the day he tries to introduce it we will not be accepting it; that is what we want him to understand.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member said "I wish to ask the Prime Minister....." although I told him to call me the hon. senior member for St. John - "whether he considers a general election is an emergency," and I said yes, a real emergency for that side whenever it comes, but not out of this vote.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister knows as well as ever that whenever an election is called it will be no emergency, not even for the Attorney General who tried even last Monday to get out of him whether he was going to run again or else, when he told the Attorney General to wait until the day before the nomination to see if he has made his deposit. That is a statement of fact, that he told the Attorney General so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are still debating Head 16.

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Contingencies. Now, Mr. Chairman, we cannot get away from it, however much humour one might try to introduce into this resolution, because I have taken considerable pains ... *(Asides)* I will be asked to come out of the sun at this stage, I know that. When we were discussing resolutions we were told to come out of the sun and to wait until we had the Estimates, now that the Estimates have come, somebody now is to pull me out of the sun. All right, Mr. Chairman, we have got to be very careful. This is election year, and one has got to look for oneself. We have heard every sort of argument adduced by the hon. senior member for St. John - he likes to be called that, Sir. We have heard him say how when the Police may have to send some Inspector or somebody to England or wherever it might be, to interview people, Mr. Chairman, and this makes us on this side become extremely nervous, and the simple reason for it is this, let the Prime Minister deny this now, that with the authority of the Cabinet having to be sought for expenditure under this Item, and the Commissioner of Police finds it necessary to send to England to investigate a friend of the Prime Minister or any member of the Cabinet if the Cabinet is going to vouch for one dime to be spent to send any Police Officer or anybody to England or anywhere else to investigate one of their friends. Let the Prime Minister tell us these things. *(Asides)* Your photograph appeared in the Advocate newspaper, what has become of them now? Some of them are now at large. Please do not let us go into these things; you know all that I am saying is true. *(Asides)* I am being heckled from the other side, Mr. Chairman, by the Prime Minister, please see that I am being heckled by the Prime Minister, I am drawing it to your attention.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not heckling the hon. member, I am trying to assist him; I have always tried to assist him.

Mr. HINDS: Anything the Prime Minister has done for me that was good, I paid him for it and I suffered punishment that was intended to be meted out to him; he knows what I am talking about. 6,55 p.m.

I took his advice and suffered by it. The Prime Minister knows what I am talking about. Mr. Chairman, we have to question what could have prompted the Cabinet to decide the extent of the increase which was introduced into this sum for Contingencies. We are told that there has been an increase of $45,000. We have heard this feeble, silly excuse coming from other sources trying to help bolster up a case, but that cannot hold water. The fact remains that, with this sum left in the hands of the Cabinet, we are satisfied that the expenditure being authorised by the Cabinet, no one can question it, quite contrary to what has been said on the other side. If the Cabinet authorises the expenditure, it is considered to have been properly authorised. What the Cabinet will have supporting it , is that Parliament gave the Cabinet the authorisation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member said that if this matter is left in the hands of the Cabinet no one can question it. Now, the Cabinet has control over the Conferences and Delegations vote, and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on more than one occasion came in here and questioned money spent under the vote. It is not true to say that you cannot question it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I consider that a point of explanation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when one says that no one can question, one does not mean that a taxpayer or any member of the public cannot question it, but no one can question it to the extent of stopping the payment. If the Cabinet authorises the payment of $5,000 from this vote, there is nobody in the Department to stop the payment of $5,000 which is to go to the person in whose favour it is to be drawn. Any hon. member or member of the public can ask questions, get on a public platform and do whatever he likes for one million years afterwards, but that does not mean questioning the matter. If an hon. member comes here and asks a question in connection with such a matter, it will be answered in the next twelve months. Is that questioning it?

Mr. Chairman, the sum of $275,000 is here for Conferences. We have had explanations from the Prime Minister from time to time. I well remember some of the explanations that he gave last year that did not hold water as regards the expenditure, where Conference were concerned.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not think that I was even in the

House when this Head was discussed last year. I have no recollection of being here. The Leader of the House every year brings in a long list of expenditure under Conferences and Delegations, and it shows that a substantial amount of the money is spent on Public Officers on public business. . Every year we brought in a detailed list, and there is no explanation given by me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point well made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if we accept what the Prime Minister has just said, this is another year, and where is this long list? Is the list available? This is the time to have it circulated, so that hon. members on this side can study it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, when we came here with the Supplementary Estimates for $45,000 in December, we produced the list then. It was produced because hon. members asked for it. It was in December, and only eight weeks have passed since we had a few CARIFTA Conferences and the Prime Ministers' Conference in Singapore.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that other hon. members have a recollection of a list being shown to them, but I do not remember it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I dealt with the Supplementary for $45,000 and it is shown here. It is $230,000, plus a Supplementary of $45,000. I gave information in connection with wives who have been given trips accompanying their husbands. I think the hon. senior member for St. Thomas had raised a question on that. There was no secret about it. My wife had benefited and I said so. I do not see why she should not have had a trip, anyhow.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I do not see why wives should not have a trip, as I said when the hon. member was not in his seat. Hon. members will recall that we had to press very hard to get the information which he, eventually, gave us. With the hon. junior member for St. Michael spurring on the hon. junior member for Christ Church we, eventually, got the information, but if we had to depend on the hon. junior member for St. Lucy we would still be in the dark.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is not fair for the hon. member to say that he had to press a Government Minister for information, because frequently in the course of debate a Government Minister cannot keep things in his head regarding the 92 Conferences and Delegations that have left Barbados and, therefore, it will take time for a Government Officer to get the information. I agree that the list should be ready when the supplementary came in, in anticipation of a question like that. If the Minister does not have the information you should not say that you had to press him. It is not fair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I remember the hon. junior member for Christ Church giving us some information at some time or other when a Resolution was before this House, and mention was made about the carrying of wives and so on. Anyhow, we find that, in addition to this $275,000, the Governemnt has, as at Item 17, another $36,000 for hospitality. 7. 05 p.m.

In short, it makes an amount looking like $361,000 that the Cabinet will have to play with, and I am saying that this can go a long way in a year that a general election is to be expected. We are satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that there can be no proper reason advanced for these sums to be placed at the disposal of Government at this time, and we feel that we must move a reduction. *(Asides)*

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

Mr. HINDS: I am being heckled. I can hear the voice of the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not heard it. I am listening to you.

Mr. HINDS: What I am saying is that this sum of $361,000 can be a potential weapon in the hands of the Government at a time such as this, and there is every good reason why a reduction should be moved.

I beg to move that the amount be reduced by $40,000.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have had quite a bit of arguments over this increase by $40,000. I think everyone knows that contingencies cannot be broken down, but there is one thing in which I do not agree with the Prime Minister and I think he made a tremendous slip there. The Prime Minister said that some of this money might be used for the purpose of sending Police Sargeants or other Officers away to investigate matters, and he did not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police. That is a statement which should not come from a Prime Minister. The Commissioner of Police has the highest and most responsible job to see that matters are carried out in this country affecting the good Government of the country. As a matter of fact, I feel personally that there would be nothing wrong if an amount under "Contingency" was put under the Commissioner of Police. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Do you mean he is greater than the Cabinet?) I did not say that the Commissioner of Police is greater than the Cabinet, but I do not think the Prime Minister should say he did not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of personal explanation, I do not like the idea of a vote of this kind being put departmentally, and I gave an illustration of what could happen and on which I had to

express my views very strongly. No Government Department has any right receiving gifts from a foreign Government, because that is the thin edge of the wedge. If anybody wants to make a gift to this Government, it should be made to the Government, the Governor-General or the Queen in Her right of Government through the Cabinet and the Cabinet should approve the gift, or the gift should be made to the House. When the gift of the Speaker's Chair was made to the House, I was the only member of the House present, but the House knew about it. If they did not attend, that is a different matter.

I have a suggestion to make. We forget what we are here for. We are here to transact the public's business with despatch. We have spent the whole day over nonsense, because as far as I am concerned, I do not run the Government by any conspiracy, I run it by consent. I am prepared on this Contingency Vote to consult the Leader of the Opposition or to notify him on each and every occasion that we have to to the Contingency Vote, and maybe that will stop the debate. It is, maybe, surrendering some of the authority of the Government, but I have nothing to conceal in my public life, but only the Leader of the Opposition in his position as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, who will eventually see it anyhow, but not all the rest of them. They do not score in this thing.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That is not a point of order. I object to that bloody lot of nonsense he gets up talking. He is talking a lot of bloody nonsense that he does not score people. Stop talking that foolishness. In the same way you said you do not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police. The general public wil feel that you do not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police because if he had to bring back somebody here from England who carried away a lot of money and it had to go to the Cabinet, the Cabinet could very well say "no". Do not get up and say you do not score anybody. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say that.) You did say that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet. Let us have some order.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Nobody is going to expect any Government to give a breakdown on contingency. The reason why I am saying this is because I was once asked to do it by this Government. The hon. senior member for St. John should not say this is nonsense. I have been in the Opposition with him and if the then Government in power had come in for $40,000 more for contingencies, something that you cannot breakdown, I can imagine the Opposition talking until 6 o' clock tomorrow morning. When you come for an amount of money and you have an increase of $40,000, the Opposition must talk on a matter of this sort. You will get some talking things, that you do not appreciate, but do not say it is nonsense. It is the duty of the Opposition to do this. You should not say either that you do not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police. Do you know how this could have been answered? In a newly developing country where you have a big influx of tourism, and all sorts of crime coming in, this is one of the ways of answering this; but do not say it is nonsense. If you had doubled it, it would seem reasonable, but to come for four times as much seems very unreasonable. This is how I feel about it. Some hon. member talked about having to come here with a Resolution for something. Do people not have any confidence in the Government?
7. 15 p.m.

I think myself that it is not making a mountain of a mole heap it is the duty of the Opposition to say if you are asking for four times as much what they think and to ask questions. You have not properly explained it, and I would not have spoken at all if certain remarks were not made. You did not say that you did not trust the Police but you said you do not like to put it under the Commissioner of Police. You cannot have that sort of thing, and you are too responsible a person to say that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I explain something? I explained to the House that the increase was not entirely due to the emergencies like sending up a person to be interviewed and that kind of thing. What I said I did was to try to quantify the occasions on which the Attorney General had been asked for an opinion whether a sum of money in an emergency would be the appropriate charge on our Conferences and Delegations vote or some other vote. Invariably we got back a reply saying that it can be spent under that Head, and time was wasted in that because there was some element of doubt, and I tried to quantify it and there were occasions when I myself would have been extremely doubtful, and that is why I put in the som of $50,000 which may not be spent.

I have also made a suggestion - I did not intend to disparage the members on the other side - but the machinery would be very cumbersome, it would be like coming to the House if we had to consult the Opposition as an Opposition, but in the United Kingdom and other places that have the same model that we have, when you get together on certain votes which are not sort of specified, there is a consultation between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government as to what sum and so on, and then that is the end of the matter. I am prepared every time - although the Constitution does not demand that I should do so - if they think there is anything clandestine or underhand in the vote, to consult the Leader of the Opposition on each and every occasion on which we want to spend money out of the $50,000. I have said that, I cannot give any more undertaking than that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying there is anything clandestine or anything of the sort, what I am saying is, tell the Attorney General to stop walking about and saying on platforms "I am the law" Albert Gomes used to do that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Attorney General is a law unto himself.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You have been telling us all along about the Constitution; how long since the Attorney General can tell the Auditor General when something is under a particular Head that he can use it for another one? Which Attorney General can do that? The Attorney General has no power over the Auditor General, none of all in this country.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member must understand that the Auditor General does not approve what the Cabinet wants. The Ministry of Finance - and if there is any doubt the Attorney General can be consulted - says whether something can be voted under an appropriate Head. He is not usurping the functions of the Auditor General, he may give us advice that is wrong and then the Auditor General when he is auditing can say without even going into who gave the advice that this should never have been charged under such and such a Head. When we go to the Cabinet for a particular sum of money under a particular Head we do not consult the Auditor General to find out whether it is appropriate after the Appropriation Bill have been passed, you have a vote book and you have authority to spend money snder a particular Head. The Department that wants to spend the money puts up a Cabinet Paper saying "we want $2,000 to send the Minister of Trade to a CARIFTA Council Meeting." the Head of Department says whether there is money in the vote, the Ministry of Finance has the responsibility to say whether it can be charged on that vote.

The Auditor General does not come in there at all, he audits *ex post facto* on any Item that has been voted by the House; any item at all.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The Auditor General is a law unto himself.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Auditor General is only a law after the money is actually spent, but before you spend the money, the Ministry of Finance may be in doubt and they will ask the Attorney General's opinion. That has happened in the past. You do not consult the Auditor General at that stage, the Auditor General is the watch-dog of this House, he is not there to advise you how to spend the money, but he is in his report will say in his opinion the money was not spend correctly under such and such a Head, but we have already spent the money. The Auditor General does not have to pass the money before it is spent, we used to have the other system before. What I was trying to emphasise is that the Auditor General does not advise us before money is spent whether we can spend money under that Head; it is as simple as that. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I know that.) Well there is no argument. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Well, sit down.) Put the question then, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, the question of discussing with the Leader of the Opposition, I really have nothing in my mind that there is something going wrong with this matter because just as somebody found out that when one Minister asked that his wife be paid for, all the other Ministers asked that their wives be paid for, things that go wrong are bound to be found out. If you want to consult the Leader of the Opposition, that is a matter for you, but I think that to come for four times as much is too much on this occasion.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: We are talking of a budget of $131 million, and you all have spent five hours of the taxpayers' time arguing about $40,000 which I have made a suggestion that if you are afraid that if will be misappropriated you can do something about it; what is wrong with that?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am going to second the motion the hon. member has moved on the premise that we have received no satisfactory information from that side of the House. I do not think it is fair for us to sit down here and pass anything like an additional $45,000 right under the thumb of the Cabinet or the Prime Minister or any Minister at all unless there is some satisfactory explanation, and it is on that premise I beg to second the motion the hon. member has moved.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I also arise to support this. If we accepted the argument of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew in full we will see that the correct way of passing the Estimates is to vote the amount of $100 million to be spent under the authority of the Cabinet; it would save all discussion in the House of Assembly for days on individual Items and so on, and then you can have a blanket supplementary of $50 million to save all the little $300 each Contingencies, and the senior member for St. Andrew should beware of thinking that the position of the Opposition in the public life of this country is merely that of a nonsense group to be suppressed; he has every ambition to be in Opposition next year. I wish him well on it, and I hope that he in Opposition will learn some of the lessons of humility which we have had to spend five years absorbing. I cannot address those remarks to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, because the only Opposition that he will carry on in the next session of Parliament will be in Clapham Heights. I am addressing on the amendment to reduce the Contingencies vote.
7.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister knows that these Contingency Votes are the thin end of some of the most dangerous wedges that have ever threatened Parlaimentary Government. He only has to read some of the analyses of 18th Century Parliamentary life in Britain to know that the Contingency Vote was used to bribe members of the Opposition to vote for the Government. *(Asides)* I am glad that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has given me such a good character, Sir, that I would not take a bribe. I had to warn him once before that if he came to me to defend him in a case before the Law Courts, and he gave me money to bribe the jury, I would take the money and keep it. Now, Contingency Votes, when they begin to increase and multiply, are a fruitful source of danger.

I believe that in the United States the Operations of the Central Intelligence Agency are paid for entirely, from a Contingency Vote. The President has a Contingency Vote and he maintains an Organisation that maintains armies and overthrows Governments. I am not suggesting that $50,000 out of $100 million will do that. If it were a little more and that was the intention, the Prime Minister would have had to let the Leader of the Opposition know what it was all about. Contingency Votes strike at the very root of the system of Parliamentary control of public expenditure, because when you put a Contingency Vote of too large a sum into the hands of the Cabinet in these circumstances you are introducing a new form of laxness.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister promised this morning that he would show us how this vote came about by reference to earlier abolished votes. He can only account for $10,000. Other Ministries still have Contingency Votes. I believe the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have Contingency Votes. This is merely an increase, perhaps, to make life easier for the civil servants or, perhaps, the Cabinet. $50,000 is a big sum, Sir. Nobody thought the Government Hospitality would have been used in the way it was, but it was used. No matter what is said about hospitality, many hon. members and large numbers of the public think it was used for increasing Ministers' salaries. How do we know that the Contingency Vote now is not at some stage going to appear to be used to supplement hospitality?

Mr. Chairman, regardless of what is said about telling the Leader of the Opposition in advance, it must be remembered that a Contingency Vote under the control of the Cabinet means that the Cabinet can instruct the Cabinet Secretary to certify a voucher as being a proper charge under Head 16, Item 15, and that the expenditure is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the vote. In that case the only itemisation will be "Contingency Vote approved by the Cabinet." The Prime Minister knows that the Auditor General will have to pass such a voucher.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has not been in a Government yet, and I cannot expect him to know everything, but if he asks questions politely he will get the answers. Even under Contingencies, the purpose for which the money is required has to be stated. This is merely the source of the funds. Whether it is a passage for a Police Officer, of a Nurse accompaying somebody to the University Hospital, it has to be stated. You cannot just put contingencies and expect to get away with that. It has never happened. I can assure the hon. member that it has never happened.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the whole gist of what the Prime Minister has said is that is has never happened, but that is all the justification for all he has just said. If you say contingencies under the control of the Cabinet that is the end of the matter. I cannot see how the Accountant General can question a voucher certified by the Cabinet Secretary. I would like to know on what basis he could question it. The Prime Minister must be more of a student of History than he pretends to be. Read about the American Civil War and see what use Abraham Lincoln made of the Contingency Vote in 1860. This word "contingency" has a long, long history in Parliamentary Government in the two English-speaking countries. As soon as you launch out on any programme - the Contingency Fund is what is known as the Secret Fund. You will not find in the 18th Century Estimates of the House of Commons anything about Secret Funds. You will see Contingency Funds. All of these contingencies expand and expand. I am not saying that it will happen, but I am saying that it is something that we should be more careful about and less cavalier about than the Prime Minister appears to be. For this purpose and for this reason I support the amendment moved by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to take a look at Item 9 under Other Expenditure. There is $6,000 appearing there and part of the Note reads: "Includes provision for the payment of an additional amount of $100 a month for each Parliamentary Secretary so as to provide a total duty allowance at the rate of $300 a month."

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You cannot deal with that.

Mr. St. JOHN: The hon. member was not in Parliament at the time. The Note is not clear, but this was already agreed to. If you look at the Note it would suggest that they were getting it by virtue of this vote and not by virtue of the general agreement right through.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, it was last year's Note re-copied.

The question that Item 15 – Contingencies – be reduced by $10,000 was put and resolved in the negative the Committee dividing as follows:

NOES: Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. WEEKES; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. LOWE and Mr. SMITH – 11.

AYES: Mr. BOLDEN, Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. ADAMS; Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY - 7.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has been reported to me that 11 hon. members voted "No" and 7 hon. members voted "Aye". I, therefore, declare the Noes have it.

7.35 p.m.

The question that the sum of $392,655 under Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office (1) Cabinet – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

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

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

On resumption:

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. Thereto it automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 16 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(2) GENERAL

Head 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (2) General – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Prime Minister had introduced the amendments under this Head and the renumbering of Items 14, 15, 16 etc. and the new Item 20.

I beg to move that the sum of $161,980 under Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office (2) General - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I see here Item 17 - Independence Celebrations, $100,000. I want to know the basis on which this is distributed, because certainly in Christ Church, a place with one social Centre and a number of other agencies, we do not seem to get much of this vote up there, because I do not see any activities sponsored. I know that last year in view of the floods, it is true to say that it was decided that there would be no celebrations, but I would like to find out what is the view of the Government on the method of utilisation of this amount of money. I believe the Community Development Division plays a large part in this matter, but I do hope that if it is intended to spend it this year that greater notice would be given as to what the Government's programme is, so that a greater number of people can pariticpate. Too often in the past people only heard at the last moment that there were funds available and a last minute attempt was being made to rustle up people around Social Centres for some activity. That is not good enough because it is a waste of time. I remember bands were paid to turn up at places and they never turn up. In view of the fact that last year it was not spent at all, the time will come when you will be able to curtail this vote drastically, because obviously the glamour has fallen out of this annual celebration. It is one of the things in which you look for one or two specific events and hold them on your National Day, so to speak, and as far as the rest is concerned, you should let the community effort prevail.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, there is no quorum and I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. St. JOHN: I feel that with the exception of one or two special national events, the community effort could be relied upon, because this vote is not being spent in any particularly organised manner. 8.45 p.m.
and if the people have lost the desire to participate in Government activity, whether it is because of lack of organisation or not, I think one should foster the idea that one should have one's own activities, and I hope the Government would have a look at this $100,000. It is a lot of money; I can see you giving Old Age Pensioners and people like that something for the national day, but do not spend it on bands and community activities which are competing with privately organised activities. My personal belief is that what has happened is that since this date has become a holiday and this period has become a festive period, people are organising private functions just as they do at Christmas time and they are forming their own enjoyment and they do not necessarily want to participate in any Government sponsored activity, so that what is spent should be spend on cheering old people in the homes and infirmaries.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Item 14, $18,873 for Culloden Farm. What has been happening for quite some time is this, all hours of the day the driveway to Culloden Farm is illuminated; 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock in the day, the driveway to Culloden Farm is illuminated. Remember, this is not one day that it might be felt that somebody might have forgotten, this is a regular feature. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I have never seen it, I was up there today.) Make enquiries, this is no joke, it really happens and it is not an isolated case that I brought to the attention of the Committee, it is a regular feature. I am to wonder if you have to keep all the lights to see that nothing is going to jump through the keyhole during the daytime, but it is really true.

the keyhole during the daytime, but it is really true. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not believe it.) Mr. Chairman, this is not any fun making, and I particularly made mention of the fact that it is not an isolated case. I would not do that if I saw it on one occasion, if it is a time clock working, maybe something has gone wrong with it. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: That is a deliberate lie.)

This item for $100,000 for the Independence Celebrations, I am sure that the Leader of the House very well knows as well as the Minister for Health and Welfare, they must know that hon. members could not feel justified in merely voting a sum such as this when one takes into consideration performances of the past. There have been times when the celebrations have been confined to a few parishes and brought into play for too few individuals. We feel that enough is not done for school children when these celebrations are taking place, and the old people are not given enough consideration as well; merely giving some old people $1.00 or giving some of them a breakfast is really not good enough. What does it really convey? We feel that it calls for greater and better planning if we are going to be asked time and again to vote sums of money for Independence Celebrations. There may be an opportunity where badges could be struck and given to little children to give them something to remember, but the little children might be frightened by the appearance of the face of an ugly Minister being struck thereon, and this is something we would not like to see.

At Item 14, a fixed annual sum of $600 is paid into the general revenue by the Prime Minister towards the wages of staff, but we find that there are something like 7 unestablished members of staff there, and it is to be wondered if the contribution that he makes also goes towards the wages of those 7 unestablished members of staff.
8.55 p.m.

Now, Item 20 refers to Membership of the Institute of Air Transport. What is that to cost us?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: $1,000.

Mr. HINDS: Is that something separate and distinct from Item 15?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, perhaps in the circulated documents this new Item may have been put in as Item 19A. I think the Prime Minister suggested that it could be Item 20, because it has nothing to do with Item 19 at all. You can call it Item 20 and then you will not have to trouble 21, 22 or 23. The insertion would be "Item 20 - Member Institute of Air Transport - $1,000." The Note will read "Membership Fee."

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this vote of $100,000 for Independence Celebrations, I should like to know the Government's policy on the celebrations. Unfortunately for us last year, we had some flood waters. We had the pronouncement of the senior member for St. John, and he made it very clear that we would not have Independence Celebrations; old people no money. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No.) Old people will get some money; no fun for young people. No houses have been repaired; the people who have been washed out have not yet received anything apart from a few mattresses and a few houses that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture carried to St. Andrew where he was able to exploit the people down there as a result of the same flood.

Mr. Chairman, I would like the Government to tell me specifically what is its policy on the Independence Celebrations. Is the Government going to drop the Independence Celebrations? I, personally, believe that the Prime Minister himself does not believe that Independence is the best thing for Barbados. You are still trying with CARIFTA; the Conference at Sherbourne House you broke up; last year you had the money for the celebrations but you had none, and you come back to ask for money for the Independence Celebrations this year. I remember that the Government paid for bands and they did not turn up. I do not know whether the Prime Minister would be interested in letting us know whether $100,000 is enough; if it is not enough, and so on. I should like to know what is the Government's policy on this matter. You will either have a spree or no spree, because $100,000 cannot do anything. You might spend $40,000 having a spree for the D.L.P. at Culloden Farm out of the $100,000. You have had a spree at Culloden Farm every year. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Were you not invited?) I have never been invited to Culloden Farm. I was not interested; that is really a D.L.P. affair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is too much cross talk. *(Asides)*

Mr. CRAIG: We know that Carlton Brathwaite refused to carry the invitation when an Ambassador was invited. George did not get any invitation and so on. *(Asides)* Has the Prime Minister got back the money from the bands? I should be very glad if the Prime Minister would let the Committee know what is the position. Is he satisfied with a waterwashed celebrations? Is this self-styled Political Scientist going to prepare for waterwashed celebrations again?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as far as the $100,000 is concerned, I have always been a believer in letting the youth of the country, that is to say, the school children, celebrate Independence. That has always been my idea.
9.05 p.m.

If you ask me what I can remember most about the Coronation, I would tell you that as a child I was taught to remember. None of the children is really taught to remember anything about Independence. There have been some changes in the note and there is no explanation as to what you are going to do with the $100,000. I remember twenty-five years ago when the War was over, the House voted money to give a treat to school children and certain people were asked to come and lecture to them on certain things and what was the occasion. It is just not good enough to vote $100,000 and just say for Indepen-

dence Celebrations. I am sure the Minister will be able to tell us exactly how he is going to use this. You need to say what you are going to do. Do you propose giving the old age people a treat? Do you intend giving school children a treat? I do not believe in just a spree. $100,000 is a lot of money and I am sure the Leader of the House would like to tell me what the Government proposes to do in this year's Independence Celebrations.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must join with the other hon. members on this side and make my contribution in respect of the Independence Celebrations vote. I have always said that those responsible for organising these celebrations seem to think that St. Michael is the only place that counts in Barbados when it comes to Independence celebrations.

In 1966 when there was the big affair, I made it my duty to drive to all the convenient places in the country to see what had been done, and nothing was done. Similarly in 1967 and 1968. Now the Government cannot deny the fact that Barbados today has got one of the most acute transportation problems in respect of people moving from the country districts into the city and getting back after a particular hour. King George V Memorial Park is in St. Philip, and I am ashamed to see the hon. senior member for St. Philip has not yet got up and opened his mouth and asked that some of the money be spent to give the people in St. Philip, St. John, and part of St. George some of the celebrations.

I remember as a boy going to school at Society Mixed School that every Coronation Day a bus used to come and take the school children to King George V Park. This is the independence of Barbados and nobody remembers King George V Park. There is now a National Park at Farley Hill, and they have just built a new school in St. Joseph. I am suggesting now that the $100,000 be split throughout the country and that the school children particularly should be treated at places convenient to them, and if there is going to be further celebration, let the older folk enjoy that celebration at a place which is conveniently located to their homes. If you have all the bunting, bands and everything at Kensington, after 6 o'clock all the country people have to be scrambling to catch a bus. The hon. senior member for St. Philip has a car and can drive back easily, but I have to think of those people who will have to scramble and get the buses or pickups to get back to the country; so I would like to see the Government do something. I would like to know what policy the Government is going to institute this year, and whether the celebrations will be equally spread over the Island, whether King George V Park will have a little celebration too. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas likes to heckle so.

Mr. Chairman, on a serious note, the bus service is very bad when it comes to the country districts, and therefore if you are going to plan all the celebrations in St. Michael, you are depriving the people from the country areas of equal enjoyment of these celebrations. I would like to see something done for the country districts particularly, since the hon. junior member for St. Philip is absent and the hon. senior member is silent, in the parish in which I live. I would like my children to be able to go up to King George V Park and have a little bit of enjoyment, so that, as the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has said, in thirty years from now they can say that on Independence Day they used to go to King George V Park when they had their celebration. I can say so because I know that on Coronation Day I used to be taken from Society Mixed School over to King George V Park. In those days you used to be given a bun, sixpence and lemonade and sweets in a small paper bag. I hope that something can be done for the country parishes.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that when the Independence celebrations are held, the parish of St. Philip will be included for entertainment and so forth.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have not heard the Minister say anything as yet. I wonder if the hon. senior member for St. Philip has got the figures of how much will be spent in respect of St. Philip and whether he is replying for the Government side. I would like to know if he has the sum he intends to spend in St. Philip.

Mr. WEEKES: A National Committee will be set up to deal with all aspects of the matter. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. CRAIG: Oh, no, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make it clear that I am Chairman, and if no one rises to speak, I will put the question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am dealing with the Leader of the House. He is responsible for this and I have asked how he will spend this $100,000. I do not want him to itemise it, but just tell us how it will be spent.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I believe this will be the third occasion on which we will be making an appropriation of this size. Now except for the subvention to the old age pensioners in this financial year, we have made no inroads on this vote for reasons which the House already knows.
9.15 p.m.

Now expenditure under this vote is varied. First of all, I would imagine that anything between $24,000 and $30,000 will go to the Old Age Pensioners. Another sum, probably another $15,000, goes to Barbadian communities abroad disbursed through the High Commissions and Embassies for observance of the National day, through the High Commissions and Embassies and other agencies of the Government of Barbados. Well then the Ministry of Education organises functions for the school children

usually on the day before the national holiday itself. This is part of the expenditure too, and then the Community Welfare and Sports Departments of Government..... *(Asides)* I would not deceive the hon. member by telling him I know when I do not know, I know that the Ministry of Education organises activities for all the schools usually on the day before the national holiday itself.

Then the Sports Department and the Community Services Department organise the island-wide activities. Here, I can accept the point of view that the activities are sometimes and in some cases not as widely publicised and not as efficiently promoted in some districts and parishes as they may be in others. Some of the activities are in the nature of national competitions, sailing, goat racing, kid racing, other athletic events or whatever it is, for which prizes are offered and for which there must be some expenditure for organising. Then of course there is the Reception which is given as a State Reception, that is to say, an Official Reception at the Prime Minister's residence, and I do not think the expenditure on this has ever exceeded $6,000 or $6,500. I am not professing at the moment to give a detailed breakdown, but I am giving hon. members an idea of how the expenditure goes.

I take the point that hon. members wish me to draw to the attention of the people who organise these celebrations that more emphasis should be given to community activities in the individual parishes; that is a valid point, and I will pass this on, but I do not think that anybody in Government deliberately excludes a parish or deliberately leaves out a parish, it could well be that in organising these things either they tend to start too late, in which case the proper co-ordination is not done, or that too much emphasis is paid to national central functions concentrated in St. Michael to the detriment of functions which will be held elsewhere, but I will draw the wishes of the hon. members to the attention of those whose business it is to arrange these things.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I can well understand the Leader of the House giving such an explanation, but what we have got to understand is that some Ministry has got to be responsible for this sum of money which will be expended or which will be handed over to the Committee which organises the various activities, therefore, I am sure that the Government should lay down certain guide lines along which this Committee must work. It is not to say that you will allocate a sum to them and let them do what they feel like with it, because this perpetuates the very problem which we are trying to solve, that is, that persons who have become so nationalistic have now forgotten the parochial duties, and in this way if these competitions are arranged, I am sure there is not going to be any sailing competition between Foul Bay in St. Philip or Consett Bay in St. John or Bathsheba in St. Joseph. I remember in 1968 there was quite a big show at Kensington, but one must remember (a) that Kensington and even the National Stadium will have a certain capacity, and (b) the number of persons who cannot afford to come into town.

Let us remember that we are still Barbadians and that people will want to dress up specially to come to town and that there will be children who would like to participate but unfortunately for them they do not have the Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes to put on to come to town, but if we have some of these activities in other parishes a lot of these children will be able to participate. Let us treat it like the celebrations we used to have for Coronations, and the Sunday Schools, the schools themselves and the various community projects should be organised in the country areas at certain centres and I am sure there will be less transportation problems and there will be more participation than if the bulk of the activities is concentrated in the St. Michael area. I would like the Hon. Leader of the House to convey to the person who is dealing with this sum of money that it is the intention of the Committee that we believe on this side that these activities should be decentralised to such an extent that more people will participate in these celebrations.

The question that the sum of $161,980 under Head 16 - Office of the Prime Minister (2) General stand part of Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 - TRAINING DIVISION

HEAD 17 - Training Division - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $270,788 under Head 17 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that if we were to give any credence - I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in his place - to what the Prime Minister says from time to time about the Civil Service, that in itself would be sufficient justification for us to state in no uncertain terms that what is wrong basically is the absence of any worthwhile training policy, a definite training policy. It may be that Government with all good intentions has merely been approaching the problem in perhaps a half-hearted manner, with the wrong attitude so to speak. As a consequence we find that even to whom an attempt is made to give some measure of training, in-service or otherwise, they do not in very many instances come up to expectations.
9.25 p.m.

One thing that has happened time and again in the Service and it is something to be decried is that when an officer is trained for a specific job or to function in a particular field, before he can return and give his Department the benefit of the training he has received he is transferred, perhaps, on promotion and the training he has received is not made available to the Department from which he first set out.

One other thing is that very often people are sent on courses, and these people, to my mind, on their return do not have enough years during which they should remain in the Service so that the service as a whole could benefit from the training which they had just received. It would be good, to my mind, if there could be a general review of Government policy for training, if there is one to which we can refer. We know that something has been done. We appreciate every effort that has been made in this direction, but are the net results good enough or sufficient to bear out the energies that have been devoted in this particular sphere? It is time, Mr. Chairman, that more should be done. We should have a Training Officer or Chief Training Officer who could assist in putting over a programme of planning and varying it as the need arises from time to time so as to be able to turn out civil servants, or public servants as you may care to call them, to fit into the various Departments as and when required.

Mr. Chairman, I must appreciate the fact that certain things might be said much easier than done, but we have heard in this Committee already during the day that one of the things that affects a Department in a very considerable measure, or the Minister in his Ministry, is that persons coming to the Ministry do not always bring with them the type of expertise upon which the Ministry would like to draw, because the Minister has no power to choose who should come to serve. It will call for a very radical approach to the entire problem of training. We have first to assess our own needs in the Public Service and, having done that, we could then set about to bear in mind how we can best fill the breaches as we see them in the various Departments as we look around us.

Now, the question of part-time tutors, as at Item 15, needs careful attention. Civil servants should have a permanent training staff. The benefit to be derived from that is the relationship that will exist between the officer whose position is permanent with that of the Chief Training Officer would be of invaluable service in programming. Even the question of discipline and responsibility should be tackled. These are aspects of the Service which must appeal to each and every hon. member, because those of us who come in contact with members of the public should know to what extent they suffer at the hands of members of the Civil Service - we do not say at the hands of all members of the Civil service, but we must bear in mind that any error on the part of one must be a reflection on the part of all. It, therefore, means that training must be tackled in a bolder manner than at present.

9.35 p.m.

There is again one point which may be small in itself, but nevertheless must be considered of some value. The surroundings and the location of your Training Centre must be taken into consideration. Accommodation is provided for the staff whether permanent or temporary, and seeing that the training that is afforded at the Training Centre is for adults for the most part, that in itself must cast a different reflection on the whole exercise.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the Training Division does have a policy. The present aims of the Training Division are the development of continuous local training programmes using local instructors where possible and bringing in experts from outside where necessary. Secondly to foster the establishment of departmental training units, assisting with training of staff for this work and supporting the departmental trainers with advice and if necessary and where necessary with participation in the actual training itself. Then they also encourage Ministries to plan training in relation to Development Plans and fourthly and probably most important, the development of management improvement by means of arranging for overseas training, organising local training and, as I said before, with the assistance of other institutions providing and circulating literature on the subject of management improvement, and also particularly the improvement of the accounts and audit procedures.

I would like to make it clear that we do not select the people who go away on scholarships. We run in-service training, we run induction courses for new people coming into the service, we have our permanent, I would not like to call it auditorium, we have our classrooms. I myself have addressed people who were doing far advanced courses and a large number of scholarships are awarded both out of local funds and from overseas funds, and all these scholarships tend to relate to the requirements of Government Departments. We just do not encourage people to go on scholarships because somebody wants to be a lawyer or to get a B.A. General degree and that kind of thing. We try to relate it as far as possible to the actual requirements of Government Departments. Now as to fitting the right people into right places, again I must explain that this happens because the Public Service Commission has the authority to promote people, to transfer them to other Departments and frequently, not in the majority of cases, you may find someone who may be well qualified and trained in a particular Department, but then he may be on a list to be promoted from Administrative Assistant to a higher grade and just because he has been trained for a particular job in a particular Department, you cannot tell him that he must rest himself there for another ten years and see a junior officer promoted over his head. This does happen, and I do not see any way in which you can get around this, because you may be penalising an officer who is efficient in a particular Department by saying, you cannot move from there because you are too efficient there and we have a job of Assistant Secretary going, but since you have just come back from say, Carlton University or Sussex University specialising in this particular type of work, you have to stay there for the rest of your days. This is the problem, and I think hon. members will appreciate it is a problem, but we do not have any control over that. The Public Service Commission does that, and they send the people on the courses and move people out on promotion and

courses in the Service as they consider expedient, sometimes to the officer's benefit and I suppose on a few occasions to his discomfort.

Mr. Chairman, you have a Service of 10,000 people in it, 3,900 of them are administrative and it is inevitable that this kind of thing would happen. A larger number of people are away on training than you would suspect, but when we say that there are a certain number of courses available, the Public Service Commission says that so-and-so can go on the course, and then they complain that the large number of acting appointments arise from the fact that we have provided too many scholarships for training. The same Public Service Commission put it in writing that there is too much training going on. We say that we need accountants, that we need people in public administration, and in the Estimates we calculate how many of each class we actually need; then the Public Service Commission approves and I think they actually do the selection of the people who are to go out on training, and then they say there is a large number of vacancies and too many acting appointments, and there is too much training going on. This present Commission I do not think has made that complaint, but certainly the last Commission did.

The question that the sum of $270,788 under Head 17 - Training Division - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 - ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

HEAD 18 - Economic Planning Unit - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $836,011 under Head 18 - Economic Planning Unit - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 19 - BARBADOS REGIMENT

HEAD 19 - Barbados Regiment - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $122,608 under Head 19 - Barbados Regiment - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 20 - CIVIL AVIATION

HEAD 20 - Civil Aviation - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, under this Head there is an amendment. There is Item 32 and we are putting in Item 32A. There is a sum of $43,760 which is a new Item for Cleaning. Now the Tenders Committee has invited tenders from three firms of cleaners for the cleaning of the Airport on contract, and they have awarded the tender to one firm for the sum of .....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, we have been circulated with amendments in respect of the Estimates, but there is nothing like this appearing in my circulated copy.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is a new Item and I am about to explain that we are moving in this Item. The award has been made on a contract basis to clean the Airport. I had the note here, but the net effect of this is that we have calculated that on the basis of the tender for a ten month period which will be $43,760, but there ought to be a saving under the same Head of nearly the same amount. Right now we do the cleaning ourselves. It is either $5,000 or $6,000 in cleaning materials, then we have to pay a certain number of unestablished staff to carry out the daily chores, and then we have to pay their National Insurance and holidays with pay, and when you calculate the two things, they are approximately the same figure, so that although we may move in $43,000 there should be a considerable saving, and the people who will be displaced will be found other jobs not necessarily at the Airport, but when there are vacancies in the Ministry of Communications and Works or somewhere like that, we will try to move them across into these jobs, but we will not be paying twice for the same thing.
9.45 p.m.

We are not satisfied that the present method of keeping the airport clean is the best method, and there has been a lot of criticism in the Other Place; I myself have my reservations and the tender has been awarded to one of the firms of cleaners that actually put in the lowest tender, on the basis of that it will be $43,000, but I should explain that in that the original cleaning, in other words, to start the job off they have to go through and do a lot of extraordinary cleaning, and that is I think about $5,000.

Perpetual maintenance will have to go on after that by the contractors, so I am asking that the sum of $43,760 be moved in, but on the understanding that since we do not know the actual date on which the contract will commence, we leave in the rest and there should be a considerable saving under that Head, but I cannot estimate now what the saving will be because we do not know when the contract is going to commence, It is not going to start, as far as I know, on the 1st April, the contractor has to be given time to get his equipment and so on.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what is going to become of the staff that is presently employed for cleaning?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said that we will try and re-absorb them elsewhere. Under this Head I think there is money voted for Supervisors and

Security and that kind of thing, and if there are any suitable people they will be employed there, others will be sent into other departments, but they will not lose their employment for this reason anyhow, but if they choose to throw away their jobs in some other way I cannot guarantee they will be there till they reach 65, but because of this contract being awarded they should not lose some kind of gainful employment with the Government but they will not be paid under this Head for cleaning.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Maintenance of the grounds and buildings. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say this, and this is a good opportunity of drawing it to the attention of the Government that there is still yet much criticism as to the prices charged at Seawell by the canteen operator, both the workers' Canteen and the restaurant. I believe the hon. member for St. Andrew raised it in here some time ago, and on my own investigation I found that the prices are too high. I suppose the junior member for St. Michael can tell you about this, if you went there you would think you are in a very expensive hotel buying drinks. Surely hon. members of the Government must have heard this before, and I am thinking of the local people now, if they go there and they attempt to get a lunch or drinks for anybody they pay more than they pay in some of the hotels, and I would like the Leader of the House or the Prime Minister to tell us what the conditions are. Having rented this place, are there any stipulations as to prices and what now?

When this was operated before by, I believe other contractors, the prices seemed to have been reasonable. Do you imagine that anybody coming from St. Andrew or St. Joseph with two or three little children and they want to buy cokes for them they have to look for 50¢ each? (Rt. Hon. E. W BARROW: There is a coke machine downstairs.) But for the grace of God I might have to be asking somebody to defend my position on this, but I can afford to buy what they charge for a coke. I do not have to buy their whiskey, but I am talking about the poor people coming from the country with their children and they have to go and borrow money to pay for it, because it is too expensive; they should do something about this. I would like to hear the Minister on it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: First, I just want to dispose of this $5,000 for the complete spring cleaning to start off, and then ten months' maintenance, $38,760. The present cost of cleaning the airport, materials and paying four Supervisors and 16 other unestablished staff is approximately about, as far as I can remember, $46,000 to $48,000.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it possible to get the contractors to take on any of the people?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is a problem there, we cannot stipulate that the contractors take on the people because these people might have been trained in bad habits, judging from the appearance of the airport, and you cannot really saddle people with them, and it is better to find other employment for them, which we have more or less guaranteed that we will find alternative employment for the people who will be displaced. I give members that assurance. 16 people and 4 Supervisors - that is 20 altogether - and then about $6,000 in cleaning materials which I regret to say the people who use the airport, particularly people who are there all day long, some of the drivers and so on, they do not really respect the taxpayers who have to pay for these paper towels and even cloth towels, and you find cars being cleaned down, but with a private contractor there would be proper supervision and that would put an end to that, and we hope to see some improvement in the appearance of the airport.

The other point raised about canteen prices I will look into it, but these people are paying a fixed rent or a percentage of the profits which are realised.

9.55 p.m.

My recollection is that they pay in a manner like this: Suppose it was $10,000 a month, they would pay 5% of the profits or whichever is more. I think that the laws of supply and demand will apply there. After a time they will find out that their prices are too high and they will have to bring them down. I am assured by the present contractors that they anticipate to have a substantial loss this year, because the facilities are not large enough to cater to the big jet aircraft. When they have a broken down plane they cannot seat more than 90 people when one aircraft may have about 196 people on it. There is a type of jet that may have 196 people on it. Then you will have the crews and the staff at the Airport to deal with. I think there are about 700 or 1,000 people employed at the Airport going between the two canteens. What I would never like to see is the workers' canteen being run by the same people who operate the restaurant, because you know what is going to happen. Right now a lot of white collar workers go over to the workers' canteen because they can get stew and rice and so on. Now, as soon as you have the two things controlled by one person, you can virtually close down the workers' canteen. We have tried to avoid this. All I can say is that it is something that needs looking into. I will draw it to the attention of the Airport Manager, ask him to put a list of prices, and maybe in the next contract those prices would have to be approved by the Tenders Committee. I am not sure under the existing contract whether a schedule of prices has to be approved by the Tenders Committee. This may be something that we could write in the contract in the same way as we have written something in the Labour Clauses Contract Act whereby people have to pay recognised wages.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when the senior member for St. John is investigating, I should like him to find out if there is a lot of pressure on this canteen because of the recent change sometime last year between the contractors, that is to say, the

workers' canteen run at I.S.L. and the other one at the Airport. The senior member for St. John will find out that when there was some shift in the contractors in the canteen that certain pressures were put on the canteen at I.S.L. which forced certain workers over to the Airport canteen only to find that the prices had gone up. If the contractors are complaining that they do not have enough room, maybe you will find that the prices have been so arranged as to keep certain people out of the canteen. I think that the investigation would have to be related to the amount of people who moved from the I.S.L. canteen over to the Airport canteen and *vice versa* and the price relationship for the things served there today.

I should also like the hon. senior member for St. John to find out if there is any expatriate accountant at I.S.L. who holds the contract in respect of one of these canteens in the Airport, and if certain pressures were not applied to the canteen at I.S.L. I should like him to find out if that is not the cause of the trouble up there. If he does not know the facts I can give him the facts, if he wants them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in the first place, I would like to distinguish between the workers' canteen and the restaurant. The Public Works Department under the Airport Development Project has just spent some money up there. As a result of a lot of pushing and persuading by the Ministry of Health we have just spent some money in improving the workers' canteen. They have outdoor patio, sanitary facilities and so on. I am satisfied that there is adequate room in the workers' canteen, and if people at I.S.L. want to come over to the workers' canteen to eat - *(Asides)* I do not know what the hon. member is talking about, but there is no Rule or Regulation up there which says that somebody coming from outside cannot eat at either restaurant or canteen that is opened to the public. The particular eating place the hon. member must be referring to, is the restaurant. I do not, honestly see the workers at I.S.L. going into the restaurant normally to have meals. I think they would more gravitate to the workers' canteen.

Mr. BOLDEN: The position is that I.S.L. has its own canteen which used to be run by a man who has gone to the States. Certain pressures were put on him and the present contractor of the canteen that they must not cook any more rice and stew because the smell was interrupting the expatriates at I.S.L. In the Interim the Accountant got the contract for one of the canteens over at Seawell and advised the people at I.S.L. that they would find the food and hamburgers cheaper over there, but when they went over they found that the prices were far in excess of what they could afford. They then started to fluctuate between the workers' canteen and the other place. The very man who holds the contract was also endeavouring to get the contract at I.S.L. If the senior member for St. John will investigate that he will find out that it is true.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in so far as I have legal authority and the Airport Manager has legal authority we will investigate the matter. As you know, I do not have any authority to make anybody produce his books. I will make some discreet enquiries and give the hon. member an answer.

I beg to move that the sum of $977,833 under Head 20 - Civil Aviation - as amended, stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member is making his investigations he will find that the contractors at Seawell Airport have - I am not talking about the workers' canteen - a restaurant and a Snack Bar, and it is in the Snack Bar that they hope to attract the trade which they have lost at I.S.L. So far as the workers' canteen is concerned, I saw that it was given a face-lift, and I thought that that the contractor had paid for it. I now find that under the pressure of the Ministry of Health, and no doubt because of the fact that the contractor was unable to carry out these renovations, the Government decided to make the renovations. Under what terms and conditions did the contractor for the workers' canteen get this concession? Is it for two years one year, or what? Did it go out for tender? I just want to know whether it is the consistent policy of the Government.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the policy normally is to go to tender, but this canteen was taken over by the present concessionaire when the departing concessionaire owed a considerable amount of money and the services or conditions were not up to what was the standard required. Before a tender was put out, the present concessionaire went in as a stop-gap. We could not close down the canteen while the notices were being published. The Director of the Airport and the people up there expressed satisfaction with the improvement, and the person was given 15 months. At the end of that period the Airport Development Team said that the place would have to be pulled down.
10.05 p.m.

The appropriate time to go out for tender would be when the new facilities are constructed where a person could put in for a three year tender as the case may be to carry out the work. So the present concessionaire up there is on a kind of monthly basis just carrying on for the time being. I would say that at the end of the fifteen month period, because of the improvements which had to be made, the rent was doubled to $240 a month. The former concessionaire was supposed to pay $60 a month, but he never paid it but for the two months near the end after he had it for three years. (A VOICE: The man in the van.) Well that and the Flash 'N went off or flashed out and a large amount of money was left owing and someone volunteered to come in and pay

$120 a month. Now it is either 2 1/2% or 5% of the gross whichever is more. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: How do you know what is the gross?) All the concessionaires have to submit to the Airport Manager monthly returns of sales. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Do they keep a cash register?) Yes. There is a check. When the fifteen months expired, certain temporary renovations had to be made and the rent was doubled to $240 a month, plus the same per cent which is either 2 1/2% or 5%. The other people tendered a long time before this impasse arose with the former concessionaire who went to the United States, and they were awarded the contract; so even when the new facility is built and their term has not expired, they will continue, and they pay quite a lot of money, something like $100,000 odd a year. The present concessionaire of the restaurant pays quite a large sum of money which they have tendered for this facility. *(Asides)* He paid $23.20 for two bottles of rum. The concession for the restaurant is $70,000 a year or 5% whichever is more. This is what they tendered.

I want to make it clear to the hon. member that six or eight people tendered and these people tendered $70,000. We did not ask them to tender $70,000.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I do not like to doubt the Prime Minister, but I would like him to repeat it again.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have just checked it three times and I have been assured that it is $70,000. I knew it was a large amount of money. I know another concession up there paying something like $135,000 or $150,000; those are the duty free shops, but I believe they can make the money.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You are making sport. Duty Free Shops selling something just three cents a bottle less than you can go in the supermarkets and buy them at!

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is now clear to me that the debate has revealed one or two things. One is that the present concessionaire of the workers' canteen has not got her contract by way of tender, but she is a stop gap who has become permanent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let me explain to the hon. member. The point is that when we built the new workers' facility, we did not want to be tied down to something for an old shed. The other people have an air conditioned restaurant with separate snack bar and that kind of thing, and every day new facilities are being added. This was an old shed which was given a face lift and a couple of toilets and wash basins put in, and it was not felt fair to ask people to tender on the basis of that when in eighteen months we may have the other thing. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Eventually you will have to tender.) It will most definitely have to go out to tender.

I have been criticised by the same concessionaire claiming that I doubled the rent all over the place and bawling for murder.

Mr. St. JOHN: She is paying it and bawling for murder for the hon. member's party. You see what I mean when we say we will win the Government, because even the confirmed supporters of the other side decide that they cannot win. Anyway, the position is quite clear on this. As I gather, this is a temporary arrangement to get somewhere. I have heard that the service has improved since the days of the man in the van. That is what the workers tell me, and I believe the turnover has improved.

Now as far as the bar and the restaurant are concerned, I think one must be very careful on this. Even if these people have tendered at such a figure which I cannot see how it can be economic at all, I would like the Government to bear this factor in mind, that every often the first impression a visitor or intransit passenger gets on coming to Barbados is by going there and buying drinks. It is very important, and first impressions are very strong in the minds of people who have never been here before; so although on the one hand you may be getting this $70,000, on the other hand you may be losing much more in revenue because of the bad name that Barbados gets because of charging there. You have to be careful on that.

The second point is that the usual period of tender is three years. I think that is a mistake, and I will tell you why. I believe that these people should be allowed a minimum period in which to capitalise some of their equipment, and some of the equipment cannot be logically capitalised over a three year period. It should be five years as a minimum, and this makes people charge so much more because they feel they will make a loss when they sell out. You should have sufficient knowledge and experience now of these concessions based upon the others that are rented out, and you should have a stipulated period, and five years should be the minimum so that you can depreciate your equipment at 20 per cent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If we introduce that, which I agree with from a common sense point of view, if not from an economic point of view, you should have of course an approved schedule of prices.

Mr. St. JOHN: I agree with that too. That is one aspect. I am very glad to see that they have decided to make a change in the method of cleaning the Airport, because this Airport, as we have said repeatedly in here year after year does not have the atmosphere of cleanliness that one sees at other Airports in other parts. It is being given out on contract now and there is an assurance that the Government will provide alternative employment for some of these people. What I want to express on this vote though is the general dissatisfaction in respect of taxis at Seawell. We have to come on to that. I do do not think we can finish this Head tonight.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, if he is going to discuss taxis at Seawell and I think this must be the appropriate Head, this is going to take a long time, because we have an explanation and the Reporters are beginning to wilt, and I think this is an appropriate stage at which to suspend the sitting. I am prepared to discuss it because I would like some kind of solution. 10.15 p.m.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended till 9.30 tomorrow morning.

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

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

10.17 p.m.

On resumption--

18th March

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; to that automatically it now reverts.

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

HEAD 20 - CIVIL AVIATION

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 20 be postponed. I believe the Prime Minister agreed to have some discussion on some matter arising out of Head 20.

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

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

HEAD 21 - ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Head 21 – Establishments Division – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $433,757 under Head 21 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 11 there is an amount of $420,000 for temporary staff, and the note reads: "To pay emoluments of staff appointed to temporary posts when satisfactory departmental arrangements cannot be made." I am concerning myself with the last six words of that note, that is, "when satisfactory departmental arrangements cannot be made." One will agree that Establishments is to a very considerable extent one of the main bargaining bodies or negotiating bodies in the whole Public Service, or for the Public Service, and there can be no more upsetting situation arising than when conditions present themselves or are allowed to show themselves, when negotiations are in progress between Establishments and any other body on behalf of the Civil Service or any branch thereof than one side to lose faith or confidence in the other. It cannot be said, Sir, that the principal negotiators in Establishments from time to time have shown an attitude of high-handedness in dealing, let us say, with the Association of Assistant Teachers in Secondary Schools, and to a lesser extent, with the Barbados Union of Teachers.

We have got to accept that these two organisations have acquired Trade Union status in this country, and as such they ought to know their rights, and we definitely believe, we have seen up to the present, that they try wherever possible to conduct their business along proper Trade Union lines, but one will appreciate the fact that when there is bargaining between any two organisations there must be the attitude of give and take if we are to reach any appreciable point for the sake of reaching a point of satisfaction, but we have not seen any of this in the negotiations between the Establishments Division and the Association of Assistant Teachers. We have seen that in Education, for instance, the public has been given to believe that situations obtain which would, if they had been accepted without a challenge from the Association of Assistant Teachers or the Barbados Union of Teachers, make these organisations look like fools in the eyes of the public, but happily we have been able to see and know and learn at first hand that Government's end of the bargain has not been held up, and that, to my mind, is a very sad state of affairs and can create an awkward situation for future negotiations between the teachers and Establishments.

We would not like to see the continuation of that type of attitude as has been exhibited by Establish-

ments in dealing with these situations. On the whole, Sir, it would seem as if a very radical approach will have to be made, very drastic measures will have to be taken to revamp the whole negotiating set up as far as Establishments is concerned, because the loss of faith, the breaking down of confidence is the basis upon which any agreement can be reached or must be reached in any negotiation between any two parties or bodies. What we would like to see is this, that the negotiators from Establishments show themselves playing less politics when they approach their tasks for dealing with these various bodies, because as soon as this is introduced into a situation it can cut both ways, because one has got to realise Governments rise and they fall and whichever Government is in office, Establishments Division still has to function and has got to function in such a way as not to give the impression as to be an obstructionist in the smooth running of the various departments of Government in any way.

We would therefore like, Mr. Chairman, to admonish Establishments Division to set about repairing the damaged image which has been mirrored so far, and the sooner that this is done the better it will be, because it is when these satisfactory arrangements cannot be made that Establishments is brought into play, and we would like to see that Establishments functions in a way as not to cause further problems to aggravate any situation in the Civil Establishment of this island.

Mr. Chairman, the actual expenditure for 1969-70 on leave passages amounted to $156,104. 9.40 a.m.

We notice that in 1969-70 the actual expenditure on Leave Passages amounted to $180,000. When debating an earlier Head, we were told that a heavier recruitment in the Service was expected this year, but yet we see under this Head that not even the $180,000 that was voted last year would be spent on this occasion. I wonder how, in the face of what has been said earlier, one can relate this to that?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in respect of the hon. member's earlier comments, I think he answered himself really in some of what he said. The Establishments Division of Government is that part of the Government which deals with recruiting, replacement and disposal of Government servants throughout the Service. It is their duty also to do most of the negotiating on behalf of Government with the accredited representatives of public officers and their trade unions. The argument that the Establishments Division leans on the side of whichever Government is in power is nothing new. It is an agent of Government and executes Government's policy in relation to Civil Service matters.

The other point which I understood the hon. member to raise was a query as to why we have provided $120,000 for leave passages in the coming financial year as against $180,000 in this financial year. I take it that this is the hon. member's query. The answer is simple. This coming financial year, Mr. Chairman, will be the first time when the new policy of limitation will be applied in respect of outward leave journeys. Up to now a public officer in a certain grade and above it, can go to the United Kingdom every 3 1/2 years, I believe, but under the new system a public officer, once he is entitled to leave passage, will only be able to make two such journeys in the whole of his Civil Service career and, therefore, we should not now need this tremendous amount of money to defray this type of expense. This reduction is due to the fact that the limitation comes into force as from the beginning of this financial year.

The question that the sum of $433,757 under Head 21 - Establishments Division - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 - PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 22 - Public Relations - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $38,440 under Head 22 - Public Relations - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is the election year, and I am very concerned with the use of the Public Relations Department by the Government as the Information Service of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not under review at the moment.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Public Relations Department is a Department of the Government, and I am very much concerned that it is going to be used as the Information Service of the Democratic Labour Party. *(Asides)* The junior member for St. Thomas is saying that it will help them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what are you speaking?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item 16 - Broadcasting - which provides the sum of $8,280 for radio and video tapes, Letra

Sets, photographs, radio and T. V. broadcasts and film for T.V. broadcasts. I am saying that we have to be very careful that we distinguish quite clearly between what the Government programme is going to put over and the fact that this can easily be used as an avenue of Government propaganda. From time to time one can hear that there is an interview with a Minister which is nothing but a purely political broadcast. When anybody from the Government Party goes on the radio or T.V. and uses it strictly for the purpose of Party political broadcast pointing out the policy of the Democratic Labour Party, we feel that it is only fair that the Opposition Party should be given equal time to go on the radio or T.V. and put forward our views. They call it a Government Programme and then they put forward party politics under the guise of the Government Information Programme. You will get an interview with the Minister of Agriculture setting out the policy of the Government and we know what happens. I am not saying that it cannot be done, but if you are going to do that, then you must allow the Opposition party to go on the radio and T.V. and put forward our views. It must be remembered that the radio and T.V. are not the sole province of any Government in power. It is the mass media used for the benefit of the people in this country. I should like a statement from the Government as regards the attitude to be adopted on the question of political broadcasts.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is a small point which I would like to make. There are quite a number of Information Officers now. At Item 14 there is an amount of $3,300 to cover the cost of travelling, and at Item 19 there is $11,826 for the film unit. 9.50 a.m.

Now the note at Item 19 makes mention of producing literature amongst other things for Government purposes. Now what I want to enquire is if these Information Officers serve all the Ministries or if, let us say, the Ministry of Education has its own Information Officer. If the Ministry of Education does not use to the full, the services of these various officers, could we have an explanation from the Minister about what is wrong about this?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Let me first deal with the point raised by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown. Mr. Chairman, I have never been able to understand the argument of some people that if you are in a Government and you make a pronouncement either explaining the policy of your Government, or drawing attention to their Government's programme or whatever it is, you are playing politics. Of course, you are because it is politicians' business to be in Government to explain Government's policy, and I cannot allow the argument that there is some distinction say, between saying a thing if you are in Government, and saying it if you are not in Government, and that because you are in Government you ought necessarily to be more inhibited about promulgating what you are doing than if you are anywhere else. We are politicians and any statement or any activity which is made by a politician whether in or out of Government is necessarily an activity or political statement, and to pretend therefore that because a Government uses, as it should, its Information Service to say what it is doing or how it is doing what it is doing, is necessarily doing something bad is an argument I cannot understand. I cannot accept it at all.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I never said that Government is doing anything wrong in doing this. Either I did not hear properly or something, because the Minister admitted he uses it for party purposes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would like the hon. member to explain how an expatriate Englishman trying to teach Barbadian housewives to fry chicken legs can be a political purpose

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: When the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is interviewed..... (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is that a political purpose?) Of course it is a political purpose. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It has a right to be.) The Leader of the House agrees with me that it is a political purpose *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Let us be realistic. Now, Sir, one would recall when the hon. senior member for St. John went on the television to explain the Government's Development Plan. That was purely a party political broadcast. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: So what is wrong with that?) I am not saying anything is wrong with it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if you do not call on the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to behave himself, I am going to behave equally as bad as he.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please do not challenge the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: I am not challenging the Chair. I want you to call on him to behave himself, if not you are going to start nonsense in the place already today.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I do not think the hon. junior member for St. Peter really means what he said, because it is impossible for anybody to behave as badly as the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I challenge that. The hon. member cannot make that kind of statement when he has been put out of the Chamber on more than one occasion. I have never been named yet.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Now, Sir, I accept what the Leader of the House is saying. I recognise it as a party political broadcast. I am not saying that anything is wrong with it if the hon. senior member for St. John goes on the television and explains what is the Government's three year plan or whatever it is and explains Government policy over the next three years. I am not saying he should not go, but all I am saying is that if he goes on television and does this, that the Opposition should be given time to make similar broadcasts.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I should like to ask the hon. member a simple question. If a Government party goes on the air and enunciates policy and criticises the policy of the opposing political parties, I agree that the people on the other side should be heard. I would like him to name a single Government in the history of mankind, not only in the world, from the recorded history of our time, where a Government programme whatever it may be - a project is being put forward for the public's information - where the Opposition has some correlative right to go and criticise it. I would like him to name a country not only in the Caribbean, but in Latin America, in Vietnam, anywhere at all in Christendom or in any kind of religious scheme of things he can think of.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister seems slightly mistaken. Putting forward a project that you are building something as I understand it and putting forward Government policy as I understand it are two completely different things. When you put forward that the Government is going to do so-and so or that this is the Government's policy in relation to so and so, this is purely a political broadcast. I am not saying that anything is wrong with it or that the Government should not do it; what I do say is that if the Government does it, equal time should be given to the Opposition for broadcasting.

I remember as a young boy sitting in the public Gallery when the Hon. Leader of the House and the hon. senior member for St. John were then in the Opposition and hearing them attack the present party to which I belong for not affording the Opposition party time on radio for party political broadcasting.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, that could never happen unless the hon. member falsified his nomination papers and is about ten or thirteen years old, because we never had any radio broadcasting in Barbados prior to 1962, and the only media of public information was a privately owned station to which I believe the hon. senior member for Bridgetown had some connection or was a director or something; but it was certainly run by the Conservatives. I will tell you privately outside my reasons for saying so.

10.00 a.m.

It is nothing detrimental, but I know he had a lot of say over there and you know how I know too, so do not let us go into that, but what I am saying is that there was no public broadcasting station or television in Barbados so we could never have criticised it. We did criticise the Government for not letting the present Speaker attend a State function at Government House on the grounds that there were not enough chairs at Government House to accommodate the Leader of the Opposition, but we have provided the hon. member with an office, the senior member for Christ Church, and we are giving him a Secretary and that shows the difference between our treatment of you and your treatment of us.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister can accuse me of falsifying papers, he can accuse me of anything at all, Sir, I am stating here as a fact.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not accuse the hon. member, I said that if the hon. member heard your attack about radio broadcasting he would have to be 13 years old and therefore his nomination papers would have to be falsified.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, what I am saying is that I have sat in this Chamber in the public gallery as a young boy and heard the Leader of the House and the senior member for St. John attacking the Barbados Labour Party for not allowing time, or giving the Opposition Party time to go on the radio broadcast.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This was during the Federal elections when the Government forbade Rediffusion from selling us time to enunciate our policy during the Federal elections. He even interferred with private enterprise and told them they could not even sell us time to go and say what our policy was on the Federal elections.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am saying I have heard myself on many occasions the hon. senior member for St. John on this, and I remember when I first came back from England long before C.B.C. came into existence speaking to the Leader of the House and I discussed this subject with him, and when I asked him why he did not then institute a system of Party political broadcasts, seeing that when he was in the Opposition he agitated for the right of every Political Party to have broadcasting time, and the Leader of the House told me then that the Labour Party did not do it and they were not doing it. *(Asides)*. I am talking about shortly after I returned from England in 1962, and the Leader of the House told me on that accasion that they were not going to institute a system of party political broadcasts because the Labour Party did not do it, and I reminded the Leader of the House that the Democratic Labour Party would not remain in power forever, and that if they went out of power they would not have a case if they insisted that the Barbados Labour Party did it; it is as simple as that. I am not saying he should not go on the radio and explain Government policy, but when you go and explain Government policy as a purely party political broadcast, all I am saying is that the Opposition Party must be allowed time to explain their policies also. In a thing like the Development Plan the Barbados Labour Party should be allowed time.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, much of all of this debate and the motivation behind it would not have taken place had the people who are responsible for radio stations generally in Barbados enough courage or were aware of the vital role that broadcasting stations can play in the life of the country. What people really want in this country is to hear comment on various points of view upon all aspects of national life in this country; that is what they do

not get. The radio stations do not have people of the calibre who can produce the programmes, or if they have the people of the calibre to produce the programmes they are afraid of offending the authorities; that is all. They are afraid of offending the Democratic Labour Party; I am not saying that you make them afraid, because you all will try to make me afraid but I have enough courage not to be afraid; but they are spineless and therefore what they are doing is depriving the people of enough comment on many aspects of national life which would be given and which should take place in any democratic society.

They are not the right people in the right place, not because they do not have the right qualifications, but because they do not have the right quality of character; that is all. I always tell the hon. member not to worry about the use of the Public Relations Division for propaganda of the Government programme, when the people are not with you they are not with you. That is true, so do not let us worry about this, but I would say this about this Division. They have a very important role to play in informing the public about the vast bureaucracy that has been created lately, and as the hon. member for St. John said yesterday, there is a lot of misinformation and lack of information by the public at large as to various organs of Government, and a proper programme and a proper institution should be established where people can go and get the information as to which organ of Government or which arm of Government deals with particular matters, and that is what I would like to see the Public Relations Division doing.

In our area of Christ Church, since the abolition of Local Government, people do not even know how to get people in the Infirmaries, and I will tell the Prime Minister this, there was a man who spent two days on Dayrells Road because he did not know how to get in the Infirmary until he got in touch with me on the very same day. I had to ring the Ministry of Health to get this gentleman in because they were saying that the St. Michael's Infirmary had no more room and there was nowhere to send him.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think that I have seen the Minutes of the Proceedings of the National Assistance Board, and they referred to that particular case, and I think it was a gentleman well known to the hon. senior member for Christ Church, because he represents Christ Church; he walks about the place and is not entirely a case for the Mental Hospital but refuses to stay in any one particular place at any time. In other words, he would go and sleep on this step for two nights and if you try to get him inside he behaves as though you want to put him in a prison. He is a nomad, and I do not think it is a fair criticism of the Government or that you should criticise the Government for a semi-deficient person. There is another old lady - I do not know if she is old but she looks derelict - who walks all around Dayrells Road, the Garrison and any empty building, the larger the better, even if it is a 15 room house, she would camp there and then move on, and the Police cannot catch her at all, because she likes a new building every day of the year. What are you going to do about this? There are derelicts in every community, you cannot shackle them and put manacles on them and tell them they must go in the almshouses; as a matter of fact, the rate of admissions, as the hon. member knows, to what they call the Infirmaries is dropping, not because people do not know, but because people are better off, and their families are looking after them. People are not worse off in Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point or order, in addition to that, the National Assistance Officer who functioned under Local Government is still there, Mr. Stoute, he has not been removed, nor has he died nor has been replaced, he has been there for many long years, but if he is personally diametrically opposed to the take-over or centralisation of the Local Government system, that is a matter for him and he should be dealt with accordingly. I am putting it clearly now, because you have just exposed the work of Mr. Stoute who is the National Assistance Officer in whom is vested these powers. Apart from him, of course, there is the Welfare Officer, but Mr. Stoute is still there and if he is an obstructionist now being reported to Parliament as such, he should be removed. I think you are doing him an injustice in bringing this matter to the House. 10.10 a.m.

If you want to fire him, that is the best contribution you have made so far.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I know that the hon. member regards this gentleman as a bee in his bonnet. There is a general lack of information and lack of knowledge about the arms of Government. Now local authorities in some countries have a specific place conveniently situated in the City or town where people can go and make enquiries about which Department they want to go to. That is the sort of thing we need here, and that should be dealt with by the Public Relations Division.

In relation to this, I should like to know why the Government programme on major issues cannot be used more as the basis for giving the public of Barbados alternative points of view on such matters. This is a very important role you have to play. I know you are going to use it as a propaganda machine. I accept that, but it does not worry me. When they go on the radio we have to go in the rum shops and the fields and do it. That is our function. You will not put the senior member for St. Thomas on the radio, so he has to go in the poor man's pub and do it. Those are the two aspects of the matter that I desired to speak on.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I want to make two specific replies to the questions asked. On the question of party political broadcasts, I do not know if the hon. member recalls that in 1966, at the time of the General Election, the Caribbean Broad-

casting Corporation had made arrangements for both political parties to have party political broadcasts on a basis which was mutually agreeable. I expect that when the time comes they will also put up suggestions for party political broadcasts in the election time and would make recommendations as to how this may be done. There is a Committee working on the matter at the moment, and we would not like to anticipate what would be done. *(Asides)* C.B.C.'s Committee is working on it just as they did in 1966; and I did not hear anybody complain then.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, is the Leader of the House expecting us to trust C.B.C. with this matter? I will give the House a classic example about when I was interviewed in St. Mary's Church on the day of the flood and I said something critical of the Government.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I forbad that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I know that you did not allow it to go in. Anyway, you have admitted it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will tell you why I forbad it. We both made broadcasts statements on the emergency. I was scrupulously careful not to make a partisan one the hon. member made a partisan one, and I forbad it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I never thought I would like to hear the day when somebody would say that the Government broadcasts over C.B.C. are of a political nature. I am the Minister responsible for it. I made a rough sort of programme for five or six weeks to the effect that we will interview Mr. So and So; we will have something from the Housecraft Centre and so on, and the next thing you know is that somebody appears on T.V. teaching Barbadian women how to cook chicken legs! That is something that you can buy at any dance for .75¢ and there is no Englishman, with all due respect to their culinary ability, who can cook a chicken leg better than a Barbadian. I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church. He appeared on a programme when we had the Public Order Act, and there should be more of that kind of broadcast. All of these dissertations on whether plasma is a good thing in 2058 do not interest me and I regret to say that the majority of people turn off the television sets as soon as the Government Information Service comes on, and if it were political they would not do that.

Every single evening at half-past five for one solid hour, the two million people of Jamaica have to see some Government Minister's face. It has to be there in the inset just like the Queen on the Postage Stamp. The Prime Minister's picture has to be there. If Guyana had television it would probably be 11 1/2 hours a day. Our trouble is that we have too much democracy in this country. All you can hear in Barbados, is about the rights of the Opposition, whether it is Mr. Jimmy Cozier, or Mr. Best, Mr. Lawson Bayley or whoever writes for them in the *Advocate,* as if the Government has no right to run a country. There are no rights for the Government. It is always the rights of the Opposition being infringed. The rights of the minority are being infringed because you do not give them all the time. We do not get any.

Mr. Chairman, when I made my third broadcast in seven years, or whatever it was, I had to thank the staff at C.B.C. on a national issue for allowing me, the Prime Minister, to appear on television. Do you think that could happen in Jamaica or Trinidad and Tobago? This was during the time of the sugar Workers' Minimum Wage and Guarantee Act which I was explaining to the Cabinet for the first time, and they kindly consented that I should go on television. What kind of foolishness do we have in this country? One night when I said in a crowd that we have democracy in this country, a man in the crowd said: "That is the trouble; we need a little more guided democracy." We need a little more guided democracy particularly in so far as the Public Service is concerned, because they seem to think that it is an offence to tell anybody in the public what the Government is doing in the country. As a matter of fact, I had to remind the Bank Manager at the opening of the Chase Manhattan Bank that he had not been in the country long enough to know that it was an offence to say that this Government had done something for the country, because in his remarks he said that from what he could see around, or words to that effect, the Government had made remarkable economic strides in this country. Immediately I took him up on it. *(Asides)*

I did not know that the senior member for St. Thomas was in the crowd complaining that he wanted locking up or something like that; that he had not been here long enough, and how could he say that the Government had done anything. We have to knock this nonsense out of people's heads. No matter what Government is in power, you cannot go around spreading the idea that Government is doing nothing for the people, because you would be a fool to pay your taxes for the Government to do nothing. I want to get the record straight. Unfortunately there is no political direction over the Government Information Office. There should be a lot more. I do not have the time to sit down and write out Information Programmes to give the Government Information Office.

10.20 a.m

We have given a Radio Station, a Television Station, frequency modulation, the first in the Caribbean, and colour television now, the first in the Caribbean, and I, as Prime Minister, the man who sat down and devised the financial ways and means, have appeared on television approximately four times, except in still shots showing the back of my neck, as if there is something edifying about the back of my neck. Four times in seven or eight years I have been allowed to broadcast; so I do not think the members on the other side need have any fear. As a matter of fact the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that over 60 per cent of the people up there be-

long to them. I never thought I would hear somebody from the Opposition come in and make a statement like that, because it is derogatory to the employees of Government Statutory Boards, but this is the situation with which we are confronted in Barbados. The whole thing is topsy turvy and upside down.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to get one thing straight. I entirely agree with the Prime Minister's remarks. I do not agree with any Englishman going on television teaching Barbadians how to cook food, and he names the book of all things "Bajan Cook Book". Here you see two Englishmen telling Barbadians how to cook breadfruit and things like that. I agree with the Prime Minister also that programmes such as the one on the Public Order Act where you had discussions on various aspects of policy should be the sort of thing you should have on the Government Programme, and this would encourage more people to watch it, and I also agree that when the Government Programme comes on, people turn off the television and go and do something else.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: They conducted a survey and the results were referred to in the Continental Bajan Magazine for the last quarter of 1970. They used to have copies in this House, and I recommend to hon. members to read it. In this survey carried out by an impartial sampler, they said that 82 percent of the people interviewed said that the Government Information Service should be used more to give information about the Government. Now we only had something like 57 percent of the votes, so it means that a lot of your people feel so as well.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I do not know who is responsible for the Continental Magazine. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Telephone Co.) What do you expect the Telephone Company to say?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member as a representative of the public should read all these things. It was not a survey carried out by the Telephone Company; it was referred to in that magazine, and it was not written by a Barbadian or for the Telephone Company. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Who carried out the survey?) I cannot remember the name of the man, - he was some sociologist - but it was for October, 1970.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister would appreciate that I would not be one of the fortunate ones to receive anything from the Telephone Company. He may receive them, but my name may get mixed up with the name and initials of somebody else.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Chairman, now that we are on broadcasting, I can see that the Opposition wants it. There was a time when I had to fight so as to get a little time to broadcast. When I was fighting for it all the top brass of the Opposition were encouraging me to go on and cut the wires, and when the Prime Minister tried to drive some fear into me not to cut, and he knows I would not like to go to gaol, and threatened me about gaol, one of the same members said he could not do anything and that it was bogus law. Last year when I had to cut the wires, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, before I cut, was in the Clerk's office looking up law to charge me for damaging Government property. The Opposition is now fighting for broadcasting time, but when I asked for it, I could not get it. I tabled a Resolution asking for it and they could never bring it as far as I am concerned, because I was unfairly dealt with by the Opposition Party when I asked for time, and when the time came that I should get some time, they prevented me from getting broadcasting time.

Anyhow, Sir, it was bogus law; the year before the last it was proper law, but it is only through the mercies of the present Government that I am not in gaol serving time for damaging Government property last year, otherwise I might still be behind bars.

Now, Sir, I would like the present Government to make full use of the Broadcasting Station to educate the people of this country. You should teach them the role of a representative Government, the role of the Opposition and their duty to themselves. They do not know it yet. The Prime Minister would be surprised when he hears that there are some wicked, vicious people stirring around, and if they do not get up and do something to educate these people, when the Prime Minister and his Party or his Government presents itself to the people, they would be so much worked up that every one of them will be blown off the scene if they do not try to do something. Imagine a member of the Opposition Party going into the parish of St. Thomas and telling an old man not to take the Provident Fund cheque and that Barrow is waiting until he spends it to lock him up for it. That is a fact. The old man would not go for his cheque, but his son went and managed to get it, and the old man told him to carry it back and that he did not want to be locked up. Another thing was that the old chap said he did not have to vote for Mr. Barrow, he would have to vote for Boxill, and he was told that Boxill could not do anything, because if Barrow said to lock him up, Boxill could not say not to lock him up. That is all that is going around and it happened in other parishes. In each parish where the Democratic Labour Party has a candidate, it is being said, and if you do not get up and get and let the people know what is happening, when you go on a platform in certain parishes, your head will be where your foot is. These wicked people are going around trying to make mischief. Some of them went to the Prime Minister with something too. He may believe it, but I am telling him not to believe all that he hears. He should try to find out for himself what is happening. That is why everybody is saying that the Dems cannot get back in. The fellows are working them up to such a pitch that the people would not want to hear you.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has the people's media and they should teach them. When it comes to the Government programme, as soon as it comes on,

I turn off the T.V. set because they come with all sorts of things I cannot understand. You want something that the people can understand, and you should bring in the Opposition too and let them say something, because I do not think they can be so barefaced as to tell the people one thing on the radio and say something else behind their backs. You should put them on the spot and they would have to be decent for once when they are before that microphone. You are doing nothing by keeping them out, because they are working in the dark. They did not want me to go on the air because they felt at the time that it would be too much publicity for me. They know how I can put it to the people and they did not want the people to hear me. They soon would not be hearing me anyhow. I will be going home to my father and saying "Well done," to myself.

10.30 a.m.

I do not want anybody to say it for me, I know that I have done it. There was a time when our Saviour was up there and he still heard somebody saying "Crucify him" and they crucified him for doing good. Whenever you hear one person trying to kill another, find out what it is for and you will find it is for doing good. There are some people who hate to see anything good done to others, only to themselves. Make good use of this medium, do not wait till October or November to go to the people when it will be too late, Jimmy is too late.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I found an article which I find very illuminating and I would like to read certain parts for the record. This is published in the Continental Bajan Magazine for the third quarter of 1970, and I think that it comes to this House. I have secured a copy and I recommend it to hon. members for a variety of reasons. The writer of this conducted a survey on mass communication needs in Barbados; he is the holder of two U.S. scholarships at Kansas University and he is now a teaching fellow at the University of Michigan where he lectures in public speaking. The part that I want to quote from is on page 11, and I do not object to making this a document of the House, because I believe it is already a document of the House.

Mr. Hosein said this, that economist W. W. Rostow, whom you would know, Mr. Chairman is one of the advisers of former Presidents on economic matters and a very well known professor of economics. This is what Mr. Hosein said:

Economist W. W. Rostow proposed a set of preconditions for economic take-off growth: the building of a new generation of men and women trained appropriately and motivated to operate a modern society, a productivity revolution in agriculture, a massive build-up of transport facilities and sources of energy, and the development of the capacity to earn more foreign exchange. Mass media can contribute to all of these.

Prof. Wilbur Schramm, a mass communication scholar, has pointed out six essential functions of mass media: (a) Mass communication can be used to contribute to the feeling of nationness "without which no nation can pierce the economic barrier' ; (b) Mass media can be used as the voice of national planning to create the enormous effort required for development. Media must carry the information, the discussions by which the nation arrives at an understanding of needs and consensus upon plans. There will be the need for two-way communication to maintain the sense of nationhood and the sense of participation; (c) Mass communication can be used to teach the necessary skills required for development particularly in the area of technical and general education; (d) Mass communication can be used to extend the effective market for goods and services; (e) Mass media can be used to help prepare people to play new parts by reporting constantly on national plans and national achievements and mobilizing them for participation; (f) Mass media can help prepare the people to play their role as a nation among nations.

All of this has been touched on during this debate by speakers on one side or on the other side, not always with the same intent perhaps, but we cannot get the people who are in charge of our mass media, whether in the private sector or the public sector, to understand this. I am not saying that a newspaper has to be owned by Barbadians in order to preach things Barbadian and a sense of Barbadian nationalism. I think when people look at ownership as the guiding factor they are mistaken. Some campaign was carried on a couple of years ago about having our own paper, but not by anybody who is sympathetic to the Government, so that does not assist the nation if the Government is a nationalist Government.

Further, I would like to quote the part which I find particularly interesting, and arising out of this debate the members will see now what the general opinion outside is, about the Information Service, whether it is political or whether it is really giving Government information. I am the Minister responsible for the subject of broadcasting, but I do not write the broadcasts, and I cannot get people to understand this.

"With regard to Barbados in particular, in a recent survey I conducted, 64% of respondents had not heard of the Barbados Government Plan 1969-1972, and only 8% had read it. 81% had not heard of the Government's Physical Development Plan and 6% had read it."

I think this is about the national average, because I believe only 8% of the members of the House of Assembly have read the plan. I am dead serious, I have been in here for nearly 20 years now and I doubt that more than 8% of the members of this House, excluding Government Ministers who have to read it because it goes to Cabinet, but if they were not in Cabinet I doubt very much that even they would read it, but they have to read it because it goes to Cabinet and I have to cross-examine them on

different aspects of the plan, and they have to discuss it with the Central Planning Committee and they formulate their own sections, but 8% is the national average, including the Legislature of Barbados. 8% of them have read it, 81% had not heard of the Government's Physical Development Plan which the Opposition had been asking for, for about three years, and the newspapers have been asking for the plan but the plan was on sale. 81% of them had not even heard about it. Is the Information Service doing its job? Is it doing a job for us? Whom is it doing a job for? Is it doing a job for you? I do not know.

"Now, 80% have watched the Government's Programme on television (i.e. of those who have television sets), and of this 44% thought that the Programme was not informative enough on Government's activities, 13% thought it was informative sometimes, 29% thought it was informative enough and 14% refrained. In addition, 82% would like to see Government use more television time to explain what they are doing."

How could the hon. junior member for a City accuse me as Minister in charge of Public Relations of using television for political purposes?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I will not let the Prime Minister get away with that, Sir, I never accused the Prime Minister of any such thing.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: 82% of those surveyed by the expert said that the Government is not using it at all and it should be used for this purpose, and then it goes on. If there is one thing I do not like to cook is chicken legs, so anybody demonstrating how to cook chicken legs is not showing what Government's policy is - maybe the hon. junior member for St. Lucy - but certainly not what the Government is doing for the people of Barbados.

"The natural conclusion from these figures would be that Government can use the medium of television more effectively in creating a greater flow of information on national plans which in turn would help develop that national mobilization we see.

The Barbados Government has already taken an excellent step in the utilization of television for education."

I want to make a confession right here now, I am not a pre-schooler, I went to school when I was two years old, probably younger than anybody else in the West Indies, and that is because I was left at home and I bawled until they sent me to school.
10.40 a.m.

They sent me to school because I did not like being left at home. I tell the Public Officers all the time when half past two comes and they disappear and go picking up a lot of children in Belleville and so on blocking traffic, that the only body who ever came to me at school was a Great Dane dog called Vixen when the rain was falling and he brought the umbrella. I had to walk to school. I walked to Wesley Hall; I walked to Combermere; I walked to Harrison College, but now you will find the whole Government Service being demobilised at a quarter to three in the afternoon with all the traffic blocked up all over the place, because a lot of spoiled brats in Barbados have to be driven like Lords and Ladies going to the Royal Tournments at Reading and so on.

We have false standards in this society, and Government work cannot be done. Hon. members know that what I say is true, too. When I was two years and three months old I had to walk home. *(Asides)* There is a programme called "Sesame Street" for children under five years, but more adults listen to that than the Government Information Programme. I always leave that on, even if I turn down the sound in my office. I only turn on to the Government Information Programme, although I am the Minister of Information, to see what the Government is being affected with this week and then I turn it off. I leave on Sesame Street all the time. I am not a pre-schooler. The C.B.C. is doing a good job on adult education, because you will be surprised at how many illiterates are being turned out of our secondary schools in this country. *(Asides)* It is the fault of the teachers who are more politicians than teachers. I am not talking about the Government schools necessarily, but they are at fault, too. Private and Government schools are at fault. I am not going to bury my head in the sand. I am not going to say to those politicians who are teaching our children who, in the middle of an examination term, would go on strike because they expected the Community College to be a failure - those vagabonds. (ASIDES.) You can go and write in the newspaper and tell them that I say that they are vagabonds to desert children in an examination term. When I was at school, no matter what was the incentive or the provocation, no school teacher would have left children without teaching them for a month. I am waiting for people like Mr. Frost. Mr. Frost, the great white hope of the Secondary School Teachers' Association, the great white hope of the Labour Party.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The only great white hope talk in this country is that the Hon. Attorney -General is the great white hope of the D.L.P.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am very serious about this matter. I hear they have a great white hope in St. John, Mr. Reece from Society running for the Labour Party, and I want him to run.

Mr. HINDS: I have heard that Henry Forde is coming on your back in St. John. I am warning you.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I want to make it quite clear that, as Minister in charge of Information Services, I do not want the media of public information in this Island to put out propa-

ganda for the Government. I want them to instruct, educate and inform the people of Barbados. I am confident that if the people of Barbados are educated, as the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said, we have no fear at all, so we do not have to put out propaganda. There is a quotation that if you want to see a monument circumspice - look around you. If we can get the media of public information to get people to look around and understand what life is about in this developing country and as a Nation, we do not have anything to worry about.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want them to say the Prime Minister is the greatest man in the world; I do not want them to mention my name at all; I do not even like to see my name in print for the people to say that it is my birthday or that the Prime Minister attended the House of Assembly. I do not like it. I do not want any publicity, but I want the people in Barbados to be educated as to what their responsibilities are. I am the first one to admit that despite all of my efforts, I cannot get that to sink into the consciousness of the people.

Now, I do not like to refer to races, but we know that some people have difficulties because of their language - the difference between the English language and their language, but that should not apply to Barbados. When I talk about races, people in certain parts of India speak grammatically perfectly but without any kind of emotion at all. If you are a Barbadian you should try to speak as a Barbadian. With the kind of Baboo English - this is what I meant by racialism; I am not trying to discuss the whole Indian Nation - some of what you hear on television is a disgrace. People say: "Do you think, Mr. Smith, that your Department is doing something to instruct the people of Barbados?" All the time the camera is being focussed not on the person who is being interviewed. You are lucky if you see him at all or you even hear his name mentioned in the programme. As a matter of fact, sometimes the C.B.C. commentators will have to fill in afterwards and say: "That was the Government Information Service interviewing Mr. Hoppin the junior member for St. George, because you have not seen Mr. Hoppin nor heard his name called for the whole programme. You have only heard his voice; sometimes the camera is shifting to get a better angle shot of the profile of the interviewer and it may pass across his head. That is purely accidental. I want you to understand, Mr. Chairman, that no offence was meant by showing you at all. They did not intend to show you, but that is purely accidental. This is what happens in a country that is supposed to be advanced, and that is what we are subjected to. I have refrained from saying anything, but how long are we prepared to put up with the tyranny of the Public Service in Barbados, which I have referred to as an army of occupation? I discovered the reason why no newspaper has on the 39 times in public that I have described them as an army of occupation and no newspaper published it - I thought they were trying to censor things that I have said. The reason why they have not published it is surprising - to show the mass ignorance in this country - they think that when I say an army of occupation, that I mean a large number of people who are doing work.

Mr. Chairman, I went and complained about it. I said that I was not ashamed; nobody could sue me in court, and that I regarded civil servants throughout the West Indies, with the possible exception of the Jamaica Public Service and a few Permanent Secretaries of Guyana, as people who behaved like an army of occupation. By army of occupation, I mean conquerors - people who have come to keep the subjected population paying tribute to them for the rest of their lives until they feel like withdrawing to go and conquer fields further abroad.
10.50 a.m.

I was a member of a military Government, an army of occupation, and everybody had to defer and salaam to everybody in the army of occupation. We got special rations and the general populace got another set of rations altogether until you took compassion on some poor person and if you had too many eggs you gave them away to the children in the village and that kind of thing. But anything that you gave to the villagers was largesse; they were not entitled to it. All they had to do was to provide you with the things that you, as the conquering heroes, were entitled to. That is how the Public Service in Barbados has been behaving towards this Government and the people of Barbados, as if they were the conquering heroes.

Would you believe it, Mr. Chairman - and even the most diabolical plotter *si quid in est* on the other side could not have put this into their heads - that in my office they stopped my Parliamentary Secretary and asked him when the salaries revision was coming down. *(Laughter.)* We just paid out $11 million last year, and I do not think anybody in the Opposition could have thought of telling Civil Servants that it is time to ask for another salaries revision. We are trying to keep our heads above water. (Mr. HINDS: Was that this year?) Last week, and the next thing now is that they are going to turn around and tell the people that every time there was an election, every five years, we gave you a salaries revision, but look the Democratic Labour Party Government has not given you a salaries revision. We have given them three salaries revisions and they got $11 million out of the Treasury in nine days last year in backpay. I would not mind if I had heard this had happened in the Northern District Council office, but do you mean right in my office? That is what I mean by an army of occupation, people who are living out of touch with the realities of life in this community.

Mr. Chairman, we do not want public officers of this country to be members of the Government Party. We do not canvass for members because I believe that when you canvass it is better to let one volunteer comeforward then for 300 people who feel that they are under some obligation to join some political party. I do not like those kind of people in

my political party at all. You have to come forward freely and willingly. *(Asides)* Some of them are so ignorant at the Port that they have joined both Unions, and both political parties; and they are the workers getting the higest unskilled take home pay in Barbados, over $100 a week, and we still have that kind of ignorance. I am saying I am at fault, because I am Minister of Information, but I am Minister of a lot of other things and we have to do something about it. We have to do something about mass media in Barbados, not for propaganda purposes, but for simply educational purposes to fill in the gaps which the inadequacies of the school system that we have inherited and the perverseness of some of the teachers who are more concerned about money than about teaching children, - have left, and those gaps and voids which have been left to be filled, can only be filled by adult education through mass media. I agree with all the hon. members who have spoken on that, and I hope they will help me in this respect because I have got almost to the end of my tether in trying to make some people see the light.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I just want to clear up one thing. When I began my speech, I do not believe the Prime Minister was in his seat. I did not say that the Government Information Service is purely a political broadcast. What I do say is that it is election year and one has got to be careful of this. When you find a Government Minister going on the Government Information Service to explain Government policy, it would only be fair to allow the Opposition to do so also. Even from the article read by the Prime Minister and the points set out, it is absolutely clear, putting aside those interviews which are used for what I consider as purely party purposes, that the Government Information Service of this country is failing in its duty towards the public as a whole. I agree with most of what the Prime Minister says when he says that the public mass media is to build a national consciousness. Even in this respect, the Government's broadcasting unit or whatever it is called is failing in its purpose. I agree with the Prime Minister that the interviews are done badly; the people who interview do not seem to understand the purpose of an interview, and go with set questions and ask them in order, but they do not follow up their questions when an answer is made. It is clear that there is need for proper training in this and I would seriously suggest to the Government not in the interest now of the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party, but in the interest of the people as a whole that some sort of concerted effort be made to train people properly in this Department so that the necessary information and true purpose as set out in the article read by the Prime Minister can be fulfilled and the people of this country can be educated.

The question that the sum of $38,440 under Head 22 - Public Relations - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 23 - DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES

Head 23 - Department of Archives - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14,138 under Head 23 - Department of Archives - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we only want to know what is Government's programme with regard to the training of archivists. We know it is a very specialised field and that the present Archivist will not always be with us. I see we have an assistant as well, but we would like to know what is Government's programme.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The answer to that is that the Assistant Archivist is a Barbadian who attended the University of the West Indies, and comes from the constituency of the hon. member, I believe, has had some training overseas, and in the process of time, if she develops in the way she has been going, she would be capable of taking over the Department. I am not sure whether any other archivists are being trained at the moment, but it is a very small department and we cannot train too many people because they would all be admirals. I think that very soon, maybe in another year or two we should start training somebody else.

The question that the sum of $14,138 under Head 23, - Department of Archives - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

11.00 a.m.

HEAD 20 - CIVIL AVIATION

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 20 - Civil Aviation - be resumed.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: When the sitting was suspended yesterday evening I promised to get some information on the taxis because members wanted to discuss the taxi situation at Seawell Airport. This is a very long issue, it goes back about three years. As Your Honour will be aware, airports by their very nature are places where people who have public transport tend to congregate, and unfortunately you get a grave amount of disorder in places of that kind unless you have some kind of regulatory services. All over the world authorities, whether Government or airport authorities, have found it necessary to have this done by concession as we find it necessary in Barbados as well. We

made very strong efforts to get the taxi owners who frequent the airport to come together, particularly the small taxi owners but after trying for about two years, not myself personally but people like Senator Morgan in the Other Place worked very hard, he is very interested in co-operatives, and from time to time the junior member for Christ Church, I do not know if the senior member for Christ Church is in, but I know that several persons tried to get them to form a strong co-operative so that they would not be outbid by the long established firms which at one time had a monopoly over these services in Barbados and still to some extent are in a much better position to bid for tenders of this kind because of their strong financial position and their large fleets of motor cars.

What we were particularly anxious to avoid was that in putting out the whole thing to tender that the small taxi owner in Barbados should not be dispossessed or disqualified from entering Seawell Airport, because in the normal course of events a Tenders Committee will put out a notice in the newspaper, people will submit sealed tenders, and invariably the contract is awarded to the person who is likely to bring in the most Government revenue, unless the Minister otherwise decides and he has very strong reasons for doing so, because naturally if the Minister consistently gives an award to the lowest tender without some economic, sociological and/or political reasons, he may be accused of nepotism, and therefore we tried to avoid controverting or not following the recommendation of the Tenders Committee, so in anticipation of such a situation arising efforts were made to get the small taxi owners together, so that they can compete on an equal basis with the large firms with big fleets and with great financial support.

Barbadians are not cooperators, as you should know by now, especially fishermen and taxi drivers, although there is now a fishing co-operative. It is a very loose kind of co-operative but they are not really co-operators, they are individualists, and in Barbados fortunately we still have a large number of people who earn their livelihood not by hiring chauffeurs but by driving their own cars. and there was a large number of such persons who plied for hire at Seawell Airport. We put out the Tender notice, and as far as I can remember they did come together in a kind of way, even with the large garages, and they submitted a joint tender for the concession. Roughly speaking there were about 100 cars that could be deemed to be in constant attendance at Seawell Airport, 80 of them owned by private owners, that is, owner-driven taxis, and some belonging to small garages, and 20 of them belonging to one of the larger garages in Barbados, Dear's Garage, and we were fortunate enough to arrange a compromise where although the Tenders Committee, as you probably have heard, had been disposed to award the tender to a foreign firm, this House expressed its disapproval of any foreign firm being able to do this. This is not the same thing as the Hertz affair, it is not in respect of this contract, but there was an inclination to award the contract to one large firm which also had foreign interests, let me express it in that way, but eventually they all came together, all the 99 cars came together and on the basis of 80 cars for the co-operative, in a very loose sense, a co-operative of several people who plied for hire at the airport and one large garage company, they were awarded this on the basis of, I think, it is $40 a month for each car.

They said that they did not mind paying the $40 a month during the tourist season, but they did not like to have to pay during the off season. They themselves had offered to pay $35.00 a month throughout the year, and as Minister of Finance I did not feel content to accept their offer as the highest amount of money that they had available that they could pay for the concession and that is why it was made $40.00 a month; in other words, it was not that we accepted the offer made by one garage or one contractor, we got all the people together and told them that they had all been working up there and we did not want to put anybody out of work and asked them if they would agree to sharing this work on the basis of the number of cars they had and the number of trips they made, and they said yes and then as far as I remember the Cabinet fixed the fee at $40.00 because we had had an offer of $35.00, and it is within our knowledge that some of the people who operate at hotels were paying as much as $40.00 just for the hotel concession alone.

There are one million persons using Seawell Airport annually, and we did not feel that an average throughout the year of $40.00, an increase of $5.00 over what they offered, was an inordinate sum to pay. It is true that because of their lack of business accounting and keeping proper books and so on they may find it hard during the off season to get the $40.00 - I have no brief on this - but I am satisfied that $40.00 is a fee which, averaged throughout the year on their earnings during the tourist season and out of the tourist season with a certain amount of providence on their side and not improvidence, that they can manage to save this money to pay the fee.

11.10 a.m.

That system was instituted and accepted with the one reservation that they would not like to pay this $40 in the off season. We said we would try it for an experimental period, and when they could produce accounts to demonstrate that it was impossible for them to pay $40 during the off season that we would consider the whole situation. What I want to draw to the attention of the House is that $40 is $10 (E.C.) a week, and a trip from Seawell to the average hotel is about $12 per person. Some of these taxi drivers get paid in U.S. currency. I am not saying that they mislead the people, but they tell tourists that the fee is $12 and they get $15 (U.S.) (Mr. St. JOHN: " Their money.") They do not necessarily tell them U.S. per person. I am not saying that the taxi drivers tell people so, but

I am saying that I know for a fact that when they take somebody from Seawell to St. James and tell them that the fee is $12, frequently they are paid in U.S. currency. I do not honestly believe that a taxi driver, who saves his money and lives on a certain amount which he finds necessary, would find any difficulty in getting $40 a month to pay during the off season. We know that the traffic is not as high during the off season, but it is building up. Of course, that is a minor problem at the Airport nowadays which we will examine when the accounts are produced. We have to bear in mind that they tendered $35 and we made it $40. The only reservation they had on the matter was that they could not afford to pay $40 a month during the off season.

Now, the Co-operatives pay the Government $48,000 a year, for the concession, and this amount is low when compared with other West Indian territories of a similar size. The problem arises now with the people who want to go and pick up people at the Airport, and it is not a simple problem. You will be surprised, Mr. Chairman to hear that some of the very people who are in the co-operative want to beat their quota by bringing in cars from outside. There are two problems in that respect, and one deals with the 20% concessionaire, Dear's Garage, who at the inception said that they had special contracts with the Airlines and what they called broken-down aircraft and, therefore, this had nothing to do with the concession, but we had to straighten them out on that. If they had a broken-down aircraft and the passengers and crew had to be transported, according to the contract they would have to pay $40 for the extra cars they brought in, even if they only made one trip for the whole month. There is still another problem arising out of that, which I think the hon. member for Christ Church knows about, where they have been using a shuttle service to St. Bartholomew's Church.

I am at the Airport five days a week by a quarter to six every morning up to this morning. I walk around, talk to the people, and I know what is going on. The Airport is my responsibility, and this is one of the big developmental projects in Barbados which has to move the economy of this Island forward. There are lots of little problems involved, but I was digressing a moment. To come back now to the concessionaires, there are approximately 100 of them: 20 for Dear's Garage and 80 for the Co-operative, and they take the work in rotation so that when one car is out with a passenger you must have 4 cars from the Co-operative before Dear's Garage can get another job. They settled that among themselves *pari passu* depending on the number of cars at the Airport belonging to South Point Co-operative, Kentruth's Garage and other members of the Co-operative. Some of these people have a certain amount of cars in the Co-operative and some outside working at the hotels.

The hotels also complicate the problems, because they want to send down their mini-buses to the Airport, and they say that is part of the hotel service. We do not allow that, because it would not be fair to the people who have to find $40 a month in and out of season, to let the hotel develop that. The next thing we would get is the kind of practice that we have heard about operating at Sunset Crest at Holetown, whereby all people arriving in Barbados would have their transport provided for them by the hotels. As a matter of fact, I saw through this even before the concessionaires realised it.

Mr. Chairman, it is a complicated matter, because some of these people may have had pick ups working with the hotels, but at the first blush they were not concerned about this. It is a complicated picture, and I am trying to put it in as simple a term as I can remember and as I can understand. Here you have 100 cars operating at Seawell paying $40 a month and a ratio of 1:4. One from Dear's Garage and 4 of the others and so on as the passengers arrive. You have supervisors on the spot looking after things and the behaviour has improved, naturally, because everyone is not scrambling for a job, tugging people away, and snatching bags. They are using some kind of system which has led to an improvement and has given the Government some revenue. The Airport is a very expensive project.

Mr. Chairman, after this system had been operating for a few months, we began to get representations that somebody is accustomed to drive a particular gentleman, let us say, from Toronto and he comes down here every year for three weeks. Let us say that I have a taxi; I usually drive him for three weeks, and he gives me a letter telling me that I must meet him at the Airport; he is not going to drive with anybody else, and if he arrives at the Immigration Office and he does not see me, he will get back on the plane and go back to Canada. Hon. members will know that what I am saying is correct. That is what they say. We say: " If you want to come to the Airport to pick up anybody, these people have paid for the concession, and you can pay $40 for every month you want to exercise this privilege to pick up your special passengers, but you must produce documentary and other evidence to the Airport Manager that you will be picking up special passengers. That was to discourage that type of thing.

Mr. Chairman, at one time it used to be the United States, Panama, and the United Kingdom in which Barbadians had relatives, but today it is Canada. Nearly every Barbadian has relatives in Toronto or Montreal who write to them. We even discovered that the hotels were providing their concessionaires with a list of their guests so that they would know who is arriving by a particular plane, and then they would put a maid or a butler in the taxi and they would take up a letter saying that they were going to meet So and So. In other words, they were going to meet relatives.

11.20 a.m.

All these devices, I should not like to call them dodges, have been practised from time to time and I want to make my position clear just as I have done with the mini bus people who are entitled to earn an honest living. There is nothing dishonest in driving a taxi or pickup, and therefore if you could devise any means whatsoever without breaking a law to make a living and to make more money in a taxi or mini bus, I am all for it, and that is why the Government has given licences to mini buses, because we are satisfied that the Transport Board and the private concessionaires are not providing adequate services for the travelling public of Barbados, and that if they were, nobody would get in a mini bus or scotch on a bench falling out of an old 1932 converted Chevrolet, because if the bus companies were providing frequency and comfort for the people when they wanted to travel, the mini buses could not make a picking at all. I want to make it clear that anything I have to say on this subject is not a criticism of anybody for trying to get around the law, because you would be surprised to know that we had the Commonwealth Development Corporation trying to get around the Income Tax Law, and the judges of the West Indies Court of Appeal ruled that every citizen is entitled to find loopholes in the law as long as he does not break the law, and particularly in so far as tax is concerned, and that is why I think that might be a good argument for relieving judges from paying income tax, because as long as they have a vested interest in not paying too much tax, they would always give judgments in favour of the taxpayer. In the Roddam case it was clearly a case where the Federal judges were in the same position working in different islands. I am not accusing them or anything. It is a natural human instinct, and therefore you always have to side on the side of saving money or making money legitimately.

Mr. Chairman, we gave out a concession, and you do not have a scramble now for passengers at the Airport; so we have achieved something and Government is making revenue. However, we are getting all these complaints that people have special customers who drive only with them and they should not have to pay $40 concession fee just to go and pick up one passenger in a month or maybe two or three in a month. Then you have the hotels who are showing their own operators a list and putting people in the cars with them and sending them to the Airport, in my opinion, thereby depriving the concessionaires of what they would collect. You get the individual taxi owners some of whom are inside the concession itself and this is what complicates the picture. You do not always hear the full side of the story. Some of the very people inside there getting their one in four turn, are trying to beat the other fellows by sending in a man with a letter. Some of his cars are idle. Now you are not going to find it on a day like today. You ring up the Airport Manager now and I doubt he has a single letter because two tourists boats are in today. On a day like today you are not going to get any letters from anybody in Toronto or Halifax or anywhere like that by some miracle. They always make sure that not too great a strain is put on these people when tourist boats are in; the letters only appear when things are slack. Anyhow, some of them turn up with three or four letters and say I have been driving Mr. So and So for the past nine years and he is not going to drive with anybody other than me; why should I pay $40? These were the arguments that were put up to us and remarkably some of the people inside would want to bring in extra cars. For the coupon trade, Dear's Garage, I believe, pays for another twenty cars outside to pick up their inclusive tour people; so they have twenty cars working inside, but they pay for another twenty to come in. That was all right up to a point, but what I have discovered they have been doing is this they are using those twenty cars when you got a big chartered flight coming in and they have another fleet of cars waiting outside either at Oistins or by St. Bartholomew's Church; so the twenty cars whose numbers are on the licences run a shuttle service from the door of the incoming passenger shed to St. Bartholomew's and hustle back so that in truth and in fact they may have 50 cars. All these are the devices.

Mr. Chairman, you do not know the trouble we have had up there with these people. Every morning it is a fresh complaint, so this is something we have to sort out. How do we try to get them to play the game, and if a car picks up passengers it must go all the way down to Coral Reef Club? There is nothing in the law and the Regulations to stop them. They are getting their one in five, because it is one of Dear's and four of the others, but then they have their extra twenty cars that they are paying $40 a month for, for the chartered flights where the people have paid the money for an all inclusive tour. That is all right because they are special charters, but instead of taking the people all the way round the Island on the trip, the twenty cars would come in and then drop them to a mini bus outside which is going to take them on the Island tour and hustle back and collect the other passengers. You have to form your own opinion whether this is in the spirit of the exercise or not of having the concession. Whatever we devise there is going to be some kind of complaint; so the Cabinet instructed me as the person responsible for the Airport to look into the matter and see if we can come up with something which would satisfy everybody, and at the same time would not deprive the concessionaires of their just reward, because if you are paying $48,000 a year, you do not want this eroded by all kinds of, not malpractices, but sharp practices. You do not want your right to gain back the $48,000 whittled away and eroded by some of your own people whether it be Dear's Garage, South Point, Kentruths or an individual taxi owner who is inside there getting his turn but is still working a little thing on the side. This is what it amounts to, the ingenuity of the Barbadian. That is why we have this kind of reputation in places like Trinidad and New York where every calypso that comes out talks about the Barbadians' sharp wits.

Mr, Chairman, we live in a country which is overcrowded and in which people have to devise ways and means of earning a living. Again I am not criticising anybody. As a matter of fact, I have learnt so much by dealing with those taxi drivers that if I were in business now I would know how to make some money if I was practising law again, because every day I learn something new from them. What we have put to them I have not got a reply on, so two weeks ago I said the difficulty, of course parenthetically, is that we are not dealing with the concessionaires alone, we now have to deal with all the individual taxi owners outside who have been complaining, and that is why it is going to take a little time, and this is the proposal I put to them. We put it to the concessionaires and then we canvassed opinion from the individual taxi owners: if you want to pick up a passenger, you must produce satisfactory evidence that that person has asked you to meet at the Airport. The name, flight number, the letter and so on must be produced to the Airport Manager. He would then issue a ticket for a particular car to take up a particular passenger or maybe two or three passengers from a particular flight on a particular day. You will pay $3.00 for this. Before if you did it once a month you paid $40; if you did it ten times a month you paid the same $40. You would pay now $3.00 for this ticket. When you get to the Airport you must give that ticket not to anybody in the Government, but to either one of the supervisors that the concessionaires have at the Airport, that is, either to Dear's supervisor or to the Co-op Supervisor. At the end of the month the supervisor will turn in all the tickets; it does not matter whether Dear's supervisor has 300 tickets and the Co-op people have 25, and then we will pay back out to the concessionaires because they are the people who have been deprived of the revenue on the basis of one to four, $2.50 to Dear's Garage and $10 to the Co-op; the other 50 cents which would be kept for administrative expenses, printing the tickets and so on, and to keep the account up there open at the Bank.
11.30 a.m.

This is the only solution that I saw any possibility of being accepted, and my position today is, I think it is a fair suggestion, because what we are saying is that if you want to come in from outside and deprive these people of a fare, pay them $2.50 for it, we keep 50¢ for administration. Right now we will take the whole $40.00 for the Government, the cooperative does not benefit, we say give the cooperative and Dear's Garage the money, we will only keep 50¢ and therefore anybody who genuinely has to pick up a passenger whom he is going to drive for three weeks, probably charging the man $40.00 or $50.00 a day, would not resent having to pay an extra $3.00 in order to hold on to this man for three weeks. The real problem is that the fellow who is not genuine would not like paying $3.00 because he can always charge the same $12.00 legally to get to the hotel if the fare, is $12.00, so if it is once-for-all thing and he has just looked at a list of guests at a hotel and decides that he is going to say he is going to meet Mr. So - and - So, he may only get that one trip, and if he is not a genuine sort of long term driver, he will think twice before he tries to pull a fast one.

Our problem is, as I said, that we have to deal with a lot of taxi drivers and we have to wait to see what the reaction is from all the people we know about who would wish to come to the Airport, at least a good percentage of them. That is where the matter stands right now.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, certainly the hon. senior member for St. John has identified the problems as they have been put to me by some of these people, and I am dealing with the last point first, the question of people who have letters from people abroad. There are genuine cases of this, and I myself was thinking along the same lines that have been suggested as to a specific fee being charged for each specific occasion when they are entering the Airport. The only thing that disturbs me a little bit is that the percentage the Government wants to retain for administrative expenses is rather high because it is 50¢ in $3.00, which is one-sixth.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I wonder if the hon. member has read the Estimates to see that the Agricultural Credit Bank administrative expenses come to 92% of the money they lend out, so how could that be high by Government's standards? When you come to the Ministry of Agriculture have a good look at the administrative expenses of the Agricultural Credit Bank which range between 92% and 96% of the total amount of money that they handle.

Mr. St. JOHN: It is more than 15% because 5/30 is 1/6.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point is that before or right now as the regulations stand they will have to pay $40.00 instead of $3.00, and all will go to the Government whereas I am now giving it back to the concessionaires.

Mr. St. JOHN: I see that point, because the concessionaires have paid for the monopoly, so to speak, of operating at a specific sum per month, and these people are encroaching upon their sphere of activity, I see that. Anyway, the question of the difference is 10%, but the principle of that I agree with.

The problem of the tour operators. This is probably the worst feature of tourism that is developing in Barbados, and as a matter of fact, I have here in my hand now an article in the Times of England where what has happened in the tourist organisation in England where the Government is having a full scale enquiry into the role of a tour operator. These tour operators play that they have a contract, and they do make contracts inclusive of baggage with some of the larger garages. This is so particularly in summer time that most of the problems arise, and it seems to me that unless we state that only on certain terms and conditions can these tour operators

operate in Barbados, we are going to get a situation developing which has developed in relation to the summer tours at Holetown. It is in this area I think that more investigation, and in the shuttle service, should take place to see if an equitable solution could be arrived at in relation to that. Those are the two problems that I heard of, and I myself have done as much as I can to encourage the South Point people to form a cooperative.

I know it was a very difficult operation, and one of the things that they did not understand, if I may say so, because they had a little internal battle over accounting on one occasion, is that people who operate business must keep books, they do not believe in that. It is at this point that I also want to point out something to Government. I hope that something is done quickly to your cooperative society rules to permit permission to be given to outside Auditors to do the auditing, because the trouble is, that that cooperative cannot hold a general meeting because it can only hold a general meeting when the accounts are audited, and the accounts cannot be audited because of the fact that the Cooperatives Division is not really equipped to audit people's books, so you have to have a schedule of approved Auditors who will then send in the report to the Registrar of Cooperatives and let the people hold their general meeting.

The greatest danger and the greatest confusion that can arise with respect to that cooperative up there is the feeling that certain officers in the cooperative get more than they should by these backdoor methods as described by the hon. senior member for St. John. I agree that the behaviour is better, I have spoken to a lot of them up there and I agree that the behaviour is better, and I hope that this question of the tour operators will be solved equitably. The other problem of course is that many of them in their economics fail to realise that the true cost of borrowed capital that they are borrowing for their taxis is not 8% but is more in the vicinity of 16% or 18% because they are repaying principal and interest, and $40.00 a month out of season, bearing in mind these interest payments, are, according to some of the accounts they have done, it does appear that it is a little difficult out of season, but it is pretty clear that the Government does not intend to revise that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not say that, I distinctly said that after a certain trial period we will look at it again and we told them so, and they will have to produce books of accounts, and as you say, it is very difficult for them to do that. As soon as they can produce the accounts to show that it is unprofitable I will consider revising it.

Mr. St. JOHN:: I am very glad to hear that, but it seems as though the two problems that have been identified and expressed to me, that attention is being given to them, and I will be in a position to explain to the people who asked us what is the motivation behind the action of the Government in this respect and that is why we should have these debates, because they annoy me just as much as they annoy the other side.
11.40 a.m.

I cannot get this information very easily. As the Prime Minister says, sometimes even when they get the information, the people cannot understand it. I hope that full information will be given to the taxi people outside as to why $40 a month has to be charged, and I think they will understand that. I do not know what machinery they have for circulating this information, but I will certainly do my part.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is one thing I want to find out from the Hon. Prime Minister. Let us say that I am a business man, and I have my people from overseas coming here on business. What is my position if I cannot go to meet them and I have to send my chaffeur to meet them? Has any provision been made for that sort of thing?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: With a private car?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, with a private car. If my friend is coming here from New York, is there any provision made whereby I can take my private car and go to collect him?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is no problem with private cars. Private cars cannot line up under the canopy. They will have to go outside and wait until the passengers have cleared the customs and then drive around and pick them up. The difficulty, of course, will arise as to whether it is the hon. member's private car, or his private car subbing for a taxi. I want to make it clear that anybody can take any person to the Airport. The problem is when you are picking up arriving passengers. When guests are leaving the Island any taxi can drop them at the Airport. They would not have to ring up any concessionaire to get a car to take them from their hotels or from the hon. member's private home to the Airport. As far as private cars are concerned the Regulations have not been changed.

The question that the sum of $977,833 under Head 20 – Civil Aviation – as amended, stand p art of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without d ivision.

HEAD 24 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,243,361 under Head 24 - Ministry External Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 61 - Overseas Representation - I would like to know when last the accounts of External

Affairs have been audited. I believe that some time ago they were audited, but I would like a statement from the Minister with regard to the last date on which these accounts have been audited.

Now, some time ago we raised a question here about the position of the High Commissioner to London and the fact that this Government had purchased a property for him called "Thames Ditton", and that the High Commissioner was not then residing at that property. This has caused some concern. We voted money to purchase a house only to find that the house is unsuitable for the High Commissioner.

We do not know whether it is unsuitable because of the distance away from London, or whether it is unsuitable because of the actual fact that the house was the summer house of the former owner who, in winter, resided in the Caribbean. The High Commissioner has now found that the house is too cold, being sited on the Thames, to reside there during the winter months. I do not know the reason for the High Commissioner not taking up residence in this house, and I should be grateful if the Minister for External Affairs would be able to tell us why the High Commissioner is not living in that house.

Now, there is another point I should like clarified. Is this property owned by the Barbados Government under freehold or does the Government own only the leasehold on this property? I am not, at this stage, suggesting that the Government only bought the leasehold on this property. I should like to have this point clarified by the Minister. Mr. Chairman, on the last occasion when we discussed this matter in this Chamber, I think this question was raised. I should like a statement from the Minister with regard to the position of the property. As regards the office that is rented, I believe, at Belgravia, I should like to find out on what terms the High Commissioner is living in that flat. I should also like to know whether this flat forms part and parcel of the High Commissioner's office.

11.50 a.m.

If it does not form part of the office, I should like to know whether the Barbados Government is paying additional rent for this flat for the High Commissioner. I do not think I will pose any more questions at this time. There are other questions I would like to ask, but I will break at this stage to allow the Minister to answer those questions.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I understand that the hon. member has had replies to most of these questions already, because there was a longwinded debate in this place on the High Commissioner in London. I was not present, but since this is the Estimates and he is entitled to ask these qsestions, I would like to remind the hon. member that this house was purchased freehold as a result of a Resolution passed in this Place and the Other Place. At that time we used to send money Resolutions down. The place is on the Thames, a few hundred yards from Hampton Court Bridge at a place called Thames Ditton, and the name of the property is "Iverta," it has two-thirds to three-quarters of an acre of land, and also half of an island in the river Thames and was acquired with all the furniture in the house as well. Now the High Commissioner has young children and after he had been assigned to this post for some time his children were put to school in London which with normal driving in the evening time when traffic is light would take 27 to 30 minutes to get there, but in the morning they found it was taking over an hour. There was a Mews flat, not part of the High Commission, but which we acquired with the lease from the Government of Czechoslavkia who occupied this building as an Embassy before for seventeen years, and whereas we were paying £12,000 a year for a much smaller place in Kensington High Street, it works out on the average of £3,500 a year that we are paying for a building about twice and a half the size, and then in addition to the building twice and a half the size which is on five floors in Belgravia which is a diplomatic district, there is what is called a Mews flat.

I know the hon. junior member for Bridgetown understands what a Mews flat is; but in the old days in fashionable districts in London the houses were built on the main road and them there was what Barbadians would call and intervale and Trinidadians would call a trace between the houses which were facing this street, and the houses which were backing them and facing on to another street. In other words, the houses had very little back yard, but then they would have stables for the horses with flats upstairs - a long line of stables for horses and carriage and now of course for motorcars with flats upstairs. You get a two-storey building and underneath would be two garages; upstairs would be living quarters for the staff. These have now become very fashionable in London because they are easy to keep clean, and people who are in the upper income bracket and who may have homes in the country tend to rent Mews flats in places like Belgravia, but they are not very large apartments. There is now no direct access from the Mews flat which we acquired with the lease, nor do we pay anything more for it. We have a lease for seventeen years. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: How much is the lease?) It works out at just over £50,000 for seventeen years. We were paying £12,000 a year at 227-229 Kensington High Street which we acquired some years ago for the Eastern Caribbean Commission, but in the name of the Government of Barbados. That lease expired and we were fortunate to acquire this flat which we came in here with the Resolution for with the offices which are very elaborate, and they face on to Eaton Square. It is a street in which there is a long line of Embassies, and we were very lucky to get the lease after having to make representations to the Home Office, the London County Council and everybody else about certain things that were going on whereby the United Arab Republic was trying to deprive us of the right to acquire this lease, but that is another story altogether, a sort of diplomatic intrigue, and it even got down to the stage where a member of the House of Commons was involved and had to resign his seat because we insisted on our pre-emption on

this property because it was a very reasonable property.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The apartment above the two garages was empty and it backs on to the building. For instance if the building in this diagram was the Embassy, this is Eaton Square here, it faces right down the road just like St. Peter's in Rome faces on to St. Peter's Square, this is Belgrave Square over here and this is the Mews. There was no member of the staff living in it, so the High Commissioner uses the Mews flat during Monday to Friday when his children have to go to school and unless he has an official engagement over the weekend, they can go down to "Iverta" where most of his belongings are. There is no room in the Mews flat for his belongings anyhow because it is a very tiny flat with just two bedrooms.

Mr. CRAIG: If the Hon. Prime Minister would give way, I do not want to interrupt him because it is very interesting to hear about this High Commission business in London. Since the High Commissioner spends most of his time in Grosvenor Square, would it then be considered that the building which was bought by the Barbados Government is the out of town residence?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It was not bought as an out of town residence. (Mr. CRAIG: I am not saying it was) It was bought as the official residence of the High Commissioner. He is using the unoccupied flat in the Mews which used to shelter the coachmen, the carriages and horses underneath, and the coachmen and servants on top. Mews flats are very fashionable now, but they are down very narrow cobbled streets with the gutters in the middle of the street. You know what a Mews flat is like. The hon. junior member for Bridgetown was fortunate. He was able to live down by the river in something more elaborate than a Mews flat judging from what his parents told me. This is a Mews flat in which the urine and everything runs down the centre of the Street, but people like them because they are convenient for married couples without children, but the High Commissioner could not possibly live there because there is nowhere for him to put his household goods even; so they kind of scotch there during the week and it saves all that gasolene and all that wear and tear on the chaffeur and so on and time, because the children were getting to school late. In other words, we did not evict anyone in order to make room for the High Commissioner. He asked permission to use the flat during the week from Monday to Friday while his children were at school, but his official residence is still at "Iverta". We are not paying an additional rent for the flat. One of the garages got to be reserved for the High Commission's car, that is the car that belongs to the office and not the High Commissioner's personal car on the condition that one of the garages is left there for the staff car. He could occupy the flat which we are paying no additional rent for and not the £30 a week that I heard bandied about in this place and on public platforms. We pay no additional rent; it belongs to us by virtue of our having leased the premises on the main road; You know that in Woodbrook there are all these traces where all the services go through. We are putting intermediate roads so that people who want to service a building can get in. This is a kind of narrow street that the Mews flat is in, and this is what he is occupying. How he manages I do not know because to me it is extremely cramped and just suitable for a bachelor and may be, like the hon. senior member for St. James, one may befriend from somewhere else.
12.00 noon.

How he manages I do not know because to me it is extremely cramped and just suitable for a bachelor but certainly not for a family, but he is trying to squeeze five people in there. The point is I think that it is slightly uncomfortable but the High Commissioner finds it more convenient than to be driving up to London every morning, so that he resides at Iverta which itself needs some little renovations, but they have all their clothes down at Thames Ditton and he uses it during the school week.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am glad for the explanation from the Prime Minister. I was opposed to the purchase of this house, and I will always oppose the purchase of houses overseas by this Government, but the senior member for St. Thomas warned the Government at the time they were purchasing this house that they were going to find it was much too far from London.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have driven the distance several times after 5.30 in the evening and have done it in 17 1/2 minutes flat, and anybody who lives in St. Peter cannot get to Bridgetown in 17 Minutes.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister must remember he is dealing with somebody who went there just like himself.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is just one other consideration I want to point out, that the same consideration for buying this property was not only that we were having a residence for the High Commissioner, but the cost of renting for some officers subordinate to the High Commissioner, we have paid £25 to £30 per week for a two bedroom flat in London. We do not pay anything for the flat for the High Commissioner because that is part and parcel of the property ... (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: You are paying separate and distinct for the flat for Ramsey). This is not so, I beg your pardon, after all I was in all the stages of negotiations as Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Finance; plans had to be brought to me, it is not true, and whoever told you that is misleading you. As a matter of fact, we agreed to rent this flat for Government Offices who were on courses and that kind of thing, and we circularised and said that anybody going on a course in London would be entitled to rent the place for a nominal rent, probably between £10 and £12 per week or something like that, and nobody occupied that flat, but it is our

property for another 15 1/2 years. We are not paying any rent to anyone for that flat; whoever told you so is misleading you, it is simply not true, I have all the legal documents.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Let us see those documents and let us see if you have one lease for two flats.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: We have one lease for the whole property, and I categorically state it is not true.

Mr. CRAIG: Has the Barbados Government paid any money at all at any time to renovate the same building in Grosvenor Square which the present High Commissioner is now occupying?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The roof was leaking; it was not our place, the landlord would have to repair it. The roof was leaking, as far as I know, and out of the ordinary maintenance vote some repairs were carried out to the roof on the recommendation of the former Permanent Secretary who stayed in the flat and saw the condition of it. I am making a statement of fact, I say as Minister of Finance with a full sense of responsibility and Minister of External Affairs that we acquired all of this property when we purchased the lease of the former Czech Embassy; one single lease. The consideration covers the whole thing; in other words, the Czechs had it, you could walk over from the upper floor, you could walk into the second floor where the High Commissioner's office is normally, but that is now blocked up for security reasons. Normally there was a free passageway across; in other words, there is a kind of light well and you walk through the glass covered canopy from the back of the Mews flat into the passageway next to the High Commissioner's Office, but the only thing is they are back to back, there is a light well in between. In the days when these Mews were built, the Mews apartments were the parts of the property where the servants resided, and the hon. member knows that; he knows what I am talking about.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: It is nothing short of a scandalous situation when the Government of this country can purchase a house for $200,000 and then to find that less than a year after you purchase the house, the house is not suitable and convenient for the High Commissioner to live in.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never at any time said the house was not suitable for the High Commissioner. The house is suitable for the Governor-General far less the High Commissioner; I never at any time said that the house was unsuitable, I explained the circumstances under which the High Commissioner elected to live in London for the convenience of his children going to school. In other words, it is peculiar to the present holder of the office that he found it inconvenient because of the ages and sizes of the children, and prefers it this way, but all the other Ambassadors in London live outside London because it is cheaper to live outside. Property is cheaper than in the centre of London and it is very difficult to get any kind of accommodation suitable for a High Commissioner.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: In fairness to the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, I withdraw the remark that he said so, but he has implied that because of the High Commissioner's family and the fact that the High Commissioner's family has to get to London, his children, that house in those circumstances is not suitable for the High Commissioner to live in. The only reason that this house was purchased was because Luckhoo was in this deal to buy this house.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I resent any remarks or aspersions being cast on our former High Commissioner. There is no deal, as far as I am concerned, in anything connected with this Government, and I think it myself reprehensible for the hon. member to get in here and say Mr. Luckhoo was in any deal when he knows that he cannot say it outside, because he knows it is untrue. There was absolutely no question of any deal with anybody on this property; as a matter of fact, far from Mr. Luckhoo being engaged in any deal, we had to fight the whole of the United Arab Republic to try to get the property. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am talking about the house at Thames-Ditton). There was no deal in any of these properties. I came here with the plans and everything, the consideration for the lease or the purchase as the case may be, Hampden & Co. were the agents, there was no deal with anybody at any time.
12.10 p.m.

I think you should try to conduct your politics at a higher level instead of attacking people who are not in here to defend themselves. It is not the proper thing, Mr. Chairman, for any member to make scandalous remarks about anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Reference was made to Luckhoo, but I do not know who is Luckhoo.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, would the Prime Minister be able to state how long was that house on the real estate market before the Barbados Government bought it? I say three years, and Luckhoo sold it to the Government of Barbados.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when the Prime Minister starts talking he must, first of all, look in a mirror. Secondly, this idea of saying that we cannot attack people in here, who cannot protect themselves, is a joke, because all morning I heard in here about this army of occupation; that he was tired with the civil servant.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never called anybody's name. I spoke about 3,940 people who owe a duty to the public of Barbados. It is my duty to say that. I never accused any individual civil servant of being in any racket or anything like that. I am critical of the civil servants who do not work for

the money they receive from the public including me as a taxpayer and not as Minister of Finance. I have a right to be critical of people who obtain their money by false pretences. You should not come in here and call people racketeers and so on.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when you mash the Prime Minister's corns he will get vex. Mr. Luckhoo is his friend; the man from whom he bought the house is his friend. I am talking about the owner of "Thames Ditton." Everybody knows that the man wanted to dump the house. He could not get it sold, and Mr. Luckhoo encouraged the Barbados Government to buy it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I will cut this conversation short right now. If the two hon. members, who have made the accusations will put their accusations in writing, I promise that I will put them under seal and have them sent to Scotland Yard and ask them to investigate the matter. The hon. members can come to my office with the typewritten statements and they can see that I, personally, will forward them to Scotland Yard. I, personally, will send them to Scotland Yard, if they put their allegations with the corroborative evidence and the names of the persons who can corroborate it, and I will have the matter investigated; so do not let us have any more of this nonsense. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY rose . . .

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members take their seats. Calm down, please.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not accept what the Prime Minister is saying. We came here with a Resolution setting out various facts about the Minister of Housing, the senior member for St. Andrew. The Prime Minister came into this House and said that we did not come right. Why did he not investigate the matter and tell the taxpayers what had happened with the money in the Housing Department?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member will recollect that I told them they were free at any time to come to my office, and put their allegations in writing instead of getting in here and in Queen's Park abusing people. I said so in respect of any Department of Government including the Department for which I am responsible or any Government Minister. *(Asides)* I want you to put your allegations in writing, bring them to me, and let us take them to the Competent Authority to investigate them. Do not shelter in here under Parliamentary privileges. I want you to corroborate and substantiate your allegations, and let them be investigated by an impartial authority.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to read this Rule. "29 (6) while a Member is speaking, all other Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones, and shall not make unseemly interruptions." Too much of this has been happening this morning, and I am going to ask someone to leave the Chamber and I do not care who it is.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister should remember that he is not the only lawyer in here. I have been practising criminal law for 10 years, and I have enough experience to know that when people are doing certain things they hide the evidence. The Prime Minister will know that, so it is no point in telling us to put the evidence in writing. We have alleged certain facts, we have put them on paper for the Prime Minister to read, and yet his only excuse is that we did not do things the right way. Why did he not have the matter investigated to see whether the allegations were true?

In Zambia when allegations were made against Ministers, they were suspended until investigations had been carried out, but the Prime Minister condoned the matter by transferring the Minister from one Department to another. That is what the Prime Minister of this country has done.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with External Affairs and not internal. *(Asides)*

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does Rule 29(6) apply to the Prime Minister of this country?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister is interrupting members on this side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat.

Mr. CRAIG: He is interrupting this side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you directing the Chair? Will you please take your time and do not rush things in here.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as the junior member for St. Andrew would say: "Do not rush the brush; do not waste the paint.'"

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please make your point.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that the house, "Thames Dittion", was on the market for a number of years and nobody would buy it. It was owned by - the Prime Minister, I believe, knows the man very well; he was a friend of Mr. Luckhoo.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not know the owner of this house up to this day. I only know the gentleman's name. I resent people saying that. I have never met the gentleman in my life, and I do not know if he is a gentleman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He said he believes; he did not state a fact.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He must not say he believes. If you say outside something which is not

true, the courts will make you pay damages for saying that you believe it, because it is worse. If you said that you heard but you did not believe it it is a different matter. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe the man from whom the house was bought was a friend of the Prime Minister and Sir Lionel Luckhoo.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like to know from where the hon. member got that information. I have denied that I have even ever met the person who was the former owner of the house. How can he come in here and make statements like that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member refrain from making that type of statement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister is saying that he does not know the gentleman. What we are saying here is that not knowing him, he might have met him time and again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point not taken.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is worrying the Prime Minister. I have not accused him of anything. All I have said is that the owner of the house is a friend of the Prime Minister. I know that he is a friend of Sir Lionel Luckhoo and Sir Lionel Luckhoo is a good friend of the Prime Minister. Lady Luckhoo has a real estate agency in London.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, that is absolutely untrue. Lady Luckhoo had nothing to do with the purchase of this House.
12.20 p.m.

The name of the agents was brought in here. My recollection is that it was a firm which was operating here at Sandy Lane subsequently called Hampton Brothers, and Harrods was in connection with the Pawn Street place, that we did not buy. As a matter of fact, I am not quite sure whether there was an agent at all, but if there was, I believe it was Hampton Brothers again. Lady Luckhoo had absolutely nothing to do with the purchase of this House. Now they are attacking defenceless ladies.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I believe what the Prime Minister should say is that as far as the Barbados Government is concerned, they purchased the House through the Hampton brothers, but the Prime Minister cannot get up emphatically and say that this person had nothing to do with it. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know she had nothing to do with it.) You defend your friends. I would like the Prime Minister to say whether the purchase of this House was not recommended to the Government by Sir Lionel Luckhoo. Let him get up and deny that if it is not true.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You deny that you stole something; you do not deny if somebody said they had seen a house. Sir Lionel Luckhoo was the High Commissioner in London and this house was recommended to him and amongst other properties but he put this up to the Government of Barbados. There were about two or three other properties that we had to select from and the High Commissioner had agents whom I believe were Harrods at one time and Hampton at another.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Now the Prime Minister has admitted that this House was recomended to the Government by Sir Lionel Luckhoo as his choice and as a house being suitable for the High Commissioner of Barbados. What I find strange is the fact that this gentleman from whom the house was purchased is an extremely good friend, if not of the Prime Minister, of Sir Lionel Luckhoo. Let me deny that if it is not true. I believe it cost the taxpayers $200,000. The Prime Minister talks about reprehensible conduct, but that is where the Prime Minister should look for reprehensible conduct. Here is a man palming off on the Barbados Government a house that nobody else would buy for three years. I challenge you to say it is not ture, and I say one thing further.....(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What is not true?) That the house was not on the market for three years.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not in a position to check to see how long a house has been in the market; so what is the point of my getting up and saying it was in the market for three months or seven years? I just do not know and I could not care less. What we were motivated by, were the valuers who went in and valued the place - we had certified valuers - and the suitablity of the house for the purpose for which it was bought. The fact that a particular High Commissioner does not find it convenient to live there seven days a week provided that it does not incur any additional cost on the Government of Barbados - as a matter of fact there is a saving because the gasolene he would use travelling backwards and forwards is saved and it is a matter for the High Commissioner where he wants to live - does not make the house unsuitable, because Mr. Ramsay prefers to inconvenience himself and live in a Mews flat for five days. What kind of nonsense is that?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I was saying, the Prime Minister cannot deny that it was on the market for three years.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You admit if you went to blow up somebody's house or shoot somebody. You do not admit that somebody is living in London.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I heard a loud aside that somebody was a member of the House for twenty years and he can make all the asides he likes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not heard that. I am looking at you and listening to you.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Prime Minister has admitted that he cannot deny it was on the market for three years. When we say it was on the market for three years, we have reasons for saying so. The Prime Minister can fret and fume as much as he likes; he cannot stop me from talking in here. He may have been in here for twenty years. I have been in here for two years, but I will talk as long as I am in here. *(Asides)* Do you want to fight with me?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does Standing Order No 29(6) apply to the Prime Minister?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: It is a classic example of the Prime Minister feeling that he is not only above the Rules of this House, but the next thing you will know is that the Prime Minister is is above the law of this country with this sort of attitude. He said yesterday that the Attorney General is a law unto himself; he must be a God unto himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, confine your remarks to External Affairs. I say to every hon. member not to remind me of the Prime Minister, the hon. senior member or anybody else. Let hon. members be silent when a member is addressing the Chair.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is heckling me now. He made a wonderful declaration of intent today, and I do not know why they do not remove his chair and put it next to the hon. senior member for St. George on the other side. I do not know what he is sitting behind there for.

As I was saying, the hon. senior member for St. John and Minister of External Affairs said just now that the house is unsuitable for the purpose for which it was bought. If there was any proper planning about buying the house, one of the factors that anybody would take into consideration in buying the house, must be the proximity between the house and schools, shopping areas etc. It does not take a genius to realise that. One of the other things the Government should have taken into consideration would be not only that Mr. Luckhoo did not have any children who were of school age.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, all of Sir Lionel Luckhoo's children are of school age, and he has many more children than the present High Commissioner. The house was not bought for Sir Lionel Luckhoo, neither was it bought for Mr. Waldo Emerson Waldron-Ramsay; it was bought as the residence of the High Commissioner for Barbados for the time being in the United Kingdom, and fifty years from now, whoever the High Commissioner is, the house will still be the property of the Government of Barbados for the purpose of a residence of the High Commissioner.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I do not think any Government would be so stupid as to keep a property that nobody lives in. I do not think that even the Democratic Labour Party would keep a house for $200,000 that somebody is going to live in on Saturday and Sunday. That is by far too high a price to pay for any house. The Minister of External Affairs has said that Mr. Ramsay has found the house inconvenient because he has to drive his children to school etc...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said that Mr. Ramsay found the house inconvenient. I said because of the schools that Mr. Ramsay's children attend in London it is inconvenient. There are schools all around Thames Ditton, but you cannot always get in to the nearest school, not even in Barbados. There are children living today next to the Alleyene School in St. Andrew who have to travel all the way to Combermere School to get to school; so it happens all over the world that you do not always get children in the schools closest to their homes. It is as simple as that. The next High Commissioner might be able to get his children in or he may get them in somewhere on the other side and find it more convenient to live there. I do not know what the whole purpose of this debate is.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Well you listen and you will hear.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The last statement by the Prime Minister is a classic example of the bad planning of the Barbados Government; imagine a Prime Minister can get up and brag that somebody living next to the Alleyne School has to travel all the way to Combermere.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I never boasted about anything, I was making a simple straightforward statement of fact that you will find children living next to the Alleyne School who may be going to a school which is far away. The very fact that they live next door to a school does not mean that they will get into that school, and the hon. member knows that. The schools are not parish pump schools, the children are sent to the schools according to their priorities and their preferences and their performances, and you should know that. Unfortunately you did not have to sit competitive examinations in your day or you may be down in the hicks too.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am telling the Prime Minister one thing now, he is coming up my line because as soon as he gets personal that is where I will enjoy myself with him.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not get personal.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Nobody has ever accused me of stealing anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Will you please control yourself and take your seat? I have not heard anything about stolen bananas or anything like that, you started it. We are still debating Head 24.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to know one thing. I went to Harrison College, he went to Harrison College; I passed my Bar examination, he passed his; he made a living at the Bar, I am making one, and I never had to bribe any jury to make a living. Let the Prime Minister know that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat? (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Why don't you rule)? Please do not address the Chair like that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, but I think that this thing has gone too far. This nonsense has been going on too long, and I want you to rule, this is why I suggested that you be in the Chair. Send out any and everybody, including me, if they do not behave. They could not do it with the senior member for St. Joseph, and they are not going to have any respect for you if you let them get on this way. If they do not behave send them out, and if they do not go out call on me and I will help you put them out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: It is seldom that we hear anything from the junior member for St. Thomas, now and then he has to keep his mouth going.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the junior member addressing the Chair? We are dealing with Head 24.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Did he say I was a thief?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, he said I might be a boxer, but I do not take people's money on false pretences and do not appear for them as some lawyers do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has no bearing on Head 24.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I have never received green bananas yet, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You might receive cod liver oil.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Sir, I will refrain, but the junior member for St. Thomas should keep quiet. Now as I was saying, it is clear from the statement of the Prime Minister that no proper consideration was given to the purchasing of this house before it was purchased, because less than two years after the house was purchased it was found to be inconvenient for the High Commissioner to live there. If I may adopt the words of the Leader of the House when he was asked this question, his reply was that the house was not completely abandoned by the High Commissioner and that he visits it from time to time. Now we get the Prime Minister saying something completely different; we have the Prime Minister telling us that the Barbados Government is providing a house valued at $200,000 as a weekend home for the High Commissioner. The senior member for St. John said he was in here for about 20 years and he can do as he likes; I would like you to call upon the senior member for St. John to stop interrupting me when I am speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the senior member for St. John interrupts he will be spoken to just as you would be or any other hon. member in here.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, when I had to interrupt, I rose on a point of order and corrected the false statement he was making I am sitting down here peacefully minding my own business as they say.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I was saying, Sir, it is a scandalous situation where we are going to provide a weekend home for a High Commissioner costing $200,000 when they are people in this country.....(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: We heard that already). Mr. Chairman, it will come to a head, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to you.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If the Prime Minister continues to interrupt me, you will get trouble in here, because I believe that I will be subjected to the same rules as the Prime Minister, and if he sits down and interrupts me I will disobey the rules of the House the same way the Prime Minister does. It is only fair, nobody has any more right in here than anybody else, and if he is allowed to flout the rules of the House, I will attempt to do too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You both were elected in here; will you please continue with the debate?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I was saying, in this country at the moment you have many people who are in need of housing, badly in need of proper houses, and yet the Government can afford to provide this sort of special arrangement for the High Commissioner. When I look around at the other members who represent the other constituencies of this country, I am sure each of them can say the same for his constituency, but you find that you are spending money in External Affairs when that money could be usefully spent in Barbados to provide proper facilities, whether on roads or for something else for the people of this country. When you go through the country and you see the type of houses people are living in, and I heard you from time to time, Mr. Chairman, asking questions about roads in St. George, if this money was not being spent unnecessarily in External Affairs you would not have to ask those questions. I have heard the senior member for St. Philip rise in this House not so long ago and said that the Government was not doing all it could in St. Philip as regards roads. The reason for that is because you are wasting money overseas that could usefully be spent in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I remember some time ago there was a grand exercise in this country, some time around 1966.
12.40 p.m.
We had special Economists brought down at the expense of the Government to do a financial survey as to what it would cost the country to enter into Independence. I can recall also.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Is the hon. member going to be longer than 5 minutes?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a half.

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

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

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and thereto automatically it must revert.

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

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 24 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - (Continued)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When this sitting was suspended the hon. senior member for St. James was addressing the Chair. I do not now see him in his seat.

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH took the Chair.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Head 24 calls for $3,243,361. It is a Head that every year causes a long debate. I think that the Government should appreciate that members on this side must view with grave concern the annual rise which is taking place under this Head, because it means that members' constituents are deprived to a large extent of a number of amenities and services because of the fact that $3,200,000 must be spent under this Head. It is in that light that the criticisms levelled on this side should be viewed.

Now, other members have dealt with individual Heads. It is perfectly clear to us that the Government has no policy nor any alternative schemes for reducing the impact of this Head upon the revenue of Barbados. Their experiments with dual education have been abandoned. It means, therefore, that in future, the Government will have every year to spend more and more under this Head. What we want the people in the Ministry of External Affairs as well as the Minister of External Affairs to understand is that we feel every effort should be made to curtail the expansion of this Head. We, therefore, view it as recklessness when people, who are appointed to these jobs abroad, conduct themselves in such a manner as though they believe that Barbados is a country that can afford luxuries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America. That is what we want to convey to some of the people who are appointed to Government Offices abroad. It is important that this be done.

Now, if the Government in its wisdom or unwisdom provide accommodation, one of the terms of office is that you must live in the accommodation that the Government provided. If you do not like it, then resign from the Service and do not try to make the taxpayers of Barbados pay to find somewhere else for you to live and then you go and live at another place at week ends. You are not in a position to dictate to the Minister where you must live after you have taken the job. You must live in the house provided for you. That is the attitude we want to take in this matter.

Sir, I notice that at Item 65, the sum of $60,000 has been included for the promotion of tourism.
2.20 p.m.

The note says "To provide for the promotion of tourism in the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and the United States of America." Am I to understand now that the Government as part of its external relations is creating officers who will look after tourist promotion in conjunction with the Tourist Board in these centres where the Tourist Board has an organisation? I know that in the United States of America and in Canada there is a Tourist Board office, but in the United Kingdom and Europe there is none. I can understand that because a reason was given here that they did not incorporate tourist promotion in the United Kingdom office into the Ministry of External Affairs, but I do not understand how it is that in Canada and the United States of America where the Tourist Board does maintain a separate or independent office, whether it is sharing accommodation with the Government or not, you will be expending money. I do not quite understand that because it seems to me to be a bit of duplication. If it is the policy of the Ministry of External Affairs to provide these services, I want to know why it is that the Government

does not decide that it is going to merge all aspects of this in the United States of America and Canada into one organisation.

Mr. Chairman, I will remind the Minister of External Affairs that if he has two organisations attempting to do the same job, he is likely to find that personality problems are going to exist within a short space of time. So I would like to query that note.

Under Item 64 - Consulate, West Palm Beach, there is a sum of $28,600. Now the note says "To meet the expenses of the Consulate at West Palm Beach." Now there is no breakdown of this Item 64, and I would be very glad for a breakdown of this.

There is Item 63 for an amount of $982,000 and the note says "For payment of Government's contribution and voluntary pledges in respect of membership of International and Regional Organisations." I think hon. members are entitled by way of a schedule to these Estimates or by way of fuller notes to know the individual items which comprise that sum. I do not think it is good enough to vote $1,000,000 like that with such a note, and I want to know the details in respect of that sum. Those are all the comments I have to make in respect of this Head, and I look forward to the explanations to these three Items.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was not in my seat when we resumed, but I believe I can pick my threads up quite quickly and continue to draw to the attention of the Committee what one can only consider a complete breakdown of Government policy again and a fooling of the electorate. I think you may recall, Mr. Chairman, that in 1966 you were subjected to a bit of embarrassment by several supporters of the Government when you did not support the Government in taking this country into into independence alone. You probably have different ideas now, and so have I at this time. What however causes me great concern is the rise year after year in the Government's Estimates for the Ministry of External Affairs. There is a sum here of $570,553 for foreign service allowances alone under Item 14, and the note says "Provision included for the following allowances payable to officers of the Overseas Mission - Foreign Service; Entertainment; Outfit and Housing Accommodation," and I believe that it is out of this $570,000 that the present High Commissioner in London's flat is being paid for at a price of £32 a week. The Prime Minister has repeatedly got up and said that they are not paying any money for the Commissioner's town residence - I have to put it that way - but I cannot understand it from his own explanation. I know the High Commissioner; you only have to know his taste to believe that he would be in a cramped room, and according to the Prime Minister, he and his children have to climb through a glass window to occupy another part of the building. If we can remember seeing him going to Buckingham Palace in tails, top hat and with umbrella, one would know that that High Commissioner would not climb through a glass window. (Mr. HUSBANDS: Not tails; morning coat.) I know the hon. member is rather *au fait* with this North American and European dress. However knowing the High Commissioner as well as I do, I cannot accept the Prime Minister's explanation that he is going to be in a cramped house for five days because his children cannot get to school, and that it would take twenty minutes to go from the London Office to the House that the Barbados taxpayers had to pay for. Let us not fool ourselves. I am sure Mr. Ramsay is not going to take that £32 out of his pocket at the end of each week and pay for any flat, and if the High Commissioner of Barbados is given an official residence it is his duty to occupy that residence unless he is going to make provision for himself and family out of his own pocket.

Mr. Chairman, I am under the impression that part of the sum of $570,553 for outfit and housing accommodation is paid towards the Grosvenor Square flat. I recall very well, Mr. Chairman, that ex- Senator Dr. Ramases Caddle, one of the Government supporters and a member of the Government Party said in the Lower Green that it would only cost this country $500,000 to go into independence, and I am told by my colleague on my left that that was from the White Paper,

2.30 p.m.

now today Government is asking us to vote $570,000, Mr. Chairman, over half million dollars, and I have heard you in here repeatedly asking Government to repair Coggins Bridge for you. They closed down Haggatts Factory, denying the people in St. Andrew the right to have their canes serviced in St. Andrew, and I am sure that if they had restored Haggatts to the type of factory they claimed it was not, out of part of this money it would have been of better service to the community, but they have come here to ask for $570,000. The note says: "Provision included for the following allowances payable to Officers of the Overseas Missions - Foreign Service; Entertainment; Outfit and Housing Accommodation." We have a palace that costs the taxpayers $200,000, and then you have upkeep of it because I am quite sure you must have some person to watch it, to have it cleaned every week until the High Commissioner comes from the City to go to his country residence. Do not let us fool ourselves, any time there is an official function to be held by the High Commissioner in London, none of the nationals are going to drive some 27 miles out of London to go to any official function, and when the senior member for St. Thomas drew to the attention of the Government that they were putting again on this country another white elephant like tha Hilton Hotel, we heard all sorts of objections from the other side. I am very sorry the hon. senior member for the City is not in here because he was partly responsible for influencing Government to buy it, because he was a real estate expert, it was not until the true facts came to light that we were told that this was on the real estate market for three to four years and they could not get it sold and they passed it on to Sir Lionel

Luckhoo and he in turn passed it on to the Prime Minister and his Government.

The taxpayers of this country have this burden on their backs. That is only the house alone, and I think, Mr. Chairman, at that time you were a member of my Party, the official Opposition, and I heard you fighting the Government on this, that it was too much money, and now the High Commissioner is living in it one day a week. This is a socialist Government with absolutely no policy, absolutely no directive. I look at it here and I observe that in 1970 the foreign service allowance was $290,526 and it is an increase of $280,000 in one year, over a quarter million dollars in one year. I observe also that a Permanent Secretary is going to be appointed to the United Nations, and there is a token vote under Statutory Expenditure of $1.00. We do not know what is going to be the increase on this now, and if you go across you will observe that office rent and rates under Item 53 is another $167,500. Just look at these figures. Overseas representation under Item 61 is $307,000, and flood victims here today from the last rains - a man called Thomas Durant, a constituent of mine, his house is propped up on the sea banks in St. James and not even a mattress has he received. No consideration at all for the masses, everything for the classes.

Contributions and voluntary pledges to international and regional organisations, $982,000, almost $1 million. I am not really in Government, and maybe the other side will say I will never be, but Christ is the answer. I would like to know this, what benefit have we so far derived from these overseas agencies? I have not seen any yet. It is alleged that the Prince gave the Prime Minister a cheque for the flood victims; I do not know if these voluntary donations of overseas help which we are hoping to get will be under the thumb of the Prime Minister again, naturally we are at a loss on this, but we can only go by the notes we have here under the Ministry of External Affairs. $2,119,287, almost $3 million, and Mr. Chairman, you recall, Sir, you fought it bitterly, you had to come in here and ask Mr. Speaker to beg the people downstairs not to beat you for an eight-hour speech you made trying to save this country from the ruthless exploitation of the masses by the Government. As the Prime Minister said today, he was in here for 20 years and he can use as many asides as he feels like, and the Chairman at the time was afraid to say one word. This is the example the Prime Minister is setting to the youth of this country, that is the attitude, the attitude of not caring, and that is manifested in the Estimates.

I saw yesterday a lady came here asking the Minister of Housing to assist her in getting a house in one of the housing areas, and the Minister gave her a ray of hope, a word of encouragement, but we are spending almost $3 million, a little country 21 x 14, foreign racketeers exploiting the poor people day after day, paying them $8 or $10 a week. A tin of corned beef costs $1.17, the Old Age Pensioners are receiving $5 a week, but we must vote $4 million for the Ministry of External Affairs, and a mansion where a High Commissioner is living in, one day of the week. From out of the mouth of the Prime Minister, he cannot afford to live there because it would inconvenience his children, and $200,000 is there cooling out. I know that part of this $587,000 is to pay for the flat in Grosvenor Square; I do not mind what detailed drawing the Prime Minister had this morning, and that he said he could do the distance at peak hours in 15 minutes, you cannot get from Bridgetown in 15 minutes, but he can do 27 miles in 15 minutes.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I never said any such thing, I said the normal driving time was 27 minutes. It is not 27 miles from London, it is approximately, as far as I remember, between 14 and 17 miles. I said I have done it in 17 minutes after peak hours in the evening time.
2.40 p.m.

I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but when he misquotes me I must get up and put the record straight.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the speed with which the Hon. Prime Minister would have travelled is a clear-cut idea of his reckless approach even to pedestrians on the street, and, therefore, it would be his reckless approach to the people of this country. Only the Prime Minister can do 23 miles in 17 minutes. Anyway, I would not pay much attention to that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw your attention to Item 54 - Maintenance and upkeep of Government Property - $112,024. If you were to work out the number of old age pensioners, you will find that we have about 1,300. It will cost the Government about $3 million a year to feed some 1,300 or 1,400 senior citizens - people who gave their blood and sweat to this country. Now, $3 million can feed them they have to exist on that, and at the anniversary of Independence they are given an extra dollar bill and told that better days are coming by and by.

The Prime Minister got on a public platform and said that it would only cost this country $500,000 to have Independence, and today he is asking for $570,000 for allowances alone without giving us a breakdown because he has the numbers to carry the motion. Do not underestimate the research powers of this Party! I do not think Mr. Chairman will ever underestimate them again. The Prime Minister cannot go around bluffing the people of this country all the time. Only yesterday he told members of Parliament that he is a trained Political Scientist. I still challenge the hon. Prime Minister to bring me a document or anything to prove that he is a trained Political Scientist and is able to get a job in any part of the world as such. He comes in here bluffing all the time; he jacks the Estimates up, he blows them up. You see appearing in the Press that Government is spending $8 million on roads, $7 million on

water, $8 million on lights, but not one single thing about what is spent on foreign affairs. He has been bluffing his way through college all the time; he can bluff some of the time but not all the time.

Mr. Chairman, I should be grateful if the senior member for St. John would give us a breakdown as to how he proposes to spend this $570,000, and in particular on housing accommodation. That is what I am concerned with. I still believe that the Government of Barbados is paying £32 a week for an apartment in Grovesnor Square for the present High Commissioner when he is already provided with an official residence at a cost of $200,000. I am not concerned with which real estate Agency bought it or sold it. We agreed to the purchase of that house in here, and we warned the Government about certain things when the house was bought. I remember the senior member for St. Thomas saying that he knew the area; it was cold and nobody wanted to live there; the owner was trying to get if off his hands and so on. I spent time sending letters overseas, and found out that the house was on the market for three years and it could not be sold. It was on the recommendation of Sir Lionel Luckhoo that the house was bought as the official residence of the High Commissioner for all time. If a bachelor is appointed as the High Commissioner, he will also have to live there. This is the choice of Sir Lionel Luckhoo and not the choice of the Barbados Government.

Mr. Chairman, we have made a blunder there. I wonder whether the Government ever had a valuation of this property. If it is a property on the country side, why should it be sold for $190,000? We were told that a boat and a car were included in the purchase of this property. I do not know whether those things are part of the outfit. I am told that the boat no longer exists.

Mr. Chairman, it is my belief and my humble submission that the blowing up of the Estimates, if they are not going to spend the money, is a savage raid on the Treasury of this country. You only have to look at the industries that have been started in this country quite recently in order to see what is happening. The people in charge of these new industries come in and they tell us that they will start with 1,000 people. When you look in the newspapers you can see that a new garment factory is open and it will be employing 1,000 people. You will hear the Prime Minister telling his people that they will start with 500 and move up to 1,000. At International Scientific Limited today they have cut the staff in half. With the exception of one firm, not one of them has increased the staff. They come in, get a free tax ride for a number of years, then sell out to John Citizen, and they turn around and buy shares in the same firm at the expense of the Labour market of this country. We have warned Government repeatedly about this kind of thing, but some day the youths are going to come up against the whole country, because they are frustrated, disenchanted, they have been promised the golden egg and they have seen no egg at all.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge the Government to have a complete reorganisation or a complete survey of the Ministry of External Affairs, and see whether they are not over-budgeting. I do not like to call names at some times, but if we were to look at the entire High Commissioner's Office we will recall that from the time it was in existence there has always been criticism of that particular Mission. 2.50 p.m.

When it was first set up it was a dual mission and the argument was that no one person could serve two masters. Prime Minister Burnham eventually withdrew leaving the present Government and the Prime Minister out on a limb. Sir Lionel Luckhoo probably had all the sweets out of it by then. Then we had the present High Commissioner Mr. Ramsay. We have another problem in that Mr. Ramsay is not living in the house. The Prime Minister says it is not suitable for him to live in. Mr. Ramsay confessed this to the Prime Minister. It is not convenient, it is not suitable; things are tight. This only goes to show you that the choice of the property was bad from the beginning, because I doubt very much if there is any High Commissioner or Ambassador abroad that would live some twenty-seven miles away from the seat of Parliament, because in London the House of Commons and the House of Lords is where you have the hive of political activity; it is the nerve centre of the country, and you are going to tell me that a High Commissioner should have a house 27 miles away. I would agree with the Government if they said they were renting a flat 27 miles away for the High Commissioner, but they say his official residence is 27 miles away. We were always right on that and we warned the Government, and therefore we on this side must feel that this was pushed upon us.

Mr. Chairman, you only have to take a ride through the districts of this country and you will see the deplorable conditions under which people live in the 1970s. Things are tight with them, but we are hearing that a house costing $200,000 is not good enough for somebody to live in, therefore you have to rent him a flat. Here you have people queuing up day after day calling on the Government, and on their representatives to assist them in getting a house. I do not know, Sir, if I am particularly satisfied with casting my vote when the occasion arises for this sum of money for the Ministry of External Affairs, and on this note, I feel that outside of Mr. C. B. Williams who was High Commissioner in Canada, there is only one person I feel who has made any contribution to the embassies abroad and that is Branford Mayhew Taitt. That is my honest opinion. The others are bare political hangers-on. I am not quite sure if I am going to cast my vote in favour of this amount of expenditure.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I had asked the Prime Minister a question earlier on in the debate and I do not think he has replied as yet. I asked when last were the accounts audited.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Auditor General goes up every year and audits the accounts. He went

up last year and he is due to go again at the beginning of the financial year. There is a haitus between his auditing the accounts and paying his inspections and the printing. This is where the hold-up is. There was a little delay two years ago in the overseas accounts, but I think they have caught up.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: One other question. Under Item 53 which deals with $167,000, the note states "Includes provision for contract, escalator and parking rents." Exactly what is this supposed to be?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This would be the maintenance contract on the elevators at the various offices. We do not repair them ourselves and you have to have people whom.....

I am sorry. It must be elevator. We do not have any escalators in any of the buildings as far as I can remember. "Escalator" is the wrong term. I saw that and I was wondering myself. As regards parking rents, we are only allowed in London one parking space and we have one behind the building which makes two. With regard to the escalator, there is an escalator clause in the contracts and there are certain services which would include electricity, elevator services and so on in the building like 801 2nd Avenue in which you pay a standard rent and then there are certain variables in the contract which escalate as labour costs and so go up. This is what this is for, as well as things like property rates which are not the same year by year. There is an escalation clause in the contract that if the rates which the landlord has to pay for the whole building should go up, we would have to pay our proportionate share of these rates. The rent per square foot is a fixed cost and there are certain variable costs such as rates and matters of that kind. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: What was the figure last year?) The figure for last year should be shown there. We are providing the same amount to take care of these contingencies.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If I can assist the Prime Minister, I think what may have happened last year is that it might have been broken down under various missions, and now it is all down under headquarters.

3.00 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would look at page 50 of the Estimates he will see a whole page where all these expenditures are being consolidated under Headquarters now;in other words, we are keeping a tighter control of the vote at Headquarters, and if they want any money they have to put in a requisition for it. Last time the money was sent up there but we have everything now under Headquarters and they have to tell us what they want the money for.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Leader of the Opposition asked for a breakdown of the $982,000 for pledges and contributions to international organisations.

Mr. St. JOHN: What I said was this, that if you are having a global sum at Item 60 for payment of Government contributions and voluntary pledges in respect of international and regional organisations, either there you should state these organisations or put it in the Schedule at the back of the Estimates like how you have done with the foreign service allowances. If you look at the $570,000 at page 46, it is marked "See Appendix F" and Appendix F explains it, so this should be done in a similar way.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The IADB $2,000, International Civil Aviation Organisation $19,200, Inter-American Emergency Relief Fund $10,000, General Agreement on Tarrifs and Trade $8,500, International Wheat Agreement $200, Commonwealth Scientific Committee $480, World Meterological Organisation $5,600, Food and Agriculture Organisation $25,552, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau $8,530, Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre $24,000, Pan American Health Organisation $24,000, World Health Organisation $61,166, UNICEF $4,040, International Sugar Agreement $2,288, Universal Postal Union $6,000, International Telecommunications Union $12,960, International Maritime Consultative Organisation $4,160, World Food Programme $8,000, Commonwealth Fundation $7,000, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation $71,920, International Labour Organisation $52,320, International Standards Organisation $2,000, United Nations Development Programme $22,000, UNITAR $500, USIDO $500, United Nations Capital Development Fund $800. The following five are under the Organisation of American States: The Centre for Promotion of Exports $1,600, Special Development Assistance Funds $12,500, Regular Fund $46,500, International American Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council $20,000, OPINAL $12,000, Commonwealth Secretariat $24,000, United Nations Regular Fund $100,000, United Nations Emergency Force $10,000 (token amount), Voluntary Pledges to various International Organisations $20,000, Contingencies $61,240. I will find out in a moment what that Contingencies vote is for.

Caribbean Organisations. Caribbean Conservation Association $50, Oils and Fats Agreement $1,122, Regional Secretariat in Guyana $52,345, Regional Research Centre - a meeting is going on this week in Dominica, I think - $113,133, Regional Shipping Service $85,200, Seismic Research $25,000, upkeep of United Nations Development Programme Office in Trinidad $5,000, Regional Development Agency $12,000, Student Amenities Fund $4,500, Inter-Caribbean Emergency Relief Fund $5,000, and another sum of $26,650 for Contingencies under the Regional vote. I will check to find out what that is for. I understand that amount has been put in for contingencies because when the annual meetings are held quotas are fixed and these contributions may fluctuate up or down, but it would only be for that purpose that these votes are included. When the annunal meetings, for instance, of the Oils and Fats and the Regional Shipping Council are held they may decide that the Barbados contribution has to go up by $5,000 or come down as the case may be.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it should be put in the Schedule so that people would be able to understand it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, what material benefits have we received so far from these organisations?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I will take just one as an example. The World Food Programme - $600,000 - is a direct grant to Barbados, and our contribution to that is $8,000. Then there is UNICEF that helps with the children. UNESCO helps the Ministry of Education. So far as UNDP is concerned, the office in Trinidad is providing us with Meteorological Experts and various other people whose expense they meet. The Inter American Development Bank has sent down a team to study the Airport Project and provided a substantial amount of money - we came to the House about it - much in excess of our contribution for 10 years to carry out the survey at the Airport, and then they will back this up with the application to the Inter American Development Bank. The feasibility studies in agriculture are being carried out by one of the agencies of the Inter American Development Bank.

Mr. Chairman, I think it would be very illuminating if I brought a list over the past four years of the direct monetary contributions to the economy of Barbados of these memberships and subscriptions, and you will find that it is far in excess of anything that we have paid out so far.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the last time the Prime Minister gave us an estimate he said it was $6 million. We heard about this OAS Survev of the agricultural potential in the sugar industry. *(Asides)* A report has been published, but what I object to is the fact that we politicians and people with special interests in this matter have not been treated with the courtesy of having the document circulated to us.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we have not seen it. I saw the Report about eight feet away for the first time last week, and I was not allowed to touch it. It is only a preliminary Report. I believe the Agricultural Experts got it from the Sugar Producers' Association or something like that. It has not been officially released yet. I was surprised myself when I first saw it, so I do not think there is any discourtesy to the other side; it would have to be a discourtesy to the Government first.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, there are only two preliminary provisional copies of the Report. They are being studied now by the Economic Planning Unit and the Ministry of Agriculture for them to make their comments before the final Report is presented to the Ministry and to the House. One has to appreciate the fact that the Report has to be studied by the Chief Agricultural Officer and the Planning Unit to see whether they will accept it or will make amendments before the final Report of the IADB team is issued.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is where we disagree profoundly. If this is a Report which has to be studied by them, then it should be studied by other people, too, so that you would be able to get the benefit of a broad base of opinion upon the Report. A man from the United States came into my office - he was one of these CIA people who comes down here under a disguise - with the document in his hands, and he wanted to know the comments of the Opposition. They come down here and say that they are working for Life Fund, this Fund and that Fund.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was talking about the C.I.A.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What item is the hon. member speaking on?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The item we are dealing with.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me know the number of the item. *(Asides)*

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Item 63 under Head 24. I am glad that you asked me that question, because I want you to keep the others in check. The hon. member has said that a member of the C.IA. . came to him as the Leader of the Opposition to hear the comments of the Opposition. We all know what happened in Ghana, South America and Uganda as well as in other countries. I am wondering whether the C.I.A. had any intention of overthrowing this Government. Tell them that we are operating by the ballot box and not by the bullet box.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the basic point is that these people come to you with these documents. *(Asides)* I dismiss them; I do not have any time to waste with them. They tell you that they are working with 20th Century Fund and so on. Anyway, the point is, how did they get this document? How can they get this document and then ask me to comment on a document that I have not been able to see? I took the matter up with the O.A.S. man over Barclays Bank, and I told him that I would have nothing to do with him or any of the others until they learnt to understand that this is not Latin America nor any of the dictatorial Governments. This is a place where the Opposition has a part to play. When he was circulating documents to the Government of Barbados and they were not secret documents, then the Opposition should also be circulated with such documents. That is what we have to make them understand, and that is why I have raised the matter regarding the publication of this Report. That is why I would like any Reports relating to Agriculture to be circulated to members of the Opposition. *(Asides)* It is not impossible to assume that we may be in the Government at some time.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, just now I was trying to be facetious, but I am serious now, after hearing what the hon. member has just said. I hope the hon. member realises that this country belongs to him as well as it belongs to us. If the C.I.A. came to him with any of this nonsense, it is his bounden duty as a Barbadian to report the matter not only to the Prime Minister but to the Cabinet. This is a serious matter. We know how the C.I.A. operate. I do not care who tells the C.I.A. what I am saying. I live here and I do not have anywhere to go. The C.I.A. are one of these organisations that intend to overthrow any of the coloured Governments that do not see eye to eye with them.
3.20 p.m.

When the hon. member told us about the C.I.A. I believe this came out of his mouth inadvertently. *(Asides)* He has said it has not come out inadvertently; so he has deliberately told us this. Why didn't he notify the Cabinet before. Even if he did not want to tell me, he should have told the Prime Minister who is responsible for External Affairs. *(Asides)* He might have gone to see the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister may not have known that he belongs to the C.I.A. He may have gone to see him under false pretences. The hon. member must understand that I have lived in most of these countries to which he has referred, and I have seen these people operating. We also know what happens in a lot of these countries, and the moment you do not toe the line, there is trouble. Do not forget what happened in Uganda with Obote, because he was the chief advocate in throwing the British out of the Commonwealth, and the next thing you knew was that he was like a canary without a nest. We do not want this sort of thing to happen here, because when they join with you to overthrow us, later on they will join with somebody else to overthrow you, and it might be the Maffia or some of those other people whom you do not want to have in your country. It is your bounden duty as a Barbadian first and as a West Indian secondly to report these matters to the people who are running the country. Do not feel you have any card up your sleeve that you are keeping back and encourage the C.I.A. to operate about here. Personally I have never accepted the Peace Corps. I have openly said that the Peace Corps people are spies, because they come here and have to live in the same houses as the people, because the argument was that when they were finished teaching you in a school and you went home.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I have not seen any Peace Corps under this Head.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I accept this, Mr. Chairman, but we are voting money and the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned people from the C.I.A. coming to him about a report. I am a Minister of Government and cannot get a report yet, the Minister who is responsible for agriculture has not got this report, but the C.I.A. and the Opposition have the report. This only shows you how things are going. I warn the hon. member as a Barbadian and a loyal citizen of this community to let us wait on the ballot box. It is true you may have to wait for a long time and you may be an old man, but you have to wait on the ballot box because you have seen what has happened with a lot of these other countries.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad the hon. member has spoken under this Item, because he completely misunderstood the purport of what I said. I said that these people come to you they really belong to the C.I.A. but they come under the guise of being representatives of Twentieth Century Fund or Life Fund or something else, but let me tell the hon. member this: they are coming to question me so that they can inform the Government of my intentions, but I have better sense than that. I do not talk to them; I just answer "yes" and "no" and tell them that I have my work to do.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how the C.I.A. got into this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the hon. member starts, I am not entertaining anything more about the C.I.A. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned it and the Hon. Minister replied. I am not entertaining anything more about the C.I.A. or the A.I.C.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not in the C.I.A. or A.I.C. You are just like me. What I would like the Prime Minister to be able to tell us is if it is necessary to have this Consulate at West Palm Beach that costs $28,600 a year. I would like to know what useful purpose the Consulate serves there. There is not a great number of Barbadians there apart from the farm workers who go down, and I do not know if it would not be a better idea to send down some Welfare Officer with them. I believe it would cost the Government less. If I understand what West Palm Beach is like, it is some millionaires' playground. I do not know if when the Minister is passing through, he cools out down there. I want to know if it is necessary to have it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have spent two hours intransit inspecting the office. I have never resided in West Palm Beach; I cannot afford to reside there, but it is the centre of the whole linear town of Florida where a lot of wealthy tourists congregate, and we have in one of the most frequently visited shopping malls in the whole coast an office, almost right at the entrance with a Barbadian Secretary and a retired Barbadian solicitor who is the Honorary Consul in respect of promotional advertising and so on. A lot of travel agents' conventions and so on congregate there. In addition to that, it is a tourist centre; it is a better kind of tourist centre than Miami Beach because that is a different kind of traffic. In addition to that, we do subscribe to the Regional Labour Board, but if you talk to any Barbadian who has had to work in Florida, I want to say without any fear of contradiction that the Regional Labour Board has been Jamaicanised. We have one Barbadian Liaison Officer up there who has to cover practically the whole country. The majority of our sugar workers, cane cutters and so on, are in

Florida. They are stretched all around West Palm Beach, not like in Miami Beach; they are in the hinterland which is the sugar cane belt, and people get deported and that kind of thing without any representation. The Regional Labour Board is up in Washington and a lot of the Islands are not completely happy about the Jamaicanisation. Normally we do not mind working with Jamaica, but the head of the Regional Labour Board in Washington is a Jamaican and his policy is Jamaicanisation of the Labour Board, so that our people have been complaining, but since we have established the office there, Mr. Chapman has gone out on visits to all the sugar estates and conducted clinics finding out what complaints people have and so on without in any way cutting across the work of the Regional Labour Board, so much so now that Mr. Harry Edwards is complaining that Mr. Chapman seems to be trying to do him out of a job. Our Barbadian workers were complaining that some of them were being uncermoniously hounded down by the police for trifling things and deported. This has considerably slackened since we have established the Consulate overthere, because that really is a Consul's function: to look after the civil liberties of the subject.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out from the Prime Minister under Item 68 - Replacement of official cars, $42,560, if he would give us a list of those.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The one at Washington cost $11,700 E.C. (Mr. CRAIG: What sort of car is this?) The car in Washington was a Continental. I do not think they like them anymore. The New York Consulate General, one replacement, $11,000. I am sorry. I would like to read that again.
3.30 p.m.

For the Embassy in Washington, two cars; one replacement and one new. One will be for the Chancery and one for the Ambassador; the replacement is for the Ambassador and the new one for the Chancery which never had one before, and the amount there is $14,400. Apparently these costs were estimated last year, and in New York there is one new car for the Consul General as a replacement and a new one for the High Commissioner to Canada.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Will the Prime Minister be so good as to tell us when last these various Officers had cars?

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: As far as I remember, the very first year the Missions were established, which was about four years ago, the High Commission in Canada had a Lincoln and they traded it in because it was giving trouble too early.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, I do not know what is happening here. As far as I am aware, in the 1970-71 Estimates a car was purchased as a replacement for one of the Mission's cars in New York.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: That was the Permanent Mission to the United Nations which is separate from the Consul General. They are two separate offices, not only literally but physically as well, one is in the U.N. Plaza and one in 801, 2nd Avenue, so the Consul General has a car, the Ambassador to United Nations has a car, and my recollection is that there is an office car. I cannot remember whether that office car is attached to the Consulate or to the Mission, but I know there is an office car as well. The cars are changed every two years to get a good trade-in price for the old one. If you keep them longer than three years the depreciated value would subject the Government to a loss, and I understand that they change them every two years.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, from the Prime Minister's own figures, there is a missing car because it is $42,500 and the Prime Minister is guessing at $36,000; that is a whole car out.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: Why I am trying to explain the $6,000, the U. S. and Canadian car markets is to give you a certain amount of leeway for increased prices by the time you trade in the other cars. In other words , we have not ordered the cars, and even if we had ordered them, by the time they are delivered the prices would go up and we would have to come back for a supplementary vote. What is not spent on the cars will lapse.

Mr. CRAIG: What in fact you are saying is that there is a figure here of $42,560 and the cars may drop to $39,000 or $41,000; failing that, the vote will lapse. I am under the impression, if I am not mistaken, there was a vote in last year's Estimates for a car for the Consul General at New York.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: That was for the Permanent Mission to the U.N. I think it was the year before, I said there were two cars in one place and one car in the other; in other words, there was no office car and the diplomatic bag goes to the airport three times a week, and they had to be using the Consul General's car when he might have an appointment, say in Pittsburgh, and we came here and got money to buy an office car. I believe you have driven in it, so you would know better than me.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If the Prime Minister is saying, as I understand it, that they change these cars every two years, what depreciation is lost for the two years?

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: This will show on the revenue side, but if you ask His Honour the Chairman he can tell you that in the third year in the American market car values drop drastically, and you know a diplomatic car has to have a certain appearance, but quite apart from that, there is the economic aspect that if you do not trade in a car the second year, you know American cars have built-in obsolescence, as I think the hon. member

would know, and after the third year nobody is interested in buying that model, and not even from Fix-it-Right can you get the parts, even if you could export them after the third year.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That was not quite my point, if you are justifying the trade-in of cars every two years, how much money is lost in depreciation at the end of two years? What may be more feasible to the Government would be to look into the rental of these cars and see how much you will lose in depreciation by the sale of the cars. If you are going to lose 20% on the sale of the cars and the 20% depreciation is greater than the cost of renting the cars for a year, then it would be more profitable to rent a car for a year.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW: I understand that there is very little loss because we buy the cars at diplomatic prices, that is, we pay no tax and we get about 25% off on the factory value of the car, but when we sell we are allowed - in Barbados we allow overseas Missions and U.N. personnel who bring in cars to sell them after the third year, but if they sell before the third year then they have to pay a proportionate amount of the import duty that they would have paid.
3.40 p.m.

Suppose you bring in a car as a member of the U.N. personnel or a member of the staff of the United States Embassy and the duty on it was $3,000. If you keep the car for three years in Barbados you can sell it and that is your business, but if you sell it at the end of the first year you will have to pay $2,000 duty; if you sell it at the end of the second year you will have to pay us $1,000 duty, but after the third year we are not interested in the matter.

In the United States if you keep a car for two years you can sell it on the open market and get a reasonably good price for it. Since you have bought it duty free or tax free, because it is a domestic product and at a diplomatic discount of anything up to about 25% or 30%, when you sell it at the end of the second year on the open market quite legitimately, you can get virtually the same price as you paid for it at the beginning. It cancels out with the tax.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the Prime Minister has been misinformed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if you used to work in the Ministry of External Affairs and you are a diplomat, perhaps, you can enlighten me and I will be glad to listen to you.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. John seems to be a bit jumpy. He says that if a car is sold within a certain time he gets 25% on the factory price, but he goes on to say something else about resale in respect of taxes.

Rt. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think the hon. member understands what I have said. If he went up to the United States and he temporarily divested himself of his diplomatic rank and he was an ordinary citizen he would pay, say, $10,000 for a motorcar. The tax on that car may be, say, $2,000 or $3,000, and then the diplomatic price would be 25% off what the amount the factory would sell it to the dealer for. There is no import duty in the United States because it is a domestic product, and we get such things at the special diplomatic price that the ordinary citizen cannot get. At the end of two years, according to the protocol, the United States Government will allow us to sell the car so long as we have kept it for two years without having to account for the tax that we would have paid. The discount is no concern of the Government because that is what the car manufacturers or distributors give to all diplomats. What I am saying is that if we take advantage of this at the end of the second year and sell the car to the hon. member or to his brother who wants to have a car that has been used by a diplomat, he can get for that car at the end of the second year what we pay for a new one. Do you understand what I am saying now?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he is now saying something different.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: All that has happened is that I have used words with one syllable for the edification of the hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN: I did not go too far in school; I am not a Political Scientist.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, at Item 50 there is provision for the sum of $46,000 to be spent on travelling. I would like a breakdown on it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, Travelling - High Commissioner in Canada - bus fares, train fares and air fares $1,790 and allowances $2,880. Embassy at Washington - Allowances - $5,760. That is the allowances officers are entitled to for travelling if they are on the Schedule. Hire of Transport $960; Train fares and air fares $1,700; tolls $200. Sometimes in one day you have to pay six 25¢ pieces to go from one place to another. Consul General in New York - Allowances $2,400; hire and transport $400; air fares $8,440; train fares $300, tolls $360.

Mr. CRAIG: Are these air fares cross-country air fares? Are these air fares for coming to Barbados? I am trying to find out if they are using B.W.I.A.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know they were both last year, but we are controlling your out of your area fares this year. Then there is the Mission to U.N. allowances, that is, al-

lowances to travelling officers $4,320; hire and transport $1,400. The United Kingdom High Commissioner to London allowances $5,636; hire and transport $3,130; bus fares, train fares and air fares $1,134, and tolls $100.

Mr. CRAIG: Is this for hiring cabs and so on?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If you went to London and they decided to meet you, they may have to hire a limousine. I hope the hon. member will get that when he goes to London because he is entitled to it. They may have to hire a limousine to go and meet V.I.P.s, or the staff may have to hire one to go and meet immigrants or something like that. It may not be convenient to take a train when immigrants are coming in, and members of the staff may have to hire a car. I understand that some of our officers cannot drive, but I know that they have cars.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are asked to vote under this Head a sum of well over $3 million. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the number of the Item?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Items 54, 61, 62 63, 65, 66 all of those and more. Please stop the Prime Minister from heckling me.
3.50 p.m,

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not heckling. I was merely pointing out.....

Mr. HINDS: You cannot direct me how to make my speech. On what has he risen?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. HINDS: I am addressing the Chair and he jumps up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When he jumps up I will make him sit down.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, you have as at Item 54 an amount of $112,024 for maintenance of buildings and grounds including repairs, insurance and maintenance of appliances and gas and electrical installations. Along with that you find at Item 69 that there is an amount of $1,000 set out for carrying out a survey for renovation and redecoration of the basement and fourth floor of the Mission at 6 Upper Belgrave Street. I do not want to go wrong at this stage, and the Prime Minister could very well tell us if the $1,000 that is asked for to carry out the survey is to carry out a survey on the same building for which we are asked to vote $112,024 or if part of the money is to carry out repairs, because what I am suggesting is that you could hardly come here with an estimate for money to carry out repairs on a building, and at the same time ask for money to carry out a survey, when arising from your survey you would then have to get an estimate of your costs. Without knowing what your cost is likely to be, you have come for an estimate for $112,024 to carry out repairs.

I am well aware, Mr. Chairman, that mere mention of these houses which have been bought and leased at very considerable sums can cause considerable upset in the mind of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's exhibition here today has given us to understand that he has definitely got something to hide.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would ask you to ask the hon. member not to say that I have something to hide.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. HINDS: I am addressing the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member says he is on a point of order. Allow me to hear the point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. junior member for St. Peter has said that my exhibition here today shows that I have got something to hide. I am asking you to ask the hon. member to withdraw that. I have nothing to hide in discharging my public duties. That is accusing me of misconduct in my office.

Mr. HINDS: Is that a point of order?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is objecting to the remarks that he has something to hide, and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw them.

Mr. HINDS: Withdraw what? That the Prime Minister has something to hide?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. HINDS: I will withdraw it, Mr. Chairman, but if you and I knew the amount that he has to hide, it would be an entirely different matter. Let him object to that now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am objecting to those remarks. The hon. member said that if he and you knew the amount that I had to hide, (Mr. HINDS: And he has plenty to hide.).....and I have plenty to hide.

Mr. HINDS: He has it past Britton's Hill, past Clapham.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Prime Minister is objecting to the words.

Mr. HINDS: He may object to my presence in the House. If he objects to my presence in the House, what must I do?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He cannot object to your presence.

Mr. HINDS: I withdraw. Do you want me to withdraw something more? The Prime Minister will never succeed in making a fool of me again, not in Barbados and least of all in this House irrespective of who is in the Chair. You have asked me to withdraw and I have withdrawn, but I am saying that the Prime Minister's conduct, the shilly-shally way, the nervous exhibitions that he has given us here today, pushing tablets in his mouth, gives us to understand that all is not well.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have pushed no tablets in my mouth at any time during the day. I am on a point of order and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the remarks about my shilly-shallying and pushing tablets in my mouth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is again objecting to the remarks. I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Peter to keep within the particular item he is quoting and not be continually using remarks that are offensive. This is about the third time I am calling on you to withdraw certain remarks, and I am warning you not to insist in doing so anymore.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I seem not to understand what you are saying, and I would like a little enlightenment. You have called on me to withdraw words. Am I to understand that you called on me to withdraw because they were not offensive?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that what you want me to tell you? Why did you withdraw them if they were not offensive?

Mr. HINDS: I withdrew them in obedience to the Chair not because they were offensive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have withdrawn them. You will proceed, but remember that this is the third time I have had to call on you to withdraw remarks.

Mr. HINDS: But, Mr. Chairman, that is what I asked you. I asked if you called on me to withdraw the remarks because they were offensive, and from what I can gather, you have agreed with me that I withdrew the remarks in obedience to the Chair, not because even the Chair was convinced that the remarks were offensive.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt in anybody's mind that the conduct of certain people transacting business in the purchase of this house at Thames Ditton cannot stand the light of day. I go on to say that it is a very sad reflection on the Prime Minister and on others that we find ourselves saddled with a property that nobody really wants to make use of in this case.

4.00 p.m.

What we find is that today we are asked to provide money to give one man two houses in which to live. One, if we take the Prime Minister seriously, that the High Commissioner will live in the flat during the week days and at weekends he will go to the official residence or something like that. Mr. Chairman, when we cast our eyes around the parish of St. Joseph, let alone St. Peter, when we see the conditions under which our poor people are housed, could any person in my position, carrying a conscience, vote one penny to supply two houses for one man to live in in the United Kingdom? I have heard you, Mr. Chairman, come to this House almost shedding tears with a view to expressing the plight of the people of the parish you represent, St. Joseph. You did it, Mr. Chairman, because you felt that their housing needs demanded every possible penny which this Government could lay hands on; in other words, you felt the needs of the people of the parish of St. Joseph ought to be placed first and foremost, they should be given priority treatment above the needs of any one man, and especially when he has got to be supplied with two houses at such considerable expense to the taxpayers of this country.

That is as far as the needs of the people of St. Joseph are concerned, the needs of the people of the parish of St. Peter must come before my mind, their housing needs in this case, so how must I appear before the people of St. Peter to tell them that I would support the Government at any time in taking the taxpayers' money to buy two houses for one man that he can live in one from Friday night to Monday morning and another from Monday till Friday night again or something of the sort, and people about this place in this country are running about begging for shelter and making other people miserable for somewhere to live? Mr. Chairman, I do not want to see a single soul from the parish of St. Peter being so poorly housed that they have to go out there in Bay Street over the fish market to live. Mr. Chairman, nobody related to me, and least of all my father, would I do this to, and he is dead. We are saying it is a shocking disgrace that all of this we can vote for Overseas Missions, people can change motor cars every two years and you are hearing all sorts of nonsense trotted out as to how this money is being spent, nobody really knows in truth and in fact what goes on at these Missions, because the Prime Minister's own words tell us that they had to tighten up. In the past they took the money and sent it over there, but now if they want money they have to make requisitions for funds. Let the Prime Minister jump to his feet now and tell us why they have to get requisitions now; we say they have to requisition for funds because of the vigilance of the Opposition in Parliament. The Prime Minister very well knows that we know a lot that has been going on, and the Prime Minister knows above everything else, he must have heard it, that there can be no proper accounting for much of the funds that went to the United Kingdom. He must have heard it, if he did not it is not my fault; hearing aids help a lot at certain times.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that anyone taking these Estimates under this Head 24 and examining them carefully, listening to the attempts at explanations that have been made, I am to say not one

single soul with a conscience could support them. Nobody could vote for them, whether in Opposition or in Government. I am surprised that somebody is not objecting that members of Government do not have consciences.

We have heard, Mr. Chairman, that there is now an amount of $60,000 as at Item 65, and the note tells us that this $60,000 is to be spent entertaining distinguished visitors from Barbados and so on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My note says: "To provide for the promotion of tourism."

Mr. HINDS: That is all right. I read the note, Mr. Chairman, to Item 60, but I am dealing with Item 65 and this note states: "To provide for promotion of tourism in the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and the United States of America." If in truth and in fact the Government really intends to prop up the shrinking economy of this country which has depended so long on tourism, how is it that the Government finds itself today under this Head squeezing in a mere $60,000?
4.10 p.m.

In terms of tourism, you are not promoting tourism according to the Note in the United States or in any country. What can $60,000 really do? That will be dealt with later I am sure. Now, at Item 61 there is a sum of $307,000 to meet expenses in connection with External Relations of Barbados. Mr. Chairman, all of this is money that could better have been spent in the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Peter. We have heard the hon. senior member for St. Philip crying out in this House asking about roads for his parish. I wonder if he still needs those roads for his parish or he is content to sit here and see the Government take up $3 million and spend it on Overseas Representation while people in St. Philip are still butting their feet all over the place due to the lack of proper roads.

As far as roads are concerned, the situation in St. Peter is chaotic. There are projects in St. Peter that could better be handled with this money. The Salt Pond could be dealt with. The people are suffering at Lonesome Hill, Indian Ground, Mount No. 1, Mount No. 2, at Gay's and the Castle. We have the remainder of the burnt out walls at Farley Hill which is known as the National Park to be looked after. The whole place needs a face lift. All of these things are being neglected in order to give Barbados a false face overseas - a face which we cannot afford to carry. We are deeply touched, Mr. Chairman, when we see the hunger and suffering around this place.

As for Public Relations $19,450 is required. The Prime Minister read out a list of organisations with which Barbados enjoys some form of association or membership. Now, Item 59 - Public Relations - $19,450 is to meet the cost of advertising, newsletters, and authorised association membership fees. After hearing the various sums read out, one must wonder if this money is now to be spent looking for new friends, so to speak. It is an advertising campaign; it entails the issuing of newsletters, and one has to be very careful in this matter as a whole. It is not that Advertising Agencies abroad can best promote the interest of Barbados abroad. We have an idea that retaining the services of some of these Overseas Agencies is very costly. A member of one of these Organisations might visit here to see Barbados for a week or so for the first time. It is not that he has the interest of Barbados at heart, but he is working and he is interested in the dollars he will earn. I would not for a single moment say that there are not times when a worthwhile campaign could be put over with new and worthwhile ideas and brought to bear on the promotion of tourism or for the promotion of the Island as a whole. However, we feel that spending $19,450 on such a campaign in this respect is a waste of time.

Mr. Chairman, there are so many things which ought to be queried in this matter. For instance, I remember having on an occasion to ask in this House a question about overseas telephone calls. Now, Item 49 provides $105,350 for telex messages, telex rental, cables and telegrams and overseas telephone calls.
4.20 p.m.

I know that if I were to ask if it includes telephone calls that the Prime Minister made when he was in Singapore, not to Government Headquarters or to the office of any Minister in this country, but to the home of a mistress, perhaps I would be asked to withdraw that. All of this would be put in the Estimates and we are saying that much is covered up in these Estimates. A lot is covered up which might never be explained no matter how members of the Opposition might try to find out, but the Government, assured of their numbers, may only laugh us to scorn, and after the Opposition finishes talking, the Resolutions will be passed. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, we still have a duty to do and we must do it.

Now the Prime Minister in giving his list of figures told us of $61,000 being put aside for contingencies. I think I am right in saying that he did promise to get a breakdown on what these contingencies are likely to cover, but I have not heard up to the moment. I am not saying it was not given, but I do not remember hearing it. Surely, Mr. Chairman, every member of the Opposition is entitled to hear something as regards this.

Mention was made about auditing and a sum is provided for the Auditor General to make an overseas visit, but at Item 16 there is an amount of $21,600, and the note merely tells us "To provide for overtime for the Non-Established Staff of the Overseas Missions." It would be a good thing, Mr. Chairman, if some idea could be given of the work that these Overseas Missions are called upon to perform during the course of a regular eight-hour day, and then one would better be able to gauge from this exactly what is likely to take place during the overtime hours, because the same Civil Servants of whom we have heard the Prime Minister say

everything except what is good about them are the people who in very great measure staff the various Embassies. We have heard him say as to the posting of many of them that he has no control, but behind all this it still boils down to the same Civil Servant who was not performing satisfactorily in the eyes of the Prime Minister who is now posted overseas to be equally as lax. When we find out what took place during the day and add to it what was done during overtime hours, we might be compelled to come to the conclusion that not half of a good day's work has been done, but nevertheless there is a sum voted for overtime and somebody must get the overtime money.

There is an item, I am sure, I had marked off where the Auditor General is to carry out overseas auditing this year. No money was provided last year.

Item 62 is to provide relief for destitute Barbadians abroad, and this includes payment of repatriation expenses. Now I wonder if we can be told, Mr. Chairman, how many Barbadians were repatriated last year and at what cost?
4.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, provision has been made, I remember for the auditing of the accounts of overseas missions this year. That in itself is a good feature but the amusing thing about that is that we have sort of centralised according to these Estimates, the accounting system and most of the money is to be held at this end. We appreciate that this is election year, so you will find that the visits overseas are not likely to reveal ever so much, since we have learnt that the method of obtaining money for expenditure has been drastically changed, and one must now wonder if the necessity arises, in view of the fact that it was not done last year, if the necessity arises for an overseas audit; audit of what?

I think, Mr.Chairman, I do not have to go into any details about these various motor cars that have been purchased, and I leave the matter at this point, I believe until a little later.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my contribution to this debate on External Affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear you.

Mr. BOLDEN: This is the second time in my life that anybody has ever said they cannot hear me. It is not my fault, I am trying very hard indeed, but if the sound equipment is not good enough, I am so sorry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear you now.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Under Item 65 there is an amount of $60,000, and the note reads: "To provide for the promotion of tourism in the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and the United States of America." We are dealing with External Affairs, Mr. Chairman, and if one would take a little time to look further into these Estimates, one will notice that there is an amount appearing lower down in the Estimates of $1,317,524 under the Tourist Board as a grant. I would like to find out what sort of promotion of tourism is being carried out by the Ministry of External Affairs, and I would like to find out if Tourism is now being operated under two Heads or two sections, because if it is, the amount of promotion which can be seen in the United States which one can attribute to the Ministry of External Affairs is sadly below any standard one can think of.

I would like to know who are the trained tourist officials operating in the Ministry; I would like to know if this Ministry has some co-ordinating system between here and the Tourist Board; I would like to know if the $60,000 is part of an amount which would have been granted to the Tourist Board out-and-out, because it seems that the two Heads seem to divide Tourism.

When we take Item 59 - Public Relations, we meet the note saying: "To meet the cost of advertising, newsletters, and authorised association membership fees." I am not worried about authorised association membership fees at all, I want to know what advertising is done, because I have commented before that I have been in the United States on two occasions within the last six months and I have seen no advertisement on Barbados anywhere at all. The country was fortunate in the last three weeks to have had a continuing article written in the New York Times, and that article, as I have been told, was written because certain remarks were made in New York about the Prime Minister and his possible continuation in politics, and it started out with three interviews, and I know members on the other side know what the interviews consisted of and who were the persons interviewed.

As for advertisements, when I queried it, all I have been told by certain members on the other side is that advertising is an expensive thing in the United States.

Newsletters. I have seen a copy of the Newsletters, a little document sent to certain selected persons in the United States with extracts taken from the Advocate and the Democrat because I recognised articles I had read before in the two newspapers.

What I would like to know is how much of this $19,450 will go towards advertising and I would like to know how much advertising the Government hopes to derive out of the sum allocated under that Head. I would also like to know whether the Newsletter is available to all Barbadians living in the countries mentioned - United Kingdom, Europe, wherever we have representation - how many Newsletters are published and how often they are published, because these things go to make up a colossal sum of $3.6 million for External Affairs.
4.40 p.m.

This is a big sum, and it is no small figure in any man's language. I remember full well that a White

Paper was issued by the hon. senior member for St. John in 1966. That White Paper said that Independence would cost this country $500,000. I think the full sum amounted to $1.5 million, and I was foremost in criticizing the Hon. Prime Minister. I said that the figure could not be correct, because at that time Trinidad had just obtained Independence two years before and had budgeted for $3.6 million. I said then that in the space of two or three years we would reach the same figure. A lot of harsh things were said, and it was mentioned that people were walking about like prophets of doom and they knew nothing about economics and figures. I gave examples of what these overseas Heads of Departments would cost.

You, Mr. Chairman, have said, and it is reported in the Official documents of this House, that you have been asking for six years to have the roads in St. Joseph done. It is reported that you said you did not know where the money was going to come from, but you wanted the roads done. There is $3.6 million spread around outside and the roads in St. Joseph are still the same as they were in 1961. Mellows Hill, Dark Hole and so on are still to be done, yet, in the United Kingdom one man is entitled to two homes. The Prime Minister told us this morning that it took him 17 minutes to drive from the High Commissioner's Office in London to his official residence. I agree with what the hon. junior member for the City says, because even a helicopter could not do it in that time. It takes you more than 17 minutes, Mr. Chairman, to drive from Parliament to St. Joseph. I wonder if the Hon. Prime Minister ever went to Thames Ditton. *(Asides)* Are you giving one man with a small family the privilege of living in a flat in London as well as a country residence? The official residence of the High Commissioner was bought at a colossal price with the money of the taxpayers in this country.

Mr. Chairman, there are people in St. Joseph who - *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I am being heckled. I am saying that he is allowing one man to live in two homes. I have been sending people in St. Joseph to the Peasants Loan Bank and to the Housing Authority to ask for money. An official phoned and told me to stop sending people up there because they had no money. I told him that it was not my business; the people were in need of housing, and that the Government should provide the money for necessary housing.

Mr. Chairman, I have in my possession a note that you gave one of your constituent members to take to certain officials at the Housing Authority to get assistance and it was turned down because there was no money. Here we have $3.6 million, and one man is enjoying the use of two homes. Can you or anybody else on the other side say that this is good administration? I say, no. I will join with my colleagues in saying that we cannot support this unnecessary waste of the taxpayers' money particularly in the case of the London residence and the flat.

Now, I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter that all that should be told has not been told. Look at the manner in which these Estimates have been submitted; things are lumped together in big amounts and so on. As I have said before, when the Opposition begins to hear whispers and start asking questions we may never get the answers, but let us remember that time will tell, and the time to tell is close at hand. I would like the Hon. Leader of the House to tell me something about this advertising.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: They say it is Item 65, and it deals with the tourist section of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want the Item.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am told that it is from 59 to 65.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot answer the Chair like that. You cannot tell me "I am told". Give me the number of the Item, or I will ask you to take your seat.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am told that the Items I am supposed to speak on are 59 to 65.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must make sure of it, or I will not allow you to speak.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Make sure about what, Mr. Chairman? Do you think you are talking to a boy in your yard?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, why do you not make him sit down?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member cannot tell me precisely what is the number of the Item so that I can see where it is, I will ask him to take his seat.
4.50 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I said that I was told that the matter deals with tourism, and I got up to make a reply on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you had said you had risen on a point of order.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You told me I must say what item I am speaking on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You did not say what you rose on.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Do you want to tell me what I must do?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet. The hon. member will take his seat. Has the hon. junior member for St. Joseph finished speaking?

Mr. BOLDEN: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, do you think you are talking to boys? I was trying to point out that there is an error in the note to the Item and this would help the hon. member. The money provided here for the promotion of tourism is in respect of tourism in the United Kingdom and Europe, and not Canada and the United States of America. I am trying to help the hon. member by pointing out that the tourist section has been closed down in the United Kingdom and is handled by the High Commission.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way, at Item 59 - Public Relations - the advertising relates to the advertising of vacant posts on behalf of the Service Commissions and other Government Departments. The newsletter is posted to all Barbadian nationals who are registered with the Overseas Missions and contains information on development in Barbados as well as other news items considered of interest. The breakdown is as follows:- Advertising $780; Newsletter $18,476; and Membership Fees $195.

In connection with Membership Fees, the point is that occasionally Heads of Missions in foreign countries are permitted by the Government to join authorised associations because they may find their membership on certain associations advantageous to the Government or to the country. In such cases we permit them to do so, and the Government of course pays the fees for their membership. For instance in Canada I believe we have permitted the High Commissioner to be a member of the Ottawa Board of Trade. These fees are usually quite small. I do not know if there is anything more the hon. member was enquiring into.

Mr. ADAMS: Since we are dealing with newsletters and authorised subscriptions, can the Leader of the House tell us if the Democrat Newspaper still goes to the Embassies abroad by diplomatic mail?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, some hon. member from that side asked me that about five weeks ago and I denied it absolutely. I issue the denial again.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am not certain what the Leader of the House is denying, whether it still does not go or what.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said five weeks ago that it never went. I still say so.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Minister said just now it does not go now by diplomatic mail.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. junior member for St. Thomas can be heard on external affairs and so can the senior member. I intend however to be short. I am not going to dwell upon the houses except to say that it is reported to me that it only takes 17 minutes to travel from North London to Thames Ditton. If you consider London Airport, Central London or past Hammersmith, Central London, it might take 17 minutes. It is a journey I have often made, and I would not be in prison, I would be in the mortuary if I had ever got from Central London.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but he has not quoted the item he is speaking on.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir. Item 50, Travelling. It is obviously absurd to be providing an ambassador with a country home as well as a flat in town, and as I have said before, that home on the Thames is one of the nicest homes in the Thames Valley. I have often sailed past it, it has a very pleasant island a little way up the river, an extremely pleasant island in summer, and you can sit down and watch the young ladies on the opposite bank of the Thames disporting themselves in the gardens of Hampton Court Palace, and anybody who does not want to live there really ought to have his head examined, doctor or no doctor. I am not saying it is the best place for an embassy residence, but it is a very pleasant place to live with a nice riverside garden and a little built up wall actually in the river and landing steps from what I can recall. But that is by the way.

Sir, I wish the hon. senior member for St. Andrew had not behaved a little bit like what he said he was not, a boy in the yard, and walked out of the House because he was angry with you, since I think he is the Minister who would have answered the question I am going to raise. I want to know exactly how authority is being divided between the Minister responsible for External Affairs and the Minister responsible for Tourism in respect of tourist promotion which is voted under this Head. Tourist promotion is not normally thought of as being well done by diplomats. You have diplomats who really are tourist promoters, and I am sure Mr. Chapman would not object to being so described in West Palm Beach. I will say something about that, but that will be Item 64. In these other places, certainly in the United Kingdom and Europe as far as I know the people are merely diplomats. I would feel happier about the whole aspect of tourist promotion in the United Kingdom if I did not hear a certain speech made by the Minister of External Affairs at Parris Hill during a recent by-election campaign, because it was inescapable for anyone who knew the history of the last five years of tourist promotion in the United Kingdom that one of the reasons for making the alteration in the system previously prevailing,

and the system now prevailing was dislike of the sister-in-law of the Leader of the Opposition who was connected with the tourist promotion in London.

In those days, Mr. Chairman, as I understood it, the Tourist Board's vote covered the cost of the tourist office in London. I now see that promotion of tourism, as far as I can understand from the intervention by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, is confined under Item 65 to the United Kingdom and Europe. I think I did hear him say that Canada and the United States of America are deleted; but this amount was not normally administered as a diplomatic expense. It may be convenient to deal with Item 64 as a diplomatic expense.

I believe that in the circumstances of West Palm Beach, what the Prime Minister has outlined may in fact be a good arrangement. I personally do not think that West Palm Beach is a place where Barbados can expect a large number of tourists because essentially we are competing areas, and it is certainly better as the Prime Minister said than Miami Beach. I do not think it is the best place but nonetheless I understand what he said and I appreciate it. The tourist promotion in the United Kingdom and Europe I cannot fathom at all, and if I am to go by what I have heard the Minister himself say, I can only assume that so hostile was the Minister of External Affairs to the former Barbadian who was the leading Barbadian in our tourist promotion effort in London that he took this opportunity of squeezing her out of a job and out of a position. I certainly have never heard a politician attack an individual who is not in any way a politician so unpleasantly as I heard that evening, and on seeing the item here makes me wonder about it in the circumstances, and if any Hon. Minister can explain how ministerial authority is divided between External Affairs and Tourism, in respect of spending, by this Item I am sure that hon. members on both sides will be grateful to hear it.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if I may complete what I was saying when I asked about the same Item 65, I have been looking at this question of the promotion of tourism. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew then said that Canada and the United States were not included in this sum of $60,000. If it is being said now that $60,000 is really to be spent between the United Kingdom and Europe, and as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has said, if this is going to be administered by a member of the diplomatic staff in England, it means that tourism is bound to suffer, and we have had a typical example of this last December. Mr. Chairman, we have a new airline flying down here from Europe, ICA, and there are current stories about that inaugural flight, when they were people who were coming to Barbados for the first time, and Barbadians coming home to spend the Christmas holiday were marooned at the airport for quite a long time, and they could not find any person connected with Barbados from the Embassy or the Tourist Board to give them assistance. It just shows you, Mr. Chairman, that the $60,000 which has been put in here for tourism cannot be effectively spent in respect of tourism. It cannot be, and I am at a loss to think which Officer in London will do tourism because he cannot go out and look for the tourist business which we are trying to develop in this country if he has got some other duty to do in his diplomatic post.

Nobody can say other than that tourism has now become a truly specialised field and therefore I would hope that there will be some explanation as to how this sum of $60,000 will be administered. I would like to know who is the Officer, or if there is any Officer designated to deal with tourism. I would like to know what his facts concerning Barbados as a whole are like, what information he is giving. It has now become so imperative to know if as a result of putting $60,000 in the Estimates for the Ministry of External Affairs to deal with tourism, if the number of persons who were travelling from the United Kingdom and Europe has diminished as a result of tourism being handled by a diplomat rather than by an expert in tourism.

Mr. SMITH left the Chair and Mr. HOPPIN resumed the Chair.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is one point I want to raise which is whether the flat is going to be used or given to one of the Officers in the Embassy.

The question that the sum of $3,243,361 under Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon'bles J. C. TUDOR; C. E. TALMA, N. W. BOXILL and G. G. FERGUSSON; Messrs. J. B. SPRINGER, W. R. LOWE and R. StC. WEEKES - 7.

NOES: Messrs. C. L. BOLDEN, W. C. B. HINDS, L. S. CRAIG, ELLIOTT MOTTLEY.....

Mr. ADAMS: *(On being called)* On a point of order, has the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas been called to vote in this debate? I can assure you that when I heard Your Honour call for a division I looked at the hon. junior member for St. Thomas and he was not in his seat, and on an earlier occasion I have tried to vote in this Hon. House and I was standing behind my chair and called out and Mr. Speaker directed that my vote be not taken.
5.10 p.m.

The hon. junior member for St. Thomas was not in his seat; he was talking to someone in the Public Gallery - a reprehensible practice at any time and more so during the course of a division.

NOES: Mr. ADAMS,

THE CLERK: Mr. Mottley.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, is the Clerk out of his mind? It is an insult to me and an insult to you. I was making a point of order, and he is calling on an hon. member to vote!

NOES: Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has been reported to me by the Clerks that 7 hon. members voted "Aye" and 7 hon. members voted "No". As Chairman, I cast my vote with the "Ayes".

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Prime Minister is in the House. If you want the Appropriation Bill carried you can do it in a different way. You cannot cast your vote for an appropriation; it must be cast to maintain the *status quo*. You have not even given your Ruling on the point of order which was made that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas should not be permitted to vote. Let the Prime Minister get up and move its recommittal. There is precedent for taking back a vote, because on the occasion when we voted in here as to what contribution hon. members should make from their salaries towards their pensions, the hon. junior member for St. John was in the Chair and he gave his casting vote three separate times. The Prime Minister will remember that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. There is no Rule in this House which says that the Chairman cannot vote for an appropriation but, in the peculiar circumstances, I beg to move that the Head be recommitted. I have consulted a former Speaker of this House, and his opinion coincides with mine. You are perfectly within your rights, and you can cast your vote either way. When we are in Committee of Supply it is the Chairman's duty to see that the Crown gets its supplies. In a new amendment, or in the amendment to a Bill the Chairman never exercises his vote when there is a tie except to maintain the *status quo*.

I beg to move that Head 24 be recommitted.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on the Motion.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, before you can recommit there must be something to recommit. Do not let people make a puppet out of you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have cast my vote with the "Ayes". There were 7 "Noes", and 7 "Ayes", and I declared the "Ayes" have it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on the Motion before the Committee. Since you are saying that it is 8 votes to 7, then it is not necessary to recommit the Head. Sir, with the most humble respect and with actual tears in my eyes, I am appealing to you not to put yourself in an embarrassing position of this nature. It is an accepted fact that an elected member of Parliament has the right to cast his vote in any direction, but I am drawing Your Honour's attention to the fact that it is the duty of the Chair to protect the minority group and retain the *status quo*. Inasmuch, Mr. Chairman, as you have just said that the voting was 8 to 7, you will recall that the Clerk reported to you 7 "Ayes" and 7 "Noes". You said that you were casting your vote with the "Ayes". I did not hear the Clerk call on you to vote. You might have said "Aye", but I would not have known whether something had bitten you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said that as Chairman I cast my vote with the "Ayes". I am a member of this House and I am entitled to vote.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Motion before the Committee is that Head 24 be recommitted. The Committee now has to consider that matter, and what the hon. senior member for St. James is saying does not make any sense to me, because at any time any member of the House can make a Motion for the recommittal of something.
5.20 p.m.

There is absolutely no status quo involved in this particular instance. The only thing a presiding officer does when he does cast his vote other than in accordance with the *status quo*, is that he is asked by innumerable Parliamentary precedents to state his reasons. It is as simple as that.

The question that Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs – be recommitted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 24 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the main reason why I was asking for the recommittal of this Head was that I was within the precincts and I was quite surprised that the question was put. I was waiting to come in, but I was getting some information to give some replies. I am the Minister responsible and no Government Minister, in my opinion, had replied.

First in respect of advertisements, I want to point out that these Overseas Missions are informed from time to time by the Chief Personnel Officer that there are vacancies in various branches of the Government Service, and they then insert advertisements in such periodicals as they think may reach the personnel overseas who are qualified enough that there are vacancies in the Barbados Government service. These are what the advertisements are mainly about.

I think the Leader of the House answered the question about newspapers going by diplomatic bags. The newspapers which are bought by Missions go by ordinary airmail. They get airmail subscriptions, so they are kept up to date with all the newspapers, and any other newspapers such as the one referred to are sent by the newspaper people themselves via a gentleman called Mr. Ian Gittens who is now run-

ning a freight service which is paid for not by the Barbados Government. I know this for a fact because I have the latest bill to pay Mr. Gittens as a member of the Editorial Board. They have never, and I would never condone or accept that any newspaper, whatever the newspaper may be, should be sent by any diplomatic bag. We have to pay for the diplomatic bag and pay a lot of money, and we cannot even afford to send the ordinary newspapers, that Missions buy, by diplomatic bags, because it would cost too much money by the safe hand of the pilot.

In so far as the tourist promotion in London and Europe is concerned, there is an officer there who is the tourist officer. We have an arrangement with an agency down in the back of Park Lane; it was not satisfactory and when we opened our own Mission in London, not having our own Mission before, it was decided not for any personal reasons despite what people may think - and I do not really want to go into that - that we should try to integrate the tourist promotion in the office in London. New York was a much bigger market and the Tourist Board had a specialised office there and in Toronto, and this is how it came about. *(Asides)* It was not really intended for Canada and the United States of America because we have offices there. What has been happening is that the High Commissioner himself and the Tourist Officer have been interviewing people and answering questions. When the High Commissioner goes to present his credentials in Brussels, he also writes to me a report and to the Minister of Tourism and says that he took the opportunity to talk to airlines and so on. That is the whole picture. If there are any other questions which I omitted, I will be glad to answer them.

The question that the sum of $3,243,361 under Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS;

NOES: Mr. ADAMS;

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: *(on being called)* Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas being called on to vote because he was not in here. I would like to know from the Clerk if he called on the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas has voted.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I cannot vote then unless you rescind that. He was not in the Chamber when the question was put.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you sat when I made a point of order that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was not to vote and did not even give it any consideration, and the Clerk did not even take me on. The Clerk ruled by calling upon the hon. senior member for Christ Church to vote. Now that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has made a similar objection, you are stopping the proceedings to deal with him and the Clerk will not carry on. Is there one rule for the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and another for the hon. junior member? I can behave just as badly as him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The vote of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was taken on the last occasion as well as on this occasion as the Clerk has told me.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to your attention that you cannot record a vote for the hon. senior member for St. Thomas because when the question was put, the hon. member was not within the precincts of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: According to Standing Order 37(4) the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was present in the House.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am saying he was not present. I am nothing to do with any rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But he was present.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not accepting that, and it is dishonest for anybody on the floor of this House to say that the hon. member was in here when the question was put.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you telling me that I am dishonest, because I said he was present?

5.30 p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am putting a point to you that a mistake has been made; this has affected the House and therefore I have the the right to speak on it. I am telling you that the senior member for St. Thomas was outside when you put the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should cover your head and listen to the Chair.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I understand that, but I can guide the Chair if I see the Chair is making a mistake.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that the senior member for St. Thomas was present in the House as rule 37(4) states. I have given a ruling and I do not want you to question my ruling.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am bringing something to your attention. It is my duty as a member of this Chamber to bring anything to your attention that I see is not going right; when you put the question the senior member for St. Thomas was not in the precincts of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given a ruling that he was present in the House.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not voting if you are going to accept that. I am not casting any vote because I pointed out an irregularity to the Chairman and he has not accepted it. It seems to me that the lawyers want to dominate in here too much.

AYES: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Messrs. J. B. SPRINGER, R.St.C. WEEKES, W. R. LOWE and L. E. SMITH - 6.

NOES: Mr. CRAIG,.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the senior member for St. James was not in here.

NOES: Messrs. C. L. BOLDEN, W. C. B. HINDS, ELLIOTT MOTTLEY and H. B. St. JOHN.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: *(on being called.)* I do not understand for what I am to vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A division has been called for on Head 24 - Ministry of External Affairs - for the appropriation of $3,243,361.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it was stated that this would cost $500,000 and it is now $3.6 million. It was originally stated in 1966 that it would not exceed $500,000, and therefore my vote would have to be NO.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has been reported that nine members voted Aye, six members voted No and one member abstained.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it does not really affect the voting, but if you look at Order 37 Rule 7 it states: "When a member's name is called by the Clerk after a division, the member shall answer either by voting for the 'Ayes' or for the 'Noes'. A member shall not answer in a manner inconsistent with any opinion which he may have expressed when the voices were taken collectively." So if he said when the vote was called that he was voting Aye his vote has got to be recorded as Aye.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a case of a member not voting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, before you rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Nine hon. members voted Aye, seven hon. members voted No, and I have instructed the Clerk to take the junior member for St. Thomas' vote as No.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, that would be inconsistent with the way he expressed his opinion when the vote was taken collectively.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Therefore I declare the Ayes have it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am hearing the hon. junior member for St. Thomas on a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The whole issue went wrong because when the question was put, one member on that side voted "No" and called for a division, and when the vote was taken all the other members voted "No", which was wrong, they should have voted "Aye" because there was only one member who voted against it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already given a ruling on that.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 25 – Ministry of Home Affairs – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $905,870 under Head 25 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
5.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the sum of $905,870 be appropriated under this Head. Hon. members in favour will please say "Aye", and hon. members against will please say "No".

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I would like to know what is before the House. *(Asides)*

Mr. HINDS rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members take their seats.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The Leader of the House moved that the sum of $905,870 be appropriated under Head 25 and it was seconded. No member from the Government benches nor from the Opposition benches got on their feet, and while I was putting the question I was interrupted. *(Asides)* Will the senior member for Bridgetown please close his mouth. I do not want to hear him, or anyone else now. I will ask any hon. member to leave whoever he is, if this type of behaviour continues.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I believe the House only has 45 minutes left this afternoon. Home Affairs is obviously on important Head. Even if by some mischance, in parenthesis, Sir, I would say that the position of the Chairman's Chair sometimes prevents him from seeing when hon. members get up. I am not saying that it is the Chairman's fault. Very often when the senior mem-

ber for St. Joseph is in the Chair, hon. members on this side have to get up and talk before he sees them sometimes. I think the angle of the Chair prevents him from seeing when hon. members stand up. Suppose the Head was passed without debate. We could always ask that the Head be recommitted. There would be arguments, and we would find ourselves occupying the balance of time today and most of tomorrow on procedural matters when we could well deal with the matter now. I would urge the Leader of the House to take the vote and let it be recommitted. The technicalities demand it. If hon. members indicate their desire to talk on it, then let all of them talk and see if we can get away by 6.30 p.m. We might be able to say all that we have to say on Home Affairs and get away by that time. If we are going to get up here arguing, I am sure that more time will be consumed on procedural technicalities than on the actual debate.

When Your Honour began to put the question, I am sure Your Honour did not see the hon. member on his feet. It must be remembered that the House is not the same as it was when we were around a horseshoe table, and it was possible to see all hon. members from a focal point in all directions. I appeal to hon. members to let us spend the time doing this Head. The Head is going to be passed and that is sure.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the "Shadow Minister of Finance". I think the members of this House have forgotten that we are in here to transact the people's business and not to pick on small points of procedure, and challenge the authority of the Chair to show that we have some acquaintance with procedural matters. I would enjoin hon. members to try and get on with the people's business of Barbados. If you have any questions to ask, the Ministers will answer them.

I really rose to make a Statement as a Minister on something in a Head which has already been passed by the House. I am not reflecting on the vote, but I want to give an example of something which I did not have the illustration for yesterday when we were dealing with contingencies. I tried to make an analysis of the occasions on which there was doubt as to the appropriate vote under which to pay for a particular item of public expenditure, and the Contingencies Vote is what we put in to take care of this.

Now, the Contingencies Vote in proportion to our Budget is .037% of the total projected Government expenditure for this year. In the Public Works Department on every project they have a 15% Contingency Vote, so that if a project costs $1 million they have $150,000. We are asking for $50,000 to take care of $131 million instead of $1 million.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on what is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister of Finance is explaining a point in connection with contingencies.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, hon. members will be very interested in this case which only cropped up in my office at 6.30 this morning. It is a case of repatriating a family.

5.50 p.m.

Now we have a vote for repatriation of personnel. The people have not arrived here. This is going to be the first charge on next year's vote if I approve it, and it is a very interesting illustration because it will take care of more than half of the appropriation we had in the Estimates for last year, and in this case the Ministry of External Affairs recommended that in the circumstances of the case the Barbados Government should advance the cost of passages and incidental expenses from Cuba to Barbados for the four children of Josephine Maxwell amounting to $2,520. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Born where?) In Cuba; but these people are denied social security and everything like that by the Castro Government, and are treated like dirt after their grandparents worked in the sugar plantations. This is not a political accusation against Castro; these are the facts of life.

Now they really do not qualify for repatriation because they were not born in Barbados, but old Mrs. Josephine Maxwell - no relative of my Personal Aide, the Christ Church Maxwell and not the St. Philip Maxwell - was born in Barbados. She will not come back without her grand children; she says she is not going to leave her grandchildren to be exposed to destitution in Cuba; so we have got the nephews in Christ Church to guarantee repayment of a loan of $2,520 to the Barbados Government, and we have recommended that Mr. George Eliazar Maxwell should enter into a legal undertaking to repay to the Government the amount advanced, the first payment to be made immediately after return of the relatives.

Now that was one hat I had on; but the Ministry of Finance has advised that Head 24 Item 62 - Repatriation of Barbadians from Cuba - is not the proper item from which may be advanced the amount of money necessary to bring the four Maxwell children to Barbados, but has no objection to the use of Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office (1) - Item 15 Contingencies for the purpose. I only quoted this to show you I was not really talking idly yesterday. If we had $5,000 in the vote, the Maxwells would have had 52 per cent of it by the 3rd April, and therefore when you consider that you give the Ministry of Communications and Works in most of their costings 15 per cent, and in a $1 million project, say, the building of a school or something like that they would have contingencies of $150,000, why can't we in the House vote $50.000, .037 per cent in a budget of $132 million?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I just want to ask a question arising from what the Prime Minister has said. He said that it could not be done under Head 24 Item 62 for distressed Barbadians abroad.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is repatriation of people who were born in Barbados, but the Maxwell children are Cuban citizens. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: What are their ages?) They are 7,17, 19 and 22. They can work when they come back here. The Ministry of Home Affairs said they had no objection in the peculiar circumstances, because I think they are entitled to be registered as Barbadian citizens when they get back here.

Mr. St. JOHN: Speaking under that, I am very glad for this opportunity to speak. There are a number of items that I am speaking on.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to rise, but I cannot understand what the Chairman is doing.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am speaking on Item 28 - Registration of Electors and preparation of identity cards. This question of identification cards and the register is one field that I think we should approach in a bi-partisan manner. According to the statistical information available to me, I understand that the latest census count is that we have approximately 238,000 people. I understand that the last register as published had 130,000 people, and that six more thousand have gone on in the latest registration; so you have according to that 136,000 people. This is a remarkable statistic because I know of nowhere, certainly not in the Caribbean area, in which one has between 18 and above more than 50 per cent of the total population on the register. Now I know that in the St. Joseph by-election circulars were sent to each voter and the returns from the Post Office certified that there were some 600 people who were either dead, out of the Island or had moved from the district.

Mr. ADAMS: Although, on a point of order, at St. Elizabeth School at least two persons who were reported dead by the Post Office voted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN: The position is quite clear. There seems to be a certain amount of double counting on the register. I understand that a master list has been prepared and people have moved from where they were on the historical register which is the base document to other areas; so their names would be up twice.

We come now to the question of identification cards. I understand that up to date approximately 92,000 people have taken photographs. Even if this register is 10 per cent out, that would give us about 125,000 people. Taking 92,000 from that there would still be over 30,000 who are not eligible to vote; This is definitely a serious amount. One of the things that one must take into consideration with the photographing is that the public did not take on to it in the beginning as fast, but I am sure that in the last year efforts were made by the Public to comply with it, but there are a few problems that arise. One is that there is a relatively slow turn around because of the fact that for the number of people who go to the centres, there is only one person who has to take down the names before you can get in to the photographers. You will remember that when people went around registering on the last occasion, they gave everybody a slip. It is remarkable the number of people who kept that. When they go they get fed up and feel that if they have their number they should get ahead of the line. That causes trouble.

I see the time has been extended until Saturday. I know this is a Ministry of Home Affairs matter and there is nobody from that Ministry in here, but it is also a matter that affects all of us. Now that the fever is on, my theory is that you should continue it and let the people get as many identification cards as possible. If you go downstairs in the office of the Leader of the Opposition which we freely consented to give and in Independence Square you will see that the fever is on, and if people are in this mind now, let them go ahead. We also have the problem of some people who have taken their photographs long ago but have not got them as yet. I have spoken to the Chief Registering Officer, and I gather that it is a question of processing time up there for them to trace them. Do not let us have the idea that we can cut off this thing now and say that they were not in it within the deadline and therefore they are not getting into it now.

6.00 p.m.

Do not let us get the idea that we can cut off this now and say that because you did not meet the deadline you cannot be counted. I would like to see a proper register, there must be some discrepancy in that register, duplication must have taken place, and I think we should have a cool, calm and collective look at it, and I do urge that the period of time be extended now that the fever is on to get at least 120,000 people registered. Now that the fever is on, the people will continue.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I agree with what the Leader of the Opposition has said, but I go a little further. It is not merely a matter of taking photographs, it is a matter that even the last three to four weeks people have been turning up to register, and this has been the delay caused because one person is trying to register, another is trying to look out for duplication, and the people are idling there all the time. Every member in this House can speak for his constituency that the people are going and asking to be registered, not so much to take the photographs now. It would be a very good idea to carry on the taking of photographs at Independence Square, but I urge those responsible in the Ministry of Home Affairs that what is really necessary is the registration of people. There are hundreds and hundreds of people who want to be registered.

Another thing, please instruct people in the law. As I understand it, if a person is going to be 18 years old in April and the election is going to be in November, why tell them they cannot register? This

is wrong because they can register. In my view, Sir, the whole thing is that you should have a proper list and you should spend a little more money. This is election year, register the people now; this is the time for registering them.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a number of Items on which I want to speak, but I would like to deal with this one first. I want to start off by paying tribute to what over the last five years under more than one Head I have come to consider one of the hardest working and most decent departments of the Barbados Civil Service that I have ever seen or of most other Services with which I have had dealings, and that is the staff at Verona, Bank Hall, under the two Heads, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Smith. I am sure no politician of any hue can complain of the way the department has done its work.

In 1966, due to the fact that the Government wished to conceal that it has been made a condition of Independence that we have an election before, the exercise of registering the electors came at that stage, a late stage, that it would be impossible to register more than 100,000. I know that intensive work has gone on, a more considered approach has been given to the electoral law, and we are now registering about 140,000 persons which I consider would be high in old countries like France or Great Britain or even the United States, far less Barbados. A high figure, because the normal proportion of persons under the age of 21 in these parts is nearly always over 50; it has been for a number of years over 50. In most of the countries of Central America you will find that half the population is over 15, in Grenada half the population is under 15, and so where in Barbados you have 140,000 people out of 240,000 who are over the age of 18, I am surprised to find so many adults and certainly I am surprised to find them all on the electoral register.

I know that a lot of things are being canvassed by the Ministry of Home Affairs; some of them may be considered politically conditioned, some of them I would object to, I would object myself to the compulsory carrying of an identity card if it meant that a policeman could stop me in the street and ask me for it. I am not against the compulsory registration of electors. In Britain this is brought about by making it an offence for any head of a household not to register the people who live in that house; every householder in Britain is obliged by law to make a return of any Commonwealth citizens over the age of 21 who are qualified by residence in that particular house to vote at that particular election, and the electoral list is intended, as every adult in British elections would know, the electoral list is valuable for many purposes, the votes are identified not only by the streets in which they live but by their eligibility for jury service even, and I would be glad to see such information contained in our electoral lists, but I believe that there should be provision by law which would allow continuous registration. In other words, for a permanent division of the register to be written into the law so that you would not have to go on coming to the House of Assembly for a Registration of Electors Special Provisions Act, a Validation of the Register Act and so on, a permanent Act should be on the Statute Book saying that the electoral register will be revised in "X" months and in "X" months. Obviously you want to have an up to date electoral register say around November, because that is the time most elections happen in Barbados, and at some other time which is convenient for the staff. Have this on a permanent basis, so that anybody, who is not registered all he has to do is to go to his local registration officer at any time, sign the registration forms, be given a slip to take to a permanent photographing centre and he will know that when the next electoral register comes out his name will be on it.

I do not know what the experiences of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy and the hon. senior member for St. John were when they first went to Britain, but when I first went there I was interested in politics and I felt there was going to be an election soon, and although I got there in the month of September, 1951, I voted in the general election of that year in Britain. It was when the Conservatives got in, but not with the assistance of my vote. I worked a great deal harder tramping the streets with the Labour Party - you can ask other members of your Party in Parliament - perhaps than any other hon. member has ever had to work in these parts. Until you walk the streets of England on a cold October afternoon begging people to vote for you from early morning until dark, you do not know what canvassing is, but that is only by the way. This is obviously what is called for in Barbados.

I want to say something about the question of identity cards. I have always thought that they were a waste of time to start off with, but I am coming around to the view that it is not a bad idea to have an identity card, but I do not believe that unless you have a long series of years in which people have had an opportunity to have their pictures taken, because we are still in a community that is not ID cards conscious, that you can have elections and say that you can only vote with an identity card. I do not know if it is in the minds of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Chief Registering Officer that there is to be a crisis atmosphere before people will force themselves out of their apathy and go and have their pictures taken; certainly the crisis atmosphere has filled the House of Assembly yard everyday for the last four days.

6.10 p.m.

If there is a psychological reason behind the pressure I appreciate it because it is a good idea to have pictures taken. I know that in the recent by-election certain people attended the polls with every means of identification available - people with passports - and they heard discussions in the queue; they saw people showing their Identity Cards, and in order to save themselves embarrassment they turned away. I know of these cases. I know at one station where a last minute recruit was employed and the

instructions were not very clear to him. I believe that for a time the people who had a means of identification but not an Identity Card were turned away.

Now, Sir, I want to draw Section 42 of the Constitution of Barbados to the attention of hon. members. It says:

"Any law providing for the election of members to the House of Assembly shall -

(a) Contain provisions for the division of Barbados into constituencies;

(b) Contain provisions designed to ensure that so far as is practical any person entitled to vote at an election of members of the House of Assembly shall have a reasonable opportunity of so voting; and

(c) Provisions relating to the identification of electors designed to ensure that so far as is practical no person should vote at the election of a member of the House of Assembly who is not entitled to vote.."

That is there to deal with the law relating to identity.

Sir, I am sure that on reading Section 42, it will be held that (c) has to be read with (d), and that provision for the identification of electors will have to be such as still to afford all qualified persons a reasonable opportunity of so voting. Though it may be necessary at this time to be as stringent as possible about Identity Cards, I invite the Government not to pass any law or restriction unless they find that over 95% or a figure of that order is equipped with Identity Cards not to restrict the identification of persons at the polls in such a way as to stop them from voting. If a law is passed and you have 80% or less of the electorate equipped with Identity Cards, you will make it practically imperative for the law to be challenged on the grounds that it prevents a portion of the electorate from having a reasonable opportunity to vote. Until the Government is prepared to carry a Mobile Camera Unit to every street and indeed every house in Barbados, the Government cannot say that they have given the electorate a reasonable opportunity of voting, if they say that you cannot vote without an Identity Card. You must have a photographed electorate, if you are going to say that a photograph is necessary before you can vote.

Mr. Chairman, there are obviously cases where there are better means of identity than an Identity Card. In my view a passport is a better means of identity than an Identity Card. I do not know whether it is true, but I have heard it said that there is at least one person with two Identity Cards. The way the pictures are taken you can give the Identity Card to somebody else. You can give the Identity Card to somebody else and the officer may not be able to recognise from that small picture the difference between the two people, but passport pictures are a proper size and very few people have two passports - certainly not two Barbados passports; a good few may have British and Barbados passports or whatever the case may be. I have never heard of anybody having two current Barbados passports. *(Asides)* Maybe for a visit to Israel and a visit to Arab countries for which I have never had any dealings in which two Barbados passports are to be held simultaneously. I hope the hon. member who says that he has two Barbados passports is aware of the provision of the law whereby you have to hand in all passports before you can get a new one.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I can explain things to the hon. member. As a Minister of Government I carry a Diplomatic passport, and as a private citizen a passport that is not a Diplomatic passport.

Mr. ADAMS: A sound point, Sir. I was forgetting that the hon. member is a Minister of Government and he is so benigned today on the whole. As I was saying, Sir, while I appreciate that everything psychologically should be done - every psychological bludgeon that you can employ to get the people to have their pictures taken has to be used. You will now have to supplement that by sending out mobile vans to every infirmary where people are unable to get around. I do not see why one cannot be sent to Harrison College during the lunch hour in an effort to encourage the 18-year olds to have their pictures taken. I do not see why, if the 15-year olds are registered in order to have their names brought on at birthday time, you cannot take pictures of 15-year olds for them to hold until they are 18, because the pictures are not going to get any more out of date between 15 and 18 than, say, between 18 and 30. At all of these locations you must make every endeavour to have pictures taken.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that when the Government finds that not an overwhelming mass of the electorate is registered that they are going to insist that you must have the photograph before you vote. I would ask all hon. members to recall that in the two by-elections since photography, the number of photographs is, I think, within 50 or 80% of the number of voters, and that the two practically correspond at the two by-elections where we have had an opportunity of testing it. It is clear, therefore, that only a very small number of people with Identity Cards do not vote and only a very small number of people without Identity Cards do. Those numbers are essentially small. Identity Card equals a vote, and I would ask the Government to bear this in mind.

Now, I just want to deal very briefly with this deadline. Still being very bi-partisan, but coming into something more controversial, perhaps the Government is trying to give the impression of an election at an early stage by setting such an early deadline. I admire the psychological pressures which the Prime Minister is exerting not only on the electorate, but on the Opposition. If there is not

going to be an election in June or July, it surely is madness to close the photography on 15th March. If you have in mind a later date, then you must try to re-open the photography later.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, let me give the hon. member some information which I managed to secure while he was speaking. There are 21 centres in operation. I should like to take credit for this; the Prime Minister gets the blame for everything, but the idea of using the vans was my idea. As a matter of fact, it has given me a very good insight into mass communication. If you study the map of Barbados, you will see that all the roads converge on Bridgetown like spokes in a wheel.
6.20 p.m.

It is much easier therefore to get people who are, say, in the Baltic or Glenburnie to photograph in St. John than, say, at St. John's Mixed School. It is psychological. If they are in town shopping and they have a little time, they are dressed up and this is a main consideration. I am saying that the officers are doing a good job. We are hoping to establish a permanent office and I have always been for a permanent register, and as a result of that, when we first went through this exercise under the new system of photographing, everybody from 15 years up that they could get hold of was registered and they move up automatically on to the register which now has 130,562. We must remember that although normally about 50 per cent of the population would be people of twenty-one years and over, when you introduce the 18 year old the percentage goes up. I said a couple of days ago that the census disclosed 232,000 people approximately instead of 250,000 as being ordinarily resident in Barbados; so the 130,000 is much more than 50 per cent. We can attribute this to the enlistment of the 18 year olds. So there are really two registers. There is a register which includes the fifteen year olds, and then they move on to the main register automatically when they become 18 years. I do not agree that you should photograph from fifteen; I think you should send out notices - administratively it would be a lot easier - when they approach their eighteenth birthday and tell them to come in and be photographed. To this 130,562 we have added on 6,500 since the time has been extended. 92,000 persons have been photographed, but 8,000 persons are out of the Island; so you have to subtract 8,000 from 130,562, and then add back on 6,500. In other words, that is approximately the number of persons who would be here now entitled to vote.

Mr. Chairman, the law requires that Barbadians who are absent from the Island must remain on the register once they are registered for a period, because they can come back and vote at any time. We do not have any system of overseas voting at the moment. *(Asides)* There is nothing to prevent the House of Assembly from passing a law to make that possible. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it your intention?) I do not declare my intention in advance. There is nothing to prevent the Legislature from introducing a system whereby people, who are overseas and who are on the register, can exercise their vote. I really do not agree with registering any people overseas. It is very difficult because if you have proportional representation, this can work, but it cannot work with single member constituencies; it would lead to confusion. You need therefore have no fear about that, but we must look closely to see whether people who are away on vacation, at University, on courses or working for Government overseas should not have the right to go to the Embassy and register to vote provided they were on the register before they went away. I am not merely saying what kind of law we are bringing in, but I am expressing my personal belief first that registration of Barbadians overseas is impractical except under a system of proportional representation which we do not have, and we at this moment on both sides of the House do not think it is the best form of representation for Barbados. The question of allowing people who are overseas and who are on the register to vote is a different thing which we may have to look at. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, there are 8,000 on the register away overseas. We have 62,000 Barbadians in England. Any day there is a Test Match on in England, the London Transport would have to grind to a halt; and they can close down half the hospitals in London too.

The only other thing I would like to mention is this: I am going to discuss with the Minister of Home Affairs the question of extending the time. He has extended two or three times already, and people only wait until the last going down to think you are serious and you are not making sport, and it appears to me that we are a kind of crisis community and that we only respond to emergencies and crises. You get Barbadians to rally together in a crisis, but no other time. I think there is nothing in the law as far as I know to prevent the time from being extended, but the question of extention is a practical problem, the problem of at what stage do we begin processing all these photographs and getting them posted out to people and getting your register in order and tidied up. We cannot wait indefinitely until the last day before nomination, but we are seriously thinking when we come down with the new Representation of the People Bill that it will make provision for a permanent register. There will be a permanent office and a permanent register, and right up to two weeks or the day before nomination say, once you get on the register at that time, you will be entitled to vote.

Mr. Chairman, this is a system that I had projected about 5 1/2 years ago. Now on the question of photographing, I do not think it is the intention of the Ministry of Home Affairs to insist that you cannot vote if you do not have your photograph in any election held within the next two years, because as the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has pointed out, it is going to take a period of years before you get people conscious of the value of having an Identity Card. Hon. members will remember that the last time, what the Government said was to produce

your identity card or some satisfactory means of identification such as driver's licence, passport and so on, and I think probably we will have to do that this time. I would not like this to be noised abroad because it may discourage people from going to get photographed. I think the momentum and the fever has caught on and if we can give them a few more days, people will go and get registered. *(Asides)* The twenty-one stations are open now.

Mr. St. JOHN: Now there is only one point about proving the usefulness of these cards. It is a fact that the Banks up to now and even the Treasury do not accept identification by identity cards. That is very strange. They are sending back people and telling them to bring somebody. I will tell you this. Ex-Police Magistrate Mr. Edwards had to ring me up one day and he told me that all the officers in there would not know him, but he said he told them he had worked in that very room for more years than they were born, but they merely said he had to go and get somebody to identify him. This is a question of people not understanding the functioning of these things. An identification card should be accepted generally around by Government Departments and by the Banks in Broad Street. They do not accept them either. They are still ringing up people and saying that so-and-so says he knows you, do you know him? I am quite satisfied about the provision of the identity cards and I hope more and more will be taken.

6.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on the question of the Identity cards, I know of an instance where about four persons went to have their photographs taken at the same time, and after the identity cards were returned to them, it was not until after one person presented his card at a bank that it was realised that the wrong photograph was on the wrong card, so this may be the reason for the banks refusing to accept these cards. There is also the point that persons who had their photographs taken, and I know of a particular instance where as soon as the next morning the photographer called up the gentleman and said that there was no film in the camera and therefore no picture was taken. If you are going to say that persons cannot vote without the identity cards, I would like to know what provision will be made for errors which occur on the part of the operators and not on the persons who went there. There are cases where the Registration Office has sent out slips which stated that the photographs did not appear clearly and asked the persons to return to the camera centre. These are not faults of the people who went to get their photographs taken, these are faults of the operator of the camera, and therefore provision should be made for these people. In the case of a gentleman who went along with his wife, they were told that there was no film in the camera and they would have to come back, but he is an old gentleman who cannot go out of the house as often as he would like, he goes when he feels fit enough to go, so I cannot see how you can expect to deprive this man of casting his vote through no fault of his own.

Parks and Beaches. The Hon. Minister of Health will remember that a few years ago the Jaycees met him and asked that the life saving stations be taken over, and at that time it was stated that there would be a Parks and Beaches Commission which would look after these things. I know that there is an agreement which I believe was never fairly honoured or was not clearly understood, but the first station which was set up was set up at Accra, and the agreement was that the Government would share half the cost of the life saving stations. Up to a year ago Government was still paying the cost of half of one, and I believe that an organisation like the Jaycees - bearing in mind that I am not defending the Jaycees in any way, I am only talking about a principle - but an organisation like that which exists as a leadership training organisation to begin something which is worthwhile for a community with the hope that Government will take it over. I am hoping that now that the Parks and Beaches Commission has been established that the Government will see fit to take over the full operation of the life saving stations.

About two to three years ago a question was asked in this Chamber by the hon. senior member for St. James about life saving facilities after there was a death in the St. Lawrence area, and I know that a letter went out from a Government Department asking the Jaycees to increase the number of stations and lifeguards, and they would release more money from the Bingo fund to pay for these. At that time I was a member of the Jaycees and objected strongly, because what Government was doing was asking a voluntary organisation to support things which should be started by Government, and at that very time 60% of the funds from the Bingo operation was being poured into the Stadium, and I objected on the ground that men who give of their free time to community services and who pay to belong to such an organisation should not then have to contribute to finance the organisation, no matter how it is derived, to further Government business.

The same thing happened with King George V Memorial Park. I see under one of the Heads the question of the purchase of a lawn mower at Item 37. Going through the Estimates I have seen quite a lot of lawn mowers being purchased, but there is also a very expensive lawn mower which was bought by the Jaycees for King George V Park at a time when there was a plan for King George V Park, when it was being administered by the Southern District Council. That lawn mower was bought for something in the vicinity of $3,000 or $4,000, it was a big lawn mower and it was handed over to the Sports Department about two years later because it was never put into operation in King George V Park, because when the plans were drawn up in respect of what the Jaycees had in view, they wanted to put in an aviary but objection was taken. They wanted to put back a fence around the playing area in the Park, but Government came in and said that they wanted structural alterations to the Park house. I am hoping that the Parks and Beaches Commission will take over what are truly Park and Beaches, and beaches in particular, take over the full lifeguard service and improve it and allow the Jaycees as a service organisation to begin to look for other projects. I hope this happens.

When we come to beaches, the hon. junior member for St. Michael is well aware of a stuff bin which has existed in Land's End for the last 20 years approximately on the corner of the beach. I forgot that the Leader of the House would know this too, it provides an opportunity for keeping that beach in the filthiest condition one can ever imagine. All the people from Parris Gap and all the surrounding areas bring everything from tamarind tree leaves, pieces of old houses, old tins, dead pigs and dead dogs and heap them up right on the beach and in the road. I have asked time and time again that something be done about that beach; at some stage or other it is going to create a terrible situation. There are times when the area stinks; you have a little river which runs below, Indian River, and when there is no high tide it is breeding ground for mosquitoes, and whenever I ask about that, I am told that there is going to be a Parks and Beaches Commission which will look after these things.
6.40 p.m.

The Parks and Beaches Commission is now in existence, and I have not yet seen anything done. I should like the Parks and Beaches Commission to go and have a look at things in Lands' End. *(Asides)* The Hon. Minister wants to know what I am doing down there. I am a Barbadian. The Leader of the House lives in that area, but I would not expect him to get up and say that the mosquitoes bite him. I know that the mosquitoes have bitten me down there. I should like the Parks and Beaches Commission to go down there now and they will find that the stuff is not in the stuff bins. They will find that any stuff that is not in the stuff bins is over in a corner on the beach. These are things that should be dealt with now. The stuff presents a very unsightly situation; it creates a situation where it can breed flies, mosquitoes and so on. I should hope that the Parks and Beaches Commission would do something about that particular beach.

Mr. Chairman, I should also like the Parks and Beaches Commission to put hastily a Life Guard on the St. Joseph / St. Andrew stretch of the East Coast Road. There are varying tides down there at various times. The junior member for St. Thomas spoke about Peace Corps Officers. He does not agree with them, and I do not agree with them. Quite recently in St. Joseph I noticed the shaggiest bunch of them - some long hair, barefooted, nasty-looking people. If any Barbadian looking like them walked about looking for a house to rent, nobody would have rented him a house. I do not know whether these people are working or not, but I am sure the Leader of the House saw them down there during the last election campaign. I do not know if they are working, but they are out in the sea morning, noon and night skiing on the Bathsheba side as well as on the Cattle Wash side. I should hope that the Parks and Beaches Commission would put an officer there with powers to stop those people from going into the sea at the wrong time. When anybody loses his life in the sea, you will hear outside that the waters around Barbados are dangerous. The people outside of Barbados will not realise that foolish people come here, they look at what appears to be a beautiful surf and go out surfing at the wrong time. I should hope that all of these things would be brought to the attention of the Parks and Beaches Commission so that we may have an improved community.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move an amendment to that Motion. Let it be ten o'clock.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Make it 9.30 a.m. *(Asides)*

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, everybody has to do a certain amount of accounting on a Friday. The hon. member does not like to give out money. He has no responsibility to give out money to anybody, but other people have responsibility to give out money to others.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member says that I do not like to give out money. That is not fair to me. I am not a lawyer; I do not work for big money, when anybody commits murder or anything like that. I would be glad to pay out money, but I do not have it. The hon. member should not make such statements about me.

Mr. St. JOHN: Let us make it ten o'clock.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until ten o'clock tomorrow was put and resolved in the negative without division.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until nine o'clock tomorrow was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

6.50 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended yesterday, the House was in Committee of Supply and thereto it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was suspended last evening, Head 25 was under discussion. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I gather has just concluded his speech. Would any other member like to comment on Head 25?

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, with reference to Item 33 - Maintenance of Parks and Beaches - $296,956, I wonder whether the Leader of the House would tell us whether the Parks and Beaches Commission has made any Regulations? I have seen some of the work they have been doing, and I would say that they are doing a satisfactory job. They have cleaned up Hastings Rocks, and they are doing some work in Christ Church. Now, Christ Church, St. Peter, St. James and St. Philip are areas where most of their activities will be confined. I want to draw to their attention the dangerous situation which has developed in Welches, Christ Church. I have looked at the road opposite Dr. Herbert's house and the sea has come right up to the road. This is definitely going to undermine the road. Some type of groyne will have to be put there very quickly.

That coast, because of the protection of the Kendal Point peak, appears to me - I am not an engineer - to be an area where groynes work successfully. They work well at Oistin, Welches and so on. That used to be a lovely beach, but somebody in the old days cut down the grape trees because children used to go and eat the grapes. Now that the trees have been cut down, the sea comes right up and all the beach is gone. In the circumstances, immediately attention will have to be given to that area.

At Maxwell Beach, which is really a hotel area, during the last floods, the manchineel tree was knocked over by the pressure of the water coming down the hill and already the beach has started to erode and remedial work will have to be taken there. The sea is actually coming up to the road, and you can see the concrete now but you were unable to see it before. The water goes underneath the concrete, and it will only be a short time before that is washed away.

Now, I want the Parks and Beaches Commission to remember that, unless Regulations are issued telling people that before they erect any groyne they must make application and advertisements are issued in respect of these groynes so that people in the area will make representations, people will continue as they have done in the Dover area. In that area people have erected groynes indiscriminately. Some people have actually destroyed what was there before. Groynes are something that should not be constructed by people who do not have an expert knowledge of the tides in the area. This is a very, very important piece of engineering work. I understand that the University of the West Indies has a gentleman who specialises in this sort of work, and his services are used by Governments in the Western Caribbean. I would like to know whether the Parks and Beaches Commission has any consultant who advises them on these things, because this is a most important function that they have to perform.

Now, as far as the cleaning of beaches is concerned, I am not too sure whether they have taken over the obligation from the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. I would like to know the interrelationship between the two, because occasionally people get telephone calls in respect of dead animals on the beach. Formerly, I used to be able to get in touch with the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, but I think there will be some confusion in people's mind as to who cleans the beaches now. Some attention will obviously have to be paid to Rockley Beach, because of the fact that drainage seems to be a problem there. When water comes down from Blue Waters and Worthing the place gets flooded, and it may be necessary to put some drains there.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the junior member for St. Peter will speak on what is happening down in Speightstown. Last Sunday I passed through that area and I noticed that the sea was almost in the road. It must be remembered that we have to balance the interest of tourism, the interest of vehicles, and the interest of fishermen in particular. Certainly in the Christ Church area, there used to be what we called the row-boat fisherman who worked on Saturday and Sunday along Dover Beach but now, as a result of the pressure from Hotels, they have been squeezed out to a certain extent.

Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion to make. The Church at Christ Church owns the old Dover Church Yard. I am referring to an area between Nova Lisba and Dover. You, Mr. Chairman, will know that the Southern District had an arrangement with Reverend Johnson that they would keep it clean; however, since the Local Government Councils were abolished, the arrangement is no longer in existence. I should like to tell the Parks and Beaches Commission that the Church would continue to allow them to use the same area provided they kept it clean. It provides an easy access to Dover Beach. It is a long strip of land running from Maxwell Coast right down to Dover Beach. I hope that the Commission will endeavour to renew this arrangement with the Reverend at Christ Church Church, because it provides an easy access to the sea. Fishermen use it and everybody will be able to use it.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, yesterday the hon. junior member for St. Peter spoke about a lawn mower which was a gift from the Jacyees. I should like him to know that a meeting of the Parks and Beaches Committee was held at King George the Fifth Memorial Park on Sunday and the Jaycees were represented at that meeting. This matter was discussed, and it was made clear that the lawn mower

is being used at the National Stadium. I have no doubt that he would be glad to hear that it is serving a very useful purpose there. On the other hand, the purpose for which it was given will be taken into consideration, and it will also be used at the various Parks.
9.10 a.m.

I would also like them to know that it was decided that at certain meetings which will be held by the Parks and Beaches Committee, the Jaycees will be represented on certain occasions.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, whilst we are on the subject of Parks and Beaches, Item 33, I want to say that a very dangerous situation has presented itself on the sea coast along St. James and St. Peter. There are certain property owners who are subtly laying claim to having private beaches. The hotels in the area have been trying time and again to prevent the Barbadian nationals from enjoying what is rightly theirs. We are not overlooking that, but apart from that, there are three or four property owners - there are two in the St. James area that are foremost in my mind, and two in the St. Peter area - of which I have had complaints. I have carried out investigations, and I took it upon myself to speak to the owners. I did not only listen to the complaints from people who felt they were aggrieved and I referred these complaints to the property owners. I listened to the story from the property owners, and I am satisfied that those Barbadian nationals who were complaining had a just grievance. The truth is that some of these people who have come here and settled certainly might have acquired Barbadian nationality, but in any case, that does not mean that people who were born in this Island should be deprived of their rights. Wherever there is a public access to the beach, there is nothing to my mind to prevent a person entering upon the beach by such an access and taking full advantage of all that our beaches have to offer.

I do not for one moment suggest that any Barbadian national should be encouraged to be lewd, nude or vulgar or offend against the law in any respect, or try in any way to render any householder or property holder whose property adjoins the beach uncomfortable. I know there is an exceptional case where you find some fellow who does not care and who feels he has nothing to lose that would try to make people and their guests and friends uncomfortable at times, but that is a far in-between case. Here is a case where the Parks and Beaches Commission could very well establish whether or not they have been encountering difficulties when they go to clean up these beaches, or what remarks are hurled at the workers when they go to preserve them. It would be of interest to know if the Parks and Beaches Commission has been told exactly what is a beach and how far these beaches extend, because at Prospect in the parish of St. James where I live, I have seen the Parks and Beaches Commission carrying out some cleaning up, and I am sure that they have carried out some work on a private property.

Now I am not trying to prevent a private property owner from having his lands cleared by the Parks and Beaches Commission, but if a situation like this is encountered where such a worker is forbidden trespassing, what is going to be the position? It may be said that the worker had been obstructed from carrying out his work, but in truth and in fact is the worker considered to be executing his duties when he goes beyond the limits of what his office has has empowered him to do?

Mr. Chairman, a situation occurred at St. Peter where lounge chairs and towels and litter were left on the beach adjoining a property. The Parks and Beaches Commission staff went tidying up that particular area, but the moment a staff member trying to get at the litter sought to move the lounge chair and towel and put them in perhaps a secure place, he was reprimanded and told to take his hands off, and he was lucky that a cry did not go out or that the police were not called and told that he was stealing. If the Parks and Beaches Commission is going to be constantly at work along these beaches, the workers to my mind should carry some sort of identification, some sort of badge, because there are a lot of idlers who frequent these beaches..... (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We agree with you.)

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to hear one word from the other side that they agree with this. Whether they agree or not I am talking until I freeze.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members not addressing the Chair, please speak in undertones.

Mr. HINDS: There are still a lot of men who do not want to work. They loiter on the beaches looking for Canadian women. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I thought I saw you on the beach the other day!) I live on the beach. I try to get in the water at about 6.45 every morning. One has got to be able to distinguish between a loiterer and a genuine employee of the Parks and Beaches Commission, because I have had occasions in my own district to alert the Holetown Police of situations which I saw and knew tended to invite loiterers in the area, and I asked them to use their good offices to see if they could discourage such situations; but it happens in other places as well,
9.20 a.m.

and we would like to see something done to stamp out all of this, but the Parks and Beaches Commission can carry on the job which they are presently doing. In any case, Mr. Chairman, the question of their going and cleaning up private property, we feel if it is found necessary to clean up private property I do not see that a bill should not be tendered for it, or that the Parks and Beaches Commission should have some authority that if in the view of the Parks and Beaches Commission, the adjoining property is kept in such a disgraceful state as to render the good work of the Commission negative, that the Parks and Beaches Commission should call on the owner of the adjoining property to tidy his property to the extent of weeding, trimming hedges and the like.

That brings us to another point, where you will find, Mr. Chairman, at Prospect and along the sea coast of St. James that people from the other side of the street trim trees and drag the branches and leave them on the beach immediately after the Parks and Beaches Commission has been there and cleaned up the area, and they feel that nobody has any right to say anything to them for doing such a thing. Some people - I have seen and I know it - clean their pig pens and bring manure from the sheep and goat pens and throw it on the beach. These things, Mr. Chairman, we have got to take steps to remedy.

As the senior member for Christ Church has said, it is very important to see whether the three departments now - the Public Health, Parks and Beaches Commission and the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board - whether they can mesh at some point when it comes to this exercise we are presently discussing, and the sooner we can have a meeting of these bodies to determine what could be done by this as against what could not be done by that, the better it would be for us in the long run.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 25 there is an amount of $10,000 to purchase emergency relief supplies. Here is a case when in October last year an emergency situation did arise; it would be well if the appropriate Minister could tell us how much money was spent last year, because that was the year when we had a situation which warranted expenditure under an Item such as this. It might be appropriate, Mr. Chairman, as well to enquire from the Minister as to what has really been done about hurricane relief on the whole, because we have heard announcements made from time to time about various sums plus supplies for hurricane relief, and we ought to be told at a time such as this exactly what has been done, and more so how many cases remain to be attended to, because after all, Sir this is quite a time since October 2, and the emergency relief which has not yet been given could hardly be considered as relief for emergency cases now. If it is a case that there are outstanding claims which have not yet been met, there should be some very good reason for the delay, but on the whole nothing so far has been advanced to convince us that the type of survey that was absolutely necessary to bring to accounting all the cases that would merit consideration was really put into effect.

We have previously drawn to the attention of this Hon. House what in our view was not right or did not have a good appearance in assessing the extent to which some people might have suffered, in that the personnel selected for carrying out the survey were people who, we could not say were the type who were divorced from political partisanship, who we could not say were divorced from bringing into play their own peculiar feelings, even in an exciting and peculiar situation such as a hurricane. However, we believe that the Minister would be in a position to tell us all there is to be told, and as for rations and purchase of supplies, has there been the case where expenditure was involved in the purchase of supplies. 9.30 a.m.

and it was later discovered that those supplies were not of the quality and standard demanded by the purchaser? In other words, that they were unfit for distribution to hurricane victims. If such a situation did arise, which we know, it did arise, what sum was involved? We are not going to ask the Minister to tell us the business place or the name of the person, but we know that it did happen.

With regard to Item 22 - Government Advertisements - $33,000, the Government, like the business sector of the community, must advertise when the occasion arises, and one of the reasons for advertising any commodity is that the advertiser wants the public to know what he has on sale, or what services he is offering. It would mean, therefore, that, in placing Government advertisements, utmost care ought to be taken that no section of the population could say that it has been placed in a particular media because the intention was to hide it away for some particular reason.

We have seen time and again, and there is one item to which I want to make very special reference: it is a list of unclaimed articles - articles which have been found and have been in the possession of the Police for some considerable time, and the object of advertising is not merely for the Police to to have an excuse to dispose of these things by auction. The object of advertising these things is not because it is required by law. The specific reason behind it is to allow those persons, who may have lost the articles and did not know where to find them, an opportunity to examine the list of the articles in the possession of the Police so that they may be able to reclaim the articles upon proper identification and giving proper satisfaction to the Police Authorities. We have seen that the interest of the public has not always been served in this respect, and that the placing of this particular advertisement, along with others, has been done only on a political party basis and it is a scandal.

In other words, if the list of unclaimed articles is to be published and made known to the public, it is the Government's duty, whether through their Information Service, their Public Relations Service or whatever it might be, to see that Government get the best for their money, and in such a case the taxpayers' money, One will find that the Government Information Office, the Statistical Office and all worthwhile Departments of the Government are in possession of the circulation figures of every newspaper in this country. Frequent checks are made of this, and one of the reasons for keeping the Department of Information up to date with a newspaper's circulation is to assist the Government in reaching the public in the easiest possible manner.

Now, if one finds an advertisement giving notice of unclaimed articles to be disposed of, it will be an advertisement of very considerable importance. Very often, Mr. Chairman, items with real sentimental value might be lost by persons rich or poor, and such persons would make all sorts of sacrifices in an effort to recover those items. When an advertisement for the disposal of those items is tucked away in, perhaps, a newspaper of the Government Party - a newspaper which has yet to establish that it has a circulation and it will take several years to show that it has a proper circulation - that is not good enough. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 29(6). "While a Member is speaking, all other Members should be silent or should confer only in undertones....."
9.40 a.m.

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

Mr. HINDS: The hon. senior member for St. Peter is addressing the Chair as well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just drew attention to Standing Order No. 29(6)

Mr. HINDS: That is why I stopped because I felt it was unfair to me to be addressing the Chair and for the Chair to be referring me to Standing Order No. 29(6).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was not referring to the hon. member. You may continue.

Mr. HINDS: If you were directing Standing Order No. 29(6) to the hon. senior member for St. Peter, you should have said so, and not be afraid to tell the hon. member to whom you are addressing it.

My point therefore, Mr. Chairman, is that no matter how one feels, it is the public's interest and the taxpayers' money that are involved in this. We have got to do one other thing as well. In respect of persons seeking to acquire titles to landed property through the Courts, I am saying now that enough publicity is not being given to this. It might be argued that the actual acquiring of a title does not always involve Government at one end and the vendor at the other end; it often entails private citizens; but if for Government to do something about the situation when it is brought to Government's attention that we in this Honourable House feel and are convinced that enough publicity is not given in the *Official Gazette*.

Not so long ago there appeared a notice somewhere that subscribers who had not brought their subscriptions up to date for the *Official Gazette* would not be receiving them any longer. My view is completely contrary to that of Government on that matter. My view is that the cost of the *Official Gazette*, despite the cost of paper and despite the rise in printing generally, should be subsidized and brought as low as possible so that the humblest citizen could become familiar with its use. As it stands Solicitors' offices, half of the business community proper, some estate manager and the like receive them, but what percentage of our population has ever heard of the *Official Gazette* of Barbados much less seen one? When a property is advertised with a view to letting all persons who might have any sort of claim that might affect the title come forward, Mr. Chairman, we are dishonest to ourselves if we allow a situation as presently obtains to continue. We know we are making a complete mockery of justice in a situation such as this. In other words, you put it in the *Official Gazette* because the law requires you to do so, but not because anybody is going to read it and come forward to offer an objection or anything of the kind. If we were even to think in terms of the same Gazette, when is it really published and when does it reach the people? I am going to discuss another aspect of this matter when we come to another Head where the public of Barbados is being starved of very valuable information that should be reaching it from Government channels. After all, Mr. Chairman, if I want to acquire a property, do you mean all that is required of me, if the vendor does not have a proper title is to hide away a whole transaction in the *Official Gazette*? Three notices in a newspaper that is in circulation are required, and I am left to choose a newspaper. For that matter I can choose the newspaper of the Government Party or I can choose a newspaper of some others that may have a weekend circulation of 250. It should not be on that basis that a person can acquire a title through the Court. The widest possible publicity ought to be given to such matters, and I would even suggest further that if a property is to be acquired, say, in St. Peter in the area where the property is located, there should be posters large enough to attract the attention of passersby posted at the four, six or eight boundaries as closely as possible adjoining the property that is to be set up for sale and for which a title is being sought. I know this would not meet the approval of a lot of lawyers, solicitors and people in the legal field. *(Asides)* I do not know if it would meet his approval nor am I concerned. It is the public's interest with which I am concerned. All I know is that every hon. member who has heard what I have had to say today on this matter ought to rise in support of what I have said, if they in truth and in fact want to protect the property owners of this country, and particularly some very poor people who, although they may have a small plot of land somewhere, they do not have the knowledge of all of what I have said and they do not have the means to rise up in their own defence. A lot of people have lost their properties in this Island because of the short cuts presently in existence in matters of this sort.
9.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, registration of electors. Each and every hon. member who has spoken so far has

expressed a considerable amount of satisfaction with the way in which the Chief Registering Officer is performing his duties; in other words, he has left from his duties anything called party feeling, he is not interested in whether it is X,Y,Z or Q party, his job is his job, and I am glad that we have found an Officer of whom hon. members from both sides of the House can say something good about him, but, Mr. Chairman, with all the rush, there is still a fair percentage of people who remain to be registered. In my own constituency, Mr. Chairman, there are still people who during the past few days and nights have been going to considerable expense in hiring pickups and whatever form of transportation they could get to rush to the registration booths to have their photographs taken.

We have been told in this Hon. House, Mr. Chairman, by none other than the Leader of the House that the registering department was awaiting a piece of equipment from abroad to assist the photographers so that in cases where you find old people or others who could not get out, the camera men would be able to go to their homes and carry out the photographing there. I have made enquiries since then, and I have not been given any indication whatsoever that the piece of equipment has arrived, and in the absence thereof, Mr. Chairman, I am to enquire what provision has been made for these people who cannot get out from their homes. In such a case, what then is the situation where, when this House was given to believe that the camera would be sent in the Black Bess district to the homes of one or two or more old ladies and that others nearby would be able to avail themselves of the opportunity to have their photographs taken? Do not let us fool ourselves, there is no Barbadian who likes to know that he is photographed with his hair, let us set aside the Afro styles, unkempt, who likes to know that he is now hot and sweaty from the canefields, his shirt sleeves rolled up and the like, he likes to have a bath if he is going to have a picture taken, he likes to get a shave and likes to appear as tidy as possible in the circumstances.

When we were given to believe that the cameras would be actually reaching the homes in some districts, that they would be in much closer proximity to these people, they have the feeling that they would be saved from having to put on their Sunday evening go-to-meeting dresses and drive maybe four miles to be photographed. I am glad to see the rush during the past few days. I would like to see the people photographed, but as has been pointed out already, the delay that is created is by the clerical staff with the processing of the applications of the people to be photographed. I saw here in the Public Buildings people queuing up for a very long time until they had reached the point of disgust. It should not be so. I have known of persons having gone to the registration booths and remained as much as three hours and could not get in to be photographed; they had to return to their homes and to their jobs.

Mr. Chairman, we do not feel that registration of electors ought to entail or to throw upon the would-be electors any such stress and strain; we must appreciate that each would-be elector has got to play his part, and not merely to be content with the fact that one is 18 years old and as such must be registered, we agree that the onus must be placed on the 18 year old to make some effort to have his name put on the register if he wants to be registered and wants to exercise his civic right at voting time. I agree that too many have waited until what appears to be the last moment, until they are satisfied that this is election year and now want to be registered, but Mr. Chairman, I believe that is the situation all over the world. They are human beings, but because that is so it does not necessarily mean that the registering department should not be sufficiently equipped to cope with all of these situations. In other words, the registering department knows well in advance that the progress of registering was not as rapid as perhaps the department had anticipated in the earlier stages, and it is simple, if you do not have to do the work in the early morning hours, it must of necessity arise that the work will have to be done at night fall, because it has got to be done anyhow. The people have got to be registered. What we want to see done is this, the suggestion was made in this Hon. House and I am sure that the Leader of the House had accepted it, he paid more than lip service to it and had he brought it into effect it would have paid dividends, and I am saying that 95% plus of the population as entitled to be registered would have been registered.

10.00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, each enumerator, who was to go around enumerating the people at their homes, should have been supplied with an agent from the two existing political parties. There are no two ways about that. The enumerators went around and, despite the fact that they were being amply paid for registering the people, many of them carried their own political feelings and views to the would-be electorate. They carried out their enumeration on that basis, and if they went to a house where 11 people lived and they knew that that house was not a house to support the candidate which they would like them to support, then they found only one or two people at home.

We are saying that we have voted large sums of money, and if, each enumerator had been given two agents and you had agreed to pay the agents one-third of what you had paid the enumerator, we are satisfied that they would have gone to each and every house in every village of this Island. They would have registered numbers that would not have been thought of in the circumstances. We are glad to see that a decision has been reached or is taking shape for establishing a Permanent Register of Electors. The mechanics of this, we understand, will take some time for re-shaping and bringing it into full existence, but in the meantime we would like to know that the camera centres are re-opened. Let us see them re-opened provided facilities are made available for the camera to go into operation. We want to see them re-opened in the byways and hedges this time. We do

not want them at the Alexandria School any more. All of the people who would have gone to the Alexandria School in St. Peter would have been registered. I would like to see them in Bovelle's Lane a night; let them spend two hours in Archer's Lane and let the people know that they are coming to take photographs; let them go to Lonesome Hill; let the people at Ashton Hall and so on know how many hours you are spending in those places and you will have a lot of people to be photographed.

In other words, Mr. Chairman I would like to know that, if an election is called tomorrow, every person in the parish of St. Peter who is entitled to vote, has his name put on the register and his photograph taken and so on. In other words, he will be equipped for exercising his civic right. If he does not go out and vote, it is a matter entirely for him. I would like to know that the same thing applies to any other parish or constituency in this Island. I would not like to know that we are going to all of this expense by setting up photographic centres here, there and everywhere, and then after election day has gone, we are told that somebody was not registered.

Mr. Chairman, Item 29 - Elections - $75,250. The note says that it is to meet the expenses of the General Assembly Election. Why should we wait? We believe that with the fever in the air for registering and having photographs taken, full advantage can be taken of these things. Let us press on now to a finish. We would certainly like to know what has been done in respect of the people who were promised that the cameras would come to their homes as soon as certain equipment arrived.

As far as we know, the Island has been divided into 24 single-member constituencies. I find that much of the work that I am called upon by my constituents to do is work that, had there been Local Government Officers as in the past, I would have been relieved of as a member of Parliament. It is a case now where these people have no one to go to and, as a consequence, some days so many people are at my office that one would believe I am selling fish and pork. Some people come from St. Peter, St. Joseph and St. Philip to see me.
10.10 a.m.

The Island is divided into twenty-four single member constituencies, but wherever you go, there is still some discussion. I do not want to accuse the Leader of the House of sending out feelers and trying to get the views of people as to whether the membership should be increased to 30 or 28 or whatever it is the Government has in mind. I do not want to accuse the Leader of the House of that at all, but there is no doubt about it that certain members of Parliament have thrust upon themselves what the Councils ought to be doing. We know what is going to happen when we are next installed, not that the hon. members on that side do not know. The Leader of the House knows what will be the results of the next general election. Political parties are presently grooming their horses and getting them ready for the snap, so to speak; so the various constituency branches are at work in the constituency of St. Lucy. I do not want to discuss it. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You had better not.) You might not fare so well.

Mr. Chairman, we find that a sum of $550 is to be voted under Item 30 to Maps of Barbados. I want to say that each and every school in this Island is presently in need of a new map of Barbados, and I am one who very much favours the purchasing of these maps, but I would certainly like to know that they are not treated as at Item 18 which is in respect of flags amongst other things. Now I want to know what flags are we going to buy and why should we find ourselves having to buy flags. It is common knowledge, Mr. Chairman, that at Independence thousands of flags were imported into this Island, and up to almost two years ago thousands of flags were stored at Clarendon in Black Rock. What I am saying now is that they were just thrown about the place, and it is unfair to be taking taxpayers money to replenish them. There is no point buying flags by the thousands, using 1,000 or 2,000 and leaving 40,000 or 50,000 to be thrown away. Somebody ought to be responsible for the care of these flags. We must tell ourselves that it is the taxpayers' money and there is a limit to the spending of it. The flags were just trampled upon. What I am saying is that you do not place an order for a small amount of flags. You have to import flags to serve may be five years at least, but when you take one year's supply away, some person should have the custody of the other four years' supply and issue them out as the occasion demands. They should not be left to take care of themselves, and when somebody wants the building in which they were stored, you just load them into a motor lorry and tumble them somewhere else, and when somebody wants them moved from there, you send them out and nobody knows where they are, and when you feel there are no more flags, you come to the Legislature and vote money because you want more flags. I am asking the Government to desist from having this kind of expenditure brought before the Legislature. We are quite in favour of having flags bought, but they must be preserved and treated in a proper manner.

I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, that when the Union Jack used to fly over the buildings in Barbados, this never happened. Storage was provided at the Drill Hall or other places for all these things and an inventory was kept and somebody was responsible for them. Now it is the independence flag of Barbados, that does not mean anything to some people.

Now we have at Item 38 a sum of $1,100 for the replacement of one mobylette and one bicycle. I want to know who owns these two vehicles and which Department is using them.

Now I want to return to Item 33 for a moment.
10.20 a.m.

At Farley Hill National Park workmen there have taken it upon themselves to block off portions

of the park from the public by placing logs of wood across the road. It is a Part, it is not a case where a notice has been printed or painted and prominently posted by the order of the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission or by any authority declaring any portion of the park a prohibited area, and this is conduct which I certainly would like to have investigated, because after all, I would like to see and to know that the entire park is cleaned up, that it is given the type of face lift that one would desire it to have. Nobody would like to obstruct the workers, but I myself have tried to make diligent enquiries as to the cause of this blocking off of certain of the roads at Farley Hill and can get none. I certainly want the appropriate Minister to have this matter investigated and to urge that if in the future any part of the park is to be declared prohibited, that a suitable notice be posted, and not only that, that people be warned in advance of going to the Park.

After all, Sir, groups of persons might decide to go to the park and to assemble in some manner to have their own little excursion or their own little amusement, only to find that when you go there the very place you had planned going with your friends is now a prohibited area and you cannot get there. It is a public park, nobody can use it as any private property, and these things are not right, and if we do not nip these things in the bud, they will go much further. These are situations we do not want to see cropping up.

At Item 32, Mr. Chairman, there is an amount of $14,700, and amongst other things, it includes provision for the payment of a disturbance allowance to certain Public Officers. We have policemen here, Mr. Chairman, who have been serving at stations, who have sort of so conditioned their lives in such a way as to make themselves comfortable where they live and set their families up so that the distance from work to home would not create any considerable amount of hardship, because getting to and from work is very inconvenient, but these same policemen, after serving - we appreciate the fact that they join the service and are subject to transfer - but some of them in the middle of the night are told that the next morning they are transferred some eight or nine miles from their homes, and Mr. Chairman, I do not think that a Policeman is given what you call disturbance consideration much more disturbance compensation, so that if an Officer is recruited from overseas, nobody goes, to my mind, to an Officer's home in the United Kingdom or wherever it might be and drags him out as if you were carrying him in the Army, he applies for a job and there must be certain conditions attached there.

What we are saying is this, that an Officer in the Public Service of this country applying for a job must bear in mind that a certain disturbance of family life must be occasioned if for not more than a week, a month or for sometime, so if we are making provision here for giving allowances or compensating an Officer in the Public Service, a Civil Servant, an Officer on contract, whoever he might be, giving him a disturbance allowance, I am saying that a better case can be made out for a Policeman. A Policeman is more entitled to it, and I do not see why, unless the Minister can give us some reasonable explanation, this should be brought before the House.

10.30 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, there are beaches on which drowning or death by drowning has occurred, not in our view, as frequently as at Graves End or Rockley, and yet there is no Life Guard Service provided at these places. For instance, on the East Coast Road you have the beaches of Long Bay and Cattle Wash. These are beaches that could well command the service of Life Guards. Why do we not have Life Guards stationed there today? Nobody in this House would object to voting money for the maintenance of Life Guard Stations in these areas. What is the delay? Mr. Chairman, there is no difficulty in manning those areas with Life Guards. Here it is, Government has an ample opportunity of employing a number of Life Guards for those areas. We are not suggesting that those stations should be overstaffed, but any money expended on this service would be with a view to saving lives.

Mr. Chairman, people come here, see our lovely stretches of sand, and they feel they can go off for a swim, only to be swallowed in the swirling waters. We should have Life Guards patrolling those beaches and warning people against possible danger. We should also have large signs erected on the beaches warning people against bathing in certain areas. The signs should be painted in large red letters, and they should be printed in both English and Spanish, because quite a number of Spanish-speaking people come to this country. Such things should be attended to quickly. There is no question of not having money to do this or do that. There is money available, but we are saying that it is not being put to the best use. This is a question of saving the lives of people, and we are urging the Government to establish Life Guard Stations along the East Coast Road as quickly as possible in the Cattle Wash area, in the Long Bay area, Paradise Beach Coast area, Bat's Rock area and at all of the beaches where people frequent. Large numbers of people go to Bat's Rock and every now and again there is somebody who gets drowned in that area. The people need advice and assistance, and we are asking Government to place the advice, at least, at these people's disposal.

Now Item 37 -Parks and Beaches - $73,700 - is to provide swings and sea-saws, steel chairs, lawn mowers, furniture and equipment, motor pick-up and landscaping. As soon as the Parks are equipped with these facilities, we are definitely asking the Government to increase the number of watchmen or guards to see that these facilities remain to be of use to as many people as possible. In other words, that they be not destroyed. The guards, special constables or whatever they might be who might be employed, must be people wearing a suitable uniform and be given a certain amount of authority for the protection of the property. It is no point, Mr. Chairman, spending money to equip these Parks for

the benefit of people and their children and after a year you will find that you have, as is the case in some of our Community Centres, buildings dilapidated and reduced to gambling dens.

We do not want to find that we have provided seating accommodation in the Parks for people to go there and gamble. We want guards with the power of Island Constables to prevent all of this and to protect the property in these Parks. We do not want to find that we spend money today, and then we are asked to provide money tomorrow for replacements. There are too many things that need being done in this country and particularly so in the parish of St. Peter. We need mini-parks for our children in the parish of St. Peter and in Speightstown. We need a mini-park in Speightstown where the little children in the area can go and enjoy some of these swings and so on. We are now asking that the things provided for the Parks be kept under constant care so that they may last for the benefit of the people who may go there from time to time.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, yesterday I spoke on parks and beaches. I want to support the hon. junior member for St. Peter, especially on what he has said regarding Note 22. It says: "To meet the cost of Government advertisement." Now, I have been particularly worried for a long time over the method used by the Government in advertising very important matters. I remember some two years ago there was a scholarship being given to, I think, two Barbadians to study International Law and Relationship. The notice appeared in the *Advocate* when there were three days to go before the application forms were returnable in London. One had to apply to the London University for the application forms, and those forms had to be accompanied by a letter from your tutor or from the University officials.
10.40 a.m.

Now I cannot see even with modern day postal facilities that any Barbadian, who wanted to make use of or apply for such a scholarship, would have been able to fulfil the obligations as set out in that particular advertisement at the time when it was published, and when I enquired into this, it came to me that this is a general practice, that scholarships of this nature not only in law but in several other fields are made known by inter-Governmental circulars, and it is only after no acceptance or application has been received from persons in Government Departments that they are then advertised in the local newspapers at a time when no other person outside the Service can make use of the facilities being offered. I consider this a very unfair practice. If the public of Barbados is required to pay taxes in order that these advertisements should be made, it does not matter how you do the selection after that, it does not matter if you say that Government requires someone trained in these particular fields and therefore you should select somebody employed in Government, but at least you should let it appear that everyone had his chance to apply within the limit set by the particular institution which is offering the facilities.

I will bring another further pertinent point. Mr. Chairman, everyone knows that when the Leader of the Opposition resigned, there would have been a bye-election. The elections are now controlled by the Representation of the People Act, but political meetings are controlled by the Public Order Act, therefore we have to move from page one into page two at a given point. It is surprising that the Trinidad Express carried the news of the publication of the writ the day before it was published in the Barbados Advocate. About 3 o'clock one evening I was telephoned by a friend in Trinidad and told that the writ had been issued and the election was 3rd December, and up to that day there was no publication in any official newspaper in Barbados. I go further and say now that the Government used the opportunity to book several of the meeting sites in St. Joseph on the evening before it was published in the newspaper. If that is wrong, you can ask the police at District "F" in Horse Hill. I do not know who gives the instructions, but I believe the method of advertising used by Government should be such that everyone should have a fair chance when it comes to applications for jobs or whatever the case may be. The time limit is important to everybody alike.

Now the hon. junior member for St. Peter spoke about the question of land titles. There is no doubt about it that this is a very ticklish affair. The title of land is what we call in law an equitable procedure derived from the John Doe and Rowe procedure when you swear an affidavit that you create a mortgage etc., but the publication is controlled by the Official Gazette and I believe by the Government. I really cannot accuse the Government of doing anything unethical when it comes to these publications, but I know people are particularly worried about the number of plots which are titled under this particular procedure, and the way the advertisement is made. It may be a factor, Mr. Chairman, that cost is the bug bear, but the print is so fine. I have never seen one advertisement in what I would consider readable print. They are always advertised in very fine print. I have seen an advertisement in the Trinidad newspapers. They come out at specific times and they take a full page of the newspaper, and everybody can read and see where the particular plot is situated and have some idea of what is going on. Not only that; Probate notices are always stuck in the deep right hand corner of a page in fine print, and it is known that several people die in this country leaving a lot of wealth behind, and they owed three quarters to the merchants in Bridgetown, administration is applied for and it is in a little corner and by the time you hear that somebody has died and somebody is the executor and you apply, they will tell you that they advertised and the closing date was so and so. I have two cases like this now, and when I checked the newspaper, the advertisement appeared a Saturday morning in between a host of other things like somebody's show at the Globe, what the Drive-in is showing, what is being sold at the Modern Dress Shop and the like, which I consider the tricks of the trade. I would say that there should not be tricks of the trade when it comes to these Government advertisements by which the lives, properties and the future of people are affected.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with some interest to certain remarks made and certain points raised by hon. members. Many of them are valid comments and I have taken notes although I know that the Leader of the House has been taking notes. I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee and more especially the senior member for Christ Church that the points raised by him in connection with the construction of groynes is a very important one indeed. Now the construction and erection of groynes fall under the Town and Country Planning Department, and normally groynes cannot be erected unless you have the approval of the Town and Country Planning Department which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, so that the indiscriminate planting of groynes is a very serious matter. I think that obtained some time ago, but I do not know of any recent cases.

Hon. members would recall that the Oistin Redevelopment Committee has been set up and has made certain recommendations to Government. Up to now only one of such recommendations has been implemented, that is the installation of the pipeline from Oistin to Seawell Airport, and the construction of the high octane tanks at Oistin. The second phase of the development will, I hope, subject to the provision of funds, come into operation some time this year, and with that in view we are holding a meeting very shortly. I have given instructions for a meeting to be summoned which will be held within another two weeks which deals specifically with the second phase of the recommendations, that is, the construction of groynes for Oistin from which the beach will be built up both at Oistin and Welches, and the road to which the hon. senior member for Christ Church referred will receive the necessary protection.
10.50 a.m.

I just mentioned this to tell you what is going on, there is no hearsay, these things take a long time and through no one's fault, it is a question of finding funds to carry these plans into effect, so that with the construction of the groynes at Oistin we are hoping to reclaim a considerable amount of land to protect not only the road but the property along that coastline including the road at Welches, because the hon. senior member for Christ Church has raised this point on a few occasions relative to the sea encroaching on the road and the sand on the road. Many of us are fully aware of that, so that I too would like to see something done, because unless we move very quickly that road will be encroached on and great expense will be involved in the long run. While we are on the question of groynes, I remember the Committee some time ago recommended the construction of groynes at Rockley Beach and at Hastings so this question of groynes is a very important one and should be pursued very closely.

The hon. member also spoke about the cleaning of the beaches etc. There is no one who can deny that the Parks and Beaches Commission is doing a very excellent job in cleaning beaches on an Island wide basis, and more especially on the bathing beaches, and speaking for my colleagues and supporters in Christ Church in particular, I would say we are very pleased with the work which they are doing. It is the first time the work is being tackled on a proper basis and the first time that funds are made available to do the work. You cannot complete work or get work undertaken and done effectively unless you have the funds to employ people to get on with the job, so it is being tackled now for the first time on a proper basis, employing squads of people and getting the work properly supervised. I must give credit to the members of the Parks and Beaches Commission and to their Supervisors who are doing a very excellent job Island wide.

On the question of the burial of dead animals, this falls under the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, as the Hon. Chairman would know, that for each animal buried, there is a stipulated fee. That is not a function of the Parks and Beaches Commission, I can tell you it is not easy to get people to pick up dead animals nowadays, the little compensation that is paid them, very few people are willing to undertake that kind of work. People generally today are not anxious or willing to receive any compensation; that way the animals will remain there for a day or two unless you make it a special point to see that they are removed and follow it up. I have had that experience on several occasions.

I am not attempting to reply to all the questions because many of the points raised are so patent that we agree with them, speaking for myself. As far as the improvement of Farley Hill is concerned, the registration of electors and the erection of more lifeguards stations, I have been trying to get that done for quite some time, and I am hoping that the Parks and Beaches Commission will be able to tackle it on a better footing now that we have money available. I probably have not touched on many points, but I only rose as I am Chairman of the Oistin Redevelopment Committee.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was not in my place at the time the Minister was replying, but I wonder if the Hon. Minister can give us an idea of this emergency relief at Item 25 for $10,000. I am a bit concerned about this Emergency Relief Fund. If this is part of what was for the purpose of assisting people who are destitute or people at a time of emergency, I am quite sure that the sum of $10,000 would not be adequate, because we have a clear-cut example of what happened quite recently, and up to this very moment we still have a number of people who are homeless and all of their personal belongings have been destroyed, and those who have got any little relief I am quite sure it is not adequate, and this was a national disaster and one I reckon we would have all joined hand in hand in assisting. It is needless for me to start it all over again on the registration of electors, but in the meantime I would like to throw out a suggestion.

It is felt in some quarters that the whole electoral list is a complete mixup; some people have registered two and three times because they have moved from one area into another and I think this might probably be out of ignorance. I would not like to say ignorance of the Officers themselves. Some years ago we had some enumerators, and I remember the hon. junior member for St. Lucy's brother was supposed to register people in the Carrington Village area and he was more concerned with registering them in St. Lucy and St. John than anywhere else, then we had a whole mixup. I would be very grateful if the Hon. Minister would take a suggestion of this nature that now that we have the Mobile Cinema which I heard on the radio quite recently has been attracting large crowds, I think it would be a very wise idea that the mobile registering unit would be able to go out with the Mobile Cinema to the various sites where you have quite a number of people coming out to see the Mobile Cinema, and at that point you would be in a position to have more people put on the registration list. Quite a number of people have received pictures and they do not know if they are white, blue or black, and I am told that this is at some time due to a power failure. I think the correct term was a drop in voltage, and some of the pictures were distorted. I would like the Minister to be able to say what is going to be the actual position with these people. I like to listen carefully to what people have to say, and I remember the Prime Minister saying that as from 1st April the steam roller from the Public Works Department will be going into St. John; we take it from the building of roads and putting up lights and so on, I really am under the impression that with the steam roller he will be calling an election very early. That is my view.
11.00 a.m.

I am under the impression that the steam roller is going to cause an election very early. I think in the interest of both sides we should do everything within our power to make sure that registration is properly carried out in this country. I hope that the Minister in charge of this matter would take heed of the suggestion coming from this side of the House that it would be a good idea, as it is now, to let the Mobile Registration Unit go out at the same time as the Mobile Cinema Unit is going out, especially to these very distant areas in the country. Do not tell me that a man living in Parris Hill or Branchbury is going to walk to Bathsheba to get his picture taken or to be registered. We must understand that we are dealing with something new, and we should go slowly until the people get accustomed to it. This is something that has been forced upon the people.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard many of these people say: "I voted on the last occasion; I have my card and my number and I can use them again. I think that any kind of identification should be used at the coming election until the people get accustomed to having their pictures taken and so on. It is true that we are trying to put ourselves in line with some countries. They do not have this Identification Card system in the U.S.A. whereby you must have your picture taken. They have a Social Security Card there. I hope that the Minister concerned will take an interest in this matter in the interest of all Barbadians. I should be grateful if the Minister would give us some information regarding Item 25.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister rises, I want to say that I am aware that it is proposed to have a meeting of the Oistin Development Committee summoned. I should be most grateful if I could receive an invitation to the meeting, because I have some observations to make on the basis of new facts which have developed around the Oistin area since the last meeting. What has happened there is that many fishermen who used to fish lower down in Worthing, have now moved up to Oistin. Today there are some 52 boats using Oistin Beach instead of the usual 38 as in the past. Some have also moved down from Silver Sands to Oistin, and certainly a lot from St. Philip have moved down, It seems quite clear that the whole of the seaside, starting from Hill's Supermarket up to the Almshouse, will have to be cleared. Now, 5 tons of fish a day are being caught during the fishing season up there. It is now one of the biggest ports in Barbados, and we have the serious problem of parking to deal with. The building of the first stage of the fuel tanks has caused a very serious drainage problem similar to what occurred down here, because they have built up the level of the land immediately surrounding the tanks. Things were so bad up there that they had to cut a drain running through the foundation of the tanks to relieve the water.

The Hon. Minister of Communications can observe that Oistin has now become, probably, second only to Bay Street as a fishing port. It seems to me, and I was discussing this with the Town Planner a few weeks ago, that we will have to shift what is regarded as the Oistin traditional shopping area a little lower down because of the fact that the area immediately around the market as well as the Police Station is now taken up with boats. It must be remembered that we have another boat area further down the beach, and I hope that these new facts will be taken into consideration when we are dealing with any final proposals for Oistin.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, just let me add to what my colleague has said about groynes. In an earlier point made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, he had asked whether Regulations had been made in respect of the work and the responsibilities of the Parks and Beaches Commission. Regulations are not yet made, but, in respect of groynes, the permission of the Minister is required prior to the erection of a groyne. The Minister consults and is advised by Technical Officers of the Ministry of Communications and Works. At present there is no specialist in this matter, but the question of groynes and beach erosion is understudied by the Bellair

Research Institute and Mr. Deane of the University of the West Indies, and this study is under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Overseas Development.

In respect of the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter about the photographing of incapacitated persons, the Minister has directed that as from next week a notice should be published inviting relatives or guardians of incapacitated persons to notify their appropriate registering officer so that arrangements can be made to register and photograph such incapacitated persons at their homes. Arrangements will also be made to visit Infirmaries and other Institutions for the same purpose.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph asked a question about warning notices at the beach and at Cattle Wash. I am advised that the Parks and Beaches Commission are preparing warning signs in conjunction with the Rotary Club for this area, and these signs will read:

"Bathing is dangerous along this coast. Bathe where you see others bathing and never alone."

It will be something like that.

With respect to the question raised about the public access to the beach at the Old Grave Yard at Maxwell, the Commission has concluded arrangements with the Anglican Church to provide a public access to the beach at the old Grave Yard at Maxwell. The Commission has already cleaned the access, and a sign "Public Access to Beach" is already prepared.

With respect to the question raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter about Farley Hill, I cannot remember what the question was, but I think it was to protect areas where work was in progress. 11.10 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: The roads had been blocked off in certain areas.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This has been done to protect the areas where work was in progress. Members of the public have been found to be indiscriminate in the parking of vehicles. When the landscaping and beautification is completed, appropriate signs will be erected.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think that is an unfair charge against any motorist who would have gone to Farley Hill National Park. After all, one should take into consideration that when one goes to a place like Farley Hill, it is a park and one has gone there for some measure of recreation. I do not for the life of me see that any motorist would want to drive his car on to any place where flowering plants or any such trees are. That against throws another responsibility on the Parks and Beaches Commission, because if gardening is being done, evidently sufficient railing by way of protection ought to be provided until these trees reach a certain height; but merely to say that people have been indiscriminate in parking, is an unfair accusation to lay against motorists who go to the Park. If you do not want people to visit the Park, close the whole park; but what I am saying is that the area that has been blocked off is not the area where any work at all has been in progress. That has been my contention. I have made enquiries on the spot and the replies given to me certainly do not square with what the Hon. Minister has been told, and I am under the impression that the Minister is being misinformed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member's original question was why barriers are put at this particular place, the reply was that certain work is in progress and that barriers are erected to protect the areas where this work is in progress.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the park is a laid out area, and if work is in progress in a particular area, you would not block off the entire road; you would block off the sides of this road leaving the drive way so that cars can drive in and out, because your work is not on the roadway. It is not a question where the roads are undergoing repairs. In cases where the roads are undergoing repairs, you would block off the road, but if you were working on a garden carrying out landscaping in an area adjoining the road, you are not going to block off the road for that purpose. You would rail off the side of the road and leave the road that vehicles can move in and out while you carry on with your work. The Minister has been misinformed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Wouldn't it be better to suspend judgment on this matter until the work has been completed and the public or users of the park are still being prohibited, I think the hon. member would have better grounds for complaint.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter talked about litter on the beach. The Commission is arranging to have signs erected at various sites warning the public not to throw litter on the beaches, and these warning signs will read "It is an offence to deposit litter on any Beach" quoting the relevant section of the Parks and Beaches Act, 1970.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, since the beach proper is to be determined by what is known as high water mark, exactly where are you going to post these signs? Are you going to post them on private property? Where there is no Government property in the area, where are they going to post these signs? Remember that beach land is precious land.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If I may assist in the answer to the problem which the hon. member has now raised by tying this in with ta reply which arises out of a question that he asked - I think he asked something about high water mark or something like this - under the Parks and Beaches Act, 1970, the beach is described as including the land adjoining

the foreshore of Barbados and extending not more than 100 feet beyond the landward limit of the foreshore. Except in a single instance affecting the removal of a tree stump on the beach adjacent to a private property, the Commission has received no complaints from owners. I do not know if this assists the hon. member.

The hon. member again asked a question in respect of unclaimed articles and the publication of notices. The law requires publication in the *Official Gazette,* a daily newspaper and a weekly newspaper once each. The cost of this is very high because there are invariably many items. The very nature of many of these items does not get the response hoped for.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that is the bone of my contention - that you do not get the response that is hoped for, because advertisements are placed in the wrong medium. In other words, the Minister is telling me exactly what I told him, but I want a remedy to this. You must find a remedy and give to me. My contention is that if the advertisement were placed separate and distinct from political partisanship, you might get a better response; but when you place an advertisement in your own newspaper that has no circulation, totally ignoring papers that the Courts of this Island have established and have a world-wide circulation, it would not reach the people, but you prefer to hide the notice - and I underline the word "prefer" - and when you make efforts to contact at the Ministry of Home Affairs the Civil Servant who has sent out the notice, he feels he has all the authority in the world to do what he has done because he has done it for the Prime Minister's or the Government Party's paper. That is the situation we are coming to grips with. What we are saying is that regardless of whose newspaper it is, whose news sheet it is, or if it is a hand-bill, if it has the circulation that reaches into the hands of people, you can justly say that you have done all you possibly could to help it to reach the people. Remember, Mr. Chairman, the purpose for which we are discussing unclaimed articles is, as I have said, that these have sentimental value in many cases, and Government should do all in its power to disseminate the information that the police hold these unclaimed articles, and not seek to tuck it away in its own party newspaper merely to boost the funds of its own party.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member knows me well enough to know that I would not catch at that particular accusation except to deny it. I see no reason why because the Democratic Labour Party published a newspaper why whatever advertisements are going should not be in that as well as any other newspaper.
11.20 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: But, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Minister has just said that there are limited funds, so when you give the *Democrat* first how are you going to get money to give the others? That is the reason why the Democrat has been carrying the advertisements and not other newspapers that are more entitled to them than the *Democrat.* That is what we are talking about. The Minister just said there are limited funds, so the few dollars you have you give them to your own Party newspaper at the expense of others, and at the expense of people whose property you will then go and have sold out because your Party newspaper is supported by the funds of the same taxpayers. Some of the taxpayers who properties might have been lost rather than spending the money where they will know where their properties are, you support your own Party with the same taxpayers' dollars and sell out the taxpayers properties by hiding it in your own newspaper. Do you not think that some of you should be on the gallows for doing these things?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Really, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot really be feeling the indignation he is expressing over this, do you know why? I told him that the law requires publication in the *Official Gazette,* a daily newspaper and a weekly newspaper.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, will the Minister say whether it is advertised in more than one weekly newspaper, or do you only advertise in one?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said the law requires publication in the *Official Gazette,* a daily newspaper and a weekly newspaper, once each.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Could the Leader of the House inform this Committee whether the weekly newspaper which these things are published in, is the *Democrat*? Secondly, whether they are advertised in any other newspaper other than that one weekly newspaper; it is as simple as that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know whether it was the *Democrat;* I do not know this.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Would the Leader of the House like to check with the Civil Servants then? Let us be realistic; everybody knows the *Official Gazette,* and the daily newspaper would have to be the *Advocate.* We are interested in the weekly newspaper, because the allegations made in here are that you are putting in one newspaper these advertisements and that newspaper belongs to your Party, and that you are thereby putting taxpayers' money back into the coffers of the Party. All I am trying to find out from the Leader of the House is to ascertain whether it is a fact that these things are published in the *Democrat* alone, because as you are saying the law requires you to publish in only one weekly newspaper. Which weekly newspaper is that, is it the *Democrat*?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The law requires, Mr. Chairman, that whenever you publish you must publish in the *Official Gazette,* a daily newspaper and a weekly newspaper, one each, but hon. members may

assume that if you are publishing three or four times a year you can rotate the weekly newspapers because there is only one daily.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, would the Leader of the House like to tell us who makes the choice as to the weekly newspaper? How many times were they published last year in weekly newspapers, and in which weekly newspapers were they published? How much does that weekly newspaper or those weekly newspapers receive?

Mr. HINDS: Coming out of the mouth of the Minister, he started to say something about rotating these weekly newspapers. The Minister has got to understand that he has to be honest in an exercise such as this, you have to treat each notice as a notice. It is not a question of patronising this newspaper now and patronising the other newspaper next week, the object of placing these advertisements in newspapers is to give the public the benefit of recovering their property so that it should not be sold out, and if we needed more to condemn the placing of advertisements in the newspaper of the Government's Party, we have got those words from the mouth of the Hon. Leader this morning, because he has said, the response has not been what was expected. What is the response that was expected? Exactly what I have said, Mr. Chairman, the newspaper has no circulation and it will take a number of years before it can establish that circulation, so therefore I am charging rank dishonesty on whoever does it.

It is the question of the taxpayers' property, that is to be set up for sale, and rather than place those advertisements to assist those people in recovering their property instead of having them sold out, you put the money in your own pockets; that is exactly what you are doing. In other words, putting it in your own newspaper totally disregarding the rights of the taxpayers whose money you are spending in an instance such as this. Mr. Chairman, there must have been some good reason aback of the minds of the people who in passing the law laid down that this thing must be advertised, some good reason, to assist people and give them an opportunity to recover their property. We find, Mr. Chairman, that there are pawnbrokers in the City of Bridgetown, or there used to be, somebody goes and pawns a gold ring or other valuable, and they do so at a time when they are hard pressed or circumstances warrant that they do this to get quick money, but the law requires that the pawn broker must fulfil certain conditions, in other words, he must make it known, he must advertise that he is going to dispose of your article by public auction if you do not seek to recover it by a given time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I remind the hon. member that he rose on a point of order?

Mr. HINDS: We are in Committee, and I can sit down and rise again, therefore, Mr. Chairman, one has got to relate these two things together, and the Government must demonstrate the last vestige of honesty that it has about it in a matter of this sort, if there is any left. After all, it is not whether it is my newspaper involved, yours or anybody else's, we are not concerned with that at the moment. As for the Minister's introduction of a system of rotation, I rather not comment on that.
11.30 a.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that this type of notice is published about three times a year, and that over the past two years publication in the Weeklies has been rotated. Publication has been made in the *Truth*, the *Beacon* and the *Democrat*.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us hear the order of rotation.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I understand from the Leader of the House, he said that it was published three times last year and it was rotated in the *Truth*, the *Beacon* and the *Democrat*. I should like to find out from the Leader of the House something more specific than this. I should like to find out the dates of the publication in these newspapers. Can the Leader of the House say who gave the instructions as to which newspaper the advertisement must appear? Did any of these notices appear in the *Truth* newspaper and the *Beacon* last year?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: How would I know that?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Library in the Registrar's Office has those newspapers on a file. It is sickening, Mr. Chairman, the amount of untruth that comes from the Government benches in reply to questions asked by the Opposition. How can the *Democrat* establish any claim to carry advertisements before the *Observer?* If we want to be honest, the Minister has not told us that the Observer carried the advertisement. Mr. Chairman, this Head is not going to be passed until this information comes, so let the Minister get his replies.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I recall asking the Leader of the House to state who issues the directions as to which newspaper the advertisement should appear. Do the civil servants take it upon themselves to do that, or does the Minister give the instructions? This is a very serious matter. I notice that after the *Democrat* came into existence it was carrying advertisements from various Statutory Boards while other newspapers never had any. It carried things from I.D.C. week, etc., but other weekly newspapers did not have that.

Mr. Chairman, we are not going to sit here and vote money to go into the treasury of the Democratic Labour Party. I am not going to vote money to be taken from the taxpayers and put into the pocket of

the political party to be used like this. There must be some basis for this. The Leader of the House must recognise that the *Observer* is one of the oldest newspapers in Barbados and must of necessity have prior claims before the *Truth*, the *Beacon* and the *Democrat*. I should like to have a statement from the Leader of the House as to why the *Observer* was not used last year. I want to find out whether as a fact these things were published three times last year. On what days were they published? I want to find out the date of the publication.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are awaiting replies to Item 25 - Emergency Relief. Whilst the information requested on Item 22 is being sought, let us have the information on Item 25.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member junior for St. Peter enquired in respect of Item 38 - Vehicles. The mobylette is used by officers at Government Headquarters for the dispatch of urgent correspondence and other matters when the van is not available. It was bought in 1965 and was condemned by a Mechanical Engineer of M.C.W. as unserviceable and its replacement has been recommended. The bicycle is 12 years old and has a broken frame. This is also used at Government Headquarters.

With regard to Item 32 - Accommodation - which includes a disturbance allowance, certain buildings at the Garrison presently occupied by Government Officers are required by the Ministry of Education for educational purposes. These Officers who have accommodation as a condition of their service and will be affected by this requirement will be granted this allowance to assist in their resettlement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, for what are they granted this allowance?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said that there are certain buildings at the Garrison which are presently occupied by certain officers of the Government. These buildings are required by the Ministry of Education for educational purposes. These officers, who have accommodation as a condition of their service and will now have to give up what they now occupy so that the Ministry may use it, will be granted this allowance to assist in their resettlement.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Hon. Leader of the House can tell me if this involved any of the civil servants who have been given notice to quit some time ago without any alternative arrangements or anything?
11.40 a.m.

I would also like to add a rider to that, and ask whether these buildings are also in the area, which I understand, has been designated to be sold to B.O.A.C.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: These buildings that we are discussing here are the Married Women's Quarters, the ones which are near the Museum.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, also living near the Museum are Civil Servants who are not in the Married Women's Quarters, and I wonder if they would be involved as well. There is a particular Civil Servant who has been asking for a change of his accommodation for a few years now, and has gone to the point of threatening resignation because he can never get a change. Every time there is a vacancy somewhere else, there is always an excuse why he is not moved.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know of this particular case, but if there are any occupying the buildings which the Ministry of Education is going to use, it will be the occupants of these buildings that will have to move and therefore he will be entitled to this re-settlement allowance.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, some time ago the Government did indicate that they were going to take over some of these buildings for the purpose of schools. I wonder if it is still Government's intention to carry out this policy, or whether they have abandoned this as they have abandoned so many of their other policies. I would like to know point blank from the Minister if there is any information forthcoming on Items 22 and 25 as requested by this side. They should not sit down and not answer. I heard the Prime Minister say yesterday that all Government Ministers are expected to answer questions. What is the position with Items 22 and 25, and is Government still prepared to carry out the policy of turning some of the Government flats at the Garrison into schools?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member and no hon. member opposite have heard me refuse to answer questions despite all the provocation and the unnecessary attacks on the Government and the Party. I have been courteous and restrained to hon. members because I think it is their due. I cannot dictate to them what is due to me as a member of the House, but I can see that I give them what is their due. I have not refused to answer any questions.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not saying that the hon. member refused; I asked if any answers are forthcoming.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There was a question asked about flags. The reply is that the Ministry seldom purchases more than 20 to 25 flags per year for use by Government Departments. However, the Ministry of Communications and Works buys bunting and miniature flags for decoration of Government buildings and places. The appropriation there is not only for flags; it is only $1,300 and there are other things including flags.

In respect of Item 25, I take it that the questions relate to the Flood Emergency Relief Funds. In respect of the Barbados Flood Relief Fund which was the privately organised one, at any rate the one organised outside of Government, the payments to date so far as we can gather from that fund have been $80,265.05 made up as follows: $53,455.37 in house-

hold effects and furniture, stoves, mattresses, pillows and so on, and a sum of $26,809.68 disbursed for rehabilitation to the fishing fleet. That gives a grand total of $80,265.05.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would be able to state what was the estimated damage done by the flood waters.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think in each of the two interim reports which have come to the House, estimates appear in respect of what it would cost to repair roads and bridges and other things like that, but the hon. member I think would appreciate that it would be difficult to get an estimate of the flood damage in respect of household articles and everything. We can only say from the various funds what has been disbursed and how. Now the Central Relief Fund totalled $55,125.64, and from this the sum of $24,600 has been used for the purchase of 300 mattresses, 300 sheets, 300 pillows and pillowcases; the sum of $3,679.19 was given to 24 butchers who submitted claims of damage; the sum of $2,070 was disbursed in aid to school children whose books and equipment had been destroyed, and disbursement of $129.07 to individual cases. There is a balance in that fund of $24,647.38.
11.50 a.m.

The assistance requested in respect of fishermen and fishing launches came in from 31 fishermen, and it was reported that 11 launches and seven small boats suffered a total loss, and that 13 launches had been damaged. As I explained to hon. members a few minutes ago, this sum of $26,809.68 is earmarked from the private fund to assist with this. (Mr. CRAIG: What is the private fund at now?) I do not have the figures to hand, but I imagine it is over $130,000; it was somewhere in that vicinity.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, how many mattresses were available from the private fund from the amount of $53,455.37? We have here that from the central fund 300 mattresses were purchased, but I want to know how many you had from the private fund. How many claims did you have for mattresses and how many of those claims have you satisfied? How many are outstanding?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe it would be of great interest to this Committee and to the entire nation if we can at least come as close as possible to what was the approximate flood damage. The Minister said just now he did not have the final figures on this; this we can appreciate, but from October last year until March this year, we should know what the approximate damage is. This is not a criticism of Government, I am as interested in knowing what is the approximate damage to the country from the October floods as well as any other citizen. I believe if we knew this there will be help coming from some unknown source, but let us know how much it is to date. Do not forget that we are still interested in hearing about Item 22.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: As I said, it is impossible for me now to give hon. members any idea of the total flood damage in terms of money, but I think it is time for the House to have had another report. I think we laid one in October, and I believe a few weeks after that we gave the House additional information, and I would like to be in a position to bring you one on that before we rise.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir, is the Minister aware that the flood occurred on 2nd October and that this is now the month of March? You do not intend ever having it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would not say this, the hon. member must appreciate that we, as well as members on the other side, would have liked to have this information, because it is no pleasure for us to have asked and to get information week after week to tell the House when we could probably have avoided it if it were possible by having this matter settled, but I will try and get a statement brought in before the House rises giving the House as complete a picture as possible.

In respect of what the hon. member asked about how many mattresses were bought, it would be difficult to determine the actual number, because at the moment the private Committee has not yet submitted its report of the individual deliveries made, and I will ask that for both funds at the end of the exercise an audited statement of all transactions be given to the House. I cannot be fairer than this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, from the central fund there is a balance of $24,647.38. How does Government feel having that in hand when people might very well be outside suffering? The flood occurred since 2nd October and it is high time that every individual who suffered ought to have been relieved, and we are now hearing that from the central fund there is this amount of over $24,000 in hand, doing what? People who made applications for relief have not been relieved, and there is money in hand. How many claims remain unsatisfied up to the moment? How many claims have not been processed? How can the Minister come and tell us there were 31 fishermen who made claims, 11 launches, 7 boats.....

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. HINDS: 11 launches and 7 boats were a total loss; that is valuable information, nobody would be annoyed about that, we feel that they are working. We learn that there were 24 butchers, but, Mr. Chairman, how is it that the Government has got the information from the private fund that $26,809.68 has been disbursed to rehabilitate the fishing fleet, it has got the figure of $53,455.37 to provide stoves mattresses and other equipment, how is it that the Government does not know how many stoves, how many mattresses, how many pillows and pillowcases should be there?
12.00 (noon)

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, they have not yet told us the individual things; they have told us what they have spent.

Mr. HINDS: It is in the Government's interest to look after the people. Government as well as everybody must welcome the assistance that this Private Fund has sought to render, but that is outside of what the Central Relief Fund should have done. Nobody can deny that we should have before us the balance in the Private Fund. (Hon. J.C. TUDOR: There is a balance.) The Minister says that there is a balance in the Private Fund. Now, how many people remain suffering while there is a balance in the Private Fund as well as in the Relief Fund? How many people applied for mattresses and are still sleeping on the floor or are drawing up at their families or at friends? Now, the sum of $27,637.48 is in the Relief Fund by way of a balance. Is not this amount of money to relieve the suffering flood victims? I would like to hear the Minister on this matter.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to appear to be selfish, but when I hear that there is $24,000 still in hand, I am going to ask the Minister to do me one little favour. On Monday morning I want him to go with me to Holetown and Fitts Village, and I can spend half of that $24,000 there. The Minister will still have an additional $12,000. What is the point of holding on to this money? There is a man called Thomas Cadogan whose house is in the sea and he has no place to live. It was a very small house, and I am sure it cannot cost $24,000. I will make an appointment with the Minister and we can go to Fitts Village on Monday morning and fix Thomas Cadogan's house. I do not want to be selfish, but I am sure that I can spend that money in St. James.

Now, the Minister of Communications and Works will remember that he went to the area at Trents and saw water 4ft. to 5ft. high. A week after the flood, with the assistance of the Fire Brigade, they were able to pump off the water. The day after the rain drizzled and the whole place was flooded once more. These people are still suffering down there. Lord, you know it is true; I am going to knock down Discovery Bay's wall, even if I have to do it with dynamite because that is responsible for the poor people having to suffer down there. I have drawn that to the attention of the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I have asked them to refer the matter to the Town and Country Planning Department, but I have heard nothing further about the matter. It happened in 1966; it happened again in 1969, and I am going to blow down that wall. It is not fair for people to put up a wall and block the watercourse. I understand that there is a law whereby no one should put up a property or a wall and block a watercourse, and that is what Discovery Bay has done. Eight houses have been damaged down there and the people have got nothing. The Minister of Communications visited the area and he saw the water-marks, but nothing was done for the people. If the Minister does not know what to do with the $24,000, I can relieve him of it. I can spend that sort of money in Fitts Village on Thomas Cadogan's house and in Holetown.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. James is not in his place, but, I have just been informed that so far as the query raised by him is concerned, no claim has been received in respect of any damage done to Thomas Cadogan's house in Fitts Village.

Mr. Chairman, no one should suppose that the Government are less interested than hon. members opposite in having this whole matter done, or that the Government would be less willing than hon. members opposite to see those needy cases get relief. From the beginning of the emergency we had issued instructions that the most urgent and needy cases should be dealt with first, and following in the wake of the most needy and urgent that all others should be dealt with. We had hoped to have the whole thing finished by November or December. This has not been the case and we are sorry about it, but we are taking action to investigate all outstanding claims. We would be grateful if the general public would bring to our notice all those claims which either have not been reported or have been reported and have not yet been dealt with and about which there is still some delay and waiting. Mr. Chairman, I am still awaiting the information on that particular aspect of the question of newspaper publications.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was in the first debate after the flood had occurred that I drew it to the attention of the House that in the past

the Police rendered valuable assistance in bringing to the attention of the Government the damage that occurred in the respective Police areas. The Police were not wanted on the 2nd October floods to assist the Government for some very special reason. We have said it already that in the City of Bridgetown people who, for the most part, given any opportunity, would destroy every poor person in Bridgetown were chosen to go around and assess what damage had been done to people living in certain areas in Bridgetown for political purposes. It was not right then, and it is not right now.
12.10 p.m.

We are maintaining that if the people are told today that they should report what damage they suffered to the nearest police station, I am sure it would be the easiest way for Government to be able to send out inspectors after the reports have been received and then have an assessment made of what did occur during the flood. I understood the Minister to say that reports have not been received from this and that area. I wonder if the Minister received any reports from Rose Hill, Maynard's Road, Church Street Gardens and the Risk in St. Peter. These are areas where people suffered damage in varying degrees. People were told that inspectors or people from the Housing Authority or somewhere would come around and they looked every minute of the day and nobody came. When somebody did go in the area he was told that this person belongs to the other side and people were by-passed. We are saying that the hurricane visited the members of the Democratic Labour Party as well as the supporters of the Barbados Labour Party, and we should divorce politics from this. I am trying, Sir, to establish a reason why Government is not in the position to tell us.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member must not continue to make these erroneous statements because of privilege. The hon. member knows as well as ever that what he is saying is not true. It is absolutely untrue and he should desist from making those allegations.

Mr. HINDS: I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that it is pleasing to you to sit and hear the hon. member stand and accuse me of saying that I know what I am saying is untrue. I am taking objection to this and I ask you to have the hon. member withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is objecting to the words used in reference to him that he was making statements knowing them to be untrue. Will the hon. member withdraw?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Withdraw what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. junior member for St. Thomas withdraw those remarks?

(Hon. N. W. BOXILL left the Chamber.)

Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HINDS: I cannot proceed under the circumstances. No business will be proceeded with until you have dealt with this situation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How can I deal with it when the hon. member is absent.

Mr. HINDS: You have certain authority. If I had done it you would know what to do with me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member has finished speaking, I will put the question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Chair insists that I must proceed, I will have to do so. I have taken exception to certain remarks that have been made towards me. How can I continue to function when these remarks remain? If you say I must continue under the circumstances, I will obey the Chair.

What we are saying, Mr. Chairman, is that the Government had it within its hands and had everything at its disposal to be able to organise.....

(Hon. N. W. BOXILL returned to the Chamber.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am directing my remarks to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. This will be the third time I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the remarks complained of earlier.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, withdraw what remarks?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is the third time I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the remarks. I will not be calling on him any more. I will use my authority.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Which remarks have you asked me to withdraw? Is it unparliamentary to say that the hon. member said something he knows is not true? I withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are very sorry indeed to find that so many months after the flood the Government does not know who suffered any loss or damage on the 2nd October. It is a sad commentary on the situation. Nobody can get around this, and when one looks around there is still money and to spare. Nobody likes a hurricane; nobody would wish in his lifetime again to witness a hurricane, but the Government stands condemned in a situation such as this. In other words, it amounts to a man having five or six children at home hungry and naked, not being able to peep through the door, but their father is the proudest man in town with all the bank notes shaking up in his pocket. He is walking about telling people how much money he has, but his little children are at home hungry and naked. That is the position in which the Government finds itself at the moment with $24,647.38 to its credit in the Central Emergency Fund plus what is in the private Flood Relief Fund, the amount of which the Minister has not disclosed as yet. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It was over $100,000.) The Minister says the balance in the Private Relief Fund is over $100,000.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, I said earlier I thought the total collection in that fund would have been $120,000 to $130,000. The hon. member will see that there is already $80,000 that we have spent up to date; so there may easily be another $30,000 or $40,000 left, but in the Central Government Fund there is $24,000.
12.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in any case we are satisfied that there is still money in the till. We are also satisfied that there are some people who suffered on October 2nd last year and who have not yet got the necessary amount of relief that is due to them. These two things are established. How then, Mr. Chairman, can the Government proceed as under this Head to be providing $10,000 for emergency relief when we have seen that when an emergency arises the Government is incapable, and I say totally incapable, of measuring up to the situation in any appreciable degree. After all, the victims of the flood are human beings; there are some people who have lost livestock, and I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us if any of them have received compensation for livestock lost in the flood, or are we going to hear that claims have been received? If it is a case where claims have not been received, we are asking Government to do justice to the occasion, it is not too late because there is money in the fund still. Let Government place suitable notices where people can learn that there is still an opportunity for them to make known to the Police Station nearest to them to what extent they suffered during the October 2nd, floods.

I still feel, Mr. Chairman, that you are then imposing a sort of hardship on these poor people, because it is a long time between October 2nd and today, but nevertheless we would still ask them to report to the Police Station so that a member of the Force can go out to these people's homes and see for himself where possible exactly what has occurred. A necessary survey would then be carried out and we would be in a better position, because one would have thought that Government coming here for $10,000 today to put in an emergency fund - and I agree with what the hon. senior member for St. James has said in this matter - our own experience has told us that putting $10,000 in an emergency fund is really no money at all, but if we were to content ourselves by saying that we have put some money in the fund, and in the event of an emergency we would have to have an emergency meeting and provide other funds, let us content ourselves with all of these things. It is too much, Mr. Chairman, to have people who suffered in the flood to continue suffering all these months, to be neglected by Government when there is ample money that could have provided them with all, and perhaps more, which could have brought them satisfaction. Each and every hon. member, I am sure, would like to know and to see that our people are decently housed, and comfortably housed, we do not want to see the herding and the bundling together of groups of children any longer. We are trying wherever possible, Mr. Chairman, to remove ourselves from having the father and mother on top of the bed and the children sleeping underneath the same bed. We want to remove ourselves from this, and you will understand and appreciate that the visitation of a flood would occasion conditions such as these, and one must look to our Government to bring relief. What has the Government done? The Minister is not in a position to tell us today that every flood victim has been visited and interviewed, his claims examined.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is breaking the rules of this House.

Mr. HINDS:..... So it falls to Government to act and act quickly now to remedy the situation which Government has worsened since October 2nd. We would like to hear what the Minister has to say on these things.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I cannot say anything more on that matter to add to what I have already said, but the hon. member has been awaiting a reply to the question of unclaimed articles. The facts are as follows: In 1968 an advertisement was placed in the *Truth* newspaper on 16th October and in the *Advocate* on 18th. In 1969 advertisements were placed in the *Observer* on 12th and 19th July and in the *Advocate* on 7th July. In 1970 advertisements were placed in the *Democrat* on 23rd May and the *Advocate* on 29th May. There has been no publication yet in 1971, so that whatever weekly is in circulation in the course of 1971 it will be that weekly's turn.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House misled this Committee not so long ago when he told us that these advertisements had appeared in the *Truth* newspaper last year and in the *Beacon*.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, Mr. Chairman, I have just said it appeared in 1968. Earlier I said there was a rotation between weeklies. I could not have said it appeared in the *Truth* newspaper last year because that was the information I was asked to provide, when and in what years advertisements were made in the several newspapers.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is after the Minister said it appeared last year and we knew he could not have been true that the questions were then asked that he should provide the specific dates of each newspaper and when the advertisements appeared in each newspaper accordingly, but Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying now that this article, the list of unclaimed articles, did not appear in the *Democrat* newspaper on more than one occasion? In other words, that it did not appear twice?
12.30 p.m.

We are serious about this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that is the advice I have received. It appeared in the *Democrat* on the 23rd May, and in the *Advocate* on the 29th May.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is it not strange to hear from the Minister that the law requires that the notice must appear in the *Official Gazette* and in a weekly newspaper once, but from the dates given by the Minister the notice appeared in 1969 in the *Observer* twice (12th and 19th July)? How could this possibly have happened, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, you cannot win in an argument with the hon. member. I understand about half an hour ago that the gravamen of his argument was that we were pushing out the *Observer* because it was the oldest newspaper. I was not aware that we were pushing out the *Observer*, so I waited for the information. Now I see that far from not having published in the *Observer*, we published in the *Observer* on two occasions in one month of the same year. I do not know if this was a breach of the law. It may be that if the law requires that you publish it once in each newspaper and you publish it twice you may be in a breach of the law, but it is a fact, so far as I am presently advised, that we published it in 1968 once in the *Truth*, once in the *Advocate*, and in 1969 twice in the *Observer* and once in the *Advocate*, and in 1970 once in the *Democrat* and once in the *Advocate*. There has been publication this year, but it would obviously this year be either the Beacon or the *Truth*'s turn.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister must try and have it established in his Ministry that Government advertisements must not be published for the benefit of newspaper proprietors. That is the first thing we have to consider. This is an advertisement making known to people that the Police hold in their possession a list of unclaimed articles. The object of publishing the notices is to let the owners know that they have an opportunity to come and identify these items, satisfy the Police and reclaim them before they are sold by auction.

Mr. Chairman, if you, for instance, were publishing a newspaper and you published one copy for your own curiosity to take home and read, it would be a newspaper, nevertheless, but would it be fair to those people whose properties are in the hands of the Police to have such an advertisement published in that newspaper? That is the sort of thing the Minister is now trying to justify in this Committee when he talks about a system of rotation. The system of rotation cannot apply at all in this case, and it has to be based on the interest of the population. In other words, if you are going to place an advertisement, you should place it in a newspaper where it can reach the most people. We are not publishing things for the proprietor's curiosity. It appears to me that what the Minister is now trying to do would be wickedness, and it is not fair.

Mr. Chairman, every newspaper is entitled to exist. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, some Minister is worried over the *Truth* newspaper. The *Truth* is carrying out a re-organisation programme because it is going to re-appear as a daily, much to the disturbance of the Minister. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, even the gates of our building we have to pay for from our own pockets; we cannot use Public Works to make them. In the process of time the Government's own newspaper will build up a circulation that will entitle it to carry Government advertisements whether as a weekly, daily or something else. That does not concern us, but until it can establish that it has a worthwhile circulation it should not be given such advertisements.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know one or two things. What does it cost the Government to advertise in the daily newspaper? What did it cost the Government to advertise the same list of articles in the *Democrat*? What did it cost the Government to advertise in *Truth* newspaper, the *Beacon*, the Observer or any other newspaper? These are things that should be taken into consideration. *(Asides)* There will be no merging, Sir. The Minister told us that the funds are limited. If the funds are limited, then it is for the Government to see that they get the best returns for their money. The Minister has told us that the results have been disappointing. Has the Minister not given us the reason why the results are disappointing? His party's newspaper must make it disappointing, because it does not have a wide circulation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. For over five hours we have been subjected to a lot of filibustering under this Head. I rise to move that the question be now put.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I refer to Standing Order No. 32(1).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. The hon. member has moved, "that the question be now put," and he has stated his reason for so doing. I have no alternative, and I have to put the question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, do you not see that the interest of the minority.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, there can be no debate on this matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there are hon. members on this side who have not spoken on this Head.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, may I read Standing Order 32(1).

"After a question has been proposed, a Member rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put"; and, unless it appears to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House, or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question "That the question be now put" shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover has had no opportunity to make his reply."
12.40 p.m.

Sir, they would not let me make the point of order. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: There can be no point of order.) I am entitled to ask that Your Honour do not put the question on the grounds that it would amount to an infringement of the rights of the minority. There are other hon. members who have not yet spoken on this side. If the hon. member is saying that the hon. member who is speaking is filibustering, he must ask your Honour to deal with him on the grounds of repetition and so forth, but he has not asked you to do that. Besides, Mr. Chairman, Standing Order No. 32 (4) says that "This Order shall be put in force only when in the House the Speaker or Deputy Speaker or in Committee the Chairman is in the Chair." There is no Chairman in the Chair; he is in England.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is one time that no lawyer can advise me because in most cases they advise wrongly and cause people to go to gaol. The Order reads "This Order shall be put in force only when in the House, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker or in Committee the Chairman is in the Chair."

I did not put myself in the Chair. A motion was moved that I deputise as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman of Committees, and it was carried by the same hon. members in the Opposition. Are you going to tell me now that I am a benchman and not a Chairman? I rule that the motion is in order, and I am going to put the question.

The question that the question be now put, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. CORBIN, and Hon. C. E. TALMA - 10.

NOES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. CRAIG - 5.

The question that the sum of $905,870 under Head 25 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS and Mr. CORBIN - 10.

NOES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. St. JOHN and Mr. CRAIG - 5.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:

NOES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. LOWE; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS and Mr. CORBIN - 9.

AYES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY and Mr. St. JOHN - 5.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has resolved itself in the negative, nine hon. members voted NO and five hon. members voted AYE. I now declare that the NOES have it.

HEAD 26 - LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Head 26 - Lands and Surveys Department - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $79,138 under Head 26 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, speaking under this Head, this is a typical example of the recklessness.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Head have an Item?

Mr. St. JOHN: I am speaking on the motion that this is $79,000 of the taxpayers' money that we have been asked to vote, and I am accusing the Government for the last four years of spending sums in the vicinity of $90,000 per year and not getting any results for it at all. What can they show has been done in the Lands and Surveys Department to justify the $300,000 and $400,000 that has been spent on the Department so far? They said they were going to provide a cadastral survey of Barbados, they were going to set up a surveying base work for land registration in Barbados, and despite the fact that four years have passed or more that this Department was set up, they have not been able to arrive at that yet. What kind of craziness this is that we are operating in Barbados? Year after year we have been warning the Government that they were not getting value for their money, and they did absolutely nothing. This is a clear case where a motion of censure for wastage of taxpayers' money and indifference in administration should take place.

We are going to vote against this Head as a mark of protest to let the whole public know that no place in the world can it take four years to set up, far less in Barbados where it is relatively flat country. Kenya and the other territories had this done, at the most it is a two-year job, and this is four years we have been operating and no progress has been made. I heard the Prime Minister myself criticise it and said it was going at snail's pace. They definitely have to have plenty of explanations on this Head, because I do not feel that any Minister should feel that every year he can repeatedly bring down money here for a department and that the public must take it, when we know in all honesty that the taxpayers of Barbados have been robbed, really robbed when it comes to this question of the cadastral survey, Up to now no maps have been provided, not a quarter, one fifth or anything of the Island has been done.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. St. JOHN: Two members are on their feet, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. A DaC. EDWARDS: I addressed you, Mr. Chairman, and said on a point of order. I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Speaking on that motion, it goes to show what mockery we are making of the rules of the House. Two minutes ago we moved the same motion and the motion was voted against; this is most blatantly inconsistent.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I must let the hon. senior member for Christ Church know that the Speaker was not available.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I do not care whether the Speaker was in here or not, every year we vote money for a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker why is it that we cannot get the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker present at the House's convenience? Every year we do it, and if we are going to have people using the rules of the House against the Opposition, the Opposition is going to talk and not partake in any hypocrisy. After all, I have to come here, and yesterday when I asked the Leader of the House to come at 10.00 o'clock he said no, we should come at 9.00 o'clock. It is 9.00 o'clock for me, 9.00 o'clock for the other members and it is 9.00 o'clock for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. No man is above the law in here, let us get that straight. That is an expression of the feeling of the House. The Speaker has been here repeatedly, and if the Deputy Speaker does not come, the other side is encouraging him in it because he is a member of their Party and they should tell the Deputy Speaker that he must not draw his salary under false pretences and not come and do his work in the House. I am not holding back anything today at all, I cannot partake in this hypocrisy. This is a lot of foolishness, if you do not want offices give them up. If you cannot do the work give it up, we have to be relieved of our work and that is one of the obligations of coming in here and taking offices.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I would just like to make one point clear to the hon. senior member for Christ Church. I am the person who voted against the motion, but I do not want the hon. member to think that I voted against this motion because he is in the Opposition, I voted against the motion because I realised that we should have to be in here with you in the Chair sitting and doing nothing, and I suggested that this would be the best thing to do because I realised the position the House would have been in. I do not want hon. member to think that this was done in opposition to the Opposition Party, this was done in good faith in order to save face, that is all it was done for.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that, I do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like a ruling from you as to whether this motion is a proper motion, because as far as I know the only motion that can be put on a point of order is a motion to close the debate. You cannot put a motion to report progress on a point of order, the only motion that can be put on a point of order is a motion for closure, and I would like a ruling on that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Give me the number of the Standing Order.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I want a ruling, I cannot advise you, Sir, I am a lawyer, I am one of the people who advise people to get locked up, I want a ruling from you, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I heard in this House a few minutes ago that the Chairman said he does not take advice from lawyers because lawyers advise in the wrong way and cause you to go to prison. Lawyers cannot give you advice because you may say the number is a wrong number too. You have to be done way or the other.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will not be dishonest so as to say that the number is wrong when I see it is right.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would not like it to go on record that I have accused the Chair of dishonesty, I do not believe in such things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have, I want you to know that.

1.00 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is fair to castigate the Chair on this occasion. I am not jumping to the defence of one single person in here. I am confident that every single member in here.....

(Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph must understand that the hon. senior member for St. James is on his feet and he must keep quiet.

Mr. BOLDEN: I have now observed him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not here to jump to the defence of any individual, be he lawyer, doctor, economist - I do not care who he is. Whenever he sits in here he is a member of this Committee or of this august Parliament. Mr. Chairman, I think you misunderstood the hon. member and you made a mountain out of a molehill. The hon. member asked for your personal Ruling, and you can now advise the hon. member. That is all the hon. member wanted. I came in here at this point more or less as a peacemaker, and that is a strange role for me to play.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member distinctly said that I cannot put this Motion. He said that and then asked me for a Ruling. He told me what I could not do and then asked me what to do.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I said that, as far as I understand, the only motion that can be put on a point of order is a motion for closure. Any other motion such as the one moved by the senior member for St. Andrew would, in my opinion, be out of order. I am, therefore, asking for your Ruling, Sir, on whether the motion put by the senior member for St. Andrew is in order, having been made on a point of order. I want to know whether a motion to report progress can be made on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am awaiting the Clerks.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if hon. members object to my moving this motion on a point of order, then I should like to ask leave to move the motion now. Now that I am not speaking on a point of order, can I move the motion? Mr. Chairman, I beg to withdraw that motion and, now that I am not speaking on a point of order, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

(Asides)

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES and Mr. CORBIN - 9.

NOES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY, and Mr. St. JOHN - 5.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I heard the senior member for St. James referring to Brancker. I want to know whether the hon. member is referring to the Hon. Speaker of this Hon. Chamber as Brancker.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, with my four years in here and your knowledge of my experience and the number of years I have associated myself with you, you can rest assured that I would never refer to Mr. Speaker as Brancker. I still maintain that it is Brancker, whether it is Egbert, George or Sheila Brancker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a half.

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

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

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and thereto automatically it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

HEAD 26 - LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the sitting was suspended we were discussing Head 26.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we would like to have the replies. The Leader of the Opposition said that he did not think the Department was operating satisfactorily, and we would like to hear a statement from the Minister in regard to that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to get some information from the Chief Surveyor on the question raised. I would suggest that we postpone this Head temporarily.

I beg to move that Head 26 - Lands and Surveys Department - be postponed temporarily.

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

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

HEAD 27 - POLICE

Head 27 – POLICE – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,033,824 under Head 27 - Police - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is a sum of $33,600 for paying Band Apprentices.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the Item number?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think we had better get rid of this Item number business, because it did not apply when the hon. senior member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair. I took very special note of that. The hon. member just said that he was debating a Resolution which was before the House, and he went on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you for the number of the Item.

Mr. HINDS: It is Item 33 - Band Apprentices. There is a certain amount of dissatisfaction in the Police Band, and upon making enquiries one must feel that there is some justification for it. Quite recently there has been a considerable amount of promotion in the Royal Barbados Police Force, but the Police Band, perhaps, because no representation has been made on its behalf does not find itself enjoying the same consideration as other branches of the Force. That being so, it always creates a sort of bottleneck which makes limited opportunity for the placing of apprentices even after some of them have served as much as five years.

2.45 p.m.

There is a feeling, Mr. Chairman, that as in the case of the Writ Department, it would be better if a separate department was set up and it be not treated as if it were a part of the Force as such, because one must regard the Band as functioning in a broad yet strictly limited sphere, that is, music. It is a specialised field, but what we find is that there is no case of special increments being given to the members of the Police Band as in the case of the Police Force. In the regular Force, up to the rank of Corporal can get special increments. This is not the case with the Band. We find that these apprentices are taken on, they study music and are given lectures in English and Arithmetic, but the amusing thing is that at no time, from what I can gather, do they sit examinations arising from the taking of these lectures. After they have been given these lectures over a period of years, there is no way of knowing whether they have benefited or not.

There are presently at the Police Training School some former members of the Band who have been apprenticed for something like five years, and because of the peculiar arrangement for numbers of members of the Band, it is after they have been trained in music, or as we would say, to play the Do Re, Mi, they have then to go to the Training School to learn the meaning of larceny, otherwise their services would be dispensed with. After they reach the age of nineteen, I do not know if their services are retained for the Band any longer. So it is a sort of peculiar situation that exists where the Police Band is concerned. We understand that there is a junior Band and that performances have been put on at times by the senior and the junior Bands, but there have been occasions when the Band was going on overseas tours that they had to draw on the services of former members who had been away from the Band for a considerable time and had joined the regular Force. Now we have got wherever possible to encourage the teaching and playing of instrumental music as well as we have got to encourage vocal music in our schools and elsewhere, and the suggestion has been made before - I think I made it last year - that we could certainly recruit from amongst our comprehensive and secondary schools enough children that we could have orchestras, and use them for providing entertainment in our various parks and esplanades. It would mean a cultural uplift for our young people and it is something that would be to their lasting benefit and the community as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, there is an organisation known as the Police Association, but even the way that is constituted there is no representation on that body from the Police Band. You or I cannot hold responsibility for this. It is for these people to try and arrange their business to their own advantage, but even if something were done in that respect, one might

find an occasion where representation would be made to the Commissioner of Police to increase the number of Sergeants in the Police Band at least so that it would make way for an increased number of apprentices to fall into line for numbers. Mr. Chairman, if a boy or a girl for that matter is given early encouragement to make music a career, there would be no more damaging effect upon that encouragement than, after reaching the age of nineteen as happens with these apprentices, to find that all the music which has been learned in earlier years goes to waste. A person may have been specialising in this field for five or six years, and then he is turned away from it. You will appreciate that it casts a feature upon a young person that you and I, I am sure, would not like to have to tinker with in our life time.

Now as for the Police generally, we have voted from time to time to increase the strength of the Force; but it would appear as if there is something lacking somewhere. It is a case where perhaps numbers do not meet or provide the answer.
2.55 p.m.

For instance, in the City of Bridgetown today - I do not mean on this day Friday - nowadays quite often you will find that there are only two policemen posted on duty, one posted in the Public Buildings Yard and another at the main gate at Central Police Station. There is not a uniformed Policeman to go on patrol duty on foot through any of the streets of the City of Bridgetown. That happens time and time again, so much so that you will find you have the Harbour Branch of the Force and men from the Harbour.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but this particular Item calls for wages and allowances of Band apprentices, not Harbour Police.

M. HINDS: So, Mr. Chairman, what are you telling me then? Is it not a case where we are voting $1,033,834 under the Head, Police? I am not talking about the landship.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is under the Head, Police but each Item has an explanatory note; if it was a block vote under Police the hon. member could speak on any matter dealing with the Police generally, but we are dealing now at this present moment with wages and allowances for Band apprentices. There may be another Item dealing with Harbour Police or other Police, but this is Band apprentices and I am appealing to the hon. member to keep to the Item from now until tomorrow, but let it be Band apprentices' wages and allowances.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is Head 27 and I will speak on Items 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and I will be turning over to 41 and continuing down to 64. I will go if time permits down to Item 75, but I will deal with them one by one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And you will deal with them one after the other because I cannot remember all those you called just now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to obey your ruling, and I turn now to Item 65. It is me, you know, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Item 65 is to meet the cost of performances by mounted Police and other branches of the Police Force.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I need your guidance in this. According to you, all I have to say about the mounted Police I have to say it under this Item now, is that right? I do not want to go wrong, that is why I am asking you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to put you wrong either, the explanatory note says it is to meet the cost of the performances by mounted Police and other branches of the Police Force. You know better than I do the meaning of the word "performances".

Mr. HINDS: I am really observing some very special ones, because this is a special performance we are dealing with under this Item. Mr. Chairman, there is an amount of only $2,000 that is provided for this performance. I would like to enquire from the Minister how many special performances they propose putting on by the Band in the coming financial year. I would like to know from the Minister in what parishes, seeing that it is only $2,000 to be spent on this, if there are any parishes that will be revisited for a second performance, and I would like to know further - I have got to be very careful - if I can discuss Police horses under this same Item. I would like your guidance, because the note says absolutely nothing about Police horses.

I would like to ask the Minister if this is where the Police horses will be brought into play for these performances, and in cases where the Police horses will be performing in the country districts if any provisions have as yet been made for the use of Police boxes for returning the horses to the respective stations after these strenuous peformances. Even for the men, I would like to know what provision will be made for their transportation because the men do not like after they have put on these performances to be on the road for even half an hour or an hour riding back to their stations on tired horses. Tired men and tired horses. Item 65 tells us that this $2,000 is to meet the cost of performances by the mounted branch as well as other branches of the Police Force; the Minister would be in a position no doubt to tell us what kind of performances. We have an idea of what the mounted branch does, we would like to know if the Minister can help us in finding out what performances the other branches of the service do as well.
3.05 p.m.

I want to go now to Item 34 - Special Constable. Mr. Chairman, I should be glad if you could assist me with the note.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no note to Item 34.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is no note, but the sum of $3,600 is provided for Special Constables. I am talking about the money. When last were Special Constables employed? Has the Government not seen the necessity for employing Special Constables at such places as Seawell Airport and the Bridgetown Harbour? These Special Constables should be sworn in as Island Constables and given special authority, because in addition to the regular posting of Policemen at the Airport and the Bridgetown Port, there was a request to have, as in the case of the Bridgetown Port, 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants, 5 Corporals and 17 other ranks on duty there. Up to the present moment, I think I am right in saying that, except in very rare cases where emergencies arose by the arrival of a number of ships in the Port, at no time has the requirement ever been met. In our view the time has come when there could be a strengthening of the supervision in these areas by the employment of Special Constables. In the absence of any note, Mr. Chairman, I am asking when last have Special Constables been employed.

Let us turn to Item 40 - Upkeep of Animals - $20,076. I should like to hear what the Minister has to say with regard to the feeding of fodder from Graeme Hall swamp and other places to the horses. It is a fact that the fodder fed to the horses from the swamps is invariably trampled and the horses do not eat it. This is a situation which obtains in defiance of the advice which was given by Dr. Proverbs that the Police Horses should be fed on pangola grass. Here is a case where the Veterinary officer has given advice on a matter of such importance and such advice has not been complied with. It would be interesting to know the number of times the Police horses have been found to be sick and requiring the attention of the Veterinary Officer immediately after they had been fed with grass from the Graeme Hall swamp.

Now, at District "A" Police Station where a number of Police horses are kept, it is said that the Government are not able to buy pangola grass to feed the horses. This is the view of a Sergeant, but what we are saying is that if these horses are to perform satisfactorily, then the advice of the Government Veterinary Officer ought to be strictly adhered to.

With regard to the shoeing of the horses, no one will deny that Police horses remain unshod for too long a period.
3.15 p.m.

One reason for this is that the amount of money that is paid for the shoeing of a horse does not encourage anyone who is in business today to leave off working for a dollar to shoe a police horse for little or nothing. So if three or four police horses want shoeing on Monday morning, they might not be shod until Friday or Saturday because the price paid is definitely too small. I see the hon. senior member for St. Michael shaking his head. He can get up and talk and say what he wants about it. He might not be in a straight jacket like I am; he would be free to talk. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What is the fee paid for shoeing a horse?) You all should know it; I know it.

Mr. Chairman, there is the question of food and medicine for the dogs. The question of the use of police dogs has arisen in this House I believe more than once. What we do know is that police dogs today are not as pure as they used to be when the Force first acquired them from Great Britain. There have been instances when certain indiscretions have led to the use of these dogs for purposes which we are sure could never be authorised by any right thinking person, bearing in mind the purpose for which the dogs are attached to the Force, and this is one matter which I am sure needs some investigation. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps the actions of dog masters may be defended, but even the defence that might be offered I would like to have investigated, because it might well be defended in the interest of who offers the defence, because from every indiscretion to which I refer on the part of the dog master, somebody is going to benefit I do not say who.

Mr. Chairman, there is the question of bedsteads being supplied to the police. I understand that they have reached as far as the Black Rock Police Station only yesterday or the day before. Now that is something that was recommended years ago by the Date Commission and it has taken all this time to find that just a few of the stations so far have been equipped with these beds, pillows and the like. We are asked here now to vote $14,000 but if we looked at the Approved expenditure for 1970-71, we would see that $74,460 had been approved, and there is now a decrease by $60,460. The actual expenditure was $2,404, but what can really be done with $14,400 unless we can be told that this is now the final phase? In other words, that when we purchase 50 beds, 50 pillows, 50 sheets, and 50 chairs that this is the final phase for equipping the Force with bedsteads.
3.25 p.m.

Item 68 - Motor Vehicles. We find expenditure in the sum of $141,450, and the note merely says for the replacement of cars, it does not tell us how many cars - motor cycles, land rovers, there is no "S" added on to van, ambulance or lorry. We take it they will buy one van, one ambulance and one motor lorry; that is what the note says, but it also includes a revote for the purchase of a mini-bus and motor cycles. We are going to replace motor cycles, cars, land rovers and the like, and the Minister undoubtedly would have it in his files to tell us how many of each of these Items are due for replacement. Perhaps he would be in a position to tell us the age of each of these vehicles, and in some cases it might not be age but there might be other circumstances which would have led up to the decision to replace them. All of these things the Minister would have at his disposal, and certainly we ought to know about them.

I want to go now, Mr. Chairman, to Item 66 - Marine Equipment. There is an amount of $25,750 to meet the cost of upkeep and maintenance of two launches. It is known that Police launches require

special fittings at times, and some of them I understand have got to be imported specially for the Police. It might be of interest to us if the Police have found themselves in a position where parts imported for the launches were received at the Police Department, but when the time came for these parts to be fitted to the launches they could not be found and could not be accounted for. Could the Minister tell us the cost? If it is a whole package of component parts for Police launches that disappeared, what is the cost of the package? This sum also includes provision for the upkeep of boats and apparatus; is this word "apparatus" inserted in this note to cover the missing package? In other words is it being used as a cover up in any respect? It would be of interest to us if we can be told how many boats the police now have in actual service, in other words, in readiness for any event.

Everyone knows, Mr. Chairman, of the valuable service which is rendered by the Harbour Police when it comes to rescue work, and undoubtedly the Minister would be in a position to give us an up to date report as to what service has been rendered so far by this unit.

At Item 67 they are going to purchase stop watches among other things. These stop watches have been put to severe testing from time to time not as to the accuracy of the watches but as to the efficiency of the operators of the watches and as far as I know the Police have not been using stop watch methods to any considerable extent of late in checking speed, they employ the speed car system where they go to Court and give evidence of having travelled a distance of 110 yards or more and that a person have been driving a car at a speed between 40 and 42 miles an hour, but the stop watch does not permit this. With a stop watch or two stop watches you either drive at 30, 40 or 50 miles or whatever it is, you do not drive between, and despite the fact that the speed car has done the bulk of the work recently, and despite the fact that there have been some criticisms as to the operators of the stop watches, the people charged with using the stop watches, I still feel that when persons were convicted by evidence provided where the stop watch has been used they feel more justified than under the present system. That is my view on that particular Item.
3.35 p.m.

Now, at Item 48 - Books and Publications - $800. Mr. Chairman, you may get angry turning so many pages backward and forward. The Note says: "Purchase of articles and books for training purposes. Includes cost of life saving equipment and Road Safety Literature." The question of road safety is one which has to be tackled boldly. We have at present thousands of school children leaving schools and clustering on the streets without the guidance they should have. I believe there has been no Road Safety Campaign in itself that can touch the children. I refer to a campaign which the children can follow, and such a campaign should be launched. I have seen attempts made on television showing what obtains in England - something that does not have local appeal, and I do not recommend that. We need selected officers from the Police Force - not officers who merely know the traffic laws - who can go to the various schools and give the children lectures on road safety. The could do that in conjunction with the Road Safety Associtation.

Mr. Chairman, the Road Safety Association could work hand in hand in closer co-operation with the Police in a matter of this sort with a view to saving the lives of our school children. During the crop season we still find children, particularly in the country districts, running behind motor lorries or other vehicles laden with cane. They pull at the cane and expose themselves to danger all along. We would like to know that instructions regarding the dangers of these things are given to the school children by the Police and the Road Safety Association as well as the Masters and Mistresses of the various schools.

Mr. Chairman, the Police and the Road Safety Association should address Parent Teacher Bodies, and on such occasions they could instruct them how they could best impart such knowledge to their children and save them from some of these dangers. After all, we must consider ourselves lucky that we do not have more fatal accidents involving little children. We see and we know the way in which these children go to and from school, and it does not present the pleasantest sight. We would certainly like to see these various Organisations launching a campaign bringing in the various Church Bodies as well with a view to educating the children as to how they should move along the streets and protect their own lives.

Mr. Chairman, it may be necessary to obtain the services of guides - the same Special Constable type that I was discussing earlier - with sufficient identification on their arms to assist school children at street crossings in addition to what the Police now do at Baxters Road junction, King Street junction and other places. All of that is appreciated, but we feel that, if this type of campaign were mounted for a six-month period, or two terms in a year, or even one year, the children after a period of time would see to it that other children do not falter in any respect.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that what I am saying about Road Safety entails the building of footpaths and so on. We must provide these things to keep the children off the main highway. I am sure that sooner or later we will have to give consideration to increasing the speed limit of motor vehicles in certain areas. We cannot get away from that. One of our problems is that traffic, at the moment, cannot move swiftly enough in certain areas. So far as Item 48 is concerned, it is not merely a case of providing literature.
3.45 p.m.

You have to have people read the literature and understand what they read, for I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that you above all persons must be touched by what I have just said: people understanding what they read. You know your position demands that of

you; so you know how difficult it is in the case of people being provided with road safety literature or any other thing. It is perhaps handed out by the Road Safety Association during a campaign by going from car to car and dropping one in. I know that people get into their vehicles and see these pamphlets and throw them out. They never stop to look at them. If you provide this literature and merely hand it out to people because it is handed out by the Road Safety Association or the Police Association it would not serve its purpose. We have got to get people interested in what it is all about.

Now I notice that at Item 42, portion of the $11,000 is for the replacement of instruments. Here again, Mr. Chairman, a considerable amount of money, I understand, is being saved in the Police Band because one member thereof has had special training in effecting certain repairs to certain instruments. We have got to look for ways and means not only of arming people with qualifications for this or that, but making people find something to do with their hands. Could we find it possible to provide two more scholarships at least for some of these young men with the Band and have them learn how to repair some of the instruments? After all, Sir, it is a status that could be very well rewarded because we will have the Band for as long, we believe, as there is a Police Force, and as such there will forever be constant demands for the services of possibly two or three persons skilled in the art of effecting repairs to these delicate instruments. You will remember that a person skilled in the art of piano tuning has only begun to suffer since the steel band took to the streets to provide music, but it was part of our culture that our drawing room music was provided by the piano in years past, and a piano tuner was a man who was looked upon as possessing an art to be envied.

At Item 55- Regional Police Training Centre - an amount of $122,920 is asked for. This is big money and all the explanation we have got is that this is increased by $39,657 in the light of the Regional Police Training Centre Estimates. They can estimate for what they like, but what we have got to concern ourselves with is that when we spend this money on the Regional Police Training School, what are we getting in return?

Mr. Chairman, you cannot get away from it that the recruit that is turned out from the Regional Training School today cannot measure up in any respect to the recruit who was turned out between 1937 and 1940. Let us ask ourselves then what is wrong. We are spending more money today because everything costs more, but are we giving these recruits the type of training that would fit them to take their places in the type of society in which we are living? Are we seeing that our Police Force can really and truly cope with the situations with which it is faced at any time? The recruit who comes from the Training School today I do not believe knows your name or mine, and I am sure that it was part of the general knowledge in the 1930s that every recruit in the Police Training School had to know the name of every worthwhile person in the Community before he left the Training School. When he had an off day he had to go home and learn who is who because he knew that at examination time he would be faced with a test of his knowledge.

3.50 p.m.

He had to know places in each parish and where they could be found, which parish this Church was or who lived in which parish and so on. All these things he had to know, but there is no such thing being taught the young Policeman today, they are more taught how to jump over each other's back, and we are saying that it is not fair to the taxpayers. When the other territories withdrew their financial support from the Training School here we did not like it, but Mr. Chairman, if we were to examine ourselves we must come to the conclusion that these people have some reasonable cause for taking the action which they took. The time that they took it might be another matter, and we are seriously contending that we should see the recruits while in training being addressed by citizens of the country on various subjects appropriate to their training.

We should see, Mr. Chairman, that the curriculum of training is better drawn up and more carefully studied. It could better be prepared by some of our retired officers or in consultation with some of them. We have had in our Police Force here some Inspectors and Superintendents - I prefer to call them Officers - who have served this Force with distinction. They were men who knew the law, they were men who were *au fait* with every situation that there was in this country. Some of them are still with us, and we feel that a curriculum for the training of the Police should be drawn up in consultation with many of them and let us draw on their specialist knowledge in various fields, we cannot go on just training Policemen to wear uniforms, it is not good enough. We want to be satisfied that we can turn out a Policeman again as bright and as sharp as those turned out before, not only in drill but in certain aspects of the law. I am saying that there were 34 Acts of Parliament in the 1930s, and a boy coming from the Training School knew something about each and every one of them in those days. They had to study the law, but we are prone to take these things too lightly, because my view is the taxpayers' money can be voted too easily to support these projects. That is one of the troubles in this country.

The Police Training School is not progressing, it is adding nothing to the country, but it is costing us money, $122,920. Is it good enough to be merely voting away the taxpayers' money? I hope that the Commissioner of Police and the Regional Training Officer will get together and restructure the Police Training School and let us see recruits coming out, of whom we can be proud. I am sure that Colonel Dickens must be turning in his grave at the thought of what is coming out of our Training School today. If he could know he would kick up and do bad in his grave. We need better training for our men, and the beauty of it all is we have a crop of young men in this country who will lend themselves easily to

training, it is no problem in getting our people to assimilate, no problem at all; our people are intelligent and will readily respond if they are getting the type of instruction that is good for them, and I urge upon you, Mr. Chairman, and upon the Government to do all that is in its power to see that you get better results when we hear that our Police are passing out from the Training School.

Item 63 - Deportation. I will make it brief with the Minister because the Minister should know to come here with figures.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you dealing with Item 62 or Item 63?

Mr. HINDS: Item 63, because I cannot deal with 62 under 63, but whenever we are finished we will have dealt with from Item 1 past Item 63.
4. 05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there is the sum of $1,500 provided for deportation at Item 63. I wonder how many people we have had to remove from the Island as prohibited immigrants, let us say, during the past year. What were the causes for getting rid of such people? There are very many people who the Leader of the House knows should be deported from this country. We will deal with them when we come to consider the Hotel School. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that it is not every person who peddles dope that is caught by the Police, but what we cannot countenance is any of these people using their association with a Minister as a guise. I am not saying this hiding behind what is called privilege. A place called "Cus-Cus Bar" at Southern Palms Hotel was a dope-dealing cell, and the Government has now seen it fit to install the proprietors of the dope cell to instruct people at the Hotel School. They could only instruct people how to peddle dope.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, how can the hon. member say something like that? He says that the Government has now seen it fit to install dope-peddlers giving instructions at the Hotel School.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister does not know what to object to, then let him sit.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is not that I do not know what to object to. What the hon. member has said seems incredible to me.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order. The hon. member is quite in order to object....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am carrying on with my debate.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Any hon. member is quite in order to object to the peddling of dope, the selling of dope, the taking of dope and so on, but it cannot be proper to say that the Government have installed as instructors of the Hotel School people who traffic in dope. (Mr. HINDS: "Instructress?") I said as instructors in the Hotel School.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I thought the Minister knew it was an instructress. Government must exercise the greatest care possible in placing people here and there. Do not let us belabour that particular point. We know that it was established that Southern Palms Hotel was one of the places where dope-dealing was carried on. That has been established in the Courts of this Island, and the Minister cannot refute that. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with people who had to be repatriated. I am almost sure that the Courts would order the repatriation of any outsider caught peddling dope in this Island, and it would be in the country's best interest. If, on the other hand, some dope-peddlers escape the police net and now find themselves at the Hotel School, then we are in graver danger and such persons are definitely fit for repatriation, not being Barbadians.

With regard to Item 62 - Medical Expenses - $4,940 - I want to deal with medicine for the Police. Mr. Chairman, most of the money allocated here for paying for medicine for the police will be wasted. I say it and I mean it. Except in the case where Policemen are hospitalised, very few of them will run the risk of taking any medicine that the Medical Officers prescribe for them. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: "Will they poison them?")
4. 15 p.m.

No Medical Officer, Mr. Chairman, would try to poison a policeman, but very often when a policeman reports sick there is a dirty campaign that has been going on in the Police Force for a considerable time now; so you will find that by the time a policeman reaches the doctor, the doctor has been communicated with, and some constables, as I have said, have fourteen or more years' service in the Force. What policeman with fourteen years' service who reports sick a morning, unless it is a case where he has to be carried by ambulance, cannot take the medical journal and leave the Station and go to the doctor, tell the doctor his complaint and let the doctor examine him? What right has an Inspector or for that matter a Sergeant to be carrying an officer of that age in the Service to the doctor, and before the Constable sees the doctor the Sergeant has to go in and have his say with the doctor first? The Sergeant is acting on instructions, not on his own, and, what I am saying, happens in very many cases. I said in here already not many months ago that an Inspector was called upon to carry a Constable with fourteen years' service to the doctor. The man was not laid up that he had to be transported in an ambulance or on a stretcher, and the Inspector, respecting his own position, refused to be used for carrying the Constable to the doctor. He refused on the grounds that he was being sent to discuss the Constable's complaint with the doctor before the man was examined. Under these circumstances and the doctor prescribes any sort of medicine for any

policeman in any part of the world, do you expect that policeman to take the medicine? A lot of this money is wasted, and we want to get away from this nonsense. I would like to hear the Minister deny all this, because I have heard him denying a lot of things. They have denied that plain clothes policemen used to come in here and spy, but do you know they have not come in since the day I said so?

Now we were discussing just now the cause of the delay in shoeing horses, but at Item 56 you will see that the note tells us of an increase due to increase in the contract price. The corpses have to be removed and disposed of and there is an increase in price; but this fellow is only shoeing a horse. That is how they look at it. If a horse is not shod properly, it can break the neck of the rider and you can lose a horse. A case has definitely been made out in this day to reconsider, for the benefit of the Force and all concerned, increasing prices for the services that are rendered to the Force in whatever field of activity and make them commensurate bearing well in mind conditions obtaining elsewhere at present.

At Item 57 there is an amount of $4,634 to pay the wages of persons who assist police artisans, and this is increased to pay increments to apprentices. Mr. Chairman, I would like to see this amount trebled; I would like to see ten times the amount if possible . Do you know why? Here is a case where in labour that is supplied to police artisans, you can get apprentices. The island is suffering in a very considerable measure through the absence of apprentices in very many fields; so if it is here that we can find apprentices, we should try and have as many apprentices if they are going to learn whatever it might be. Once it is of benefit to the island, let us have them and pay them. That is why I do not like to see that after someone has studied music for so many years and reaches nineteen years he has to get out because there is no number. Some way should be found. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that in your own day to day business the absence of meaningful apprentices means that your business will suffer, and they have got to be encouraged.

I believe, Sir, that I have covered most of the ground in this item, and I turn now to Item 66 where we have money to provide upkeep and maintenance of the launches of the Habour Police.
4. 25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Item 66 is Marine Equipment and you dealt with that already.

Mr. HINDS: Do you mean I cannot say now that Habour Policemen have no right doing patrol duty in the bus stand in Bridgetown, and that if the launches were kept in a state of repair they would be able to see who are dynamiting the fish along the St. James coast? I know I have dealt with it already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to deal with it again?

Mr. HINDS: I have just made an entirely new point that the Police launches for which this money is to be voted should be kept in a state of repair that the Harbour Policemen instead of patrolling the bus stand and doing duty on the Fairchild Street crossing, they should be along the St. James and Oistin coasts where the people dynamite the fish and prevent us from getting fish. Can I not say these things now? Did I deal with that too, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is the second time.

Mr. HINDS: I am going to deal with every Item with which I have dealt already without repeating myself. This is the House of Assembly, you know, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am glad you know that; the Chairman has authority.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, thank God you have authority and you have sense. At Item 64 there is an amount of $3,000 for fees to pay experts in scientific investigations. I remember that we had a big contingency debate which embodied this very Item and the point of explanation which the Prime Minister gave as to how this contingency vote would have been spent, and not only that, he mentioned the Police, but now we find that we are to vote $3,000 to pay the fees of experts in scientific investigations.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr Chairman, I think all of us were in here when the Prime Minister spoke on this. He did not mention that this was to pay for scientific investigations, he mentioned specifically that from the contingency vote payment will be made to experts and witnesses, not necessarily for scientific investigations like hand writing experts and the like. He did not say that this was for scientific investigations. He spoke of hand writing experts and the bringing of certain witnesses in certain cases, but it is not within my recollection that he said we would pay for scientific investigations from this vote. I may be wrong, I could not have heard, but for what I can remember the Prime Minister did not specifically point out that this was for scientific investigation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman; you let the hon. member rise on a point of order, he had his say and then he told you he may be wrong. That is an insult to the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the point I am trying to establish is that perhaps the hon. member's hearing is better than mine, that he can hear what things were not said.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I heard the member who has just sat down say earlier today that he cannot read too well; that is true, that is all he is trying to establish here now, because the note to Item 64 to pay for exactly what he is trying to defend. It is to pay for experts; that is what the note says and it is the same thing the Prime Minister said.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it is to pay experts in scientific investigations. Do not take it out of its context, read what is before you. Although I cannot read I know enough or I can read enough to see that it makes provision for experts in scientific investigations.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have got to be very careful in any instance. From all appearances we will be having investigations by experts now at two levels; in the case of crime, because it is for the question of investigating crime, and because I remember the Prime Minister even making mention of employing Scotland Yard and handwriting experts and that kind of thing, and are you going to tell me that a hand writing expert is not scientific investigation? What madness is this, Mr. Chairman:

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, scientific investigation to my mind would more relate to cases of murder where you have samples of blood to be sent to a laboratory to be tested and things of that sort, and he did speak of a different type of investigation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let the Minister understand that any laboratory work is scientific work, and this is our Minister of Health. What we are concerning ourselves with is this, Mr. Chairman, why is this $3,000 left in the hands of the Police to spend? Why can you only trust the Commissioner of Police with $3,000? It looks badly. You will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is worrying hon. members on that side, because the note leaves no one in doubt, but we must read and we must understand, and I know the Chairman is understanding the situation here today.

Let us go on, Mr. Chairman. We have Item 69 - Wireless Equipment. I wonder, Sir, if the Minister is in a position to tell us if this new output transmitter and receiver are guaranteed in any respect to improve the reception at our stations.
4.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Item 69, Sir. I am asking the Minister to tell us if this new out-put transmitter and receiver are guaranteed in any respect to improve the reception at out-Stations, because the police time and again have had to travel from out-Stations by car to Head-quarters in order to convey messages while the equipment is still working, but nobody can understand what is going on! I should like the Minister to tell us the true position of things. If we are now replacing this out-put transmitter, what guarantee has the Minister that this transmitter is the right type for the job in hand? We have been advised on this matter, and we feel that the police have sources upon which they could draw on locally - people who are willing to assist; people who love Barbados in truth and in fact, and people who have done much to put Barbados on a pinnacle in our wireless services. We should like the Minister to tell us the range of the equipment. These are things that are very germane to this issue, and the Minister would have them at his fingertips.

Mr. Chairman, Item 62 also deals with the question of supplying spectacles for policemen. How many policemen have been given spectacles during the year? We do not want to deny them these spectacles. Now, Item 39 - Office Expenses - $15,558. This is to meet the cost of maintenance and replacements of furniture at all Police Stations and Offices. It also includes provision for incidentals, stationery, newspapers, First Aid and other office requisties. We are glad to see that all Police Stations in this Island will be provided with new office furniture. We do not want to find the Station Sergeants removing the chairs from the office or recreation rooms at these Stations and taking them to their quarters thereby denying the men the use of these items.

Sir, it has happened time and again that a policeman may have a friend visiting him at the Station, and he had to walk here, there and everywhere to find a chair and, eventually, he ends up with a long bench. We do not want to see this sort of thing in the future. I trust that the Corporals and constables will not be denied the use of this furniture. Let it be made known that the facilities are for them. They will be charged with the responsibility of seeing that things are well kept. They should not damage the furniture, but we do not want to see Sergeants domineering the position having more authority than sense at times.

Now, Item 36, Mr. Chairman, is a very explosive one.
4.45 p.m.

You cannot deny that this is explosive. It deals with ammunition, and we are asked to vote $9,280. In other words, we are this year increasing the vote by $4,480. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask whether the Prime Minister does not intend holding an election this year. What situation is expected to arise that the Government has found it necessary to be purchased additional ammunition? I would like the Minister to tell the House what situation is likely to arise, what are they anticipating and what situation are they going to create.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the explanation is in the explanatory note. Let us not read part of the note; let us read all of it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister want me to read the whole of the explanatory note? I will read it for the benefit of the Minister because he does not understand it. The note says "For purchase of ammunition for musketry course, spare parts for rifles and tear smoke equipment. Also includes repairs and maintenance to rifles and provision of prizes for marksmen in the musketry course". I do not have to go any further.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want you to go further.

Mr. HINDS: The Minister does not understand the remainder. It says "Increased to purchase

additional ammunition." (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: For the course.) It does not say for the course. The Minister has just thrown a lot of fire in my eyes by trying to interrupt me. The note specifically states "Also includes repairs and maintenance to rifles and provision of prizes for marksmen in musketry course. Increased to purchase additional ammunition." That has nothing to do with the musketry course. A madman out of Jenkins would not try to associate the two; so this brings me back to asking what it is that they have in mind and what trouble are they going to stir up in this country that they have to import more ammunition. If you read the note, Mr. Chairman, you will understand this for yourself. I know there was a time when you were in Opposition, and I can well imagine your talking for years on an item such as this in election year. I must take this to my constituents and let them know to beware. The Government is increasing its supply of ammunition for which purpose we have been asked to vote $9,280 a portion of which is for that purpose. I do not want to be accused of stirring up anything by bringing to the attention of the public what Government is doing. I believe I have said enough in that I have seen it.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture does not know, but it may be that Government is planning to shoot down the monkey population with this additional ammunition.

Under Item 37 - Clothing and Uniforms - I want to deal only with the uniform for the parking attendants. Now I have seen with my own eyes car park attendants looking pretty shabby. We tried as best we could to draw it to the attention of the public, letters were written to me about it, and I went to the car parks and saw for myself where some of the attendants were wearing patches on their knee, and I felt that that was not a good feature. I am hoping that with the voting of this sum we will not have a situation again in this Island where car park attendants wear uniforms that are torn and tattered.

Now there is an amount for plain clothes allowance in the Police Force at Item 30. I cannot understand why the Chairman would not hear, but if I do anything that the Chairman would like to term as wrong, he can hear it.
4.55 p.m.

Item 30. There are lots of policemen at our stations who are called upon to do plain clothes duty by night at almost every out station, and even some at Central Station from time to time, but in the case of Police Headquarters the occasions are few and far between, but at the out stations nightly policemen going on duty are sent in plain clothes. They are the normal uniformed men; in other words, you might have one detective attached to a station, the detective is entitled to his plain clothes allowance, according to Item 30 here, but the uniformed policemen who is asked to put on his own shoes at times and accompany the detective and stay out for a whole night and several nights in the course of a month, a policemen at an out station might have done 12 nights in the course of a month, a policeman at an out station might have done 12 nights or more in plain clothes and he gets no plain clothes allowance; is it fair to him?

I am asking, Mr. Chairman, that where a policeman is called upon to wear his own clothes on duty he should be given some sort of compensation for it. After all, it is not his fault, and if he finds that his clothing which he brought with his own hard earned money has got to be a substitute for the Governmnet's uniform, he should be compensated for it. It is not always a case where they travel along all tarred roads, there are back streets the detectives must walk. These things must be taken into consideration, and it is not fair to post a man on duty in plain clothes and then not give him some sort of allowance to compensate for this. I would like the Minister to look into this, find out if it is really true that it is happening and see what remedy can be applied in the circumstances.

As you will see, Mr. Chairman, at Item 14 we are moving in $10,500 because the number of detectives has been increased; what are we doing with them? We are increasing the number of detectives, and this bears out the point I was just making, that we are increasing the number of detectives who will get plain clothes allowances and still use unifirmed policemen to do plain clothes duty. We are faced with a situation, Mr. Chairman, where we have got to deploy the members of the Force better and more sensibly than at present, so we have got to.....

Mr. SMITH left the Chair and Mr. HOPPIN resumed the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we would like to see that the Force serve the country better than at present. We would like to see that every penny that is spent is spent to the betterment of the country; in other words, we would like to see a reduction in crime, and we would like to see and to know that the Police are more successful than they have proven themselves in the past in tracking down crime, and if these things can be done we will feel happy voting this money. I would like to hear now what replies the Minister has to the points I have raised.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will call the Items by numbers. Item 30, which is in connection with the plain clothes allowance. When a uniformed policeman is called upon to wear plain clothes in the execution of his duty, he is paid a plain clothes allowance for the period during which he performs such duties at the rate of $12 per month.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is this in Barbados? The Royal Barbados Police Force?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In fairness, the hon. member should reserve what comments he has to make until I am finished. Item 33 - Band Appprentices. Recommendations have been made to the appropriate Ministry for a reduction in the number of apprentices and an increase in the various ranks in the Band from

Bandsman to Station Sergeant. This recommendation is now being considered by the Chief Establishments Officer.

Item 34 - Special Constables. Provision for protection of residences of Government Ministers and senior Government Officers when they go overseas on Government Business.

Item 36 - Arms and Ammunition. The increase in the purchase of additional ammunition is due to the increase in the Establishment of the Force. This will afford the Force to shoot the annual musketry course.

Item 40. Horses are fed from cane fodder during the cane season, and sour grass out of season supplied by the Agricultral Development Corporation at Graeme Hall. The Ministry is not aware that there has been any form of advice for discontinuing the use of any form of fodder from Graeme Hall. Shoeing of horses. Horses are shod monthly as a routine, but also as the need arises. The cost compares with that paid in other circles; no complaint from the officer in charge of the mounted branch has been received about the service provided in this respect.

Item 55. The cost of training a recruit is $878. The projections for training in the next year provide for the training of 140 local recruits, the cost being $122,920. The figure of $878 is also used as the basis on which contributions are computed for and on behalf of other administrations. Fifty three of that 140 will be as a result of the increase in the Establishment, the remainder will be as a result of the turnover by resignations and enlistments.
5.05 p.m.

Item 62 - Medical Expenses. This is in connection with spectacles for policemen. This scheme is being introduced for the first time, and arises from the recommendations of the Date Commission. Item 63. In 1970 there were 89 cases of deportation costing $1,494.48. The categories, in which those deported fell, were illegal entry and over-staying without permission after legal entry. Item 65. Special Performance. There is a horse-box provided in the Department for transporting horses to and from various places where performances are held. There is adequate transport provided for all personnel to take them to and from the various performances. The amount provided is to pay for the cost of the meals supplied to the personnel participating in the performances, and also for the cost of consumption of electricity, planting electric poles, etc. Item 66. I think this is the one on marine equipment. The Ministry has not been advised about the disappearing parts to which reference has been made. Item 68 - Motor Vehicles. Now, 7 cars, 3 of which are replacements are going to cost $53,300. One lorry, as a replacement, $8,000; 1 Prison Van, as a replacement $13,000; 1 Ambulance, as a replacement, $9,000; 3 Land Rovers, as replacements, 19,500; 5 motor cycles - this is a revote from the Current Estimates - $8,650; 1 bus - also a revote from the Current Estimates - $30,000, making a total of $141,450.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. What happens with the value of the replacements. I suppose they will be sold by auction. Do you put the money for the replacements under Revenue?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that they are sold by auction and the money put into the Consolidated Fund in the Treasury. Item 71 - Beds and pillows. This amount is required to purchase beds, pillows and chairs for the final phase of the authorised increase in the Establishment. Now, 694 units are provided for in the Current Year's Estimates, and 50 are now being provided for in the coming Estimates. This is as far as I have got, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the beds, have you already provided 694 policemen with beds and pillows?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I think my reply was that funds for 694 units are provided for in the Current Estimates. I will now have to look and see whether any of what we are now providing is a revote.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I have looked through the Heads of Revenue, and one would expect to find an estimate of revenue derived from sales of surplus Government stock, or disused stock, or written off stock. There is no item in the Estimates for that; it is not under the Police Department, and it is not under Special Receipts.
5.15 p.m.

There is no item on the revenue side under any Head indicating the estimated revenue from the sale of surplus stock or the sale of written off stock, and it should be shown somewhere in your accounting, otherwise there is no incentive for them to get about the business of selling them. I see an Item called "Escheated Properties" and there is also "Unclaimed and Undistributed Moneys" $1,000. That is not a proper Head. Under Item 7 - Sundry - this is receipts other than reimbursement which cannot be appropriately credited to a revenue item. What I feel, Sir, is that in your accounting in these things, either you show it as a separate Head, or in the amounts that you vote you take into account the salvage value.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that on page xxiii in Item 7 of Head 9 - Special Receipts - it is there that all these things are estimated and accounted for.

Mr. St. JOHN: Now I wonder if the Hon. Minister would agree with the suggestion that if you put it under that, there is nothing to indicate to the Auditor General that this is the appropriate Head that this comes under. Presumably he may or may not know, but I feel it should be a separate item under Police Estimated Revenue, because they ought to have experience today of valuing, but what I want to ensure is that the very year in which they are replaced the sale takes place, otherwise further depreciation would take place. I want to ensure that they do not keep them

for two years or a longer period outside the financial year.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That point is very well taken and it makes for good bookkeeping as well. I will draw this to their attention.

Now I am advised that by the end of this financial year about 350 of the 694 units which were to have been bought in this year will have been purchased, and the others will be bought in the new financial year. I was talking there about Item 71.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not follow the Leader of the House at all. We are not asked to provide money for 50 beds under Item 71. We take it for granted that the other beds have already been supplied.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It appears that we have money in the current Estimates for 694 units. Up to March 31 only about 350 of these will have been purchased.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, what has happened here is that we are providing for 50 beds. The beds were given out to contract, but as a result of the floods, they could not supply all the beds because those available had to go to flood victims. We are providing for 50 beds now because when the Estimates were being prepared we thought we would still have been able to purchase all of these beds, but later in the year we will have to come back with a supplementary when the contract can be met, because some of the money will lapse at the 31st of this month.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister tell us exactly when they supplied the first police bed? In other words, when did the scheme come into effect?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We are advised that some time around 1st August beds were supplied, and the amount supplied to date would be around 200. It is expected by the end of the financial year to have 350 supplied. We are providing for 50 now, and when the contractor can supply all, we will have to come back with a supplementary to pay him.

Mr. HINDS: If between August and today they have only supplied 200, how can they supply 150 in another ten or twelve days?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would give way, it is to be appreciated that they started delivery in August. The floods came and instead of purchasing the beds for the police, we have had to let the beds go to flood victims. It is reasonable to expect that now that most of the flood victims are supplied, that the supply for the police will be greater than it was in the past.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister has just said about mattresses I do not accept at all, for the simple reason that nobody knows with any degree of certainty how many mattresses have been distributed as a result of the flood.

5.25 p.m.

We have been asking for this. If they had been able to supply that type of information we would now be able to see to what extent flood mattress requirement would have affected the police supplies. Mr. Chairman, they are just praying for another flood to come now, that the police will have to wait for another 40 years before they get mattresses. If we had known that "X" number of matresses were required because of the flood we could relate it to the situation with the police and say yes, the police would have suffered this amount of setback, but nobody knows, you just know mattresses were required for the flood and everything you will put on the flood, and up to today some people who made requisition for mattresses have not been given mattresses, and there are flood victims who are suffering still. The Government does not know how many people required mattresses, and they are talking about the flood preventing the police from getting mattresses. I do not believe it at all, I just do not accept it. Mr. Chairman, does being in Government mean being in a school of liars? (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Watch yourself). You are not in this now, you are out.

Mr. St. JOHN: Is it a fact that the Barbados Bedding Co., situated at the corner of Pinfold Street, is the contractor to this scheme? Secondly, is the Government satisfied that having regard to the relatively small size of that factory and the equipment that it has, that this contractor is not able to fulfil the contract at a sufficient rate of production to get these beds through by the end of the financial year? I pass there every day and I know that he is doing the police contract.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is correct.

Mr. HINDS: Then, Mr. Chairman, why must we vote money and allow money to lapse and there are many girls about here who would be in need of employment? We have people who were instructed at the Government Industrial School, we are sure that Government by its action is depriving people who would be glad to work for an honest living, denying people of an opportunity to learn a trade.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member given way?

Mr. HINDS: Give way? For what?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Perhaps I could help the hon. member if he would give way. The hon. member is as aware as I am that tenders were invited for the provision of these mattresses. The applications came in and were put before the Tenders Committee and the Tenders Committee recommended that the tender be awarded to this particular contractor. There was no change in the recommendation of the Tenders Committee, if there is a change in a recommendation of the Tenders Committee a Cabinet Paper is prepared and the matter is put before the

Cabinet. If the Minister agrees with the recommendation of the Tenders Committee the contract is awarded to a particular contractor. In this case the Tenders Committee made its recommendation, and the Tenders Committee does not comprise of politicians, it made its recommendation, the recommendation was accepted by the Minister and the contract was awarded.

We do not have control over how many girls are employed in a particular mattress factory, and if the contract is awarded to a contractor to provide 694 mattresses, it would be a breach of contract if we went out and got 6, 10 or 12 girls to make the mattresses. If we had given the contract to the girls or paid the girls so much money to make the mattresses without going to contract we would have been hearing something else today. I think we have got to appreciate the fact that with a small factory its production cannot be as great as a large company, but the hon. member would be the first to say that the small man should be considered just as much as the big man, so let us have a little patience.

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the small Barbadian. I am very patient with helping the small Barbadian, and I want to ask the Hon. Minister now if he thinks the Police Association is satisfied with the rate of progress in this matter of the supply of mattresses? How many years ago did the Commissioner make a recommendation? We have been voting this money, this is a question where money has been voted and not spent, and now we have to come and vote it again, what are we doing? Mr. Chairman, if we did not have the flood some like excuse would have to be offered, but what I am saying is that the rate of progress is not rapid enough, and the Police Association ought to rebel in the interest of the policemen. The rate of progress is not rapid enough, it is a long time since Mr. Justice Date made the recommendation, and every policeman should refuse as from tonight to sleep on a cot again.

Naturally, because this Head was coming before this Committee, they rushed down Black Rock yesterday playing they are fitting off Black Rock with beds; where did they get those from? (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Are you saying that the wrong contractor had the contract?) I am not concerned with the wrong one, the right one or else, what I am concerned with is that if the supply is not as rapid as one would expect, after all, what is the point that by the time you get around to giving the last police station you want new mattresses for the first you had fitted out? What kind of nonsense is this? This is what it means. Since October last year you heard that some police stations had been getting mattresses, and every day the other policemen are looking and feeling themselves neglected asking when they are going to reach them. Have they been asked to wait because of the flood?

5.35 p.m.

(Hon. DaC. EDWARDS: "They can understand.") The Government has been treating policemen like fools for too long. Mr. Chairman, the Government has been treating policemen badly in matters of money and in matters now of bedding for too long. I am warning you that the policemen are not asleep anylonger.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. With regard to the fact that the contract was given to a small contractor, I have said in this Chamber already that the Government contracts are such that, after a decision has been reached in this Chamber, it is difficult for hon. members to see what goes into the contracts. This is a typical example of a decision having been made to equip policemen with mattresses and the Tenders Committee, probably, overlooking the urgency of the matter and, therefore, the basis on which the tender was awarded is one which now shows itself not meeting the situation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. A decision was taken mainly due to the reasonableness of the contract. The contractor tendered at $110 for bed, bedstead and a chair, which contract was far more reasonable than any of the other persons who tendered, and he was given the contract.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not worried about the tendered price. It is all well and good for the contractor to tender at a reasonable price, but how soon can he meet the requirement date? How many can he produce within a given period? That factory is at the end of the road where I pass three or four times a day going from my Chambers to the Court. There is only one bed-stitching machine in there, and the most lackadaisical production I have ever seen goes on in there. The people there do not operate working on a contract. They produce things when they feel like.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with what the junior member for St. Peter has said. By the time they have fitted out the last Police Station, they will have to start on the first again. With one bed-stitcher and a Police Force of 600 - I am sure they will have other work to do - they could never fulfil the contract on time. Perhaps the Government did not lay down the necessary factors to guide the Tenders Committee as to what was required in this contract. It is no good saying that they tendered at a reasonable price, because the price might be so reasonable that they decide to do the work on evenings after supplying the Bridgetown stores and so on. They may be using this work to give their employees overtime, or when there is not much work to do.

Mr. Chairman, I know that a contract is based on a time element. If it has been found that this contractor cannot meet his obligations at a reasonable time, I think that is reasonable grounds for Government to break the contract and get somebody else to do the work. *(Asides)* The hon. senior member for St. Philip does not understand what is going on. He has been sleeping most of the time. *(Asides)* There are two Syrians and a few other people working there. There are about five people working there and the men are always pulling at the girls. The Shrimp business has sent home 500 people. What about the Government's Crushing Plant in St. Philip next door to the hon. junior member for St. Philip? How many people have gone home from that Plant? Have you asked anything about that? The policemen that you have to call from Distract "C" are still sleeping on cots up to now. Of course, you do not care where the policemen sleep.

Mr. Chairman, I passed the senior member for St. Philip going home night before, and about a quarter of a mile after I had passed him, around 11.30 p.m., I saw a policeman walking. When that policeman returned to District "C" he had to sleep on a hard cot. How many cot covers have been produced up to this date?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether the hon. junior member for St. Joseph thinks that he is more interested or has more love for a policeman than Reynold Weekes?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Reynold Weekes in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman; I do not know who is Reynold Weekes. I know who is "Running Weekes" running from a place called Gemswick, but the people from Penny Hole will run him soon. I know that the policemen will remember what has been said. We will be having an election soon, and I will remind the policemen at District "C" that "Running Weekes" said they must sleep on cot covers.

Mr. WEEKES: Regardless of that statement you have made in here, you cannot do anything to intimidate me. As a matter of fact, you are trying along with the hon. junior member for St. Peter to incite policemen.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I take objection to that, and I ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. senior member for St. Philip withdraw the remark that two hon. members are inciting policemen.

Mr. WEEKES: I did not say that they were inciting them. I said that they were trying to incite them.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I think that is the same thing. Attempting to incite policemen is a serious crime. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member withdraw the remark.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I respectfully beg to withdraw it, but I..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Have you withdrawn it?

Mr. WEEKES: Yes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not inciting anybody. The police know that I have fights with them. I fight them when I think they are wrong, and I praise them when I think they are right. I join with the hon. junior member for St. Peter in what he has said. This is a case where I believe the contractor cannot carry out the contract in the time required. There is not enough equipment; there is not enough space there, and there is not enough staff to produce that number of beds at a given time. If he has to produce 744 mattresses over a 7 - month period, he cannot make even one a day.

Now, the hon. senior member for St. Philip wants to know if we are going to send home the people. I know there is a man called Crichlow in Westbury Road who has been making mattresses for years, and he together with two boys can produce more than one mattress a day. There are several other upholsterers. There is a man in Roebuck Street, and I am sure he can produce more than one mattress a day. It is clear that this contractor is producing one mattress a day as far as the police are concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I would advise the Government at this stage to look into the contract and see what are the terms for revoking the contract when the contractor is unable to carry out his obligations. *(Asides)* I do not know if the contractor is a Syrian, but he does not look like a Barbadian to me. *(Aside)*

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I heard somebody saying "again".

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I must confess that the Deputy Prime Minister is rather alert this evening.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Item 14 - Allowance for Detectives - $10,500. This seems to be a considerable sum. I would like to know that the Detectives are well treated in view of the fact that they are going to get this allowance, but I would like the detectives who receive the allowance to treat themselves just as well. Now most of us are well aware that detectives do a lot of work at night in various places, but there have been several complaints over the years about detectives who walk about in pairs at night dressed in big old hats, slippers on their feet and old jackets with knots, etc. The days for that sort of detecting are long gone. Anybody seeing them at night would say that they are detectives who think nobody knows who they are. What worries me is this, detectives who operate after 11 o'clock and walk up to people honestly walking the streets, and ask what they are doing out there. I am not against a detective asking anybody what he is doing at any place at any time, but we must remember that if a man dresses himself like 90% of these detectives do and approaches somebody at night without proper identification, he is liable to meet with violence.

5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, time and time again counsel have cross-examined these very detectives in court and enquired if they have had made it known to the person that they were police officers, and they would be told that they said they were policemen in plain clothes. I am sure that every policeman is given some form of identification from the time he joins the Force, and I would like the Commissioner of Police or those in authority to know that several people are not satisfied with the way they are approached especially at night by policemen. I would like them to issue

instructions that whenever policemen, especially at night and in these lonely roads have got to approach somebody, they should produce a badge or something of the sort which the person can identify and recognise that these persons are truly policemen. It is well known that two men have already impersonated the police in this country. One fellow has occupied the Supreme Court for quite a number of days. There are reports of people who have been attacked and robbed at night because they were either afraid to fight back, or somebody said he was a policeman, and they submitted voluntarily. I would like whoever is in charge, if they have not got badges, to apply to the appropriate Ministry for a grant to create badges and publish photographs or replicas of the badges so that the general public would know what a police badge looks like, and this will stop some of the reports we are getting.

The next thing I would like to talk about are the enquiries at C.I.D. Every counsel or anybody having to go in the C.I.D. office will tell you that from the time you get at the barrier, you get the most abrupt answers you can ever imagine if you ask or anybody whom the police has behind the barrier. As a matter of fact they have threatened to throw me out on several occasions, because I asked if they had a man by a particular name there. There is a lawyer who is prominent in the D. L. P. camp who was assisting me in a case, and a detective left the C.I.D. office and went up to the gate and said not to let me in there that night. That very detective was so foolish that he went to the rank of Sergeant and resigned on the strength of a paper from a place called Bajan Seafoods. They said he was going to be Chief Security Officer, and now he is walking about selling insurance because I heard he went mad since then. These are the attitudes which the public at large are worried about.

Mr. Chairman, there should be cooperation, and I often say that if the police have got a good case, there is no question of hiding the accused from anybody. If you have a case, you have a case; if you have no case, you have no case. A man is entitled to see his counsel at any time, but you cannot treat every Tom, Dick and Harry who approaches the C.I.D. office as if he is a plague coming down. And it is no use complaining because as I move down you will see what happens to complaints about the police. I am sure that before long you will have to have another enquiry into the same Police Force. I do not know who is training the policemen, but I will come around to that later. There is a rule and it is recorded that when these very policemen or detectives collect evidence favourable to an accused, they should deliver it over to counsel representing the accused. Do you know, Mr. Chairman, that if you apply for the police records of any witness giving evidence against your client in these courts that they brow-beat you like you are trying to get at the vault in the Treasury? What counsel have had to do before is to put a summons on the Commissioner of Police, but the police themselves bring criminals with a record as long as my hand to testify against people, and if you apply for that man's conviction card they carry you all around in a circle and you cannot get to the centre. This is part and parcel of what is happening today in the Police Force.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know who is training them at Paragon, but I would hope that they change the instructor up there, no matter who he is, because the recruits coming out now are the worst things you can find. I will come to that when I come to the Regional Police Training School. Everybody is telling you now that it is Paragon law because the policemen coming from there have a new style and a new reading of the law that nobody can understand, and another way of detecting crime than nobody can understand. I would hope that these basic principles which affect the good relationship of the Police and the public can be instilled in the minds of policeman as of today, because I am sure there is no legislator whether on this side or that side who will sit down and vote money for the police if they have ever had one occasion to come in contact with them in these divisions which I am speaking about today, because they would know what it is like to have to deal with policemen under these circumstances. When the hon. senior member for St. Philip says that nobody loves a policeman like he does, I would like to say that I like to say that I like them too, but when you are wrong, you are wrong, and when you are right, you are right. I have no fear of criticising them when they are wrong, and I would have no fear of defending them when they are right; but I want them to understand that they should treat everybody alike, and they should treat people as they would like people to treat them. This is what a number of them do not understand. I am not saying that all of them are bad; there are some good ones and some you can talk to, but there are some who are beyond the limit even of speech.

Mr. Chairman, let us move to Item 30 which deals with plain clothes allowance.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to tell me if it is a fact that a so-called eminent barrister was arrested at the Airport for misconducting himself.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I will reply to the hon. member for St. Philip. I was arrested at the Court if the hon. member wants to bring personalities in here, but I can let everybody in the Democratic Labour Party know that I will never be arrested for stealing anything. Go and look and see who is stealing over there and then the police will do their job and make arrests over there. Nobody is going to get nasty with me. Do not ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who was arrested; I was arrested and I will be arrested again under the same circumstances.

5.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not feel that the senior member was addressing the junior member for the City; I think the junior member for the City is jumping the gun.

Mr. BOLDEN: I was arrested at Seawell Airport in 1964, and I was arrested for misconduct, but the

senior member for St. Philip forgets something. I am talking on Police, Item 30, I am dealing with plain clothes allowances.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when I asked the question I never mentioned the name of the junior member for St. Joseph and consequently he has no right to mention my name.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No names are being mentioned in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I remember being at Seawell in 1964 one night when the Pan American last flight had come in and a lot of white people went down in the Customs area and one black man, me. My sister was arriving on that flight after having had an operation abroad, and every white person there was helping his family with bags and they told me to go outside. I told them I would go outside but I would know what to do, and a policeman in plain clothes arrested me because I was black, black as sin, [illegible] was white, so if any member wants to know, I have said it, and this is the attitude of the police. If anybody wants to know if any lawyer was arrested, I say again I was arrested for showing forth that as a black Barbadian I was entitled to go into Seawell, and I will do again if they allow the white ones in and keep the black ones out. I do not mix colour, but what is good for the whites is good for the blacks, and what is good for the Syrians, the Canadians, the Australians, is good for the Bajans so if the senior member for St. Philip wants to cast asperations about who was arrested, I can tell him who was arrested. I know I was not arrested for stealing any money from the Friendly Society.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Plain clothes allowance is the Item under discussion.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with plain clothes allowance, Mr. Chairman. The Writ Servers are policemen, the Writ Servers wear plain clothes, but, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw attention to the Writ Servers Department now. The Writ Servers Department is a branch of the Police Force; the Writ Servers are policemen who wear plain clothes all the time, I do not know if they get a plain clothes allowance, but I would hope that they do, but what I want to speak about is this, the Writ Servers, as I have been told, are the dregs of the Force whom they do not seem to be able to do anything or there is no hope for promotion. As a result of this, the Writ Servers are a disgruntled and unhappy bunch and are not doing a good job. If you complain for a Writ Server you cannot complain to a Magistrate because he says it is no use complaining to the Commissioner of Police because it will put him no further. I would like to see a change in that; either make the Writ Servers Department a worthwhile branch of the law giving people scope for promotion, or remove them and place them under the same heading as the Marshals or something.

There are instances of Writ Servers carrying out people's claims, and I will show you why the Writ Servers Department is like this. The police lodge complaints in court nearly every day; one day in every three months you will hear that there are three police informations that the Writ Servers cannot find the offenders, but when it comes to civil work, day after day Writ Servers cannot find people. I have had a case at District "C" where I was serving a garnishee document on the Manager of Moncrieffe; you can throw a stone from District "C" to Moncrieffe, and for about two months the Writ Server could not get the document served. He has not got there yet, but if you had to serve a document in a speeding case on a man in Belleplaine, it would get down there and get back. If you file a document in Bridgetown for somebody living in St. George, it will go from town to St. George and the person will get the document, the date for the hearing will pass and the Writ Servers will not get back the return from St. George to Bridgetown.

This is a sad situation; I do not know if the Writ Servers are getting proper travelling allowances, a clothing allowance or the other perks like the normal policeman, but I would hope that there is an Investigation. There should be the usual promotion aspects out of the Writ Servers Department as there are out of the C.I.D., and then you will have a force fully integrated and doing their work properly. I have been informed that the Date Commission recommended that the Chief Writ Server be made an Inspector, but they always put somebody who is near the point of retirement. You have at the head of the Writ Servers Department a man near retiring age and that poor man cannot worry his head, some days you hear that Writ Servers have not been in for the past two days, and they do not care what the Commissioner of Police says, because he cannot push them any further. You can put him in Belleplaine, but he is still a Writ Server, you can keep him in town he is still a Writ Server, and I would like something done about this.

Let us have a look at Item 40 - Upkeep of Animals. I see in the note that provision is made for fodder for police horses, food and medicines for dogs. Mr. Chairman, years ago I heard about the police bringing down some dogs around this palce. The dogs operated for a few months, and then there were rumours that Mrs. X carried here female Alsation up to Station Hill and then the police dogs could not do any more police work. I have never heard a case in the courts of this island with the police dogs involved since then, and that was 1956-57; what are you feeding the police dogs for? Whose dog is being fed? What are you feeding them on? I have never heard of a police dog in a dog show yet, I want to know how much of this money is expended on these dogs?

6.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what the dogs are doing. I want to know where the dogs are kept. I want to know how long they have had the particular dogs mentioned here. I do not mean when the first lot of dogs came in. If these dogs are new breeds, then I want to know what happened with the old dogs. I find it is a waste of taxpayers' money to keep Police Dogs, if the dogs are not going to be put to a useful purpose. As I have said before, I have not heard of the use of Police Dogs since the period 1954-55. I want to know why you are feeding Police Dogs and what are you keeping them for. I heard that they were thoroughbread German Shepherds, but I do not think that they are thoroughbred any more. A dog's longest

life is 16 years. When a dog is 16 years old he is said to be about the age of a man at 80. He is supposed to be 5 times the age of a man. I want to know where these dogs came from end what they are costing the taxpayers every year. I find that this is a big waste of money.

Now, I come to Item 46 - Maintenance of Prisoners - $1,200. Mr. Chairman, I think that you have never been fortunate enough to visit the cells at District "A".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope never to.

Mr. BOLDEN: I do not want you in the cell, because I hope never to see my worst enemy in any cell in the Police Stations in this Island. The cells at District "A" are below the horse pen. The compound in which you put stray sheep and other animals is very near the cell. Mr. Chairman, if you happen to go there on a Monday morning you will have to cover your nose. Now, a person accused is supposed to be innocent until he has been proven guilty, and he should be treated like any other human being. The Note says that this $1,200 is an increase to provide improved facilities. What can $1,200 do? That amount cannot even clean the cells at District "A" Police Station! The place is literally stink. There are concrete blocks in there on which people are forced to sleep.

Mr. Chairman, if by chance your car broke down in Waterford and you are walking along the road and one of these barefoot, tear-up-pants big hat Detectives arrested you, charged you with loitering and threw you in the cell on Saturday night and you had to remain there until Monday, woe betide you. You will have to rest on a slab of concrete; there is nowhere to urinate. As I have said, you must pray that they have not taken up a sheep and placed it in the compound the night before. How can $1,200 improve that place?

Mr. Chairman, look at the cell under the Supreme Court, and you will see that it looks as if it has not been cleaned for the last 20 years. I wonder if the Minister responsible will tell me how they intend to spend this $1,200.

Now, Item 55 - Regional Police Training Centre - $122,920. Mr. Chairman, this brings me to the recruits or the new blood in the Police Force. You only have to come into Town any evening after six o'clock, and if you see two policemen walking together you will know that new policemen have been let out. I do not know how they train the recruits nowadays. When they come from the Regional Police Training Centre, they walk with two searchlights. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if what I am going to say is the basic cause for the great number of withdrawals from the Force over the last two or three years.

Mr. Chairman, the new recruits go out in pairs. As soon as the sun goes down you will see one of them with his notebook and pen poised, and the other one with his flashlight, and every motor car that comes up they will find that something is wrong. I have had evidence of that. Last year, I came down Roebuck Street about half-past six to go to my Chambers. I stopped at the traffic light, and two policemen rushed at me: one with the light burning and the other with his notebook and pen. One said: "Give me your name; I am reporting you." I asked him for what he was reporting me. He said: "Man do not ask me what for; I am reporting you." I told him that my name was Charles Lindsay Bolden, and he said: "My God, we heard about him at the Training School." The junior member for St. Peter said that they do not tell them anything about the people in the community nowadays, but I understand that they tell them at the Training School: "If you go down there and Mr. So and So is the lawyer, beg for an adjournment; do not answer when your name is called; go back and prepare for him; do your best because he will be coming at you." That is the training given to them up there nowadays. The worst man you can find is a young policeman coming from the Training School. I believe they are taught to make reports and nothing else.

Mr. Chairman, up to last Monday I met a man in New York who told me that he withdrew from the Police Force because if you do not make a certain amount of reports in your first month, then you are doomed for life in the Police Force. The Government will have to look into the operation of the Regional Police Training School. They do not teach the policemen how to address magistrate, witness, counsel or anybody. They do not even teach them proper law up there nowadays.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter when he says that they teach them to jump over each other's back. Another thing is that if if you do not pass a First Aid examination, you are doomed for life in the Royal Barbados Police Force. Everyone of us does not have a gift or a liking for First Aid work. Are you going to tell me that it is necessary for every policeman to learn First Aid when you have an ambulance driving about daily with three or four people trained in First Aid work? Because a poor policeman does not pass a First Aid examination, he will begin as a private and end as a private. It is just like saying that anybody who went to a Secondary School should hold a certificate in French, or a certificate in English otherwise he will not get any certificate. They drill them from the time they enter the Training School in First Aid; how to make reports, and when they cannot answer a question how to shift - dodge, do not answer, or say that you cannot remember.

6.15 p.m.

I remember that years ago when young policemen came out, they used to do what in my opinion is the work of any police force in any country, and that is advised and recommend, and they would say "excuse me, Sir". Mr. Chairman, you know about the great Cyrus. He was known to be one of the most vicious policemen, but he at least had one thing, manners. Cyrus was pleasant to the point that when he reported you, he used to smile; but not the young ones now. They want your name quickly, and they do not tell you what they are reporting you for until they

hear your name. This is another thing I am against. Every citizen should be treated in the same way; he could be John Thomas, Peter Jones or else. They should at least learn as young policemen that they should advise people. They should tell them they think they are breaking the law, because if the police would only check their records, they would see that half the reports made by these young recruits are always lost in court, and the time will come when magistrates will decide to award costs against the Police Force, and then we will be forced to come here and vote greater sums to pay for the costs against the Police Force. These are things I think the police should look into.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to answer in particular to the sum of $1,200 for the maintenance of prisoners, because that is something that worries me very much.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have not got very much to say under this Head, but I rise primarily because people who are in daily contact with the police have made probably a very sound contribution under this Head, but I must draw to the attention of the Committee Item 45 - Maintenance of vehicles. I beg your pardon, Sir. It is not that Item.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, while the hon. member is checking, I would like to continue on Item 56 which is to meet the cost of upkeep and maintenance of two launches. From about 1965 the Police Department had a boat in the compound at Central Police Station. I have asked questions over and over again about this boat. I understood it was taken out of the water and carried to Central Police Station to have something done to the engine. When the hon. senior member for Christ Church asked earlier today about the revenue from the sale of police vehicles, I was trying to point out to him then and to the Hon. Minister when he was giving an answer that it appears on page xxiii under "Sundry" that I did not accept that, and I will show you why. If you look at Item 42 - Band - you will note that a sum is provided there part of which is for transportation of Band and payment of two-thirds Band fees, but if you look under the revenue side, you will notice they have put in $6,000 as revenue coming back from the Band. They have not put in any revenue under motor vehicles, but they hide it under "Sundry". If they had an accounting system where you voted money to buy a new one and you should have on the revenue side the estimated revenue from the sale of the replaced article, ever since somebody would have challenged why that boat was lying down in Central Station for the last seven years. I am sure that that boat is useless. The only use you can put that to is fire wood, and I am sure when it was put there the hull could have been sold even if the engine was to be used somewhere else. It has been lying there up to the last time I went into the Criminal Court last week.

At District "C", Mr. Chairman, there was a landrover which I was told ran off the road one evening and it stood in that yard for a long time and I believe it is still there. At one time they said that Highways and Transport had valued the wreck at $200. They will hide these things under "Sundry" because you are not able to challenge what is under "Sundry". I am not an accountant, but once you know a little bit about figures, you know there are ways and means of hiding away figures, and you can put anything under sundries and hope to get away with it. I would encourage my colleagues on this side not to vote for this particular sum until we can get an answer as to why the boat has been lying there for so long. That hull did not cost two pennies to build and it is dry and rotten by now. The landrover in District "C" yard has been there for months and months and the rust that is going to accumulate from the sea breeze must cause it to depreciate more. Placing the revenue from these items under "Sundry" is not a proper system of accounting at all. It does not give any filip and those in authority can sell the old articles at any time once they get the new ones. If you had a specific item "Replacement of Vehicles" $X and in the revenue section "Sale of Old Vehicles' $Y, you could subtract $Y from $X and see what is the net amount the taxpayers are required to pay. If you say that when you sell these goods you will put the money in the Consolidated Fund, nobody can ever question that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I wonder if the hon. member would give way. Mr. Chairman, nobody knows what would be realised for a vehicle at auction. Now it is not a question of whether these vehicles are traded in. If these vehicles were traded in to a garage, they would make an offer. If you take the Ministry of Health, they may be changing a van at Headquarters and they will perhaps negotiate the cost of a new van and see what the trade-in value of the old van is, and in some of these cases the Estimates make provision for that. In the case of the police vehicles, my understanding is that they are sold at auction, and depending on the market, you may realise more or less than you anticipate. If you go directly to a garage, they will make you an offer, estimate at what time they would be able to supply a new vehicle, and in many cases the vehicle is under-valued; so it is better to go to auction and get the maximum you can for it depending on the market. You cannot pre-judge what you would get at auction, and this is why you have to put it under "Sundry", because you may over-estimate or under-estimate. That is the only reason.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew knows a lot about the motor trade, and I believe I know half as much as he does, but I know more of the auction business than the hon. member does.

6.25 p.m.

The hon. member knows full well that in every commercial business there is a system of depreciation on a vehicle year after year. Mr. Chairman, when we look under Harbours we see the three tugs set out there, you are going to see the depreciation value per year of each tug, and this same thing should operate for the other Government vehicles.

On resumption:

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. Thereto it automatically reverts.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

HEAD 27 - POLICE

Head 27 – POLICE – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that consideration of Head 27 be now resumed.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there is a reply in connection with Item 46 - Maintenance of Prisoners. The reply is that no prisoners are Kept in cells at District "A" Police Station. All prisoners at District "A" are brought to Central Police Station for safe custody. The amount is required to provide meals for prisoners awaiting trial.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I take it that when the hon. junior member for St. Joseph mentioned the cells at District "A", he meant Criminal Court at Central Station, because he went on further to make mention of the cells under the Supreme Court as well.

Mr. St. JOHN: The basement under the Supreme Court Building is in need of some attention. I know that they started to do some work on it last year but I do not know if they are going to continue this year. Anybody who knows it, will know that it is a basement and the ventilation is not all that good. It is fairly dusty, and the people using it are people on remand attending Assize trial. When they come down in the morning from Glendairy, their case might not be heard and they have to spend the day if they are not on bail downstairs. It is uncomfortable not only for the prisoners but for the warders and the other officers. It needs a cleaning up because it collects the dust from the road.

The other one to which there was a reply refers, as I understand it, to the cells at Central Police Station which are at the back of the canteen near the new police building. I see the note says "increased to provide improved facilities." The flooring there is not of the best order, and in addition to that I do not believe that it was the custom in the past to provide adequate meals, because relatives used to be alerted to bring meals for them there. A lot of these problems would be solved if police discontinue the disgusting practice of arresting people on a Friday afternoon or Saturday midday when they have to stay there until Monday. Surely if warrants were issued during the course of the week, they should execute the warrants before Friday afternoon and Saturday midday when they know people cannot get bail and have to be held over in uncomfortable circumstances until Monday morning.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not know which hon. member asked the question about marine equipment at Item 66. The reply is that the hull of the launch referred to was condemned by a Board of Survey. The Government auctioneer was requested to sell the same and he could not get it sold. It was later recommended that it be burnt. It was burnt in October, 1970. (Mr. St. JOHN: What about the Wireless equipment?) That will come in a minute. I believe some hon. member asked about uniforms. There are certain suggestions regarding a change in uniform. One of the changes concerns.....

Mr. HINDS: I asked about uniforms for carpark attendants.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There are certain suggestions regarding a change in uniform. One of the changes refers to the blue tunic which will be made opened-neck of the same material instead of closed. Apparently these are suggestions put up by the Police Association themselves, and they have suggested that the blue tunic be made opened-neck instead of the closed one for night wear as it is at present. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Of the same serge material?) Apparently this is their suggestion.

Mr. ELLIOT MOTTLEY: Are these suggestions made by the Police Association or are these suggestions by the Commissioner of Police? I am not accusing you of anything, I just want to ascertain which one it is.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have been informed that these are representations from the Association itself, and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has informed me that it will not be the same material, but will be blue terylene and wool.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I do not know if you are *au fait* with the blue uniform worn by the fire Brigade. It is a lighter shirt of terylene and wool. This is not what the police wear now; they wear serge.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No decision has been reached yet about the different uniform.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I can tell the Leader of the House that his information is wrong, because I know for a fact that the Association has made representation to the Commissioner of Police about a change in the uniform they wear during the day. They want to get away from the type of heavy pants and white tunic they wear at the moment. I think the representation made was to the effect that they wear the grey shirt and a lighter pants. They wear serge now. The Fire Brigade wear terylene wool, and while it is much lighter, it is a darker uniform

and tends to attract heat. If you check you will see that the representation made includes wearing a grey shirt instead of the tunic and doing away with the black pants with the stripe down the side except for ceremonial occasions.

Mr. St. JOHN: Perhaps the Hon. Minister would say whether they are willing to give an undertaking that they would look into this question of the uniforms after consultation with the Police Association.

Mr. HINDS: The point at issue is that the Minister is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think that is quite fair to the Minister, and I would not like the hon. member to say that again.

Mr. HINDS: He has been badly advised.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a different thing.

Mr. HINDS: And as a consequence, he is misleading the House.

9. 40 a. m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The senior member for Christ Church asked whether the Government is prepared to open negotiations or something like this, but I have spoken to members of the Police Force and they are a bit annoyed about this. I know for a fact that over the past five or six years they have been trying to get the uniforms changed, but their efforts were unsuccessful. At one stage I think they were suggesting that they were short pants, and the older chaps in the Force said they did not want to wear short pants and the idea was done away with. The boots, for instance, for everyday wear were one of the things they wanted to get rid of. Over the past years the uniform of the Gazetted Officers, and Inspectors, was changed completely and they now wear a type of gaberdine before then the Constables were asking for a change. I mentioned this in last year's Estimates and I was told then that negotiations were going on. I do not want to attach blame to anybody in an issue like this, but I think the important thing is to get it done in the interest of the Force, and I would like to get a firm undertaking from Government to open negotiations with the Police Association to bring about, as soon as possible, a change in the uniforms now worn by the Police.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: What I will do, I will pass it on to the proper quarters not only that we know they want a new uniform but we would like the Police Association to put all of their suggestions before us so that they can be acted upon. I was made to understand that discussions are still going on about all the uniforms, but in respect of the night wear uniform they have decided to change to an opened-neck shirt of the same material; this is what I have been informed. While I was on my feet, I heard that it was an opened-neck shirt but not of the same material of Terylene and wool, but I will certainly pass on the Committee's request and add to it that it should be done as quickly as possible. I am still not clear, Mr. Chairman, about the question of the transmitter.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Leader of the House gave a reply to my question yesterday in respect of the cells at District "A". I refer to District "A" in the manner that persons dealing with the courts refer to District "A". What I really want to say is that the cells at Central Police Station which are located behind the animal compound, should be looked at. There is no suitable urinal in that block, as far as I know, and there is no suitable place even for resting one's head. I would like to know if they hope to even touch that in the improvements.

Also I would like to know why is it that there is no promotion for a policeman unless he passes the First Aid examination, because I know of one Police Constable now, who has done some really first-class police work, but he started as a Constable and is going to finish as a Constable simply because he has not got the aptitude for passing a First Aid examination. I would like to know if the Government would care to remove this barrier, because as I understand it, unless you pass the First Aid test you can never get any further.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member, not on behalf of the Government as such, but there are many points which were raised by the Opposition, but the Police Association is an Association for the benefit of these people, why do they not put these things up to the Commissioner who in turn would have to submit them to the Government? Things like the removal of this anomalous situation that somebody has to pass a First Aid test to get promotion, the Government has nothing at all to do with the promotion of police, the police as far as I know should be promoted on merit, unlike years ago when you used to get promotion because you were big, rough, strong and fairly ignorant, but nowadays it is really on initiative more than anything else, so I believe that the Police should do these things themselves between the Police Association and the Police Service Commission. These are things that no Government in its right senses, once it is nothing detrimental to the community, would resist, this is what you call collective bargaining.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt you, but there is so much talking going on that the Reporters are finding it difficult to hear.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I do not mind the talking going on because I do a lot of that myself, but I just want to tell the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that we do not want to interfere with these things because the moment the Government gets itself involved in these things, it will be said that somebody will be promoted because they voted for somebody else and all that kind of nonsense. There are certain things which the Government should keep as far as possible from except for keeping an eye to see that these things go correctly without a lot of interference, and the Police is one, because the moment politicians start inter-

fering with the Police, it means that law and order will be broken down.

I heard a lot of unsavoury things said yesterday on the floor of this House about the Police; quite a lot of these things might be true, but we must also remember that the Police in Barbados are Barbadians, they are from among us. You get bad people in all walks of life, you have bad lawyers and bad doctors,so do not really pick out the Policemen, because when a lot of us are sleeping, policemen have to be out. It takes a lot of courage for a man to get out of bed at midnight to go and protect somebody's house. You will be at home sleeping and the Police are walking about protecting your property and preventing somebody from getting in, so look at it this way. I hope this never happens, but one can never tell - it happened in New York - but the day the Police refuse to go out to work, you can understand what will happen in this community. We have to respect the police quite a lot. I do not think the police should be run down, as I have been hearing, in here so often, just because they cannot answer back. I could never be a policeman because I am too short and too presumptuous and also because you cannot talk to me this kind of way and not expect me to give you the right answer.

The time has come when we have got to realise that the Police are from among us and you cannot get all good policemen nor can you get all bad policemen; you cannot get all good lawyers nor can you get all bad lawyers; you cannot get all good doctors, nor can you get all bad doctors. Even in Heaven you have bad angels, according to what the Bible says, the Devil was God's own friend and the Devil plotted against God and that is why He sent him down here to torment us, so we must be realistic and stop trying to run down these people because they cannot answer for themselves. We are supposed to be responsible people and we need not get in here and lambast the police; if a policeman has done something wrong, by all means, complain against him, but do not treat the police *en masse* as though the police are something to frighten little children with, that nonsense should stop and we must stop running them down like this, because if you go on doing it one day they will say they are not going out to work, and the night the police do not go out to work, you know who will turn out to work. It means that my gun will have to start operating, so let us treat these people as though they are from among us, as though they are part of us, and this is nothing unusual because they are part of us, so do not let us keep running the police down.
9.50 a.m.

I think it is time that the Police Association should act as a real Association instead of being afraid that if members say things they will be demoted and so on. When I was in the navy, there was nobody who gave the officers more trouble than I did, but that did not prevent me from going as far as I went. If you are honest in your approach and you tell anybody the truth without being offensive, that person will have to respect you. The members of the Police Association should not think that they will be victimised if they had to say what the facts are. I know that the Police are doing a wonderful job, although many people do not realise it. If anybody entered this House today with a cutlass all of us would try to get away, but a Policeman would have to try and disarm the man at the risk of losing his life. He may lose a hand, a foot or an eye in the execution of his duty. When something goes wrong with any of us, we do not worry to call our father or mother, but we call on the Police. I do not think that members should get in this House and run down the Police in the way in which they have been doing it. They have been doing this for too long and too often.

Mr. Chairman, some policemen illtreat me, too, but they are human beings. *(Asides)* The policeman to whom you have referred is diametrically opposed to me and I do not know why. On more than one occasion I have entered the Public Buildings Yard and policemen, who do not know me, have been very impolite to me. I have had to tell some of them that they should not speak to me in that manner because they never did it to white people. As soon as they found out who I was, they started to apologise. I told them that I did not want them to apologise but merely to treat me as a human being. Of course, you do not get that sort of thing happening all the time. There are two officers here today who are my friends, especially Inspector Denny. We have had our little arguments, but I have known him from a child. Must I get in here and run down Inspector Denny because he might have done.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please avoid calling names.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: He is not a member of the House, and I can call his name, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are a Minister of the Government and if you are allowed to do that, then the members of the Opposition are going to claim that right, too.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I will abide by your Ruling. Nearly all of the policemen and I are friends, and I am not going to sit here as a Minister of the Government, as a Barbadian and a member of the community and hear members running down the policemen constantly. As I have pointed out some of us have brothers and relatives who are policemen. Why should we say things about the policemen because we know that they cannot answer for themselves? I do not think that is fair. I am not saying that you will not find some uncouth policemen, because I know that is a fact. Some people cannot control their own children, but they cannot kill them. I want to remind the hon. member that, if we continue to run down the policemen, one of these mornings they may all report sick. There is no machine in the world to prove whether a man is sick or well. As soon as the crooks know that the policemen are not coming out to patrol certain areas a lot of bad things will take place. I am saying that we should have more esteem for the police than we have for some of the doctors and lawyers in this community. The policemen have to come out every

night, but if you call certain doctors at night they will not come out. The first thing they will ask you is about money, or their wives will tell you that they are not at home. The policeman is out at night in his uniform, and anybody can wait for him and knock him down. It is a good thing that we have this kind of society in Barbados or a lot of bad things would happen.

I would ask the hon. member to suggest to the policemen that the Police Association should begin to do work. I would advise not only the policemen but members of the community to bring their complaints to the Government rather than running to the Opposition when things are going wrong. I want everybody to understand that this is not Government by Opposition but Government by consent. If something is affecting you, then you should put the matter before the Government; if the Government fails to rectify the matter, then you should seek the aid of the Opposition. Do not think that the Opposition can run this Government. All the Opposition can do is to talk themselves hoarse; I will sleep when I am not doing the cross-word puzzle, and they will not get any further. *(Asides)* That is what I have said. The Opposition cannot run the Government.

Mr. Chairman, there are some people in the community who always like to make strife. They just have to imagine something, take it to the Opposition to bring on the floor of this House whether it is true or not, and they will feel satisfied. The Opposition can say what they like about me, because I have a very thick skin. *(Asides)* I am here representing a cause. I am not representing the policemen more than anybody else. Some people like to look up to certain people in the community, but they want to look down on the policemen. The day the policeman refuses to come out to do his duty, we will then know how important a policeman is.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to hear the remarks made by the junior member for St. Thomas to the effect that when he is tired doing the cross-word puzzle, he will sleep; the Opposition can talk as long as they like and nothing will happen.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member must not misquote me. What I did say was that people in our community run to the Opposition who can come in here and talk as much as they like and if the Government do not want to do anything, we do not have to do anything about it.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am sorry for that remark, Mr. Chairman. I want the hon. member to understand that I said from the beginning that there are good policemen and bad policemen; I will criticise the bad, and I will praise the good. The hon. member must not think that one must sit down and allow a bad Policeman to ruin the name of the Force as a whole.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I ask on what item you are speaking?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am replying on..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. The junior member for St. Peter can reply to me if he wants to. The junior member for St. Thomas started on uniforms and he had a bit of latitude, I agree. I am asking the junior member for St. Joseph under what Head is he speaking now. On what are you addressing the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN: Item 55 - Regional Police Training School. Also Item 30 - Plain Clothes Allowance. 10 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I think that while the hon. member was speaking, the other Chairman was making notes on the points raise. The hon. member did speak on these two points already, Plain Clothes Allowance and Regional Police Training School. We are only wondering if he has new ground.

Mr. BOLDEN: Very new ground, because the Leader of the House was replying to a question asked yesterday and he said, he had not yet got the information, and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas jumped up to say that he wondered why the Opposition should come in here with certain things when it was not the Police Association, and he was given latitude to speak. I am asking the privilege of the House to answer the hon. junior member for St. Thomas so that there can be no wrong impression placed on the record that somebody in the Opposition is crying down the Police Force, because what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has done is to create the impression that people are complaining to the Opposition and the Opposition come in here running down the Police Force, because he went on to say that when the Police report sick, then we will know what is happening.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but he must quote me correctly. He must not allow his sentiment to over-run his reason. I did not refer to the police as such, but I said that people too often in this society run to the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I asked why it is necessary that police must pass a First Aid examination for promotion, and the hon. junior member for Bridgetown said this should be the Police Association, but I would like to inform the hon. junior member for St. Thomas that the Police Association is only there in name. There are instances where policemen have not been supported when they bring forward certain things, because there is still a rumour, I do not know if it is true, that promotion is still based on friendship. I would not like to call the name of a policeman who has just resigned because he is still in our community, but everybody knows how he was harrassed, and at a time when he fought for the Police Association, the very Association backed off him when those in authority wanted to choke him. We know that promotions were made over this man's head and up to now

they have never given him a cause why he was not promoted. As a matter of fact, they went so far as to try to demote him.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that in my opinion the First Aid examination should not be a barrier to promotion, and I further say that I criticise the police if they do something bad, and I will praise them if they do something good. I know there are lots of good policemen, but there are also several bad ones, and my criticism is that the bad ones should not stain the name of the Force. What I have said are things I feel should be eliminated to the betterment of the Force and not to the detriment of it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, since yesterday I was attempting to speak on this Head 27, and all, I managed to get in, were one or two questions to the Leader of the House this morning. I agree with one remark made by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas with regard to the police, that they should not be looked at from any political point of view, and that nobody should attempt to use the police as a political football.

With regard to the police, it is not a question that police officers run to me and complain. You would bear in mind that as a practising barrister in the Courts you come into contact with the police all the time, and from time to time you have various discussions with them, and like any member of your constituency, you would find out from them what are the problems facing them. I do not like to use the police as any political football, and that is why when I come here and raise questions as regards the police, it is not done in an effort to get the police on anybody's side or to make sure that the police support any one side. It is done in an effort to ensure that the police are not disgruntled and are satisfied with the terms of service in order that we in Barbados can have a better Police Force.

There is another point I would like to raise. This is not by way of criticism, but by way of a suggestion. People have often complained particularly about the young police officers who have recently come into the Force, that they do not mind a police officer reporting them, but it is their attitude and the manner in which they approach the public. This is something I say by way of criticism and in an effort to help the Police Force and not to drag it down; it is done in an effort to ensure that the Police Force will go up in the estimation of right thinking people in this society, because when a young policeman goes to a man who has parked his car and says "you cannot park there," that sort of attitude does not lend for harmonious relationship between the police and the public. If at a later stage, any police officer wants the assistance of this particular individual for giving evidence or in any investigation whatsoever, it will be indelibly imprinted in this man's mind, the attitude of the police in the past, and therefore this man would be antagonistic towards the police. Even on jury service, he may become antagonistic towards the police, and therefore it is in the interest of this country as a whole either at the Training School or at a later stage to ensure that the police are taught how to approach people.

I am indeed happy to see that the senior officers in the Force are not guilty of it, because having reached that far, they have extremely good public relations. I have never heard anybody complain about any gazetted officer and the treatment meted out to him. I am glad to see that a course has been started for them, but what I would like to see is some conscious attempt made to ensure that when police are dealing with the public that they adopt far more civilised approach. A man may be wrong and he does not object to being told he is wrong. We know human nature. He objects to anybody coming to rough him up, shout at him or make him look small in the eyes of the public, and I think the police should make a concerted effort to prevent this sort of thing from happening.

Now, Sir, as to the question of public relations, I think the police need some sort of public relations from the entire Force to project the police in this country in a far better light than they are today. I say that again by way of constructive criticism and not merely to drag down the police, because I do not believe in that. I attack the police when I have to do it in Court, but that is something completely different. Some time ago I asked the Government to look into the possibility of building a new Criminal Investigation Department at Central Police Station. From time to time we have voted money for new scientific equipment, the establishment of laboratories in the Department to house the records of the police, fingerprint records, convictions etc., and I do think that some better building more secure than the present wooden structure should be used to house such important records.

On the question of examinations, I am not prepared to state what subjects should be left out, but I would like to suggest to the Government that maybe the time has come when some revision should be made of the entire police promotion examination. I do not know how it is set. I do not know whether the papers are corrected by members of the Force, and it may well be that the time has come when you need to look at the whole system of promotion and your examination system and in consultation with the Police Association to have it revised. It may be in the interest of good policing in this country, now that there is a law faculty, to use people from outside the Police Force to set the police promotion examination and correct these papers.

10.10 a.m.

This is to remove any sort of allegation by any Force Officer that he has done his test correctly but because somebody at the top does not like him he will not get promoted. Once you remove from the hands of the Police the setting and correcting of papers, the Police would not even know who set the papers and therefore the possibility of the examiner knowing the Police Officer, even if you do it by numbers as in a University, it would remove all this stigma. These are things that lead to better terms of service for the Police Officers.

There are two other points I would like to make. On the question of the launches at the harbour, I know that one Police Officer was trained some time ago; after going to Hendon, he had an attachment to the London Police. I do not know if the Government would consider establishing at the Port, Port Authority Police. One of the things that happen in this country is that there is far too much stealing at the Deep Water Harbour. I do not want to go into details, but the relationship with exists between the Customs and the Police leaves a lot to be desired. I do not want to go into it because I believe there is going to be a case before the Court of Appeal dealing with this ...nt. The question arises as to whether the Po...e can search a Customs Officer within the compound of the Harbour when on duty; the Police contend they can and the Customs say they cannot, and this can only be remedied by legislation where you have Port Authority Police, and you may find that this would be the best place to keep your launches. Originally they were kept in Bay Street because the harbour was there, and this is one of the things I would seriously suggest to be considered.

The last point I would deal with is, I think that because of the population shift in Barbados the time has come when the Government must look at resiting Police Stations. You are creating new housing areas in various parts of St. Michael, and therefore I would suggest the time has come when the Government must look possibly at the resiting of the Police Stations so as to get them in closer proximity to where the greater number of the population is. As I said, this is not a political issue, and I seldom agree with the junior member for St. Thomas, but I agree with him when he says that if politicians get into the Police matters it will lead to the breakdown of law and order in this country. I think this is a matter that should be above politics.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have a few more replies. Item 69 - Wireless Equipment. I am advised that the radio sets which are being used now are supplied by Pye Telecommunications Ltd. These sets were provided by this firm since 1952 and have been operating satisfactorily.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph asked about the refurbishment of the cells; I am advised that the Ministry of Communications and Works is responsible for the maintenance of prison cells not only at the Prison itself but wherever they are, and there is provision under Head 34, Item 83 for this repair, and that this will be a proper charge against that vote.

May I just revert to the question of the Police uniform because some doubt was cast on what I said when I said I was advised that the Police Association had themselves suggested the retention of the present material but only a change in style. At a meeting which was held on the 7th January between the Permanent Secretary, Home Affairs, the Commissioner of Police and representatives of the Police Association, the only change then proposed was in the night wear from a closed neck to an opened-neck tunic. This was acceptable to the Ministry, a directive to this effect was given to the Commissioner of Police and this will be implemented as from 1971-72. No other requests for change have yet been made to the Ministry.

About Police promotions. The requirement of a First Aid Certificate has been accepted by the Police Association; frequently a policeman is first on the scene of an accident. Promotion is governed by the promotion rules. A Policeman has to sit an examination to enter the zone of selection; he then undergoes an interview by a Promotion Board whose recommendations are forwarded to the Police Service Commission who makes the decision. The present composition of the Promotion Board is the Commissioner of Police, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, one of the Assistant Commissioners and a Superintendent. The promotion rules are being reviewed and the comments of the Police Association are being awaited.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am to ask the Minister to which part of the note at Item 69 has he replied.

Mr. St. JOHN: The note says it is to replace the output transmitter receiver.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have been told that the problem with transmission in this country is the presence of open high tension electric cables which is a unique feature in a place like Barbados. I wonder, if whoever is responsible for ordering the new equipment, has made the supplier aware of the situation, because any equipment which is brought in and not based upon a system whereby you have got these open electric cables, the radio waves are going to bounce up and down, and this is what affects the reception at the other end. You may bring in equipment which is designed for somewhere different; as a matter of fact, the Government has already in its possession a piece of equipment which has never functioned properly although it has only been here for a few years because of this very problem, and I wonder if this has been made known to the suppliers.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have been advised that the new equipment will also come from Pye Telecommunications Ltd.

Mr. HINDS: There were some other related questions that have been posed, whether or not it would be of the required frequency and the like, not merely something coming from Pye or something coming from enywhere else, we want to know how well Government has been advised.
10.20 a.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the Police have in their Establishment persons with the requisite technical ability who can, not only

absorb, but also can take care of all of these problems. Not only do they understand the problems, but they can take care of them to make the equipment give of its best.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not follow what the Minister has said.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that is in reply to the questions raised by the junior member for St. Joseph and the junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Were you replying to the junior member for St. Joseph or to myself?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: St. Joseph. The Police technicians are not only well aware of the problems raised by the equipment operating in a certain atmosphere, but they are quite able to adjust it to take care of all the difficulties posed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to appear to be pressuring the Leader of the House. This is not a question of adjustment, but, as far as I have been told, it is a question of basic design of the equipment to suit the area in which it is going to operate. If you went to America and bought a piece of equipment that was designed to work in certain parts of America and you brought it here, then no adjustment could rectify its improper operation. If the technicians are aware of the problems, I want to know whether that has been communicated to the manufacturers so that the design can be improved.

I wonder if the Leader of the House has ever given us the answer regarding the boat which was destroyed by fire.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The reply was given this morning.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They put it before a Board of Survey which condemned it; the Government Auctioneer was requested to sell it, but he did not succeed in getting it sold. It was later recommended that it should be burnt, and it was burnt in October, 1970.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to show the Leader of the House that his information is not correct. I, personally, enquired about that boat and made an offer for it. They told me that it could not be sold, and it would be put up for sale by auction. I do not understand what the Minister means when he says that it could not be sold. I told the Leader of the House since yesterday that the information was not correct. I saw it in the yard; I offered to buy it, and I was told that it would be put up for sale by auction.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the purchase of the new equipment, it seems abvious that the point the junior member for St. Peter as well as the Junior member for St. Joseph is making is that whoever designed the new equipment should be given an opportunity to take into consideration the previous experience who have had with the old equipment, and that Government should not rely only on the technicians in the Police Department but should have a consultative opinion on this matter with a view to abtaining alternative views and specifications.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I take the hon. member's point, and I will draw it to their attention. I must warn the Committee that the Police have said that they do not experience trouble with the equipment. That is what they have said, but I will draw the Committee's views to their attention.

The question that the sum of $1,033,824 under Head 27 – Police – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Head 32 – Ministry of Agriculture Science & Technology – was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,273,881 - under Head 32 - Ministry of Agriculture Science & Technology - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this is a large sum of money which is being sought to be appropriated under a Head which I consider to be one of the most important factors governing the lives of the people in this community. I am going to start, Mr. Chairman, with Item 33 - Station Allowance - $3,120. Several months ago officers who lived on these Stations were granted a smaller allowance than what is today being sought under this Item, but these officers really did a worthwhile job for the money given to them. Today you cannot find the officers who are living on the Stations; you cannot ask them any questions, and one never seems to know what is going on the Agricultural Stations in these days.

10.30 p.m.

If you live near an agricultural station it was the duty of the officer to visit smallholders, and therefore he could advise. I lived at Groves for two and a half years, and I knew every smallholder in the St. George districts. I worked at the Home Agricultural Station and I knew practically every smallholder. Today, Mr. Chairman, it is so funny. Do you know that you cannot get a grafted mango tree at any one of the agricultural stations in Barbados today? I understand there are only about two people in the Department of Agriculture who knows anything about grafting now. I went into Graeme Hall - I see there is money voted under these particular stations - and I asked for grafted mango trees, and do you know what I was told? I was told to buy one of the ordinary trees they had growing and then get somebody to graft it for me. This was never the principle in 1954, 1955 and 1956.

I also applied for fruit trees, Mr. Chairman, and I was told that before I could get 8 fruit trees, I would have to let somebody come and inspect my land and see where I was going to put them. There is a grant for people planting approved trees, but I doubt whether any money has been expended under this particular Act within the last seven or eight years, and I would like the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to make a note of this and tell me if any money has been expended under this particular Act for the planting of approved trees. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, it just shows that the stations have been run down during the last eight or nine years without any fixed policy as to what is going on. Let me move over to Item 55 - Travelling for which a sum of $75,000 is being appropriated. I would also like the Minister to make a note and tell me who will be paid this travelling. I know that travelling has been paid by the Department for a long time. In 1954, 1955 and 1956, the peasant agricultrual instructors were paid on a basis, but they had a duty then. You had to set up a rota each week, you had to go into the districts and you had to look out for the problems which were then coming into existence, and you had to advise people, therefore you could justify travelling. This is a lot of money for travelling. You have extension officers now, but I do not see them. I want to know why you are paying them this money. I am not against paying people money if they deserve to be paid, and I want the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to know that when I criticise, I do so because I see something wrong. I am not saying that you should not pay them money, but I will give you an example, Mr. Chairman, to show why I believe it is a lot of money and I cannot see the work being done for it. I was trying to find out if a smallholder could acquire a grant for planting pangola grass and fencing, and it took me fully seven months to find this out. I was sent to Department after Department, and I am saying now without any fear that even in the Agricultural Department - and I would not like to embarrass the gentleman - I was told to go to the Peasants' Loan Bank. When I got to the Peasants' Loan Bank, an officer whom I know personally for a number of years instructed me about the procedure, and I was then waiting for about two months to see an Extension Officer come out to my house. This is why I talk about travelling. I will show you what is happening. It was two months before three Extension Officers turned up at my house, and they told me, that I must put up a scheme for fencing and for subdivision before I could be approved for a grant. I submitted a scheme. I went to the cheapest possible means of fencing and planting pangola. The Extension Officers never came back. I keep as many as 42 sheep and 14 pigs on my smallholding, and I never saw an Extension Officer after that evening.

Mr. Chairman, when I was in the Agricultural Department, I would have known anybody keeping more than two or three sheep and more than one pig in my area, but I have not seen an Extension Officer since two and a half years ago. He has not come back to see if the fencing is finished, the sheep are living or the pangola grass is growing. What are these Extension Officers doing? In St. Philip there is a plague of grasshoppers which have gone through two or three stages. They started off as the normal green grasshopper, at a later stage they became dotted, and now they are brown. Now if these officers were doing their jobs in the districts, they would have seen these grasshoppers when they started to change colour. In my day, we had to look out specially for the mealy bug, and as soon as you saw the ants or something peculiar, there used to be round table conferences at the Ministry of Agriculture every Saturday morning when the problems would be discussed with the Entomologist or whoever was there, and within a week or two you knew something and could cut it out before it became an epidemic. Now you have grasshoppers which have moved from ordinary green grasshoppers to a brown plague and now they are trying to work on them. What work have the Extensions Officers been doing during this period? One told me that they have been advised to keep out of the way of people asking them questions. What are you paying them and giving them travelling for?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, would the hon. member give me the name of that person? (Mr. BOLDEN: No.) This is where you get this pattern of behaviour, because here is an honourable member who is supposed to represent the community, and I have asked him as Minister of Agriculture to give me the name of the officer who told him that he was told that he should not answer questions and he refuses. How do you expect me as Minister to give redress to these grievances if you have information and refuse to give it?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister's problem, but I believe in a system of politics. I have vowed that I would never disclose the name of the person. I will give the Minister personally all the information that he needs, but I will never disclose the name of the person who told me.

10.40 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, let us face facts. The hon. member is a Barbadian, I am a Barbadian, and he is genuinely interested in the improvement of agriculture in the country, which is supposed to be the backbone of the economy of this country. Added to that, he owes a duty to this country as a representative of the people of this country. The point I am making is that were I in his place - this is nothing to hide, this is something which should be taken up at national level, and if we have someone in the Ministry of Agriculture who is giving this type of instruction to Extension Officers, that person would have to get out of the Ministry of Agriculture, because the role of an extension Officer is to answer questions, and if he cannot answer them he should go back to the Chief Agricultural Officer and get the answers to those questions and pass them on to the farmers, because his role is that of disseminating information to the farmer, ascertaining the

grievances of the farmers, passing them on to the appropriate sections of the Ministry, and if an officer is telling you that he was told to avoid as many questions as possible, that is not necessarily an indictment on the officer, but it is an indictment on the person who gave the officer those instructions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has just been pointed out to me that we do not have a quorum.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the senior member for St. Andrew proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member can appreciate the point. Here is a grievance of which he is complaining, but why complain if he does not want to give me the information that I can take positive action? If the hon. member does not want to give me on the floor of this House, I will suggest he gives me confidentially.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I agree that the duty of these officers is to do the work but nobody sees them, therefore problems like these will always arise. Coming back to this question of fencing and grass-lands and assistance, Mr. Chairman, there are quite a number of people who would like, I know, to break away from the normal sugar cane and go into something else. At Item 60, Contributions to maintenance of stations which provide expert advice on problems of research; you come up with a scheme, you go to anybody in Agriculture, or you want to develop a scheme yourself, you want to see an Extension Officer, you want to put your problem to him, you want advice, you want to know if it is going to work, but you cannot find anybody. I have spoken on this fencing, and another problem is this, Mr. Chairman, let us assume that you want to fence and begin to plant your grass; this is another problem which I would like the Minister to look into.

There is now some division in the Agricultural Department; the Extension Officers, I understand, are controlled under one section, the stations are controlled under another. They are shaking their heads over there saying, I am wrong. I will give you an example now. I started to plant pangola grass; one officer came to me and told me to go to the Home Agricultural Station and get planting material, I have sent men to the Home on two or three occasions and finally I was told the Extension Officer could not send me there for grass because that is not his line, it is something else. At one stage it was arranged for me to get grass from St. Peter or St. Lucy to plant in St. Philip, and there is money here for the grass-land at Seawell. Even that they told me is special grass for bailing and I could not get any for planting from there. How can you expect to develop grass-lands when you are going to be turned around like this? Eventually, for me to get pangola grass to plant I had to go to a private person and ask for pangola to plant. This is the system. You are told you can only get a load from one place, you cannot get any more from there, then I heard the tractor had just been put through the patch so I could not get any. There is no co-operation, Mr. Chairman, and this is what I was told. If the Hon. Minister is saying this is not true, is it true then that because it was me I was dealt with in this roundabout manner? I know other people have suffered because of the same problems.

I go further now; unfortunately there does not seem to be any basis on how the grant is worked out, nobody seems to know; you are asked to submit your bills but whenever the bills are submitted, not only mine, I could tell you about five or six people in St. Philip who all decided to go into diversification but because of the lack of assistance, the lack of information, and I do not think any of them have seen the Extension Officer other than the one day when the tour was made through St. Philip, nobody has heard anything since then. What is the system? What are they paid travelling for? On what basis? I think there needs to be a whole revamping of this agricultural setup; the whole thing has to be gone into.

I would like to know if there is still the round table conference held on Saturday mornings. I would like to know if the senior officers still go into the districts to check to see that the junior officers are doing their work. There are things I would like to know, Mr. Chairman.

I see a sum under Item 58 of $6,800 for the Agricultural Society, for the provision of the cost of prizes at the Agricultrual and Industrial Exhibition. Mr. Chairman, I have seen the last two or three annunal exhibitions, particularly in the agricultural section, and there is no doubt about it, the response is not as good as it used to be, which means one of two things: (a) either we are not getting good enough produce which meets exhibition standard, or (b) persons are not interested because the prizes may not be attractive enough.
10.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, something has to be done. Either the prizes will have to be uplifted or expanded, or we will have to get the Officers back out in the fields encouraging people to plant and exhibit their produce. I am concerned about agriculture, because if you say that you are going to have a tourist industry, my belief is that you cannot run a profitable tourist industry unless you have a vigorous and thriving agricultural community. You have to develop the agricultural aspect of this society to such a level that we can clamp down on the importation of agricultural produce.

I will deal with the Pine Livestock Station shortly, because everything ties in. It is about time that we encourage the small holder to produce things for the benefit of the society as a whole. There is no doubt about it that we have gluts at times. We also have people who are planting and cannot produce anything that would be profitable to them. I have been told, especially in the St. Joseph area, that some people planted cabbage in the middle of last year and they had quite a lot of worms. I know what

the worms come from. They came from the eggs of the butterflies, but there was never anybody to advise those people what to do. As a result of this at least two people have told me that they will go back to planting canes. If there was an Extension Officer up there, he could have nipped the infection in the bud, and you could encourage diversification of crops. You could then create a market gardener who would be producing something for the benefit of the community. If you can do that, then you can automatically put a ban on market gardening produce being imported into the country because we would have enough here to satisfy everybody in the Island. This is what I would like to see done.

With regard to the poultry industry, I would like to see a ban placed on the importation of poultry right away. With the number of poultry growers in this country, the Government can afford to create a black list and say that they are not going to allow the importation of poultry products. I say this without any fear: even if we experience a shortage of poultry products, it can only be for a maximum of 12 weeks. I feel that an incentive scheme should be put up on a public basis. I do not mean the way in which I had to find out things, because I had to work out a jig-saw puzzle. It should be made known by publication, by advertisement on the radio and television, and the Government should even go to the extent of printing posters and putting them up showing people how and where to apply for subsidies or grants to break into the poultry business or some other type of produce.

Mr. Chairman, I had to go through a cross-word puzzle in order to find out certain things. I should like the Minister to institute a scheme whereby everybody would know how to go about things. The Government should say that we are going to put a ban on the importation of poultry products because the community of Barbados must make something out of tourism by virtue of agriculture. I should be the most satisfied person to see that.

With regard to Item 64 - Contingencies - $20,000 - I do not propose to reflect on the vote which was passed under another Head. The Hon. Minister said that contingencies cover a number of things. The Note to Item 64 states: "Provides for major breakdowns or replacements of vehicles of the Ministry's transport system, tractors, etc....." Now, I believe under the Capital Estimates that there is a system dealing with agricultural equipment. Mr. Chairman, I believe I have been doing a bit too much experimenting in agriculture over the last two or three years. A small holder, if you have to apply for your lands to be prepared it will be necessary to get in touch with the people in charge of the Government Tractor Scheme. The tractors which are in the possession of the Government have to work over too vast an area, and I believe it is the Government's policy to encourage people to join co-operatives and have the work done.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with co-operatives, but, as an ex-officer of agriculture, I know that Barbadians take a long time before you can push them into something new. In the interim, we know that you have to plough your land and prepare it for a specific period. It is sometimes difficult to get a Government tractor to do the necessary ploughing. You have to make application for the use of the tractor; you will be told that it is in St. George; later you will be told that it is in Christ Church; you might then be told that it broke down, and you will never get it. I would like to know how many tractors are operating. I would like to know if a tractor is stationed in a particular area. I would like to know if the Government is aware of the number of acres of land owned by small holders in the various areas, and whether the tractor will have to do anything other than ploughing. It seems strange to me that people are constantly complaining that they can never get the Government's tractor to do ploughing for them.

Mr. Chairman, when you are forced to fall back on the equipment of the plantation near to you, you will be told that you will get the tractor as soon as such and such a field is finished. All of these things are hindrances so far as the smallholder is concerned. I have at my home a small utility tractor which can do ploughing, furrowing and so on. I should like to see the Government bringing into this country what is called a "1-man tractor" and putting them at the Agricultural Stations. If the peasants are unable to buy that type of tractor, then a peasant could rent it, take it to his place and do his work and return it. The big tractors owned by Government cannot serve the areas in which they are operating.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to see some system devised whereby the people will be able to get certain work done. You have to plough your land in a specific period; you have to put in your crops at a specific period, and unless you have the cultivation done, it means that your crops are going to be delayed. If you do not put in your crops at a specific time, then you will not get proper returns.

11 a.m

There is still a half-hearted belief in this country that you cannot plant certain market garden products between July and September. I have proved this to be incorrect, and I say it is a lack of the Department of Agriculture carrying out the necessary experiments and doing things that should be done because the stations have been run down. I have grown beans, tomatoes and carrots at a time when they told me I could not grow them. I was told by one of the Department's employees that they did not bring in seeds at that time because you could not plant them, but I got seeds and planted and when there were no beans in Barbados, I was selling beans at $1.20 per pound. (A VOICE: Bad.) Nobody else had them and that was the market place. I should not sell them at that price, but if the Department had carried out experiments they would have been able to advise people that they could plant beans or whatever they were planting at a particular time when people said you could not. There is nobody to tell the people that. I wonder what they do in the Agricultural Department. Under Item 65 - Seed Store, if you go to a seed store and ask for

seeds, you are told that they have not got in these beans now, and if you ask when they are going to get them, you are told that they do not order them at that time because you do not plant them at that time. The only way that the man in the seed store could say that was if he had been given this information from somebody higher up the line. I would like to know on what basis they order seeds and what planting seasons they have, and I would like to know why the order time is not a planting season. It only shows that nobody has studied the climatic condition, and soil type of the area. You therefore have an *ad hoc* method of doing these things.

Let us get back, Mr. Chairman, to the question of station allowance. I have just shown you, Mr. Chairman, how the whole thing has fallen apart. Under Item 49 - Unestablished Staff, I believe this deals with workers on the agricultural stations together with the allowance for station officers. Mr. Chairman, I can deal with that under Item 73 for which $99,640 is to be appropriated for the general running expenses of six District Agricultural Stations. There is now a practice which has been developed at the Stations of telling you that certain things are done at certain times of the day. If you be unfortunate enough to keep a sow and you miss and carry it to a station after 9 0'clock in the morning, you do not get a service. I want to know why. They say they do not allow services after that time in the morning, and I want to know on what basis this is done. Do not tell me it is not true because I have had the experience of sending pigs to the Home Agricultural Station and I was told to send them back in the evening or the next morning, as if the pig heat period waits on the agricultural officer at the Home. There is also scientific proof that if you mate an animal twice in a heat period you produce greater litters. I have tried to send my pig to the Home twice and was told that it was served the day before and not to send it back. I want to know if the people at the Agricultural Department are doing their duty, and if they know what is going on in modern day agriculture. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members not addressing the Chair, please speak in undertones. Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a feeling that we can run a very profitable agricultural community, but how can you expect people to improve the quality of their stock and agriculture when you are going to get these old time ideas persistently hanging with people telling you that you are mad, foolish or do not know what you are doing? I would like the Minister to tell me if this has been a laid down policy: the question that you cannot have services at certain times or that you cannot have two services.

Item 67 is an interesting one; it provides for compensation for deficiencies in the yield of crops from trials carried out at various plantations. I would like to know whether the sum could be increased. It is only $4,100 and I would like to see this amount increased considerably, but if you are going to increase the sum, you have got to set up the necessary mechanics so that not only plantations but smallholders can benefit, because there is no plantation owner who would have more interest in an experiment or development than some of the people who have five, ten or twelve acres of land. I would like to see the mechanics set up that once somebody applies to carry out a trial that we have the necessary technical advice and supervision available at all times, and you should be obliged to keep strict figures. I would not agree to allowing a man to say he will keep two breeds of new pigs and put in figures ad lib. I want to see the mechanics properly set up, and I want to see this expanded, because any person who develops something new or carries out a trial is not only doing it for his own benefit, since the Department would then have the necessary knowledge, facts and figures which could then be disseminated to everybody.

Now I spoke just now on tax and subsidy payments for cultivation of trees. This is another thing I would like to see publicised. Let us take the St. Andrew area. We know you suffer from slipping of land, but we also know that the people planting sugar cane there have to head every ounce of sugar cane out of the hills down to the road. We have St. Philip which is practically barren of trees. There are certain areas in St. Philip where you have deep soil, and there are certain areas where you have shallow soil with cap rock, but you are not going to get anybody particularly interested unless you can show them some incentive and provisions there, that they can do these things. I may be wrong, but I believe that if you plant fruit trees it could be profitable. Look at the amount of fruit that is brought in here day after day, week after week. You should plant fruit trees and utilise under the fruit trees with grass.

11.10 a.m.

I go further Mr. Chairman, to show you why I believe that agriculture needs pushing up. You have called Sunfarms Ltd. which has just come into Barbados and has taken over Codrington; go up there now and see they are planting flowers, anthurium lilies. Why should we allow somebody to come here and take over Codrington to plant these things for export? Do you not think that if you plant trees this same knowledge and information could have been disseminated to the people planting them? These are things that should be looked into, and we are to ask the Agricultural Department to get up and look and see what is going on in the modern world. You may say that you cannot plant trees all about, but if you provide shade, there are certain grasses that do well under shade. If you go to Groves, you will see mahogany trees planted next to the road; as a matter of fact they have to put the tractor there sometimes to cut down the grass, but if you have shade and you put your goats and sheep there to graze, the land is being utilised. You might not plant cane, but you have produced food; you might provide flowers or something else, but you are utilising the land to its fullest extent, but we can only do it if we have people who are prepared to get

up and show us what to do, and if somebody does not keep noise the people will remain sitting and nothing will be done.

Item 80 - Expert and consultative local advisory charges, $10,000. I would like to know what these charges are made up of, and to whom they are paid What do they advise on?

I move from there, Mr. Chairman, to Item 82 - Central Livestock Station, $143,257. I believe that this sum really is meant for the planting of grass lands where they keep the animals, but I want to say this, Mr. Chairman, when I knew the Central Livestock Station it was a station where you could go and get good livestock like sheep, goats , pigs, etc. This brings me back to one thing - the hon. senior member for St. Philip seems to be choking over there under the agricultural pressure - but Mr. Chairman, I remember there was a time when you wanted, and I believe that the stations provided the outlet for animals to peasant farmers particularly, but I have heard quite recently that the stations are producing their best produce for people who come here and say they are keeping pig farms, but I applied for piglets and they told me that all the piglets had to go to somebody in St. George and somebody in St. John - if you want me to call names I can call names - but I had to go outside and buy my piglets somewhere else. I applied at the Central Livestock Station for black belly sheep and they told me I could not get six in any one year. I had to go around and buy, and what I was offered they told me to go down in the pens and pick out what I wanted, but I should not pick out those with the tags. Do you know what they said then? After keeping about 8 rams at the Pine under some feed trial they then informed me I could go to Groves where they had been transferred to see if there were any I liked, but they were there for the butchers. I believe only one was sold, which is the one I bought and the butcher got the remainder.

I am not against carrying out trials at all, because I see that basically you have to carry out trials to know what you are doing, but if you have somebody who wants to develop an industry, at least you afford him the right and the privilege to get some good stock at some time or the other, you do not send them somewhere else. These are things I would like to know the reason for; does the Pine only exist now to carry out trials? Do they not produce for the small holder any more? I would also like to know if these Extension Officers do the refresher courses which we were supposed to do when I was there. Once every year we had to go back to the Pine, we did artificial insemination, we did castration of animals, we did milking, we were taught how to recognise and treat things like mastitis, everything in animal husbandry we were taught. I want to know if the Pine Central Livestock Station still operates on this Basis; we were taken out in the fields where we learnt to recognise grasses, we learnt the methods of planting, and we were taken up to the Cane Breeding Station. These are things we had to do once a year, therefore we had the necessary knowledge that we could then go out and tell peasants what to do and what was going on. I would like to know if there is a sum which provides for this very service, if not, what is being done now.

Mr. Chairman, I see under Item 84 - Animal Nutrition Unit, provision is made for the maintenance of grasses and the purchase of livestock, feeds and fertilizers. I would like to know if this livestock includes anything other than the dairy cattle which have been coming in from Canada. I would like to know if there is any new livestock introduced and what the progress is on this. When it comes to feeds, Mr. Chairman, this is a burning subject, I believe, with everybody involved with agriculture. There is by now, a large amount of processed feed being used by the Government, and I would like to know if the Government ever thought of providing a feed plant.

Mr. Chairman, if we are going to develop agriculture, poultry, pigs, etc., I believe the Government should have some policy on a feed processing plant, because if you do not do this, you will never control prices of feed on the open market.
11.20 a.m.

I understand that quite recently, I think it was during the end of last year, certain directives went out to the importers of feed to cut their imports of feed by 25%. I want hon. members to get this straight; I am waging no war for anybody; I am dealing with the livelihood of the people of this country. There was one particular brand of feed that was selling cheaper than any other brand of feed in Barbados including what has been coming out of the local factory here, and I understand that the man who sold that brand of feed was directed to cut his imports by 25%.

Mr. Chairman, if you are going to feed poultry or animals and you are getting a greater production level from a cheaper feed, it cuts down the cost of living. If one is prevented from buying a cheaper feed and is forced to buy the more expensive feeds, then one must charge more for the finished product. I would like to know what is the position. Does the Government intend to create a plant to sell feed? I am not asking the Government to create a plant to sell feed far below the cost of producing it, but it would act as a balance to the price of feed in this Island. Are Government going to manufacture feed on a non-profit basis, or on a small margin of profit to take care of depreciation and expenditure? If the price of that feed is X dollars, then the other feed producers will be forced to keep the price within the control limit. I should like to hear the Minister on this particular point.

Mr. Chairman, Item 89 - Samples of Foodstuffs - $10. There is token provision for purchase of samples for analyses under the fertilization and Feeding Staff Act. I am glad to see this vote. I have certain information collected from Universities particularly in the United States, and I have information from Feed Manufacturers in Britain. I have been trying to get the necessary technical information, and I have

done certain things. I believe that you can have substitutes in the feeding programme that is going on. I understand from very recent data that they have found a process in England which can produce feed having the same analytical contents, that is, the proteins and whatever is required. This feed can be produced and sold at a cheaper price than the feed we are producing here at the moment, and it has been hailed as a break through in the feeding of poultry to combat the rising price of eggs and poultry products. I should like to see the Government follow up this and make use of it here.

Mr. Chairman, one thing, we are blessed with in this country, is that our labour cost is nowhere in the vicinity of labour cost in the other countries. On this basis, where we lose in having to pay for freight, insurance and transportation, I think we will break even on the labour side of things. With regard to samples of feeding stuff, I would like to see these experiments carried out. I would also like to see the publication of these things. I do not mean that they should be published in Special Bulletins, because it is not always that people will know when to go to the Agricultural Department and ask for a Bulletin. I should like to see the publication of the results periodically in a daily newspaper and especially on Sunday.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to see "Agriculture By W.N., R.K." and so on. I do not want to see something written by people who are afraid to sign their names to it. Any man who is willing to publish something of this nature should be prepared to sign his name to it. If he is wrong he is wrong, and if he is right he is right. When I see "Agriculture by H.B." and so on in the newspaper, I do not worry to read the article. If he writes something that I do not agree with, then I would not be able to get in touch with him and discuss the matter. If he makes a good point, on the other hand, I could get in touch with him to find out how he arrived at things. I want to see something published under the name of the author. I do not want to see any nondescript article in the *Advocate* advising people how to plant beets, carrots and so on. I can do better than that. I can take extracts from known publications as far as from South Africa and publish them, too, and I can put my name under them. I want to see in the newspapers that a trial has been carried out on this or that feed. Do not be afraid to carry out trials on Purina Feed, Roberts Feed and so on. You can say that you tried out such and such a feed and give the results of your findings. You will then let the consumer decide which brand he is going to buy. I would like to see these things done, and I believe that they would be for the benefit of the country as a whole. I am not going to hold up any producer's hand, and I am not going to prop up any importer. I am talking about the general principles of agriculture on the whole. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 29(6). I can hear the voices of members of the Opposition, and they are not addressing the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Item 101 - (4) Agricultural Credit Bank - $200,878. In all honesty I do not think this is enough. I have found out that the question of the provision of grants and loans seems to be spread over too many agencies or Departments. You go to the Agricultural Credit Bank for a loan, and you are told that there is no money and you should go to the Park; when you get to the Park you are told that they are not lending out any money unless you have this or that; then you go to the Commercial Banks only to be told that they are no longer putting money in agriculture. I have my views on that. My views are that the Commercial Banks are all foreign and they have certain things in mind. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture should be aware that places like Sandy Lane Hotel and the Hilton Hotel still import up to today every iota of agricultural produce used in those Hotels. There is a system whereby the Travel Agents in New York are directed to pay the suppliers of the agricultural produce out of the sums collected up there, which means that we are not getting the benefits of it down here, and if the commercial banks lend money for agriculture in Barbados, they are cutting their own throats in their home town, and that is my belief why the commercial banks in Barbados are not lending money in agriculture.
11.30 a.m.

I believe it is the Government's duty at this stage to have one centralised agency whereby anybody wanting money for agricultural purposes can apply there and not be sent from place to place. The agency should have the powers to get the money from wherever it can, whether through the Legislature, by bonds or however we are going to raise it. That agency's duty should be raise money to be lent on agriculture, and when a person applies, the officers should be able to decide whether it is a justifiable project or not. The loan should be made from there and not from any other place, because the commercial banks, as I say, have no interest whatsoever in lending money. If you look at some of the American producers, they have a subsidy in agriculture, so it is necessary that they export their produce. They are keeping their dollars in circulation and taking back ours. I want to see this stopped quickly. I would like to see $2,000,000 for the Agricultural Credit Bank. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would tell me how much money was lent out by the Bank last year, what is the interest rate and the repayment provisions.

Under Item 102 - Audit and Promotional Expenses - $3,000, this all falls back to what I was saying. You cannot promote agriculture with $3,000. I know that what I have said will call for money, but the Government has not spent a sufficient amount of money in agriculture for the last six or seven years, therefore they should spend it now. What they are doing now is because this was not done before, but $3,000 cannot promote it. Printing of bulletins is going to take more than $3,000.

Now you have audit of Cooperative Societies. Let us look at this factor. Cooperative Societies should be something in which you should have officers out in the field literally begging people to form cooperatives just as you beg them to vote. Since the amalgamation

of the sugar factories, it is now clear that the peasant farmers still receive $1.00 per ton less than the plantations or persons having shares in this amalgamated group. I understand that $150,000 in shares have been put aside for peasant farming, because it is said that they produce 15 per cent of the sugar canes to the factories. Now this is another thing. The Cooperative Societies could get together and the Government should advance them the money to buy the shares, and you can have cooperative lorries. You are suffering from freighting. The people in St. Andrew and St. Joseph are suffering from freighting their canes to the sugar factories, and last year they were forced to pay $4.80 a ton to bring canes from St. Joseph. That in my opinion is exorbitant, and the Government should do something about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will hon. members not addressing the Chair, please speak in undertones? They are distracting the Reporters as well as other hon. members who want to hear what is being said.

Mr. BOLDEN: These cooperative officers should be in the field. You need cooperatives in freighting. I do not want to see them providing 15 per cent of the sugar cane and getting $1.00 a ton less for it. I see no provision for the Government to buy those $150,000 in shares. Even if the Government buys them and puts a small interest charge on them until the time they sell them to the cooperatives, the peasants will benefit from the $1.00 per ton because if a person has fifteen tons, it means he is getting an extra $15 which may go to freighting the canes, and he is better off in the long run. There is no provision here apart from the $3,000. I heard the Hon. Prime Minister say that the Opposition is not going to cause him to change this, but I would like to see the Minister of Agriculture bold enough to say that he is in charge of argiculture and he is going to change it. I would support him if he had to vote against the Prime Minister on this.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to Item 108 - Census of Agriculture, for which you are voting $213,210. Before this census is begun, I would like to see some Committee formed which can set out the guide lines under which this census is to be taken. I do not want the census to say who is in agriculture and how much land they have. I want to see a register of agriculturalists provided, and the Government would know how many people are properly in agriculture, because it would .....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, just for the information of the hon. member, this is a world agriculture census and not one limited to Barbados, and this is our contribution to it.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like to see a Barbados census because I have a belief that this country can be zoned. If this is a world census, I would like to see something done on a local basis, because I would like to see the zoning of agriculture.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Information on agriculture in Barbados would be included in the world census; so when you have the world census you would get a Barbados census too.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like this to be used for zoning agriculture in Barbados. The Minister knows that when we come to the Barbados Marketing Corporation that there will be a little hot air blown off. If we have this register of agriculturalists, we can then work on a programme of planting, and the Barbados Marketing Corporation would obviously have to operate on a far different basis. When it comes to the Barbados Marketing Corporation, I have my suggestions for that, but I would like to see it operated on a far different basis. I would like to see that if you have this register, we can then start to grow crops in the areas most suitable for them, we can then keep livestock in the areas most suitable for them, and we would have a production basis which can be taken off by the Barbados Marketing Corporation or some consumer society as the case may be; so I would like to see this census carried out so that all these things can be done in the near future. It is going to take a lot of organisation, but it has got to be done, because I do not believe that tourism will overtake agriculture in any community at all. 11.40 a.m.

I see that Antigua which once boasted of such a big tourist industry is now fighting tooth and nail to get the Antigua sugar industry back on its feet, and therefore I believe that we must preserve what we have. Do not let it run so far down that it gets out of hand.

Item 109, Mr. Chairman, New Books and Journals, $1,000. I am sure that the people in the Ministry of Agriculture are not reading what is going on in agriculture that they can only ask for $1,000 this year. I spend this alone for agricultural literature, and are you going to tell me now that a big Agricultural Department will only spend this amount for a whole year? I wonder if the Minister can tell me if they pay for recurrent publications year after year; what are their annual subscriptions to publications of agricultural literature? This is fantastic; $1,000 for publications, journals and new books, and every day something new is happening in agriculture, no wonder you are beating your head against a blank wall when you come to agriculture.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe I will be able to help the hon. member. If you look under the Library, there is expenditure there of $5,500 and this is where most of the publications and so on will be paid from. We have a very good agricultural library, and we have two provisions, $1,000 for books and publications and $5,500 to provide for more books and publications for the Library.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is something wrong, because if you have new books and journals and then the Library separately there is something wrong. That is my view, I may be wrong, but in my view something is wrong, because if you are going to classify new books and journals other than the Library, it means then that the Library is kept for textbooks and what you call analytical science, the sciences of agriculture, and the new books and journals are the publications like Farmer's Weekly,

Poultry World or Equipment in Farming. Those are what I call journals, but it tells you still in my opinion that they do not know what is going on in agriculture. I have often said that experts in Barbados have been accepted or have qualified theoretically but they then sit down and refuse to keep up to date; that has always been my opinion. I know that I will annoy somebody when I say these things but I do not mind that, I say what I mean.

Mr. Chairman, let us go now to Item 110 - Equipment, Motor mowers and tractors. Check any of the agricultural stations around here and you will see how many oudated things go on, and this tells me that whoever is in charge does not even read the journals. I heard the Prime Minister waging a bet of $2,000 against the hon. junior member for St. Peter, but I would wage $1,000 that there are new books and journals in the Agricultural Department that have not been opened, because I am satisfied that if they are going to tell me that all they want is $1,000 for new books and journals they have a very limited knowledge of what is going on in agriculture nowadays. As I said, I spend nearly that amount as a private individual because I want to know what is going one. You do not see any Extension Officers, how many are they? Mr. Chairman, that is my contribution; I understand the Hon. Minister would like to reply.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in almost ten years as a Minister, this is the first time in those ten years that I have had the pleasure of listening to a very good speech, by a shadow Minister and I should like to congratulate the hon. junior member for St. Joseph for his contribution to this debate, and I think that although he is the youngest member of Parliament he has set an example for all of us to follow. He has really made a good contribution and I should like to congratulate him.

I am going to answer the points which he raised as he raised them. He has pointed out that Extension Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture are not operating with maximum speed nor are they operating with maximum efficiency. I must confess - I am going to represent my officers when they have to be represented and if I have to haul them over the coals I shall do so also - but this has been my impression which I gathered in January when I went back to the Ministry of Agriculture, and I made no bones about it, I told the Acting Chief Agricultural Officer that it was my opinion that the Extension Officers were not doing as good a job as they ought to do and we had a staff meeting, I got the Acting Chief Agricultural Officer to bring in his staff and we had a staff meeting. We have had two such meetings already, and I told them that I was not satisfied that the Extension Officers in the Ministry were doing their jobs. I did not care whether they got annoyed or not, but I also told them that under me I expect them to do the job, and I can say this, that the Acting Chief Agricultural Officer also hauled them over the coals, and I think he is getting production from them now. I find that there has been more work done in respect of quarrelling about what should be the nomenclature of the post of Extension Officer or of Agricultural Assistant; there has been more work done in that field than work done in the agricultural field.
11.50 a.m.

You will find that they are contending whether one officer should be called a Livestock Expert, a Weed Expert, an Expert of grass lands, or an Expert in the propagation of vegetables, or a Horticultural Expert. The only Experts that I know of, are the officers who go to the Universities. I told the officers that if they were putting up proposals to be termed as Experts that it would not pass me. I consider the Acting Chief Agricultural Officer as a Research Expert, because he has studied, got his degree, and he has done postgraduate work. How can anybody go down to the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute for two years and come back here and consider himself an expert?

Mr. Chairman, there has been too much spent in specialising by the Extension Officers. I am with the hon. member when he says that the Agricultural Farms are in a mess. I was faced with a situation where we had on an Agricultural Farm an Extension Officer or what is called a Senior Agricultural Assistant. He was placed at Haggatts' Agricultural Station and he was living at Turner's Hall. His duties, although he was allocated to a District Agricultural Station, were to work with the 4-H Clubs. I feel that if you want Agricultural Officers to work with the 4-H Movement, then you should put them with the 4-H Section. Do not tell me that you are going to take an Agricultural Officer, put him to live at Turner's Hall where the grass land Expert, Mr. Spooner, used to live; you are going to move him from the Haggatts' Agricultural Station and tell him that he must run the Haggatts Agricultural Station from Turner's Hall! At the same time he is supposed to be doing 4-H Club work.

Mr. Chairman, my own view is that the Officer in the District Agricultural Station ought to be there to give advice to the farmers in the District. I can sympathise with the views of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph when he says that they came to advise him one day and he did not see them again for 2 1/2 years. This, perhaps, was due to the fact that the officers who came to see him were doing specialisation work in the District. The whole point is that you cannot have people who are to disseminate information from the Research Section in the Ministry, or from the Extension Section in the Ministry, going about telling the people that they are Experts in this and that and they cannot advise the farmers.

Now, these Agricultural Assistants are, in my view, general practitioners in agriculture, and they have to be able to advise the farmers in all aspects of agriculture. They must be able to talk on Plant Pathology when given the necessary information from the Plant Pathologist; they must be able to talk on Agronomy when instructed by the Agronomist, and they must be able to talk on Agricultural Economics when advised by the Agricultural Economist in the Ministry. That is the only way I can see these extension Officers doing their jobs.

I agree with the hon. member that we must have a complete re-thinking and a completely different approach to the functions of the Extension Officers who are really Agricultural Assistants. I have told them that I do not care what they are to be called. The fact remains that they have a specific job to do, and I want the job done. Now, the hon. member said that there were only two people who knew about grass in the Ministry, but that is not really so. There are 4 such Officers employed by the Ministry: 3 Officers are at Graeme Hall, and 1 at the Soil Conservation Department. The hon. member will be pleased to know that we are sending 6 others this year to Trinidad for training in grafting of trees.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to interrupt the Hon. Minister, and I must confess that he is going good. I want to mention something before he goes to another point. When I was in the Agricultural Department, we did our training here. I believe that this E.C.F.I. is the bugbear of the whole situation. As far as I know, you had to be in the field for at least two years before you went on to E.C.F.I. to do a 1-year course. E.C.F.I. was the finishing point. If you are sending 6 Officers to Trinidad to learn to do grafting, then why have you not allowed them to do the basic fundamental work here and then complete the job at E.C.F.I.? I think that this Government pays a considerable sum towards the running of that Institution. In my day we avoided it because we thought in 1955 and 1956 that it was not doing what it should do.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said that, in his time, they did two years of training at.....

Mr. BOLDEN: You had Instructors here doing a course at the Pine, at the various Stations and in the Agricultural Department for two years, that is from the time they joined, before they could go off to E.C.F.I.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that that policy has been changed. We have boys leaving school; they are appointed and immediately sent out for training. This had to be done because we found that there was a great shortage of Agricultural Officers. Two or three years ago qualifications happened to be a barrier, and we have had to start a crash programme on training these Assistant Agricultural Officers. I am advised that they do a little budding and grafting here before they are sent outside for further training. Apart from learning budding and grafting, they are readily available to see how things are done on a commercial basis. They do things on a limited scale here, and they do the final training at E.C.F.I.

12 noon.

They do it on a limited scale here, and then they do a more comprehensive study of it when they go abroad.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if this is really a good idea. The Department must know why they changed to this, but I have experience in this. I had four years on a plantation before in agriculture, but after a year or two they then realise that this is not what they want, because when you get a really wet day or have to go in a pig pen, people do not stand for this in this modern day society. I wonder if this idea of recruiting a youngster leaving school and pushing him straight into the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute is giving us what we want. We want the down to earth basic agriculturalist, the man who would go out into a field when it is raining, and when you have a little flood can tell you how to get off the water.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I think this is desirable, but the hon. member can appreciate that we needed these officers trained, and what we have done is to concentrate on some of the pupils who had done agriculture in school. You know that agriculture has become one of the subjects on the curricula of certain schools.

Mr. BOLDEN: This most probably is the reason why you have the quarrelling over the nomenclature of a post, because if you take a young chap who goes to Harrison College with two certificates and send him to ECFI, he has not got a degree in agriculture, but he is bound to come back and call himself a little expert, and we know how experts in the West Indies think. They stand off and fold their hands and give instructions to do this and that, and I believe this may be the problem.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to disagree with the hon. member. It is not the youngsters at all who are contending that they are experts; it is people who were members in the Department with the hon. member who are professing now to be agricultural experts.

Now the hon. member wanted to know what was spent under the Act for approved trees and so on. I should like to point out that there were no requests for any payments for approved trees during the year 1970-71; but about $300 were paid out for casuarina trees. I would, however, explain that in our 4-H programme we have embarked on a system of tree planting, and I think this year we are going to do some planting in the Scotland district. We feel that the 4-H-ers should get accustomed to making a contribution to the society by way of agriculture, and we encourage them not only to plant trees, but we encourage them to keep sheep, pigs etc. As a matter of fact, we gave them pigs and some of them are doing well. We give them some sows and what they do is to pass on one from each litter they have to another 4-H-er; so we try to implant in the minds of the youth the importance of agriculture. The tree planting and so on is done mainly by the 4-H-ers.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister would tell me what type of trees they are planting, and whether they have considered a tree called the blue spruce

tree. It is a tree which from my knowledge shoots its roots just as far down and as wide as it shoots its branches. It looks like the Christmas tree and it is these branches which are brought in here at the end of the year and sold as Christmas trees. I wonder if they have ever considered this as a substitute to the mile tree, and which in itself can provide a little industry at Christmas and save us importing the same cut branches, because they grow in the California area which is just as warm as Barbados, and I think has got similar soil types.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We try to encourage the 4-H-ers to concentrate on fruit trees because we feel that would be more profitable to them. We have a monthly newsletter and every month we highlight a particular aspect of agriculture, and it is my understanding that we are highlighting in this month's issue the propagation of fruit trees.

Now the hon. member wanted to find out who spent this travelling allowance of $75,000. There are 83 travelling officers in the Ministry of Agriculture. Eight of them are Administrative Officers.

Mr. BOLDEN: I do not want a breakdown; I just want to know in relation to Extension Officers. I agree there are other travelling officers, but I am particularly interested in the Extension Officers.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: There are four Cooperative Officers, five Fisheries Officers, 50 Agricultural Assistants - these are what you term the Extension Officers, but they do not only work in Extensions but in research; there are thirteen Agricultural Officers - these are the degree men and the Senior Agricultural Officers; two Agricultural Economists and the Senior Vetinerary Officer, making a total of 83 officers. The rates of pay are 35 cents on the first 200 miles, and 10 cents a mile thereafter.

Now the hon. member raised a question of delays in the administration of the farming incentive scheme and the loans from the Agricultural Credit Bank. Let me deal with the farm incentive scheme. I understand that you can get the forms for the farming incentive scheme from the Extension Officers in the Ministry. When the hon. member went to the Ministry, I think he saw Mr. Austin, the Senior Assistant Secretary, and he advised what course should be taken. At the time there was no Extension Officer there who had access to the forms, but it is really the function of the Extension Officers to advise the farmers how they should go about making use of the farming incentive scheme. I will promise the hon. member that this delay will not be occasioned in the future, and that maximum publicity will be given to the scheme. It will be dealt with as it has already been dealt with either last month or the month before on radio and television, and in our newsletter we will advise farmers how they should go about applying for benefits under the scheme. The Extension Officers, the Agricultural Assistants and the Senior Agricultural Assistants on the districts will be advised that they should do a more comprehensive job on advising farmers. As a matter of fact we would like to see a system in the Ministry where farmers do not plant one pepper unless they are given the proper advice from the Ministry.

12.10 p.m.

It is not a question that we do not have the officers, we have the officers and they can cover the island and we would like to see farmers consult with these officers before they plant. The reason is this, we are in a position from our research to tell the farmers at what time of the year they should plant a particular crop, to tell the farmers if they can expect a high yield from a certain soil type. We are in a position to tell them whether there will be a high incidence of pests or insects in a particular area which would attack a particular type of plant, and if they consult with us before they plant we can make their job a much more profitable one. We would also be in a position, if they consult us in their planting, to assess what the market will be a month from today, two months from today, three months from today, and we would be able to see that certain marketing arrangements are made, because say what you like, all the agricultural diversification that we preach and our marketing is not what it ought to be our diversification programme must be a failure.

The position is that I as Minister of Agriculture am prepared to offer compensation to farmers who go to my officers and have their advice as to what they should plant and when they should plant, when they plant and produce under the advice of my officers and they do not find a market.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the hon. member has seen this, because this is just what I am saying, that we need a register of agriculturalists and producers. The Minister has got a big job ahead of him and I do not blame him one bit at this stage, but what he has to do is to get those officers back out into the fields that people can find them. I believe if he takes two minutes now to telephone the Department he would not find one man there. I agree with him, he has a big job to do and he has to reconstruct the whole Department, and I will help him if he needs help.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I like a challenge and I accept agriculture as a challenge in this country. The Acting Chief Agricultural Officer has already got his instructions from me, and I will say this, that his actions have incurred the wrath of a lot of the officers already, but like the honest, upright and sincere servant of the people of this country, he is not afraid of doing his job, and I can assure you that you will not have a recurrence of what you had to report here this morning, not from the officers in this Ministry, because regular checks are made, there is a completely different approach to the problems of agriculture now by the Ministry and the complaints which the hon. member made earlier I promise to see that all of these grievances are redressed and in a very short space of time.

The hon. member spoke about the grasshoppers. I do not think that the Extension Officers - and I think that the hon. member meant the Agricultural Assistants - I do not think we can throw this on their shoulders. He spoke about the grasshoppers in castigating the officers, but I do not think that this is a fair burden to put on them, the grasshopper problem which we got in St. Lucy and St. Philip, if you look at it you can note that in those parishes you had the highest incidence of cane fires last year. The grasshoppers breed slightly under the mould, when the trash is there the breeding is not as acute as when there is no trash, so if you have cane fires and all the trash is burnt it means that the area will be more suitable for the breeding of these grasshoppers, and with the best of will in the world it would pose a problem.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman, when I spoke on the question of the grasshoppers, I was not saying that the officers could have prevented the spread of this grasshopper epidemic, what I meant was that if the Extension Officers used to be out in the field as before they would have seen very early that you were getting this sort of situation and you could have put into operation a system of combating these, rather than waiting until they had reached alarming proportions when the people started to cry out. Obviously the grasshoppers would take some time to build up from a few into a mass.

In 1954 we had some difficulty in St. George of a disease in banana trees and it was spotted early because people started to complain that the bananas were coming out very small and under developed, and this was dealt with right away. If you had your Extension Officers out in the fields walking about you would have seen it earlier. I am not saying that they could have stopped it, I am just saying that the vigilance which was needed was not readily available.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I think quite honestly that the problem was drawn to the attention of the Ministry at a reasonably early stage, but what I say is that the action, because of the sort of red tape which one has got to go through in the Government Service, was not as quick and as positive as it ought to have been. We feel in this Ministry that a lot of the red tape could be done away with; the Chief Agricultural Officer should be given a freer hand to tackle emergency problems. When I say a freer hand, you are all aware of the problems we have to deal with. You will find that a file comes into the Ministry of Agriculture, you have your technical section and you have your administrative section, and before that file can reach the Minister or the Permanent Secretary it has to pass through the hands of about 40 people. The sort of administration in the Ministry of Agriculture is a bit changed today; we have a situation where - and I would like to be brutally frank - where the Chief Agricultural Officer or the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer can only have access to the Minister through the Permanent Secretary.

12.20 p.m.

The Minister's door is open to the most junior Agricultural Assistant in the Ministry. It is open even to the Messenger. The Permanent Secretary's door is also open to everybody in the Ministry; therefore, if a file comes in, rather than sending it to a junior Clerk to be passed on to the Senior Clerk and then to another officer before it can reach the Chief Agricultural Officer and so on, we have a system whereby the Agricultural Economist can discuss a problem with the Senior Assistant Secretary or with the Permanent Secretary. If he wants to discuss something with the Chief Agricultural Officer, he marches into his office and discusses it. If he want to discuss something with the Minister, he asks the Secretary to allow him to see the Minister. If the Minister is busy he may have to wait a few minutes before seeing him. There is a completely different approach to things today. We know that there are certain things that cannot await the red tape in the Ministry of Agriculture and, therefore, our approach to things is completely different.

I can assure hon. members that a problem like the grasshopper problem would be more quickly arrested under the present system which has been worked out by the Senior Officers in the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary, the Senior Assistant Secretaries, the Chief Agricultural Officer and his Deputies in collaboration with me. As far as I am concerned, I want to see the job done and I do not care how it is done so long as it is done. If we have to close the door on red tape, as long as we get the job done that is our primary objective.

The hon. member said that he experienced some difficulty in getting grass to plant. I think this has been occasioned because of the lack of information from the Ministry. The hon. member knows that we have an Information Officer. We are now having a weekly broadcast. I think it was twice a month at one stage, but we are now having it weekly. As a matter of fact, I called in the Chief Agricultural Officer and the Information Officer and pointed out to them that we should use more of the television time for Government Programmes. *(Asides)* I do not mean that the Minister should go on telivision. I am talking about the Information Officer interviewing the Chief Agricultural Officer, the Agricultural Economist, the Plant Pathologist, etc., in the Ministry. We would like to see more information disseminated to the general public. I have asked the Information Officer to step up his programmes. If he needs more staff to get the information out to the general public, then he can let me know and I will see that he is provided with the necessary staff. I do not think hon. members would be in any way chary about giving more staff to the Information Section of the Ministry of Agriculture for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, we are satisfied that the people in this country are not getting the sort of information which they should be given from the Ministry. With this new Information Unit, which we hope to strengthen, together with the directives which have been given to the Unit, I can assure hon. members that the general public will be given adequate information in agriculture in future; therefore, the problem which the hon. member experienced in respect of where to get grass from to plant will no longer exist. There are certain areas from where people can obtain grass to plant. You can get grass from Six Cross Roads, the Home Agricultural Station, Soil

Conservation and the Animal Nutrition Unit Section. For the information of the hon. member, I should like to point out that there is an Officer in charge of grass lands. I think that the Officer's name is Mr. Tim Cummins.

Normally you should apply to the Ministry for the grass which you want to plant, and you can apply directly to the Officer in charge of grass lands. Whether you are in St. Lucy, St. George or in Timbuktu you should apply to the Officer, and if he has to get the grass from Soil Conservation to send it to you in St. Philip the grass will be obtained. It is not a question of scarcity of grass; if it is not available at one Agricultural Station it ought to be available at another. I think the hon. member might have gone wrong by going to an Agricultural Station or speaking to an Officer at an Agricultural Station who had no authority to pass on grass to him. The instructions must come from a central source.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Surely, I have heard of similar problems in the Christ Church area. The Officer at an Agricultural Station should be in a position to point out to people the proper place at which to make the application for grass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, that is what I was coming to.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Before you go any further, let me say that I agree that the Hon. Minister is giving what the policy should be and he is saying what it ought to be. I want to tell the Hon. Minister that Mr. Tim Cummins - I do not like to call names, but since he has called the name I must do so, too - did everything possible to try and get the grass for me. He had never neglected his duty. As a matter of fact, I knew Mr. Cummins from the time I was in the Ministry, and he went out of his way to get the grass. However, there seems to be some division between the Station nd the Extension Officer, because he knew of the problem I was having in getting it from the Station. He is the person who told me that he would try to get it from Seawell or from the place in St. Lucy or St. Peter. It is not that I applied for the grass at the wrong place; it is that the Ministry itself is in such turmoil that, even when Mr. Cummins tried to do his part of the job, he met with red tape. He was told..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Standing Order 29(6)!

Mr. BOLDEN: He said that when ..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the senior member for St. Peter would keep quiet for a minute.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Also the junior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. BOLDEN: Yes, Sir. Mr. Cummins was also told that he could not dictate what should be done with grass and certain things.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I should not like the hon. member to get the impression that I feel that Mr. Cummins was not doing his job. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the hon. member stated that I might have applied the wrong place, but I am just clearing up the fact that the person responsible for grasslands, Mr. Cummins, was the person who tried to get the grass, but there were other persons who told me that he could not get it from there.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is not what was stated at first. My impression was that you went to the District Agricultural Station. (Mr. BOLDEN: I was sent there.) You did not say this when you spoke. The hon. member said that he went to the District Agricultural Station to get the grass. My view is that he should have approached the Ministry as he said he has done and then it would be the duty of Mr. Cummins to find the grass. Now I also feel that if Mr. Cummins knew that grass was available, the officer on the Farm could not tell him that the hon. member was not to have the grass, because that officer is in charge of grasses and if Mr. Cummins felt strongly that the hon. member should have the grass and it was available, if the officer told him that he could not have the grass, I feel that the officer should be disciplined.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, when the Minister said a few minutes ago that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph said that the Ministry was in turmoil, the Minister said his Ministry was no longer in turmoil. Is this due to the change in Minister?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will answer the hon. member. This is not due to a change of the Minister; it is due to a change in approach.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, does he mean change in approach by the Minister?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: No. Change in approach by the Ministry.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Is the Minister responsible for that?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is due to a change in approach.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, I would like any erroneous impressions to be cleared up. If there was any turmoil in the Ministry of Agriculture, it had to be a turmoil existing in its administration, but as far as the Minister's openly declared policy is concerned, I never know that to be in question. There was never any variance about that or any difficulty in my interpreting that. If there is no longer any turmoil in the Ministry of Agriculture, I think it would be better put that there is now no

turmoil within the administration in the Ministry of Agriculture. I would like that crystal clear.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, are the Ministers fighting between themselves? The present Minister of Agriculture is doing a good job. I do not see what this past thing has to do with it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I just want to end up the reply on this section. I was trying to point out that when Mr. Cummins experienced difficulty in getting the grass from the Home or Six Roads as the case may be, if the officer there was not cooperative as he ought to be, this ought to be drawn to the attention of the Chief Agricultural Officer, and I am sure that you would have had little or no problem in getting your grass, because it is the policy of the Government that farmers should be assisted in getting their grasses. Since 1964 we have not only seen to it that farmers get their grasses, but we have been subsidising the planting of grasses for the farmers. It is true that in our latest release we have increased the subsidy, but we have not only subsidised the farmers by way of planting grass, but we have subsidised them by way of fencing the grasses. So it is clear Government policy that farmers ought to be encouraged to have grasses. As far as I am aware we have had no shortage of grasses on the Government compounds with which we can help farmers; so I am surprised to hear that there was this problem, not that I doubt what the hon. member has said. There has been some sort of *laissez faire* attitude in some areas, but I can have this investigated so that farmers would not have a similar experience to that which the hon. member experienced.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before you report progress, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to know that, as the hon. senior member for Christ Church has said, it is not only myself personally. I have not called the names of other persons who wanted to plant grass that went through the same problems, but I can tell the Minister that this is an islandwide problem where people apply and are told what to do, but then there is no cooperation after that point.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour and a half.

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

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

12.40 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; automatically it reverts thereto.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph touched on the inadequacy of prizes for the annual Agricultural Exhibition, and he expressed concern over the fact that the standard of exhibits last year left much to be desired. I may say that I perhaps may not necessarily agree that the standard of exhibits was that poor, I agree with him, however, that there can be an improvement and there will be an improvement when one considers the recent policy established by the Government in respect of incentives to agriculture which we will deal with when we come to the Capital Estimates. The hon. member will agree that these very incentives will enable farmers to spend more time and energy on producing their food crops and vegetables. They will be given assistance by way of fertilizer, weedicides, and pesticides, together with assistance in acquiring sprayers.

The hon. member during the course of his address pointed out that farmers have been producing, say, cabbage, but this cabbage was destroyed by worms and other insects; here I am sure that he will agree with me that with the expert advice available to the average farmer in the Ministry of Agriculture - and there is no question about it, there is any amount of expert advice available, the Ministry of Agriculture has not been as well staffed at any time as it has been in the past three or four years, there is no question about it, there is a good staff in the Ministry of Agriculture. I think, however, that where we broke down was on, as I said before, our extensions and our information. We have a very vigorous and energetic Head of the Extension and Information Section, the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer in charge of that Section, Mr. Ernest Payne, and he is leaving no stone unturned to improve the situation, therefore we can expect in future our farmers to be provided and supplied with the appropriate information and advice, and if they pay attention to what we are preaching in this Ministry, we are asking them before they grow, before they sow, to come and discuss it with us and we can tell them if they are making a mistake, we can tell them when to plant.

For example, if they wanted to plant onions, we could give them a booklet on onions, we can tell them when they should not plant onions because there is a difference in the bulbing of the onions during the short day period or the long day period as the case may be, and we are equipped now to do these things, therefore we are giving the farmer every possible bit of assistance we can offer. He gets assistance with his weedicides; we are not only giving them grants to obtain their sprayers, but if they cannot afford sprayers themselves we propose to provide sprayers which we will lend them, so the question

of worms destroying cabbages and other crops, stems from ignorance on the part of the farmer, and I say ignorance in its truest sense, on the part of the farmer. The farmer has to learn that he must get up off his hind parts and come and discuss his problems with people who are trained to guide him. If you were sick today you would go and ask your doctor for medical advice; if you had a case to fight in the law courts, very few people go into the law courts today saying that they are defending themselves, and therefore I do not see why anyone should embark on an agricultural project without having the adequate advice that is available. Government makes it available to him in the Ministry of Agriculture, so a farmer has absolutely no grounds for complaint, he has no excuse if his cabbage is attacked by worms or other insects or pests because the information, the advice and all that it calls for is available to him, and I make bold to say this, that I am yet to see the farmer who will come to me to say that he has ever asked for the type of advice since we have had the experts in the Ministry of Agriculture,- that he would want to grow his vegetable garden or food crops or his market gardening-that he is denied this advice.

I have known cases where officers in this very Ministry lean over backward to give advice to farmers so there is absolutely no need for panic. I think that farmers can say they have seen the light, and the Ministry is equipped and geared to guide them along.

An hon. member also spoke about placing a ban on agricultural produce. It is our intention to ban agricultural produce as long as we can produce it; as a matter of fact, the Minister of Trade and I had discussions on this matter and we thought that licences issued should only be issued for imports of commodities that we are producing here in close collaboration with his Ministry and mine, not necessarily with the Minister but with the officers that matter in the two Ministries, and this is a matter of policy. When we get our marketing information service and our agricultural information service well established we will be in a position to say and the appropriate Government agency which issues licences will be in a position to know what yield that agency can expect three or four months from now. If we are going to produce, say approximately 20 tons of cabbage during the month of June, for example, this is what we are working on in the Ministry, and we would like all farmers before they attempt to sow to have our advice so that we can make projections, and we would know what to allow in or what not to allow in. We had a situation recently where farmers were producing cabbage, and because of the lack of information licences were issued a few weeks ago for cabbages when farmers were producing cabbages. I raised Hell about it, but I do not think this will happen again because we are gearing ourselves in the Ministry to advise on these things.

We have a similar problem with eggs, but this is a problem because I think the agency that brought in the eggs was a bit too enthusiastic, and sometimes when an agency lacks staff and that sort of thing we have to sympathise with it. We will come to that when we are dealing with the reorganisation of the B.M.C.
2.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member also spoke about placing a ban on the importation of poultry products. Now, I like to be brutally frank. We are almost self sufficient in whole chickens. The only whole chickens allowed into this country are those weighing 4lbs, I think, and over. The poultry farmers have represented to us that they are prepared to grow chickens over and above 4lbs. Any of us who produce chickens will know that if you are producing a chicken to weigh over 4lbs., then after the chicken has reached 3 1/2 lbs. the conversion rate, that is the meat conversion rate, is not as economical as it is under 3 1/2 lbs. The poultry farmers have also represented to us that if we would give consideration to allowing them a better price for chickens over 4lbs. they could produce them because it would cost them more. Anybody who is in business is not in business to throw away money, Let us face facts.

Now, I feel that if we are to pay, say, one penny more to produce something locally to cut down on imports and, therefore, narrow the gap in our balance of payments, then it is worth it. At any rate, the chickens which are imported into this country weighing 4 lbs., 5 lbs., or 6 lbs. are usually imported to be used in the hotel industry, that is the weight the hotels say they want. The average housewife in St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. John or Christ Church does not buy a 5-lb. chicken; therefore, it is to be used in the hotel industry. I am giving serious consideration to this matter. I have to discuss it with my colleague the Minister of Trade and see what can be done in respect of chickens over 4 lbs.

With regard to the question of chicken parts, the people who 10 years ago were eating salt fish cannot afford to buy salt fish today, and many a housewife depends on chicken parts. I feel that we should put a ban on the scrapped-backs. If the housewife has acquired a taste for chicken backs, I feel that we should still allow the backs with a little meat on them to come in. One reason is that we do not have a Processing Plant at the moment, and another reason is that even if we had a Processing Plant we could not produce enough backs. Some of the chicken farmers have experimented in cutting up their chickens, but they found that when they sold the parts they did not make any money. *(Asides)* It would be necessary to investigate this matter before I can say that we can produce enough chicken necks and backs to supply the market. I do not think we are geared to do this at the moment. I would like to see us in a position to do it, and I am prepared to investigate the matter.

As a matter of fact, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade has agreed to raise certain matters at the next CARIFTA meeting. We want to expand the poultry industry. There is a Processing Plant now being erected in St. Philip. The local Poultry Co-operatives have represented to my Min-

istry that they need Government's assistance in establishing the Processing Plant. If we are to cut up the chickens to produce backs, legs, necks, etc., then we must have an export market for the breasts. We can sell all of the legs, but we cannot sell all of the breasts. We must, therefore, find an export market for the breasts. This is the question that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade will raide at the next CARIFTA meeting.

Mr. Chairman, I want hon. members to understand that the Government is not sleeping on these matters. We are conscious of the fact that if we cut down on imports it will be in the interest of the economy of the country, and this is what we set about to do. We have absolutely no right importing over $40 million in foodstuffs into this country yearly. We have a growing tourist industry, and I am satisfied that too many tourist dollars are going out of this country. The only way that we can retain more of these tourist dollars is to stimulate an interest in agriculture as well as in the poultry industry so that we will be able to keep more of the tourist revenue in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want hon. members to realise that we are alive to these problems and facts. We are working on them, and we hope to see a drastic change in the very near future. We have spoken of lack of incentives and lack of information. I want to advise the hon. member who spoke that we are going to have a series of talks; we have our news letter, and we will print pamphlets. I told the Information Officer in the Ministry that we are not printing enough pamphlets and so on. I am prepared to allocate more funds to the Information Section so that it can step up on the information given to the public. I also found that there was a barrier to the progress of work done by the Information Officer in the Ministry in that everything he did, had to be sent to the Central Information Department and what they felt like publishing they would publish. I was told that these were instructions which the Information Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture had been given. I told him that I could not care less who gave those instructions which the Information Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture had been given. I told him that I could not care less who gave those instructions that things should be sent throught the Chief Information Officer and, as far as I was concerned, he was instructed by me to go straight to the Press. As far as I was concerned, there was an Information Officer in my Ministry and he should have direct access to the Press otherwise they could close down the Information Section of the Ministry. That is why you will notice quite recently that the Ministry is having a lot of coverage of the work that it is doing, because the Information Officer has direct contact with the Press. He has a Peace Corps Volunteer who is his photographer, and I think this youngster is doing a good job. We have been giving out information, so the lack of information which the farmers experienced in the past is no longer so today.

2.30 p.m.

We cannot get anything over to them in one day; it takes time, but I think there has been a considerable increase in the amount of information which farmers get.

Now the hon. member wanted to find out how many tractors there are being operated by the Government and why it is that people cannot get their land cultivated. There are eight such tractors, but one of the problems is that everybody wants to have the land cultivated at the same time. With the best will in the world, this is impossible. Another problem which we have is a shortage of tractor operators. I investigated this and discovered that the reason why there is a shortage of tractor operators is because these people are paid as part-time employees. When the people want the tractors to work on their land immediately after the crop season, these people get work. I want to know who for a man would leave a permanent job and work with the Ministry of Agriculture operating a tractor for three months of the year.

Mr. St. JOHN: May I ask the Hon. Minister on this question of tractors whether the Ministry has investigated a new small type of tractor that has been constructed by Ford for the Far East, and Jamaica has them. They can do in an eight hour day, three acres of land, and the cost is $2,000 Jamaica. The Jamaica dollar is $2.40 for one of our dollars. It is a small tractor ideally suited for small-holders developed by Ford Company for the Far East.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Ministry has taken no action on it, but the hon. member's point is noted and I would have the Chief Agricultural Officer carry out immediate investigations on it.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would offer at this stage to show anybody from the Ministry a small tractor which I have at my place called a Graveley that can do practically every task there is. It is a two-wheeled tractor. For the benefit of anybody from the Ministry who would like to go end see it, I can show it to them and demonstrate how it operates, because I think these are things that are needed now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The point is also noted. Hon. members would be pleased to note that I have issued instructions that tractor operators be immediately employed as full-time officers whether or not there is work for the tractors because we can find some other work for them to do. I cannot see how a man can eat for three months in a year and live without eating the other nine months, therefore it is my view that these operators ought to be paid well so that they can be available. No man is going to accept a job to work for three months of the year when he can find full-time employment elsewhere.

I want to advise also that in the Capital Estimates we are making provision for three additional tractors. We have not stopped there. We have encouraged farmers toown their own tractors. We have agreed as a matter of policy to allow cooperatives to provide on their own 25% of the cost of a tractor and we give a grant of 75% of the cost of that tractor or any sort of agricultural equipment to cooperatives.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I wonder if the Minister would investigate this. I know there is a sort of financial problem involved, but I would like the Minister to investigate the reason why there is a 5% duty on agricultural equipment coming from the United States of America. I know there is a difference in the currency area, but we must admit you get quite a lot of small agricultural equipment from this source rather than from the usual source because of the freight and price factor, and I would like the Ministry as a further incentive to farmers to remove that 5% from the non-preferential areas as well. It is free from the United Kingdom, but there is a 5% duty from other sources.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member seems to know what I have been discussing in my Ministry. I feel that agriculture all over the world especially where it is the mainstay of the economy of a country should be very heavily subsidised, and it is my intention to represent to the Ministry of Finance that the duty on agricultural equipment be waived no matter where it comes from, or what type of equipment it is. I am satisfied that if agriculture is to succeed in this country, we have to cast aside all these deterrents to progress. We have to encourage the farmer by giving him the incentives, and under me, he will get the incentives; so we are seriously giving consideration to this. It is only 5% duty from the United States of America, but what is 5% given to farmers in order to narrow that gap in our balance of payments and provide more food for the people of our country. We will be preparing a paper on it in due course. We have geared ourselves to making loans to individuals to purchase tractors, and when we deal with the Capital Estimates, you will notice something like $750,000 will be provided as subsidies in agriculture which has never happened before, and if it happens that this is not enough, I will be coming back and asking for more so that the farmers will be happy.

In dealing with the Central Livestock Station, the hon. member wanted to find out if it provided a service to the community or to particular individuals. The Central Livestock Station services the entire community, and the hon. member would be pleased to know that there is an average of 200 piglets sold annually to small farmers from the Central Livestock Station, and these are piglets that are.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, did the Minister say monthly of annually?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I said annually.

Mr. BOLDEN: If the hon. senior member would give way, this is not just a research station. The average litter of a pig is considered to be not less than eight, and any time it falls under eight, you have to do away with it. If you say a pig should produce two litters in a year, that would be sixteen per pig, so 200 is no figure. I can tell the hon. member what happens with them.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. Minister, they were collecting them from all the Agricultural Stations and sending them to two places in St. George, because they told me after I booked them at the Home that I could not get them that they had instructions to send them to somebody in St. George. That is why they only sold 200 to small owners and every agricultural station has at least two or three pigs, so that 200 is a very small amount for a year.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the information which I have got. I am pointing out that the Central Livestock Station is a research station; if they produce pigs and they find that a litter is not a good litter they do not pass on that litter of pigs to farmers, because they are essentially a research station.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, let us forget that it is a research station; can the Minister tell us how many piglets are sold from the Government Agricultural Stations to small owners in any one year?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Now you are cooking with gas. I do not have that information here, I will get it for you. Even if I do not get it today I will let you have it, but I want to point out that the Central Livestock Station is a research station, so if the Central Livestock Station only produces pigs that only had ten or twelve nipples, we do not encourage a farmer to keep that type of pig, therefore it is better to sell that pig and use it for pork, because that pig cannot feed a whole litter; if it has 12 teats it cannot feed 15 piglets at the same time. What I am saying is that we do not encourage the farmers to keep that type of pig, so it means that a lot of the pigs produced, especially after there is a certain amount of in-breeding, a lot of those pigs are culled. You have here 200 a year, but I want you to know this, that right now, the stock of pigs at the Central Livestock Station has had so much in-breeding that you do not have the best quality pig, and what we are doing, I have just instructed them to bring in the land-race pig.

I went further, I myself paid a visit to Oldbury Plantation where Mr. Richard Williams has a large white boar and a Wessex saddle-back, and I instructed them to get some offspring. Although they go for the purse, I have instructed the Chief Agricultural Officer to bring in a purchaser of those pigs so that we can cull out what we have. The whole point is that perhaps there was a time when we could produce 2,000 per annum at the Central Livestock Station, but since it is essentially a research station and you do not want to lower your standard, you cannot sell the farmer a pig that will only give birth to eight, because it would be uneconomical for that farmer, therefore when you get that type of pig, you cull it. We are now in the process of replacing a lot

of the boars of the farmers and sows that we have at the Central Livestock Station. We brought in some pigs about three or four years ago from Jamaica, and we found that these pigs did not develop as well as they ought to, we were disappointed in these pigs, so the time has come when we have to bring in other pigs. It is all right for hon. members to shout over there and say 200 a year is not enough, but you have to pass on to the farmer the best.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I know the Minister of Agriculture is trying his best, but the Minister must know that it is only, I believe, in the last two months since he has gone in that Ministry, that there is now a new idea and incentive when it comes to agriculture. He should know that when I spoke about the in-breeding and the land-race pig just now that if the Central Livestock Station had not been run down to such an extent and they had not been replenishing it or carrying out their research in a progressive manner, they would not have reached this point now that suddenly they have got to replenish their stock. The Hon. Minister would know, I told him personally, that it is only in the last two months that they have accepted the fact that the land-race should have come in here. Two years ago, when I applied to bring in the land-race pig when through my knowledge of agriculture and my connections abroad, I was advised to breed the land-race because of its quality, I was turned down point blank and told I should not bring it in. I must say now that the Minister has now brought a new kind of thinking to the Ministry, but he must not say that this was being done all along, this is new thinking.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, besides the 200 per annum which are being sold to small farmers, I should like to point out that the Central Livestock Station has been providing replacements for the other stations, so whilst the other stations pass out theirs to the farmers and they were supplying a lot more to farmers than the Central Livestock Station, the Central Livestock Station does not only supply to farmers, but it also supplies to all the other breeding stations. There were over 225 boar services during the last year to small farmers' stock and there were over 260 sheep services and 450 goat services.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister at this point, will deal with the question of the services. I enquired about the reason for the stations telling you they were only allowing services at particular times, and about one service per animal.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: First of all, let me say this, I am a true believer in the fact that a pig should have more than one service. If you want to have the maximum number of piglets you should have more than one service; I am in agreement with this,..... (Mr. BOLDEN: I want to hear about the Ministry). But if it is me, it has to be the policy of the Ministry.

Mr. BOLDEN: As I said, Mr. Chairman, this Minister has only been in the Ministry for a couple months; I want to know the policy of the Ministry all along the years.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is no use talking about the policy of the Ministry all along, talk about what it is now. I am telling you what it is now, and I do not think the people in Barbados are interested in knowing what happened in the Ministry of Agriculture five, six or ten years ago, they want to know what we are offering them today, and I am telling you what we are offering them today. The point is, we try to discourage people from bringing their pigs to the stations during the mid-day because we find that lots of pigs died of sunstroke after a service in the heat of the day, so sometimes you have to save farmers from themselves.

2.50 p.m.

It would be very hard if a man brought his pig five or six miles to an Agricultral Station only to be told that the pig could not be served until the afternoon or the following morning. We try to discourage this, but some of the Agricultural Officers may take things the wrong way. Perhaps they themselves do not understand why we try to discourage it. We try to discourage it, because we want to save the farmers from themselves.

There are one or two other points which the hon. members raised and to which I would like to reply. He was a bit concerned about the experiments carried out at the various Agricultural Stations. I am with the hon. member on that. I am not satisfied that experiments are being carried out, but he will not be able to say so three months from today. It is not that the Seed Store refuses to import seeds because of the season. You must remember that most of our seeds come from cold climates. There are certain times during the year when you cannot get seeds, and the availability of seeds at the Seed Store will depend on how many seeds were bought when seeds were available. In winter one cannot get seeds easily. It is not a question of not bringing in the seeds because we do not want the farmers to plant them.

Mr. Chairman, we encourage people to buy seeds from us because we are in a position to treat the seeds. Sometimes seeds come in and they carry certain diseases. The Acting Chief Agricultural Officer, who is the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer in charge of research, is very much concerned over certain seed problems that we have been experiencing. Some of the seeds were not germinating and so on. That is no fault of the Seed Store or the Ministry. We have been treating seeds. Some people go to Bridgetown and buy seeds, but we feel that they should go to the Ministry because we even subsidise seeds there. When you buy seeds there you will get the best seeds, because the seeds are given treatment against fungus and other diseases.

The hon. member raised a question regarding the amount of money that we are allocating to the Agricultural Credit Bank. Now, if I told the hon. member something he would be astonished. Last year we paid out more money in administering the Agricultural Credit Bank than we paid out in loans. That is not because the Bank did not want to make

loans, but it is a fact that the applications for loans were not forthcoming. Here, again, I have found the answer, I think. I found that the farmers were not given the necessary information. I do not like to over-estimate, but I feel that, in the light of the information we are now giving the farmers, we will have to supplement these estimates. I do not want to come here and ask the House to give us $5000,000 or $1 million when we may not be able to spend it. It will be better for the Bank to run short and then we can have a supplementary estimate than to over-estimate. For instance, the loans which they made last year for cultivation amounted to $42,922; for livestock $683; for balance of purchase money $26,250, making a total of $69,856. The interest is at the rate of 3%. The cost of administration was $69,783.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Department could be criticised for this, and I accept the criticism. I want to give hon. members the assurance that the farmers will make use of this Bank. As a matter of fact, in recent weeks the Banks have had more requests for loans than they have had for the whole of last year. Whilst we have had a bad year or two the farmers will be given assistance under our new scheme. Let me give you an idea of what is happening nowadays. The farmers will take what money they have and spend it in reaping or cultivating the land. They will then go at Courts to get a stove. Instead of buying the stove cash, they will credit the stove and pay three times the cost of the stove. They could have bought the stove cash, and borrow the money at 3% from the Agricultural Credit Bank. That would result in a reduction of the cost of living.

Now, the Officers in the ministry have been instructed and directed to advise farmers to make the maximum use of the Agricultural Credit Bank. We have to look at the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. I have told hon. members that we should not have gone ahead with the amendment proposed to that Act, because we find that there are small plantations that cannot get loans from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. I think that a plantation called "Golden Grove" has decided to go in for agricultural diversification. The people concerned with the plantation have been told that they cannot get loans for cultivation from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank because it is for sugar cane. The whole concept was sugar cane in the past, but today we are dealing with agriculture. I am no lawyer, but I think that we will have to amend either the Regulations or the Act. I think the Ministry is now seeking the advice of the Legal Adviser to the Government as to whether we should amend the Act or make Regulations to take care of certain things.

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure this Chamber that every effort is being made to assist farmers large or small. There is no differentiation as far as we are concerned, and we do not see why there should be any differentiation between them where incentives are concerned. As long as a farmer wants to diversify, then we will give him the encouragement to do so. I think that I have tried my best to answer the questions asked.

3 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before the Minister finishes, he has not dealt with the question of feed and the very important question about the directive.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member queried what is Government's intention on the feed, and whether Government has given any consideration to establishing a feed plant. I want to advise that five years ago a feed mill was bought by the Government. The Barbados Marketing Corporation bought it, and then it was sold to A.D.C. Somewhere along the line, difficulty was experienced in establishing this. I feel very strongly that it ought not to be operated by Government. When the Barbados Marketing Corporation bought it, I was the Minister and I did not allow them to set it up because I knew it would be another white elephant. We asked them to hand it over to A.D.C., but they have not got it started. I went to Lancaster a couple of weeks ago to check on it, and it can do with some cleaning because some of it was left in boxes outside and being there for so long the boxes are infested with woodants and some water has got on the machinery, but it can be used. Now I have hinted to the dairy farmers and Stock Breeders Association who are concerned about the cost of animal feed that if they.....

Mr. BOLDEN: That is not what I was dealing with. I was dealing with the fact that a directive had gone out where-by certain importers of feed....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am coming to that. I can only do one thing at a time.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am not worried about the plant because we can deal with that under another Head, but I was dealing specifically with Items under this Head and the directive part of it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I just want to say that I have suggested to the Dairy Farmers and Stock Breeders Association that if they can form themselves into a cooperative, I would be willing to recommend that they be allowed to operate the plant at a reasonable rate.

As far as the directive is concerned, hon. members perhaps are aware that towards the end of last year there had been an increase in the price of feed worldwide. Now we have in our country certain people importing Spillers feed at a reasonable rate. I understand that some of it was more or less dumped.

Mr. St. JOHN: It was not dumped in the sense that it was bad, but because there was a surplus and they wanted to get rid of it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: There was surplus feed which we got at a reasonable rate. When the world price of feed increased around November or

December, there was an overall increase. I was in the Ministry of Trade then and the poultry farmers came to see me in early December and brought along one of the directors of our local feed plant who was asking for a higher price in animal feed. He was producing 75% of the animal feed in the country, but at the same meeting, he pointed out that if we could give him an increase of 25% of the feed that was being imported, he would not have to increase his price. I want you to place yourself in my position as a Minister then. If we gave him an increase of 25% of what was coming into the country, we would have been carrying his supply to something like 82% of the amount leaving 18 percent to be brought into the country. Now it is true that this feed which was brought into the country was half a cent cheaper per pound but would it be better to avoid an increase of one cent a pound on the 75 percent of the feed used in the country or give them 82 percent of the production where they could leave the price of feed at the same rate and cut down to 18 percent what was brought into the country? If the majority of people were going to experience a saving by cutting off 25 per cent of the imported feed, that would make sense because the local feed mill would not be increasing the price of feed, and at the same time it would be employing Barbadians. I want to say that when you look at the wages paid by that plant, they are reasonably good. (Mr. BOLDEN: Are these conditions still holding good?) I am coming to that. After the Government declared that certain incentives would be given to farmers by a subsidy on animal feed and so on, it is my understanding that the price went up. I spoke with the Dairy Farmers and Stock Breeders Association last week and told them that if the price of animal feed does not come back to where it was in keeping with the pledge made to me in the Ministry of Agriculture, I would recommend that Government give them the feed plant so that they can make their own feed, and then somebody would have to close down. Ever since then I was invited to have discussions. I propose having these discussions, and I think that the particular feed company is now favourably disposed to allow the status quo to remain as it was in December. I cannot understand why people like to take the Government for a ride. The minute it was announced that the farmers would have a subsidy in animal feed , they put up the price .There was a special dairy feed for farmers which they got at $180 a short ton; that was carried to $192. The poultry farmers who used to get theirs in bulk were told that they could get it in bulk but they would have to pay the normal price for it. Well I do not operate that way, and if they want to do it that way, we will allow the other feed to come in for the time being and will encourage the local farmers to establish their own feed mill, and then somebody would see who would lose in the long run. I do not think I can give you any more information on it, but I can give you information two weeks from now, because in the same way, they can come to the Minister and give a pledge that if they had an increase in their turn-over they would allow the price to remain, and then increase it after agreeing not to increase it, we would have to take some sort of action. I was to have met them this week, but I could not. I am waiting until we finish the Estimates to meet them, and if they cannot honour the pledge which they made in December, I will be asking the Minister of Trade to have a further look at the price of animal feeds.

3.10 p.m.

There is a price control on feed, but this was a feed which they were producing for the farmers at 8 1/2 cents. Do you know that some of the farmers are mixing their own feed at 8 cents now? So if the farmers can mix their own feed at 8 cents, why must there now be an increase? Take Whitehall Diary, they are mixing their own feed and getting a better production from feed, which is costing them 8 cents a pound to mix, then the 8 1/2 cents a pound which they buy from the local farmers, and they are carrying it now to 9 1/2 cents. I have first-hand information, they told me it is 8 cents. I think it is time we put down our feet on these things and let people understand that they cannot fleece the people of this country, so I want the hon. member to know that I am working on it and in two weeks' time we should have the matter resolved.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would only like to reply for a limited time because I do not want to prolong this any further, but there is one thing I would like the Minister to consider, that is a complete reorganisation of this Information Service in respect of the programme. The Minister said that discussions are held on radio and television with the various Agricultural Officers, but I would like to see what is called a farming hour or a farming half hour which could be utilised.....

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH resumed the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Let me allay the fears of the hon. member; this is being planned now.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like to see this done, but I would like to see a more open discussion, because it is my honest view that the type of programme which is run at the moment does not disseminate enough information suitable to the varying conditions, because when you put an Information Officer to ask questions of the Chief Agricultural Officer or the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer, they are only asking questions which they want to ask, but I want to see an open discussion. Each week you should invite farmers.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is what we are doing now, we are making plans for this in the Ministry; this is how we are going to use the increased time.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, it seems as if the Minister has made all the necessary replies, but there is an Item under this Head I have heard no discussion on, which is Item 76 - Control of Rodents. Rats are very terrible and very destructive, and the amount of $15,000 I do not feel adequate, because

many crops are destroyed by the rats, and when they leave the country districts and they come into town we see them destroying the foodstuffs at the various stores. I feel the Government should do something more; there was once a programme known as Rat Week, and I feel this programme should be continued throughout the year. The rats are always there, and I feel that the amount of money here should be increased because of their destruction, and they spread many diseases. This is one of of the Items under this Head 1 would like to hear the Minister say somethng about.

There is also another Item - Government Gardens. Only this week there was a picture in the daily newspaper of a Government garden. Some of them seem to be neglected, and I feel that some money can be spent in beautifying these gardens. I do hope that the Minister or the Ministry will look into this Item as well. We are doing everything possible, and I feel that agriculture should be maintained. There is much talk about tourism, but the money spent in agriculture will not be lost; we had it as our mainstay of the economy, and the Minister in his address has assured us, and I feel confident that what he says he means, but no one said anything about these two Items and I felt, especially with the rats, they destroy so many of the crops in this island, I felt that there should be a campaign against them, and more money than what has been put in the Estimates should be included to help to solve this problem.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Item 102 - Co-operatives. I heard the Hon. Minister speak of the Agricultural Department not being able to get people to come forward and borrow the money; perhaps I may be able to give him a little history of that, too. One of the troubles with the Agricultural Credit Bank was that it had a bad history in the past, in that if you ever carried in your title deeds in there, there was little likelihood of your getting them back, but that problem has been solved to a large extent. That is so. One of the reasons for the failure of the Agricultural Credit Bank in the past - I am telling you this as a fact - was that people did not like to have dealings with it because when they deposited their title deeds there, they used to be charged with money they did not receive. Anyway, that is the past, that crisis is over.

Under Co-operatives I see you have an amount of $3,000 for auditing. I have been in fisheries co-operatives, I have had disputes between members and officers of co-operatives in transport, and I have hear many complaints about agricultural co-operatives, and they seem to me to be all pointing to this fact, that you need a revision of your Co-operative Society Rules. Your Registrar is invested with too much power in relation to the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the Co-operatives. I am not suggesting that the Registrar should not have residual power in the event of things going wrong that he can intervene, but the concept that the Registrar had particularly in the past, was that he must run and take day-to-day management decisions, so that the management never grew up.

Secondly, the question of audit. This $3,000 which is put in here is for the Registrar to desiginate Public Officers to be Auditors. This will never work, because many Societies cannot have an annual general meeting because under the rules it cannot happen. You cannot have an annual general meeting except at the annual general meeting you present your Society's accounts as audited, and there is a large backlog. What you should have is an amendment to your rules saying that the Registrar should be able to approve categories of Auditors. Once a Society appoints a person who has the qualifications of an approved Auditor, then the general meetings can proceed and the Societies will grow up and learn that financial affairs is a very important part and is probably the first charge upon the revenue of the Society. This $3,000 is only to designate and overwork Civil Servants who do not have any specialised knowledge of auditing, because the Government itself does not have enough of those men, so I do not see how they can designate people there.
This is a very important point.
3.20 p.m.

The other point is that the Co-operative Societies as marketing organisations have a very important role to play especially since the central re-organisation of factories. It will be recalled that, in the past, plantations such as Three Houses, Lower Estate and Porters had a fleet of lorries which used to be sent to transport the canes of peasants when there was competition among the estates to get canes to grind, but that no longer exists. As a result of that, peasants are now called upon to pay as much as $5 a ton for transport outside 5 miles and the whole operation is a real loss.

Mr. Chairman, some people come to me and I took the matter up with the Sugar Producers' Association. They recognised that the services which used to be provided in the past should also be provided now. I went to St. Lucia last Sunday and I understand that there are a few private contractors who are charging $3.50 - $2.50 for transport and they have a different system down there where they provide some of the loading, so they are not getting through badly. I have asked the co-operatives why they do not get a loan from the Agricultural Credit Bank and buy a vehicle to transport the canes, but they are limited to either $2,800 or $2,400. There is a limit to which the Agricultural Credit Bank can make a loan to a Co-operative Society.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, there is no problem with loans at the moment. Co-operatives are given a grant of 25% of the cost of a vehicle and they can borrow the other 75% from the Bank. Quite recently I handed over the keys for two pieces of equipment; a truck and a tractor, to the Blades Hill and Marley Vale Co-operatives. Both of them had raised 25% of the cost and the Bank gave them 75% as a loan. Our policy today is that they will be given 25% regardless of what the item cost them. From the very provision which we have in these Estimates the Blades Hill and Marley Vale Co-operatives will receive a refund of 25% from us as a

grant. We are giving them back that 25% because we are back-dating the grants for equipment as from the 1st January, 1970. They have helped themselves and we feel that we should help them.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there was a limit at one stage of the amount of money the Agricultural Credit Bank could loan to peasants. I think that $2,500 was the limit that the Agricultural Credit Bank could lend to Co-operatives Societies. This is a question of information reaching down. I think quite seriously that this is a question of information reaching down. I think quite seriously that this is a great problem. As I understand it, according to the Ministry of Agriculture Bulletin in 1970, there are supposed to be 12,181 acres of land under the control of peasants, but I believe that the amount may have gone up.

Mr. Chairman, these people cannot possibly remain in sugar cane cultivation, and they cannot afford to pay $5 per ton for transport when they are only getting $16 for the canes. Their only hope of survival is to get together in some sort of organisation. The Cane Farmers' Association used to be a localised institution in St. Andrew and parts of St. Joseph, but something seems to have gone wrong with them. I do not know whether they are dead. That organisation depended a lot upon their President and Secretary.

There is another complaint and I want to know whether it is true. I have heard from the Ellerton Co-operative that they bought a tractor, and they have been promised a refund of the duty for a very long time and they cannot get it. I thought agricultural equipment was duty free. I did not know that you wanted to make money out of agricultural equipment.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of that problem, and we are working on it in the Ministry. There is a mistake somewhere.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, does this involve the other 5% duty which is payable on all other things?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I promised that I will go into items coming from the United States, and that my recommendation will be that all duty will be waived whether the items are from the United States or not.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, those are the basic problems that I see in co-operatives in relation to agriculture and to co-operatives generally. The Agricultural Co-operatives and the Marketing Corporation are in one category, but the Fishing Co-operatives will be dealt with under Capital Estimates. However, running through all co-operatives in Barbados is the questions of the lack of strict accounting. You must amend the Rules otherwise you are going to get trouble with that Airport Taxi Co-operative. Those fellows up there are quarrelling over not having a General Meeting. That Society has been going for some time and the Department cannot audit the books. They have not had a General Meeting as yet, and you cannot hold a General Meeting under the existing Rules. I am sure that an amendment will have to be made to these Rules.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. member for his observations. I want to assure him that his points are well taken and that positive action will be taken in the matter.

In reply to the hon. junior member for St. George, we are concerned about the rodent problems, especially rats. We have in agriculture a more serious problem than the rats - we have the monkey problem. We have a Report on rodents from an O.D.M. Expert which we are now studying in the Ministry with a view to implementation. Why we are very concerned is that in the Animal Nutrition Unit we have a project going on there where we are experimenting with certain animals. We are using the sugar cane in the experiment to see whether we can use the pith for sugar cane in the experiment to see whether we can use the pith for feeding them along with one or two other ingredients. We have had laboratory tests carried out on various things. It has been discovered that there were several deaths in this country over the past few years due to *lepto spirosis*.

3.30 p.m.

We have got to be concerned about it, and after having studied the O.D.M. Report we are getting in an expert to advise on rodent control, and one especially to deal with the monkey problem, and we are hoping in the very near future to come up with a solution to the rodent problem which we have. I think there were seven deaths last year which were traced to leptospirosis, and therefore we are taking positive action to extirpate rats in this country. I do not think hon. members can ask for more.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is only one other point. I raised the question about the $150,000 in shares which the Sugar Producers have set aside and whether Government has considered purchasing these shares in order that the peasant farmers can enjoy that extra dollar per ton more.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It was suggested that money be taken from the Price Stabilization Fund to do this. As far as Government is concerned, we are in agreement with it, but there is a little fly in the ointment and we are trying to get over this obstacle. I know that the Deputy Prime Minister was the first person to draw it to my attention the day after I went into the Ministry and asked me to get something done about it. I called in the Sugar Producers and discussed it with them, and we are satisfied that if ought to be done, but these funds are controlled by a tripartite committee.

Mr. BOLDEN: Is it that the Union has some objection to this money being used? If it is the Union,

Mr. Chairman, I want the Minister to say quite clearly, because it is no question of any third party holding back the peasants from enjoying one dollar per ton more, since a dollar is a dollar in any man's language today, and the present cost of reaping and freighting is high. Like the hon. senior member for Christ Church I remember the days when Lower Estate, Bulkeley and Andrews used to compete for sugar cane, you could enjoy a low freight rate because of competition. Now there is no competition in the factories. Lower Estate had eleven lorries last year; they have sold ten. Andrews sold theirs and they are not hauling any canes. As regards the people in St. Joseph, it is only Joes River which will haul one load per week for each peasant. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, these freight rates have risen and there is no stabilizing factor because there is no longer any competition; so the $1.00 is an offset to increased freight rates and I would like to see something done about it so that the peasants can enjoy the one dollar per ton this crop.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We are just as concerned about it as the hon. member. I represent an agricultural constituency like the hon. member and we are both concerned about it , but the Price Stabilization Fund is administered more or less by a tripartite group.I would not like to say what would be the result, but I am telling you how Government feels about it. We feel it ought to be done and we hope it will be done that the Tripartite Committee will make its decision in the right way.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to give the Minister two or three minutes of an exercise. Under Item 62 there is an amount of $1,000 granted annually to the R.S.P.C.A. I want to say that I am satisfied that the R.S.P.C.A. has cultivated what I should call a greater love for animals in this island through its activities over the past few years particularly. I think that each and every one of us should admire the efforts of the Association to raise money to offset its own expenses, but when we take into consideration the fact that people today realise that the care of an animal is something to be desired, I think we will admit that in years past the use of the horse and donkey for drawing vehicles was much more in circulation then than today, but nevertheless there are still some of these animals at work and I am sure that through the activities of the R.S.P.C.A. to educate people into appreciating the value of their animals, the owner or person working an animal would be somewhat more reluctant today to take a sick animal and harness him to a cart to draw a load than in years past. If the animal is sick, the vet is summoned as quickly as if a person in the home is sick, or efforts are made to carry the animal to the vet. In the same manner this applies to the goat and sheep population as well as the dogs. The R.S.P.C.A is doing a wonderful job in this respect, and I would like to see that we consider this organisation for a grant far in excess of $1,000. In other words, I would like to see Government match the grant to the Association in a way that it bears some relation to the work that the organisation is now doing.

I turn now, Mr. Chairman, to Item 91 - Veterinary Laboratory. Now there are restrictions relative to the importing of animals into this country from certain countries, but I feel it is time that we examine ourselves and have a look at statistics in other countries. I am sure that there has been no known case of rabies in dogs reported during the past few years in Barbados. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We know that and that is why we try to keep out dogs from other countries that are suspect.) Nobody is suggesting that you allow the importation of dogs from other countries that are known for having rabies. One may say that it is to our credit that we have not allowed the importation from anywhere at all that we do not have rabies, but that is not the way to approach the subject at all.
3.40 p.m.

Let us ask ourselves if we are trying as best to can to improve the pedigree of our dogs in doing this. All we are asking is this, that from any country against which there was a restriction and we see that during the past five years, or for that matter ten years, there has been no outbreak of rabies in that country, we would suggest that it be removed from the banned areas, and we do not say that we should allow the importation indiscriminately, we would like to see that every effort is taken to have an animal that is to come from any one of these countries properly vaccinated, and whatever steps are to be taken to protect the population of our dogs. Suggestions have been made as to having a Quarantine Station built on this island so that we can import dogs and save ourselves a considerable amount of money by having them quarantined in England. We still saddle ourselves with this idea that only the United Kingdom is the best for everything.

I have had the experience years ago of having dogs sent to me from Alaska, and each dog carried three certificates from veterinarians in Alaska. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Were the certificates written in French?) I think, Mr. Chairman, one of the troubles arises from the Government's veterinarian not being able to understand them. This is about the answer to the problem, not being able then to appreciate them, and when other Veterinarians tried to explain how nonsensical his arguments were, he could not hear them well. That is still his trouble today, so what we are asking is this, if during the past ten years your regulations banned the importation from this particular country, and you have got statistics from this country to prove that during the past ten years there has been no incidence of rabies, remove the ban and let a limited number of dogs come in, but under the strictest possible veterinary examination and, if possible, use the R.S.P.C.A. and provide them with the necessary quarantine facilities for a period long enough which we know our other animals on the island will be safe. We must appreciate the fact again that just as others go into cattle as an investment, there are some of them who go into dogs as an investment as well. Many people in this island go into dog breeding as an investment, and there should be no unnecessary

restrictions whatsoever to prevent people from investing, and at the same time enhancing or improving the pedigree of dogs on the island.

Mr. Chairman, Item 99 - Maintenance of buildings and refrigeration plant. I believe, Sir, that this must have slipped the Minister himself, because I feel he knows quite well that the plant at the Cheapside Market has not been functioning for several months; as a result, he knows that the vast number of people who depend on the City butchers for their supply of pork have suffered to a very considerable extent. As a mattter of fact, there have been many porkless days during recent months. In fairness to those butchers, Government ought to have considered compensating them for any loss that might have accrued as a result of what had been taking place in the Government's plant, because I know when the Minister gets up to reply he will say it was the boiler, but the boiler is only part of it. There is one thing with which we have got to familarise ourselves with any bit of machinery, and it is this, you have to carry out your inspections periodically. Money is voted annually for the maintenance of the refrigeration plant or other equipment used by this Department, and if the persons employed to service the equipment are not doing their job, you will find eventually that there is a total breakdown like what we witnessed, and when that occurs what we have to address our minds to, is the number of people whose livelihood had been threatened, the number of people who found themselves actually without a job.

All of these things are matters which any Minister in any Ministry has to look into, and do not be told it is merely the boiler, I am saying it is not merely the boiler in truth and in fact. The boiler did not decide to stop working one day or one night for good, and what one will find is this, that complaints that were made to the Ministry were not attended to promptly; as a consequence, engineers and others became disgusted in trying to patch up a situation that was becoming increasingly hopeless day after day, night after night, but again, Mr. Chairman, it was only the butchers, perhaps a body of people who mean absolutely nothing to this Government.

3.50 p.m.

That is why we feel that the situation has been allowed to deteriorate to this extent. I have said not so long ago, that everything associated with the markets of this Island, particularly the Cheapside Market, is a disgrace to look at. The logs of wood on which the meat is chopped should be dumped and replaced by new ones; the stalls want a general cleaning; the blood is spattered on the wall together with bits of meat, and that sort of thing can be seen there month after month; the lights want fixing, and the concrete is broken at several places. I feel that there is a lot that must be done quickly to remedy these conditions.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to ask the Minister how much money was spent on the importation of shrimps during the past four months, because it may provoke much more discussion that we would care to have at a time such as this. Anyway, I would still like to hear what the Minister has to say.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the point raised by the hon. member on the R.S.P.C.A., while I believe that the R.S.P.C.A. could do with a bigger subvention, if they were meeting things tough, they should make representation to the Government for an increase in the subvention. It is normally the practice for organisations to approach the Government for these subventions. I do not know whether they have asked the hon. member to speak on their behalf, but I....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have not been approached by anybody in the R.S.P.C.A., but I can tell the Minister that the R.S.P.C.A. had approached the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I will check it out in the Ministry and see what is the position.

Mr. HINDS: Tell us if they have approached the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am not aware of that. If they had approached the Government there would have been a lot of red tape involved before it reached me. I have not seen any representations from them. I will promise the hon. member, however, to look into the matter and do whatever I can to help.

With respect to the importation of dogs, I was discussing the matter with the Prime Minister about three weeks ago, and he shared my view that we should give serious consideration to establishing a Quarantine Station for dogs. I will make representations to the House in due course to have one established.

So far as the markets are concerned, I should like the hon. member to know that his points on the bad conditions existing in the markets are well taken, and I will do what I can to ameliorate the conditions. I would suggest to the hon. member that we should discuss shrimps at the appropriate time. There will be another occasion to discuss the shrimp industry.

The question that the sum of $2,273,881 under Head 32 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science & Technology – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 33 - METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Head 33 – METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE – was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $256,377 under Head 33 - Meteorological Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 28 - FIRE SERVICE

Head 28 – FIRE SERVICE – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman; I beg to move that the sum of $84,753 under Head 28 - Fire Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to make just two small observations: one is in respect of the generel complaints of Firemen attached to the Seawell Station. There is a sort of co-operative that is carried on in the Service, but it is not run as a co-operative should be run. In view of the peculiar situation where you have the senior officer, the junior officer and the leading firemen as well as varying grades of workers, some of the Firemen feel that they are detailed for duty by some of their seniors when they want to get at them.
4 p.m.

I refer to the cleaning of the pig sties. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Does that still obtain?) Mr. Chairman, if it were a case where members of the service were witnessing that all who were to share in the benefits from the movement were putting in equal labour at every level in the movement, it would make a marked difference. Now it would be a pity, Mr. Chairman, if you found a most efficient fireman being placed in a position as to be debarred from getting promotion, which he has earned, through his refusal to go to clean out a pig pen. Let us look at it in that light. After all you and I should place ourselves in a very similar position. There are many things that you would go to your own home or business place and turn about and do, but if somebody were to give you an order to do the same thing, you would not do it. That is exactly what is happening in the movement with the firemen, and I would certainly like to know that something is done, and that their Association can come to the conclusion that staff be employed for doing certain tasks associated with the promotion of the work of the organisation so as to keep it going.

Now I remember hearing the Leader of the House say that certain savings were being effected through the skill and industry of our local firemen in bringing into being certain appliances, and as a consequence importaion costs were cut. Now the Minister, I think I am right in saying, gave the House at the time to understand that as a result and by way of showing appreciation and with a view to further encouraging these young men to put their skills to further and better and continued use in this particular field, monetary awards would be given in return for the good work which they had done in effecting this turnout of so good a piece of equipment. We do want to hear, Mr. Chairman, that the firemen have built a piece of fire fighting equipment and they are going to share in the savings which their skill and ingenuity brought about. It was mentioned in this Honourable House, but nobody in their Department has conveyed any such information to them. As a matter of fact, all they know is that it was mentioned in the House of Assembly that they are likely to receive something or other. We would like to know, Mr. Chairman, what decision Government has come to in this respect. In other words, we definitely feel on this side of the House that if these firemen have worked and brought their skills to bear to such an extent as to bring not only credit to themselves, but to effect a saving for the Government and taxpayers of this country, we would like to know what Government has decided to do in respect of rewarding them, and in such a case we would like to see the Government use its good offices to initate a scheme where we can recruit a number of young men - let us remove some of them from the streets - and instruct them into the building of fire fighting equipment. Any amount of fire fighting equipment is needed in Barbados. We need not go and overburden ourselves by carrying a staff which is too heavy to bear, but if we were to recruit a dozen, provided they show a desire to learn to do something in this particular field, we would have done something for at least that number. I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, if the Government has really decided to do something and means to show that something has been done to help these poor people.

Now at Item 17 - Fire Equipment - I see the note reads "Provision for the purchase of fire equipment for Government buildings and recharging fire extinguishers as occasion demands." I wonder with $1,500 how many Government buildings are involved in this. How far will these extinguishers go; what is the cost of an extinguisher for these Government buildings?

There is at Item 15- Office Expenses, an amount that includes provision for compensation for bona fide losses whilst in the execution of duty at fires. I fail to see, Mr. Chairman, how such an item can be put under office expenses. What kind of office expenses are these? Is this a case where they are going to lose pens and pencils only at fires? I am sure much more than this would be involved, and my view is that it is the wrong Head because it is an expenditure all its own.
4.10 p.m.

I am speaking, Mr. Chairman, on Item 15. At Item 10 there is the payment of responsibility allowances to driver/operators of appliances. I still feel that better consideration ought to be given in view of the high value of the appliances that are placed in the hands of some of these drivers. The incentive that Government gives, the responsibility allowance, is definitely too small, and we would like to see that something is done in respect of this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on the question of extinguishers at Government buildings, on the advice of the Chief Fire Officer, it is planned

to provide extinguishers in all Government buildings including schools. It has been found that certain schools with kitchens or domestic science facilities do not have fire fighting aids, and this is supposed to be a long term project.

While we are awaiting information as to the cost of the extinguishers, - I am now told that the type which is used costs $50 each - but on the question of the pig keeping exercise, this is done by members of the Fire Service in their capacity as members of the Fire Service Club. It is voluntary, and the benefits by way of proceeds are distributed among all the members. The profits of the Club also provide recreational benefits such as billiard tables and canteen facilities. There has been for some time some concern among some of the members as to whether this activity ought to be carried on or not because of their dissatisfaction with the roster of duties concerned with the cleaning of the pig pens and the keeping of the pigs. I am advised that the matter is now before the Minister who is studying the whole situation with a view to seeing whether and what proper terms can be arrived at, or whether it should be discontinued altogether.

Remuneration for the assembling of water tenders. Only one question is outstanding now, and that is the question of the quantum which is to be disbursed to the Firemen. Information as to the number of hours spent on the construction and assembling is being awaited in order to fix the appropriate amounts for all ranks from the Divisional Officer down to the Firemen. The issue had been complicated by the request of the Firemen for special increments outside the monetary award. The Government's view, I think, is that they should; as I said five or six weeks ago, that they should properly share in the savings, and we think that since they have helped to retain some $12,000 in the Treasury - this is what we saved on it - they should share in that, and they are now working out the quantum so that each rank in the Service can get an appropriate portion of what is to be passed on to them. Was there anything else?

Mr. HINDS: Just this point, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has said that Government has decided to share some of the savings with the Firemen who worked on the building of this tender, but apart from this, some of the Firemen feel that they should have special increments because they feel their shills as displayed place them in a special category. Surely, Mr. Chairman, we have to get away from this old idea in the various other Departments, let us say in the Police Band where you have a man who had special training in the repairing of instruments. He went abroad and has come back here, and as a result of his skill, he has brought considerable savings to Government, but nevertheless there is no promotion whatsoever for that man. He is thrown back on the same wheelbarrow, so to speak, as the other man without any skills, but here is a man who knows his music, here is a case now of Firemen who know their duties as Firemen, but apart from that they have shown that they have specialist knowledge and they have placed it at the service of the community, why not a special allowance or a special increment for them to encourage somebody else that if they have something in them they can show it as well?

You had in the Police Department too, tailors who are experts in their fields, but there was no promotion for them, they were Policemen but they possessed specialist knowledge as tailors, gunsmiths, etc. in the Police Force but there was no promotion for them. We are saying that the time has come when some sort of consideration must be given to these people; all these things are reflecting themselves in these youngsters.
4.20 p.m.

A youngster in the Band may feel that, apart from playing music, there is nothing in the Band for him, and he will have to wait until somebody resigns or dies in order for him to get a number. He is not interested in anything other than blowing his Clarinet or whatever instrument he blows. That is not what we want to see. If you had sent a man abroad to study and he failed to absorb the instructions given to him, he would return to Barbados and be placed in exactly the same position as the man who went up and succeeded, and we do not agree with that.

I am saying that if the Firemen have remained at home and put their skills together in order to produce this type of equipment, then there should have been some sort of exhibition so that every member of the public could see what ordinary Firemen have been able to do. Do not let the public think that all they can do is to put out a fire. Since the Minister has demonstrated to us that they have done a good job, we see no good reason why Government should be hesitating to recognise what they have done. The Government has saved money and has used the same money to provide things over a period.

In other words, if these Firemen had not used their skills; if they had just remained in their cots until there was time to go to a fire, then the Government would not have benefited to the extent of $12,000. Government should not look to spend one dime of that money on doing anything other than using it to promote the Fire Service as a whole. Government should use the money to promote the Fire Service and to encourage other people to join the Fire Service and bring their skills to bear upon the promotion of anything that is good in the name of the Service. We are not concerned with Government trying to save money and giving the Firemen part of it. These are men who have done good body work on vehicles and so on.

Mr. Chairman, Government should give some of these men courses abroad so that they can return and instruct others. Government should not try to keep any part of this money. They have saved $12,000 and they should be given every cent of that $12.000.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the hon. member is pressing an entirely

closed door or a closed door at all. The position is simply this: even if we accept, as I think we do, that full praise as well as monetary consideration to any extent, is due to them, this does not exclude the Government doing anything else for them for their benefit. It is, therefore, possible to consider making the monetary award and at the same time, or subsequently, giving full consideration to the request for special increments. One does not rule out the other.

Secondly, of course, we accept that we now know that there are skills present in the Department which we had not suspected before, because those skills had not been put to the test. The point that something should be done to train them to develop even further their special skills is well taken. *(INTERRUPTION.)* Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that we would like to hear the cricket commentary, we would rather not be disturbed by it.

I think the hon. member will have to remember that even although Governments may have the best will in the world, they still work more often than not by precedent. A request for special increments, while it may be a genuine one and may have all solid argument behind it, is still something which the Government would have to consider because it has not been the usual practice in the past in a Department. We feel that this is something we should give consideration to and reach a decision on its own merits without in any way affecting the decision to share the savings with those members of the Department. We do not rule out what they have requested, but this will be studied apart from the decision which we have already taken to share the savings with them.

Mr. Chairman, the point which the hon. member has made, and to my mind is the most valuable point in the whole discussion, is the provision of opportunities for them to even perfect their skills. That is a point which we take, and it would not necessarily have to be done out of the $12,000. The Government is already committed to providing or helping in providing the skills of their servants and officers, and any such desire on the part of Government or on the part of Firemen to be trained in their special techniques would, of course, be met from the general revenue of the Island, which is a wider resource than the $12,000 which would be part of these savings. I want to assure the hon. member that sympathetic consideration is being given to these matters, but all of them cannot be resolved overnight.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the Hon. Minister how long Government knew that $12,000 had been saved. Further, how long will this study take?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how long Government knew, but I told the hon. member five or six weeks ago, and I repeated it here, that the Government had decided to share the savings with the members of the Fire Service who worked on this tender. I said, in reply to a question asked a few minutes ago, that it was only a question of the quantum being worked out because this money has to be shared among various grades of officers.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are saying that all the Government ever intended to do was to share the amount with the Firemen. If they had intended doing anything more the Minister would have made an announcement. We are pressing the Government to do something more for the Firemen; harness their skills and do not let them go astray; do not let them lose interest in these things.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I should have told the hon. member that the Chief Fire Officer has himself proposed that the two Firemen who worked on the tender should be sent abroad for further training, and we are going to do this in this financial year. Here, again, the cost of their training will be in excess of the $12,000, and there is no question of using this money to train them. The Consolidated Fund is a proper resource to which application should be made for all training in the Government Service. 4.30 p.m.

What is going to be done will not only cost more than the source from which the hon. member is suggesting it should be taken, but it is going to be done this year.

The question that the sum of $84,753 under Head 28 – Fire Service – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE

Head 29 – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE – was called.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $24,085 under Head 29 - Town and Country Planning Office - stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, now the time has come when we have got to see Town and Country Planning going into action and taking decisions whether it is going to be development planning, industrial planning or otherwise. We have situations where Town and Country Planning will learn that development not authorised by the Department is taking place. Their first reaction would be to send a notice as a warning, but nobody is obliged to take any notice of a warning coming from that department as the situation is at the present moment. The Town and Country Planning Office would send out what is called an enforcement notice. Again Mr. Chairman, nobody is obliged to take notice. We have a situation where in the parish of St. James people take it upon themselves to subdivide their own land and carry out development. A person built six bungalows. Town

and Country Planning Officers served notices and the man took the crank handle from his motor car and asked them to leave his premises, and every officer from that Department ran to save his life. Development after development is going on. The man now has six bungalows built on his land and has never yet had permission from Town and Country Planning to build one.

Now if this kind of action is to be allowed, one must see that there are very few people who have any respect for Town and Country Planning, as the present set up is, in this country. For instance, I have been told that people go to the Town and Country Planning Office and make an application to carry out certain development. It may be refused or suggestions may be made that additional information may be required of a change of plan if required. They are then told that nobody is minding them and that they would soon be closed down. That is the attitude of people to Town and Country Planning, and people go on and carry out their development. This is not fair to the individual who wants to be law abiding. One of the difficulties is that when Town and Country Planning is satisfied or has reasons to believe that an offence has been commmitted, there is too much legal entaglement. In other words, it is not a case where a complaint is lodged before a Magistrate by the Town and Country Planning Office and a summons issued to get somebody before the Court. A lot of law officers are called into play from Department to Department, and there is a lot of shuffling of files between departments and in the end everybody, except in the case of a man called Singh, has sympathy for the person who has built his nice looking house or whatever it might be, and nobody wants to see any action taken to pull down this man's house. This is the type of thing that is happening in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, there are cases where one person may build to the detriment of his neighbour. There are situations which need quicker action by Town and Country Planning. There may be cases where an amendment to the law would provide the machinery necessary to expedite prosecutions or at least the bringing of people before the Courts, and to give Town and Country Planning permission if development is carried out to stop the development from continuing until approval has been granted; but it is not so. People are just laughing at Town and Country Planning. Some action has got to be taken. Those of us who do not want to offend against the law, must not be penalised so to speak while the chap who totally disregards law and order, Town and Country Planning and everything else is allowed to press on with his development.

4.40 p.m.

There is too great a lack of liaison between Public Health, Agriculture, Communications, Town and Country Planning and all these Departments. All these things create disgust in the minds of people who make applications to Town and Country Planning to be allowed to carry out development, because there are instances where a Department is allowed as much as 42 days before it replies on a particular matter in this respect, but the Department might well keep the application for 40 or 42. Another Department is allowed 12 days, that Department might act promptly and within six days it might go to another Department, but then months elapse when there are times nobody can find where the application really is. These things are not good, Mr. Chairman, and people get fed up with situations such as these obtaining in Government Departments.

Mr. Chairman, right there coming out from our Port, just by the Abattoir on Princess Alice Highway, opposite Pelican Village, there is now a shanty town growing up. I wonder which Department in Town and Country Planning gave permission for that to be erected there; if it is a case where no permission was granted, why is it allowed to remain? In the parish of St. Peter people would like to carry out extensions to their existing buildings, they would like to put a little 18' x 10' on eight blocks. The Public Health people, the Town and Country Planning people are serving them with all sorts of notices keeping the people confused, and right there in the eyes of the public there is first-class advertisement for the tourists when they come off the ships - a shanty town - and Town and Country Planning is not concerned about this. Why should you have situations obtaining such as these?

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to delay the passing of these Heads, I want you to put the question after the senior member for Christ Church has wound up the debate on this Head, but the amazing thing is this, that for all we know, for all the years, from what I can gather, only Singh's house was pushed down as well as somebody else's paling; why is this allowed to be so? We do not know, but some drastic action has got to be taken where Town and Country Planning is concerned in this island if it is to be respected, and if all are to be served by it, because our view is that it is very, very necessary.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Head because I believe that not so long ago we had a Bill in this House on Town and Country Planning, and we had been assured that Government was looking into the re-organisation of this Department with a view to deciding whether they would not create a Planning Authority, but the hon. member has raised a very interesting point, namely, the fact that there seems to be a certain contempt for the Town and Country Planning regulations in this country.

I well remember when a member of the Other Place was a Minister in charge of Town and Country Planning and he showed a very firm attitude towards the law, that it was the other side who made the maximum political capital out of law enforcement in this country, but right now there are caught in their own trap, for although Singh's house was pushed down and it was carried to appeal after appeal, the Courts held that the Town and Country Planning Department and the Public Works Department were perfectly within the law, but the Government having exploited it for narrow political purposes in 1961

are unable now to do the same thing. As a result of that, the situation which was complained of by the hon. junior member for St. Peter is in existence. This is a very serious thing, for this reason. Government is creating future charges upon the Treasury by permitting certain situations to develop in Barbados, particularly people sub-dividing land without planning permission, without the minimum facilities in the form of roads and water. New tenantries are being created, while at the same time you are trying to put in roads in tenantries which were created prior to the 1946 Amendment to the Public Health Act, new tenantries in 1970 are being created without any of the minimum standards that you say you are demanding in the form of roads and water.

Who is going to have to pay for that in the future? Only the taxpayers of Barbados, and it could not be fair and right, and it is bad Government if you allow it to continue. In addition to Singh, the Prime Minister himself was involved in a matter before he was Prime Minister or Premier where in Navy Gardens a dog kennel or a breeding unit for dogs was established by one of the dog breeders here, and they also went to Court, and again because of firm administrative action, that also had to be demolished. They were two precedents where the Town and Country Planning Office must be firm, and for a period of time people used to respect it, but right now, as the hon. member says, people feel that you do not have to bother, you can always go and get a retention certificate. I can understand that the rigours of the law must be exercised in certain circumstances with some measure of discretion, because there are cases where people will get Town and Country Planning permission to do a subdivision, but when it comes now to the execution of the actual plan there may be small deviations from the permission, but it does not affect the overall concept of the scheme nor it does not offend the overall principle of planning. One may have a very minor variation, instead of having 8' or 10' or 6', a building may be erected within a smaller area; that may be a case for a retention certificate, but where there are real flagrant violations of the Town and Planning law, you must act and act very quickly and I hope that this situation will not be allowed to continue.

4.50 p.m.

Now, there are also two other points. On the question of appeals, the procedure on appeals is still taking too long. The time between the hearing of the appeal, or the appeal, and the recommendations and Cabinet decisions is still taking too long.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They do not come to us.

Mr. St. JOHN: I have sent three last year. It is true that they have not yet got the report, and that is a very serious thing, and we will have to watch the position. The Reporters may take a long time to do the job. People very often sign conditional Agreements upon Town Planning permission. You cannot hold up people for three years and so on. That is a well-known thing done all over the world where you have Town Planning. We want greater speed in respect of that.

There is also another point. When there was a former Town Planner, it used to be his practice that when an application for change of use in an area came before him, he used to require that the adjoining people be notified, and they were written a letter inviting them to make representations regarding the change of use. I thought that was a good practice, because it helped the Town Planner to gauge public opinion in the particular area. This has been discontinued, and I do not know why it has been discontinued.

Secondly, under the Planning Law, as I understand it, where a person puts in an application, you have to send him a notice telling him that if he does not hear from the Department within a certain period of time he should appeal. I know of a case documented where this was not done and where special permission was asked for to extend the time within which to make a decision. The decision was refused, and when they appealed they were told that the appeal was too late and out of time because it was decided in August, when in truth and in fact the decision was in December. Representations have been made in respect of that, and I am sure that when the documents are produced they will either get leave, or that will be fixed up.

Mr. Chairman, something has gone wrong with what one would call the normal routine and administration of the office. I know that there have been personnel changes, and I should like to give the new personnel a chance to put things on an even keel. The points raised by the hon. member are very valid because it is in his area in particular and in St. James and to a certain extent in Clapham area in Christ Church as well as in Newton area that these infringements are becoming very persistent, and people are not going to respect the law if they feel that other people can break the law and get away with it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there is a greater area of agreement on both sides of the House on these matters than the members opposite would suspect. I want the hon. member to know that I do not accept that this side when in the Opposition made political capital out of the then Minister's decision in respect of Mr. Singh. What we said, of course, was that we were happy that they had to make the decision and not ourselves. What the hon. member may not have known is that in another instance when we were in the Opposition and the Town Planner had forbidden the erection of the Fish Market in Bay Street and the Government overruled it, we stood four-square with the Government because we thought, while the Government would have been accused of taking the law into their own hands, the Government had an overriding responsibility to the country and their decision as to where an economic amenity ought to be placed, ought to be final and should not be challenged. We thought that Bay Street would be an

asset, as the hon. member says, and there are now very few people who would quarrel with the decision of the last Government on that matter - a decision in which we fully concurred and supported.

The second point I would like to make is that you cannot speak too strongly on this question of enforcement. Everybody in this country should realise that if you do not like a particular law, you still have to obey it until it is changed by the customary process. Nobody is above the law, and if duly authorised officers of the Town Planning Department have authority to enter upon premises in the execution of their lawful duties, nobody in this country no matter who he is, ought to be able to opt out of obeying them.

For instance, Mr. Chairman, under the Public Health Regulations which were recently passed in this House, I believe the Chief Medical Officer and his duly authorised subordinates have power to enter upon premises, even upon closed premises, in cases of serious infection in the interest of public helath. I see no reason, if the work of the Town Planning Office depends upon officers visiting sites and telling people, if they are not doing what they should do, that they cannot do this and they will have to undo it, or that they cannot do any more until they have had permission, why the duly authorised officers of that Department should be set upon, or threatened with physical danger, or any such thing.

Now, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation under the amendment to the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940, has authority to enter premises and to carry out and execute such duty as the law lays upon them. Nobody in this Island is entitled to argue that his home is his castle, or the bit of land he owns is so sacred and inviolate that lawful authority cannot enter upon it in the execution of lawful duty. The Minister is preparing amending legislation to tighten up the loopholes in respect of enforcement.

The St p Order mentioned by the hon. junior member foi St. Peter which has been in force for sometime in the United Kingdom in included in the proposed amendments, and under the amendments the method of taking court action will be speeded up. In respect of delays, there are difficulties in speeding up the procedure in consultation. *(Asides)* This is in respect of the hon. member's suggestion about liaison. Meetings have recently been held between the Ministries of Home Affairs and Health to resolve some of these difficulties. Increased staffing of the Town Planning Office is being sought to assist in speeding up the processing of applications. It is hoped to establish a Planning Section in the Department to do both research and planning.

Mr. Chairman, while I am on this point, I want to refer to the point made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter about the disgraceful appearance of what looks like a Shanty Town along the Princess Alice Highway. This is to be deplored.

5 p.m.

I am hoping that the authorities will have it dismantled even before it gets any further. If just occurred to me rather facetious that somebody must started to believe that since the Town Planning Office is going out of business, erroneously they are moving down there.

Now in respect of appeals, the problem has been in getting the appeals heard, because the panel of reporters are often not able to sit or in some cases the proposed dates are unsuitable either to the appellant or to his counsel. Consideration is now being given to increasing the number of reporters to speed up the number of hearings and hopefully to obtain earlier reports.

The question that the sum of $24,085 under Head 29 – Town and Country Planning Office – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - PRISONS

Head 30 – PRISONS – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $90,314 under Head 30 - Prisons - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 34 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, before moving this Head, I would like to make certain amendments.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I would suggest that the Leader of the House should have some sort of consultation with the Leader of the Opposition on matters of this sort. We are not ready to go on with Head 34 yet. If we had any intimation from Government that this was going to be their approach to the passing of these Heads, we would have geared ourselves for this, but bear in mind that we have been here all week and the time we are likely to bring our deliberations to a halt this evening, how can the hon. member expect to start on Communications and Works now. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Why can't we start and continue?) What the hon. member does not seem to appreciate is that the Minister merely introduced, the Head, but all the work has to come from this end and the Minister has to prepare his reply. What we are suggesting is that this is undoubtedly a Head that is going to cause a lot of debate. Why not attend to the Head that comes next? Let us do Printing and by the time we have completed that, it would be time for rising.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would not fool the hon. member. In respect of Printing, there is some information that I personally want in order to be able to join discussions on it when we do it, and I do not have this available. I want to satisfy myself that what I am telling the House about this Department is what I am happy about. I am therefore not able to do it now. The Minister has intimated that he is ready to start his Heads.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there are some other Heads that have been postponed. Why can't we finish Parliament now? We are not ready to go on with Communications and Works now because we cannot do justice to a Head such as this. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Why can't we start it?) Start it for what purpose? We are not objecting to doing any of the work that is to be done, but we had no intimation from the Leader of the House that he was going to act in a manner such as this on this Head. We were given to believe that we would not have been approaching this Head nor Education nor Health today. The Minister undoubtedly has his numbers, but here is a case where there is some information on Printing which the Minister says is not now available to him. There is nothing to prevent him from debating Printing and we can wait until the Minister gets his information if he gets it on Monday morning.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: By the same token there is nothing to stop the other side from beginning their comments on this Head and leaving it then for the Minister to reply to them. I am not suggesting that we start and conclude Communications and Works this evening. I could not expect it, but I think we certainly could start.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I hope you will be able to see with me on this occasion. Yesterday we were made to understand that there were certain Heads we would not be approaching today, and even commonsense would tell us that there would be certain Heads that we would not be starting at an hour such as this. One would have thought that we could take a short Head like Printing now. We have to do Printing. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: And we have to do Communications and Works.) But it is a more cumbersome Head which calls for much more work. What does the Minister want to force upon the Opposition?

5.10 p.m.

One has to bear in mind that we have had these Estimates in our hands just one week, but we want to do the work, we want to accommodate the Government, we have been here every day for the week, we have not been crying about this, but we just want the Minister at least to see our way for once. There has been no occasion during the week that the Minister tried to move the passing of a Head that we told him we would not do it then, this is the first occasion, and we must have very good reason for this, Mr. Chairman. What has happened that the Minister cannot do Printing? We are willing to wait until Monday or whatever day it is for the Minister's information on the Printing Office; can the Minister give any indication when he will get the information o the Printing Office? Will he get it before the Estimates are finished?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is simple. The argument which he is using for the doing of Printing holds equally good for the starting of Communications and Works, we are not arguing two different principles. I could not expect to force a conclusion on a Head like this, this afternoon.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I will make a suggestion. Let us do Lighthouses and Electrical Inspection and leave Waterworks and the Ministry of Communications Central Office.

HEAD 36 - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Head 36 – ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT was called.

Hon. G.G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $78,970 under Head 36 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are asked to appropriate $78,970 under this Head for the Electrical Inspection Department. We have had it as a result of three serious fires which were investigated here in this island, they occurred during last year and the Commission of Enquiry has reported. There was hardly a chapter in those reports that did not alert our minds to the question of electrical inspection. We have got to be serious in this matter; how far has Government gone since those reports were handed in? How far has this Department taken action where the buildings in the City of Bridgetown are concerned? Not only this, we cannot get away from the fact that the Government Electrical Department has not been functioning to its fullest, because it has been under-staffed for a very considerable time. This is one question which Government will have to answer sooner or later, we have not seen or heard, apart from classes in house wiring, initiated by the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd. that have been held, we would like to be advised by the Minister how many members have been selected for training in this very specialised field One cannot get away from the fact that for the amount of development that is taking place in this country and what is likely, what one foreshadows will take place in the next five years that are ahead when the Barbados Labour Party gets the Government of this country. What we are saying is this, a case has been made out, Mr. Chairman, where not the mere house wiring scheme should be embarked upon in training, but somethng deeper. Some of the Inspectors who are presently employed by this Department ought to have been given courses abroad. There is a lot for them to learn, there is no denying this, that some of the older Inspectors in the same Department have been claiming that attempts at staffing have been made but only to throw more work on the more

experienced staff who have been in the office for some time, and what type of staff they have been able to recruit from time to time, Mr. Chairman? This temporary staff which does not always pay off.

This is a Government concern, and remember Sir, it is a Government institution with responsibility for electricity, the inspection of equipment bearing electricity in buildings throughout the entire island, so if you were to look, Mr. Chairman, at Item 8, one will see that there is an amount of $12,960 to meet the salaries of three Assistants.
5.20 p.m.

Now, what is going to show hon. members the seriousness with which the Government is prepared to tackle this problem is by bringing to light how many applications for inspection were made during the past six months. Do not let us carry them back to the past year to find out how many applications have been processed. There are a large number of young men roaming the streets yearning for work, and yet the Government is merely employing 3 Assistants and are making provision for 2 Apprentices. Now, I do not see anywhere in these Estimates where provision is made for a larger number of Apprentices. In the case of these Apprentices, I wonder if they are bursaries, or if they are just selected at random. If it is a case of selecting them at randon, then why did not the Government take in a greater number?

Mr. Chairman, what invariably happens is that you may very well start out with 12 boys, and after a period it may be found that only three or four are worthwhile continuing with. In such a case provision should be made whereby we could bring in people to fill the gaps created by those who fall by the wayside, a good Training Scheme could be launched, and the Government Electrical Department could render invaluable service in this matter, because they must all be trained to Government's requirements to meet the standards of the Government Electrical Department.

With regard to Item 9 - Overtime - $1,000 - this is an increase of $300. This is a very interesting matter, because the Note says it is to meet overtime pay for work done at Government House, Prime Minister's residence and at functions requiring the use of electrical equipment. Exactly what functions does the Government plan taking part in, that are going to require an additional $300 this year for overtime? I should like to have a list of these functions so that I can prepare myself for them. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I hear in an aside "Independence Celebrations". I feel that if you are going to celebrate Independence, then the parish of St. Peter would require much more than $300 to spend on overtime for putting up electrical equipment, taking it down and so on. We see here that this $300 is going to be spent on Government House and the Prime Minister's residence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Note does not stop at "Prime Minister's residence."

Mr. HINDS: You can read that part of it, Mr. Chairman, if you want to. There is no objection on my part; this is why we have you there. I have seen some Chairmen who could not do as well as you can, end I am glad to have you there.

With regard to Item 16 - Books and Publications - $100, the Note says to meet the cost of books and publications. Why only $100? I suggest that the $100 should be divided amongst those people who are going to be 100 years old during the year 1971. Nobody reads these books and publications, as the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said here earlier today while speaking on another Head. You may go to one of these offices that subscribe to journals, and you will find that the maid has to throw them in the wastepaper basket after they get cobweb on them. It is just a waste of the taxpayers' money, and it could better be spent on each centenarian this year.
5.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to worry anymore under this Head because there are many other Items on which I can speak, but I understand we want to come to a close at this hour.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under this Head I see a sum of $16,000 under Item 10 for travelling. I also see under Item 9, $1,000 for overtime. Now I believe there is in existence a method of charging for inspections before Barbados Light and Power makes the necessary connections, and these charges are based on the number of points in a particular building. Now I would like Government to change this method of charging. I have a belief and I want to join with the hon. junior member for St. Peter in saying that we have had some fires in Bridgetown which caused a scare to everybody. There is no doubt that especially in the older type of building there have been modifications to the electrical system without further inspection, and as the hon. junior member for St. Peter has said, I do not believe there are any electrical standards laid down, or the persons doing electrical work have not been trained in the electrical standards what to do and what not to do. Any householder who knows anything about electricity can run a plug from one point to another.

I know from practical experience that because of the charges made for the number of points which are installed when people apply for service, points are added in the building after the Electrical Inspector has issued his certificate. These points may be added by competent persons or they may be added months after the inspection has passed by some incompetent person. I believe the reason for this is to get away from sone of the charges in respect of the inspection fees. I would like to see the system change whereby you would have a fixed fee for houses and similar fixed fee or a sliding scale for commercial properties, and I believe this would stop some of the indiscriminate adding of points. I would also like to see some sort of regulation

brought in for inspection of buildings after a certain number of years particularly in the highly populated areas.

If for instance a firebreaks out at Rendezvous where houses are built 5,000 square feet, it would present some difficulty in controlling the fire at a particular house or particular area, and I would like to know that these outbreaks are not caused by electrical faults, and would hope that the Electrical Department would consider the question of charge and inspections in this particular light. At this point I would like to see inspection started on the old commercial buildings and to make sure that there are proper regulations. I know that arising out of the enquiry it was said that in one particular building there had been a number of additions to the Electrical circuits without permission from the Electrical Inspection Department, and I would like to see something like this brought into being.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Peter mentioned the fires which took placed in Bridgetown and mentioned that necessary precautions should be taken to make sure that a recurrence would not arise. I would like to tell him that arising out of the fires, legislation is being drafted to ensure that electricians are suitably qualified, and that people dealing with electrical equipment, the changing of wires and so on, are qualified to such an extent that there would be no fire hazards or traps left around.

I would also like to inform him that one inspector was awarded a one year course in India in 1969. A second inspector was awarded a scholarship to St. Augustine in Trinidad to pursue a B.Sc. Degree in electricity, but he failed his first year examination on two occasions. Temporary staff will be provided to cope with additional work as it arises, but a staff of three senior electrical inspectors and eight electrical inspectors should not be overlooked. The number of apprentices must necessarily be related to the number of people available to supervise their work. In other words, you can only have a number of inspectors working if you have the number of competent people of a high standard to supervise the work, otherwise it is useless. If you have people without supervisors competent enough, you can run into trouble. The hon. junior member for St. Peter asked if people are just picked by guess or at random or whether they are selected. Most of the people who are picked as trainees are from the polytechnic.

The question that the sum of $78,970 under Head 36 – Electrical Inspection Department – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until Monday next, 22nd March, 1971, at 4 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative

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

5.40 p.m.

On resumption:–

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker before the House resumes Committee I am asking leave to lay a document and to give notice and take the first reading of a Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Ministry of Education for the period 1st September, 1968 to 31st August, 1969.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964, and I now beg to move that this Bill be read a first time.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; thereto automatically it now reverts.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

HEAD 31 - PRINTING OFFICE

Head 31 – PRINTING OFFICE – was called.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $214,744 under Head 31 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: This Head is for the allocation of $214,744 to cover Government's expenditure on printing for various Government Departments. It is known that there have been many strictures about the Government Printery during the past, and what we want to say is this, that there are certain factors which seem to dominate the situation there, and in our view unless Government is prepared to get down seriously and tackle the problem as it ought to be tackled, we will continue year after year, day after day, week after week, month after month having the same complaints repeated and seeing no progress made whatsoever.

One of the very first things that is hindering progress at the Government Printery is the question of space. If one were to look over the Printery generally, and perhaps more so at the administrative section, one would see that the absence of any space or room for planning and organising the activities of the Printery is conspicuous. Let us look, Mr. Chairman, at the office that is occupied by the Government Printer. That in itself is so cramped, although the Government Printer's chief task is to clear his desk, and the sooner he can clear his desk the greater facility of ease must be found in the other departments of the Printery but the difficulty arises here where on very many occasions the Government Printer cannot find what has been placed on his desk. If the bottle neck begins from that point, it means that the whole Printery, all the other departments must be held up awaiting what was formerly in the hands of the Government Printer for passing on to the other departments, and this is not a case where it happens on Mondays and does not happen again for any other day of the week, it happens three or four or five times during the week; there is nothing but confusion there.

Let us look then, Mr. Chairman, at the general office of the Government Printery. The general office must be accepted as the place for the intake, the place for delivery and the place for accounting, and for this, Mr. Chairman, we must have our Receptionist. We know that the Government Printery is provided with guaranteed patronage by the various Government Departments and the more guaranteed the range of patronage, the more numerous must be the enquiries going through to this Department, hence the person charged with the responsibility of answering the telephone, making the enquiries for the delay or non-delivery of some item of work, that person is charged with a very heavy responsibility, and this is what I have got to say, that to function efficiently the person has got to be very familiar with telling tales of untruth so as not to embarrass the Government Printer and his staff at all times, but that is a very unfortunate situation.

Let us go to the Composing Section. As one approaches there, one must see that the department is very cramped indeed; one will find that machines are placed too close to each other, and the human element being what it is, you are obliged to have more conversation than production. That is one of the problems with which the Government Printery is now faced.

4.10 p.m.

We go now to the Camera Room. At present the upright type of camera is used at the Government Printery. We might say that the space presently occupied by the camera room might be considered to be adequate, but in a Government Printery where expansion is envisaged and where provision is made in these Estimates for expansion, one must come to the conclusion that the dimensions of the camera in terms of its production and in terms of the size of its plates - you can provide plates for a machine 14" x 17" and not more. That is the upright type of camera, but if you are going to use a horizontal type of camera it will call for much more room than is presently availabe to the camera section.

Mr. Chairman, why we are laying some stress on this is due to the fact that the Government must embark on the horizontal type of camera, because it is the one way of producing the type of plate and the size of plate that would be necessary for the size machine that would be required in the long run, if they continue to go offset throughout.

Now the Press Room is also small, so what must be done under the circumstances? It is a question of space. With reference to the Ruling machine, one would go to the Government Printery and find the Ruling Machine Operator at work but he cannot be seen. There is a pile of work all around him that makes it difficult for anyone to discern whether he is working or idling. Under the circumstances, there can be little or no control that anyone can carry out over his functions.

Mr. Chairman, we have a very, very dangerous situation at the Government Printery. It is one that has to be remedied irrespective of who gets offended. The major problem facing the Government Printery is one that has been obtaining for some time. It is a question of having somebody styled as a Government Printer who is not at all familiar with the art of printing. In other words, having a Government Printer who knows absolutely nothing about printing. We do not want to deprive any person from earning a living, but let us ask ourselves this question: If a Government Printer knows absolutely nothing about printing, can he earn his living as a printer? Can the living he is earning be considered an honest living?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should just like to advise the hon. member that the Government Printer, whoever he may be, is appointed by the Public Service Commission and not by the Government. It is not a question of a party appointment or anything like that. It is the normal thing in the Civil Service. If the Public Service Commission are satisfied that an officer is competent to perform the duties as Government Printer, they will appoint him to fill the post. He does not go there of his own free will.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. member rose to make me believe that, because the Public Service Commission are responsible for the appointment of the Government Printer, I would believe that such a person once having been appointed would swallow the art of printing!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, what I wanted to explain to the hon. member is that neither his party nor our party has any control over the appointment of the person sent to the Government Printery as the Government Printer. That is a matter entirely in the hands of the Public Service Commission. Perhaps they feel that anyone they send is competent to do the job; they look through the list of civil servants and appoint the one that they feel is competent to do the job. Whether the party of the hon. member is in power, or whether we are in power the *status quo* will remain. The Constitution of this country does provide that there should be no interference with the Public Service Commission.

Mr. CHIARMAN: Point made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is a Public Service Commission and not a Public Disservice Commission. That is what the Minister seems not to understand. If we are the people charged with having to vote money to pay for the mistakes of the Public Service Commission, can anybody attempt to tell me that a remedy cannot be found for such a situation?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like to point out to the hon. member that he should not blame us for having someone appointed as Government Printer who is not a printer himself. If the Public Service Commission felt that the Government Printer should be a printer himself, then they would have advertised and appointed such a person. They felt that the office could be filled from the normal run of the Public Service. If this Government interfered with any function of the public Service, then the hon. member would be the first person to come and criticise us. On the other hand, if they interfered with the functions of the Public Service Commission, we would criticise them. We have no control over appointments in the Public Service.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the Minister understands what he is saying.

Hon. A.DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand quite clearly what I am saying. In the view of the Public Service Commission the officer appointed as the Government Printer is an administrative officer rather than a technical officer. The person appointed has worked his way up in the Public Service and has been appointed as the Government Printer which is an administrative rather than a technical post. If the hon. member feels that the Government Printer should be a technical officer, then he should introduce a Resolution to that effect. I do not think it is fair, while considering the Estimates, to attack the Government as to who should be Government Printer, or whether the Government Printer should be an administrative or technical officer.

4.20 p.m.

We are quite willing to discuss with the hon. member who is an experienced printer himself what he thinks about the printery. As a matter of fact we have a great respect for the hon. member's views in respect of matters pertaining to the printery and we will pay due regard to any recommendations which he makes.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will still make the point that I want to make. The Minister said that the normal course is to advertise, but that this Public Service Commission.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, our Public Service Commission, not mine; the Public Service Commission of Barbados.

Mr. HINDS: The hon. member said that the Public Service Commission did not follow the ordinary course in advertising.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order .....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I crave your protection in this House. This is mere heckling.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, let the hon. member quote me correctly. All I am saying is that the correct procedure ought to be to advertise. I am not saying whether the Public Service Commission did advertise or not.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that the Public Service Commission felt that they could have filled the post without going through the normal course of advertising.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.....

Mr. HINDS: I ask that you refer to the Reporter's notes and have the records put straight.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I never said so. What I said is that the Public Service Commission considered that it could appoint an administrator rather than a technician. The point is that you have a plant superintendent and other people down the line who are technicians, but the post of Government Printer is an administrative post. If the hon member feels that it ought to be a technical post, we will have to put in whatever the Civil Establishment says and appoint a technician as Government Printer rather than an administrator.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is within Government's knowledge that tinkering or toying with an administrator to do technical work at the Government Printery for so long has proven to be a failure. It is not that Government does not know that the Government Printer ought to be a technician, and that lacking technical knowledge he has got to rely on his juniors, and wherever you find a Head of Department .....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member is criticising his own Party because

this post was established since 1957 when the Barbados Labour Party was running this country, and at that time if they thought that the Government Printer ought to be a technician they would have made the appropriate Civil Establishment Order. They did not make that Order, so do not criticise us. We did not make the Order and introduce in this House the Civil Establishment Order for the Printery or for the Government Printer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. HINDS: It proves conclusively that even the present Government has not benefited from the mistakes, if any mistakes there were, of the past Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The past Government apparently did not make mistakes.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in any Department, if the Head has got to depend on his juniors to assist him in carrying out his administrative functions, he cannot administer fairly and squarely.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member knows that the Printery has appointed as Government Printer an administrative officer. He does not have to depend on the technicians for guidance to carry out his administrative functions. What he may have to depend on them for is technical advice, but I quite honestly feel and know that the present Government Printer is quite competent to carry out any administrative functions he has to perform in the Printery.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry for the Minister who has just sat down for the simple reason that if you appoint an administrator to deal with technicians, there has got to be at some point communication between the administrator and his technicians, and they have got to be able to understand each other. In other words, the technical language has got to be interpreted by the administrator, and in printing there are technical terms that no mere administrator or Civil Servant can comprehend in a matter of seconds; it would cause confusion in his whole department.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, this happens in any Department of Government where there are technicians. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture is not a technician; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education is not an academic technician so to speak; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works must depend on the technical officers. Now he cannot speak the technical language, but he is an administrator. I want the hon. member to understand that in the printery there is a plant superintendent who is the top technician, and it is he who advises the administrator who is the Government Printer, and he is strictly in charge of technical affairs.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is telling me that a plant superintendent is in charge. If he does not know what he is talking, why doesn't he sit down and let us get on with the people's business? His functions are machinery, but we are talking about the other end, what goes on the machine and what must come off. He does not understand what it is all about.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think it is the other way around. The Government Printer is for the time being an administrator. There must be somebody in the printery to look after administrative matters. The hon. member may make a case for another technical man over and above the plant superintendent, but there must be somebody who possesses administrative ability to administer the affairs of the printery, and this is the function of the present Government Printer. If the hon. member feels there should be another technician of that level, let him say so. The Chief Agricultural Officer and the Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of Communications have people who work under them, but they are the coordinators between the work of the other technicians down the line and the coordinators between the work of the other technicians down the line and the Permanent Secretaries. If this is the sort of thing you want, you say so, but do not criticise the work of the Government Printer who perhaps would be trying his best.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister tells us that the Government Printer for the time being is an administrator. I wonder what he expects him to be at a later stage. That is pertinent to the issue at this stage.

4.30 p.m.

I want to know what the Minister thinks he should do at a later stage, because he said this is for the time being.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I told the hon. member that we are prepared on this side to pay respect to his knowledge of printing and to discuss with him what he thinks would be the best approach for operating the Printery satisfactorily. If we have discussions and then it is discovered that you will want a Technician as Government Printer, then if we are satisfied about this, we will have to amend the Civil Establishment Order, but we cannot put the blame for a breakdown for technical matters on the administrator who is purely and simply an administrator. It seems to me that what the hon. member should be asking for this afternoon is another technician for the Printery to cooperate with the administrator and coordinate the work down the line.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the administrator at the Printery must be familiar with what is known as quantities control. If that is brought into play it can make for considerable ease, increase in production and can go a long way in bringing about unnecessary stoppages in your plant. We are satisfied that there is not such an exercise at the Government Printery at the present moment.

The question of financial readjustment. This is not a matter, Mr. Chairman, which should be

approached by the Government Printer in isolation, it has got to be tackled by the Government Printer and all his technicians, and this can only be tackled after one has had a fair knowledge, in other words, a survey has been carried out of what are going to be the requirements of the Government Printery for a period of years. Let us for a single moment look at what is taking place around and about the Government Printery at the moment. I want to show the Hon. Minister who is continually rising to his feet how sincere his Government is when it comes to the question of accepting advice when it comes from this side. What is happening is this, the Government has gone and set up a Committee to carry out investigations - and I will tell you this, Sir, it reminds me of years ago when a Committee had been set up in England to reform the law and it was comprised of not a single lawyer. The Government Printery has found itself in its present situation because it was ill-advised, the Government was badly advised from the beginning, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health who was at that time the Librarian, he is the person who had been to England seeing small printeries operate in some of the boroughs of London and came back down here thinking he had all the knowledge of printing and advised Government badly. After the Government has spent million upon millions of dollars and cannot cope with the situation, cannot hope ever to cope with the work, Government has set up this Committee and the same Permanent Secretary who advised the Government badly in the first instance is now Chairman of this Investigating Committee.

Now let us ask ourselves this simple question; if this Permanent Secretary advised the Government badly in the first instance, could he be expected to head a Committee now to investigate the Government Printery and to bring in a finding that would criticise the advice that he had given the Government in the past? That is why he manoeuvred himself to be Chairman of the Committee that Government would never be able to get the benefit of good advice whether it is coming from this side or from any other side. The Government is now making fun at this situation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the particular officer that the hon. member is speaking about did not manoeuvre his way, the Officer is one of the most competent Civil Servants there are in the West Indies and in Barbados. He is a conscientious worker, and everybody knows that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health is the person to whom he is referring, and he is one of the best administrators and a most competent Civil Servant, so you should not say that he manoeuvred his way, he was placed there because of his ability and because of his competence.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has answered my points very cleverly. It was the Permanent Secretary's efficiency at manoeuvring that helped him to get himself as Chairman of this Committee; that is what my argument is. He is efficient as a Civil Servant, but that does not mean he is efficient at law, at public health, at shoemaking, at carpentry, engineering and everything else, that is what has confounded the whole Government of this Country. A man cannot be a Jack of all trades and an expert at everything.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in this very Chamber the hon. member is a jack or a jill of every trade. The hon. member is an expert on education, agriculture, health, especially the hospital.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the functions of a member of Parliament, I think, are quite unlike those of a Civil Servant or a Permanent Secretary in many respects. Let us get on with the debate. This Committee that has been set up will never report, and I challenge the Government to say anything else. It will never report that there has been a backlog of work in the Government Printery for various Government Departments ranging over a period of three years.
4.40 p.m.

It is a fact that Government Departments have placed orders with the Government Printery for work and it has not been touched for three years. What are you investigating? *(Asides)* I am being heckled, Mr. Chairman. The Committee is not going to report, Mr. Chairman, that the work of Parliament as estimated by the Government Printery, is depriving the Government Printery of from three to four days normal work each week. The work of Parliament alone is doing that. In other words, to keep the business of Parliament going the Government Printery has to set aside other work in order to avoid criticism at this end.

Now, one of Government's problems is that they have been duped into purchasing a light type of machine. In other words, the type of machine that a firm like K. R. Hunte or A. S. Bryden would normally purchase to do their own work was purchased by the Government, but that is not the type of machine that should have been purchased for a Government Printery catering to all of these Departments. As you know, Mr. Chairman, with the take-over of all the functions of the Local Government all of these Departments have thrown a tremendous amount of work on the Government Printery.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The same thing the hon. member is saying now is what we had to tell him about five weeks ago and he did not believe us. The hon. member will see that we have agreed with his advice that there should be a separate Printery for Parliament, and we will deal with that in due course. He knows about this, and yet he says that we do not co-operate and we do not pay due regard to advice from the other side. It is because of the advice that we got from the other side that we should have a separate Printery for Parliament because the Government Printery was overworked, that we have given consideration to the matter. We told him about this five weeks ago.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the mistake that was made is that Government were not advised to buy the heavy-duty type of machinery that was necessary to cope with the volume of work that has been thrown on the Government Printery. That is what must be feared in any Report submitted by the Committee, be-

cause the Committee, as at present constituted, will cannot and will not submit a Report that contradicts the advice given to the Government when they were going to embark upon the setting up of the Government Printery.

Mr. Chairman, can you imagine that in the Government Printery today you can still find what is called a "Bouncer"?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not the one in cricket!

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the one at the Government Printery can give you hernia as well as the one in cricket. This "Bouncer" is a small hand-operated printing machine that was taken over from the Public Library. The "Bouncer" is used for printing invitations and so on. It is so slow and so outmoded that every operator tries to run from it. In other words, if a Pressman knew that he had a big job printing invitations on the "Bouncer", he would prefer to stay away from work on that particular day. That is exactly what is going on at the Government Printery. I should be glad to hear if the Committee in its recommendations would be insisting on the immediate removal of the "Bouncer" and its replacement by a high-speed type of machine with a Hyderburg Platen for printing such jobs in the year 1971.

Mr. Chairman, there is a type of knowledge that might never have been made available to the Government Printery. With its present set up we are satisfied that it is going further and further away from the Government Printer. Nobody is placing any knowledge at his disposal. In the letter press type of printing in book work, anybody familiar with the art of printing will tell you that you get better registration than you get in the offset type of printing. It is known that in the United States of America many printeries which some years ago had turned away from letter press and went offset are gradually returning to letter press. What we will admit and will not attempt to contradict is that in colour work you should use offset by all means. *(Asides)* I am now being asked, Mr. Chairman, to come out of the sun after being heckled.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see any sun in here.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister for Agriculture can see the sun. He thinks in terms of the sunshine, rain and canes. We do not want Government to spend more money fooling Parliament that we are going to created something capable of coping with the workload, and after a year or so we find ourselves spending so much that we may as well go on spending even if we are getting nowhere.

Mr. Chairman, we have to decide to have an honest Committee that will condemn the present set up to go into the matter. Do not accept my words. Get people who have a knowledge of printing - people who have experience in printing for 25, 30 or 40 years. You must have people who can go to the various Government Departments and have the officers lay out before them what they will require during the financial year. After they have gathered that information from all of the Government Departments, then anybody can sit down and plan or advise the Government what best should be done by way of equipping the Government Printery machinery-wise.

Mr. Chairman, I want to turn to Item 31 - Maintenance of Equipment - $8,000.
4.50 p.m.

To show how unmindful some Permanent Secretaries can be with all their specialist knowledge when it comes to spending the taxpayers' money, the type of machinery that Government was advised to buy to instal at the Government Printery, you find yourself every now and again having to dismantle parts of these small machines, send them overseas by airmail and the taxpayers of this country are being asked to pay freight both ways, because the manufacturers insist that they must be factory tested after a period of time. The reason for this, Mr. Chairman, is that the type of machine ordered in the first instance was the wrong type, the office type and not the Printery type. The Government Printery ought to be run now on a semi-commercial basis. The various Departments should be given their vote and allowed to buy from the Government Printery what they want, and you would find in many cases, as in the Customs and other Departments, that they would not purchase more than they are going to make use of, and hence there would be waste reduction.

Under Item 26 - Apprentices - I want the Minister to tell us if of the three any are bursars, and if so, how many. How is the amount of $18,000 for overtime arrived at especially when there is no report published by this Government that is ever published on time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would give way, I just rise to remind him that in the first week of February we had a long debate in here on a supplementary for the Printery which was for overtime and we went all out to explain to the hon. member why it was necessary that we should have this overtime, and I think the same questions he is asking now were asked then and answered to his satisfaction, otherwise, he would have been talking until now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what it does not suit the Minister to remember is that when the supplementary was before the Committee he appealed to me not to go into this and that because we would have the Estimates; but now that we have the Estimates, he believes everybody would have forgotten everything about the supplementary, so he is saying that you had information on the supplementary and you should not have it on the Estimates.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, we appealed to the hon. member but he did not pay any heed. He went on and asked the questions which we did answer.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister is making note of this overtime and will provide the answer, because what the Minister essayed to say when he sought a supplementary I doubt he would daresay today, because he knows I have been carrying out investigations and know the truth of the situation.

Now we need some space and some staff in the book-binding Department at the Government Printery, because as you would know, if the compositors, the pressmen and the ruling machine operator produced to the fullest and then you do not have your bookbinders to back up all the work and get it out, you have done nothing. There is a definite shortage of bookbinders at the Government Printery, and here again we must ask Government what is being done with regards to the training of bookbinders. Is it that Government is going to continue to pick away from the small printeries in Bridgetown their trained staff? Should Government not use the Trade School and have bookbinding classes? There is sufficient justification to set up a Department at this polytechnic for the training of bookbinding. What does Government intend doing in a matter like this?

Mr. Chairman, there are many young men and women who would be willing to lend themselves to this training if offered by Government, because they readily know that immediately upon qualifying there is a guaranteed position for them at the Government Printery or elsewhere. I do not think there is any need for me to go into any other details on this matter of the Government Printery as a whole, unless the Minister is going to tell us anything about this wonderful Committee that is at work. I can tell him that the Committee is asking to be allowed until April to submit its report, but in my view it can be given until April, 1999 because the Report can serve no useful purpose to the present Government.

Now we have an amount of $53,742 under Item 36. This is a revote to purchase Printing Presses, Justowriter Machines, Varityper machines, chairs, time recorder and accessories. Is the time recorder a replacement or is it a new item? Nobody can tell me that the Government Printery has been so very well managed throughout all these years that you did not have a time clock for the staff to peg in and peg out when occasion demanded, because that in itself would strike at the root of the ablest of administrators. Since this is a revote for printing presses, I wonder if the Minister would have before him when the request was first made for these printing presses and the type that was requested at the time, because the request would have been made bearing in mind the workload presently before the Government, or what was foreshadowed for the immediate future. Since this revote is to cover a number of years, we are quite sure that the Minister would not agree to the spending of one penny on a single press for the Government Printery.

5.00 p.m.

What is the point asking us, Mr. Chairman, to vote money for the Government Printery at all to buy presses, Justowriter Machines and the like when you have a Committee presently setting up to investigate the working of the whole Government Printery and to make recommendations. Suppose the Committee were to go contrary to my expectations and condemn the use of these Justowriters and Varityper machines; what would be the object of voting money for such a purpose? I think that the Committee studiously requested more time to submit its report until after the Estimates for the year 1971-72 had been approved by the Legislature and not for any other reason.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on Item 29 - Materials, an amount of $125,300. I wonder if this sum is adequate or whether it is a sum placed here to come back later in the year to ask for more money, and the reason why I say that is to say this. During the past year many Government Departments have experienced difficulty in getting work out of the Government Printing Office. I know for sure that in the Courts there was a period when there were no Order Books available in many of the Courts, and when queried it was stated that the order was placed well in advance but every time they called the printing office they were told there was no material on which to print the work.

The question of the hospital. Persons have been complaining time and time again that they could get nothing out of the hospital in the way of reports and various documents, and the same report was forthcoming, that they were getting no printing out of the printery. I would like the Minister to tell us whether these complaints were due to inadequacy of staff, lack of material or whatever the case may be, because simple as it may seem it holds up the whole operation not only of Government business but of private business as well, and if the Government Printery, as the junior member for St. Peter had said, has got this guaranteed work, and I have queried before if some of the work cannot be given to outside printeries, and there seems to be no answer, I would like to know from the Minister if this sum is an adequate sum, because it appears to be very little over what was voted last year, and I wonder if it is enough to keep the Courts, the Hospital and the other institutions of Government in full stock during the year.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is perfectly true that not long ago we had quite an extensive debate in Committee of Supply on the operations of the Printery, when we came before the Committee to seek supplementary appropriation of some money for overtime, and on that occasion both sides of the House took the opportunity to discuss as fully as the time then permitted the operations of this department. I am about to say that between then and now the situation has neither improved nor worsened, it presents the same kind of problems now in the third week of March as indeed in the first week.

There are however certain points which have been raised by hon. members opposite which were not raised then. First of all, in respect of this Committee of which the hon. member for St. Peter has been speaking, this Committee was appointed follow-

ing a complaint by the Civil Service Association that problems of low morale existed in the department. The composition of the Committee was agreed to both by the staff and the official side of Whitley Council, so the Committee would therefore look into personnel problems more than anything else. I would not therefore like to give the House the understanding that this Committee is going to concern itself exclusively with all the problems of the Printery, problems both of a personnel and of a technical nature and all things like that, I am advised that this is a Committee which is designed to smooth out difficulties and bottle necks, if you can call them this, among the staff of the Printery, but I have also been informed that in the meanwhile a request has been made for British technical assistance for the provision of a technical expert to examine and make recommendations for the improvement and updating of the printing techniques and all machinery.

Item 26 was also referred to by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. Provision is made in these Estimates for three apprentices who are bursars. I want to tell the hon. member that I take his point very well about the need for training in printing; the printing business in this Island, I understand, I have not checked this myself but those who are competent to do it have so informed me, the printing business in this Island is a volume of something like $5 million to $6 million a year and it would seem to me that any business enterprise which can gross that amount every year does need to have a reservoir of trained people to call upon continually for its expansion. It is therefore a very valid point to get people trained in all the printing techniques as well as in book binding and all other ancilliary techniques.
5.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have discussed this matter both with the Minister of Home Affairs in respect of the Printery itself and with the Minister of Education in respect of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and they both agreed with me that we should as immediately as possible make opportunities available to have young people trained in printing techniques. The hon. member's point there is very well taken.

With regard to the equipment, I am advised that there is no such thing as a 3-year backlog of work from Departments, but from time to time it is brought to the Government Printer's attention by Departments that, occasionally and in some instances, he has been overdue with the return of their work for six or eight months but never three years.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that it may be six or eight months, and not admitting that there is a 3-year backlog of work because to admit it was three years would sound too bad? There is definitely a 3-year backlog of work. Let the Minister be properly advised by the Government Departments that have not got their work out for 3 years. They have the dates on which they placed their orders with the Government Printery, and they can show you their local purchase orders for 3 years. Are you still going to say that it is only 8 months? Do you mean that 8 months do not sound as bad at 3 years?

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member is entitled to make of this whatever he chooses. If you make a statement in this House that the Government Printery is in arrears in delivery of work to Government Departments, and the Department itself says not 3 years but hardly more than 8 months, what do you expect me to say?

Mr. HINDS: Which Department said so?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member and the Committee must understand this about the Government Printery: Even if you admit that some of the machinery is outdated; even if you admit that when it was ordered they did not foresee the volume of the work which would be thrown on the Department, it is still true that this is a Department which gets more and more work thrown upon it as the work of the Government increases. Some of the work which is thrown upon it cannot be gauged beforehand. Suppose, for instance, there were to be the General Elections, say, within 3 weeks. It is almost certain, if there were to be General Elections in 3 weeks, that the Government Printery would have to drop whatever it was doing to get ahead with the ballot papers and the huge volume of election machinery, and this would have to be at the exclusion of everything else it had been doing.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, would the General Elections and the necessary printing therefore..

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe we are without a quorum.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have been advised that there is no quorum. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, preparing for a General Elections is properly the work of Parliament.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The Supervisor of Elections or whoever he is.

Mr. HINDS: It is the work of Parliament. You are processing or expediting Parliament's business.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In that broad sense, yes. In other words, you are expediting the business which will lead to the election of Parliament. I am only saying that from the time you have started the proceedings for General Elections, the Government Printery would have to drop everything else and attend to that. Although both sides of the Committee

agree that we would like to see the Estimates laid in Parliament, perhaps, a month or six weeks earlier, even when the Government Printery is printing the Estimates there are other things equally important which have to be laid aside in order to get the Draft Estimates before Parliament. This happens all the time.

Mr. Chairman, certainly twenty or thirty Government Departments and Statutory Boards each would be importuning the Government Printery at the same time to the same extent to get their work done, but something must be left out. While all of this is going on the work of Parliament has to be done, and the work of the Courts will still have to be done because the Courts cannot function without documents neither can Parliament.

Mr. St. JOHN: Sometimes they have to.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am only telling the hon. member that even if you admit that the staff will need further expertise or more rationalisation, you still have to admit that the volume of work is increasing. The hon. member did ask a specific point about the equipment. I am advised that most of this equipment which is now in use was bought in 1957. It is recognised that this equipment should be increased and, in some cases, replaced to cope with the present and future volume of work. One medium sized Press and one large Press, sheet size, are estimated to cope with the present volume of printing. The hon. member will appreciate the technical aspect of that much more than I can, so I am hoping he will not press me for a description of these Presses because I really do not know.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has given us something to talk about. He has equipment in the Government that was only bought in 1957. The life expectancy of the worst made printing machine could not be less than 25 years, so that is further proof of Government spending money badly on bad advice. When Government should have been advised to buy the heavy-duty type of equipment for heavy work, they went and bought this typewriter sort of nonsense on which they find themselves every year spending a considerable sum of money to maintain. What can the Minister tell us about spending the taxpayers' money on Item 31 - Maintenance of Equipment - $8,000? The Note says that it is to keep equipment in proper working order and to purchase spare parts. Every now and then parts have to be flown out. Is it intended that the poor taxpayers of this country must never have proper housing? You are setting up a Government Printery; you have to fly out parts and have machinery laid up for months when a very little fool can set up a printery in Bridgetown, and if there is a breakdown he can have the machinery welded and be ready to work the following day!

5.20 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: While we are awaiting the reply to the hon. member's question on the maintenance vote, I wonder if I might make this observation purely as a layman and not as a person who knows anything at all about the life and durability of our printing machines. If the hon. member argues that in 1957 the Government bought the wrong type of equipment for the kind of job which the Government Printery would have to do, is it not feasible that that equipment when put to the straining of this kind of work would have a shorter life expectancy than the customary 25 years?

Mr. HINDS: I quite agree with the Minister why the machines have not been able to do the work. We started with a certain number of machines, but each year we did not put those machines to the strain. We went into the taxpayers' purse year after year and added more and more machines. We did not put the machines that we had in 1957 under this tremendous strain; we relieved them at the taxpayers' expense.

Now I asked the Minister how he was going to spend $18,000 in overtime. Why don't you employ staff or let us know what is causing this overtime bearing in mind that every publication is at least four or five months late?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On overtime quite often work is demanded urgently and at short notice. I am not trying to avoid answering this question because there is nothing complicated about it, but I am sure this kind of explanation was given to the hon. member some weeks ago when he asked about the necessity for overtime, and I think if the hon. member would look back, I speak under correction, but this can be examined, what we have done this year is probably to make up the vote under this Item to an amount equal to the orignal vote plus the supplementary so that perhaps Parliament may not have to be troubled in the next financial year about providing overtime. Apart from the ordinary run of Government business, very frequently the Printery has at short notice to print forms which are required with the various regulations passed in subsidiary legislation, examination papers, reports and other publications for various Ministries and to do the preparation even of these Estimates sometimes in the time required. All of this is part of the ordinary and occasionally extraordinary work which requires the overtime.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister not see, looking at the figures before him, that when you subtract the cost of the machinery, equipment and like services that you find yourself with a sum of money? An amount of $18,000 for overtime is a tremendous lot of money to spend in a Department such as the Government Printery.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member has already answered the point which he has made, because he said a few minutes ago that it may be better to consider increasing the staff and perhaps obviating the

need for this, but then even if you add more staff the charges would still be the same, although perhaps there may be no charge under overtime.

Mr. HINDS: We are not against spending the money, but what I would like to point out to the Minister is that you work overtime after you have worked a full day normal time. In other words, an overtime body is a tired body, and if you are spending $18,000 to pay tired people to work, would it not be better to spend the same amount or little more and get your normal flow or work? The whole thing has been organised badly.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I say again that I take the hon. member's point that the money could probably be spent employing more people, but they would have to be people who are qualified. You could not just employ them for the sake of employing them, but the charge on the vote would probably still be the same.

Mr. HINDS: Will the Minister admit that he has to pay many people for idling during the course of the day because there are no machines to keep them going, and after some have gone, those who did not work during the day but whom you still have to pay then turn in to work for overtime money. Let the Minister deny this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not have to admit it. If the hon. member wished me to know it, then I have no objection to hearing it.

Mr. HINDS: There is one point the Minister should be able to answer quite readily. He said a request has been made for British technical assistance, and an expert is to examine this and update everything for him. I wonder when the request was made for this assistance and what replies have been received so far, because merely coming here and saying that requests have been made does not add up to anything at all where we are concerned.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On Item 291 am advised that the materials vote asked for at this time is thought to be adequate. Under Item 31 - Maintenance of Equipment, this money is to take care of the normal wear and tear of the equipment. It is not usual to fly out parts for repairs. It is only the justowriters that require factory adjustment at some time to some of their parts. There are several bits of equipment to be maintained, and one must not think in terms of presses and composing equipment only.

Mr. HINDS: How much money is spent sending these parts overseas and paying freight back and forth? That is what we are worried about.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, how can this be answered except with reference to the current vote? I think they could not know in respect of this provision how much they are going to spend in sending parts overseas.

5.30 p.m.

What they have done, I imagine, is to take a look at the normal outlay of this Item over the past year or two and put in an amount which they imagine would cover it, but I do not know that they can tell you now how they are going to spend it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister must admit that flying out parts for factory testing is an unusual exercise in any Printery in Barbados, and as such the Government Printery, or at least the Accountant should have it before him how much money he has spent in flying out parts for factory testing. Do you think it is fun to buy a machine for about $4,000 and spend as much as that to fly out parts in the course of two or three years? Air freight is a costly exercise, and that is what we are trying to hammer into the heads of Government.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think there is another aspect of it which the hon. member must not allow the Committee to forget, that the appropriation here is not only for flying out parts to be adjusted, but also to purchase spare parts. In other words, the total vote is not spent only on transporting Justowriters or parts of them but also for buying spare parts for other machinery as well.

Mr. HINDS: The Minister just said that they did not spend much on buying spare parts.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not recall this, I said it is not usual to fly out parts for repairs, but it is only the Justowriters that require factory adjustments at some time to some of their parts.

Mr. HINDS: This is what I said, Mr. Chairman, it is an unusual exercise so that when it occurs it should not be difficult for you to keep an accounting of it, so the Minister should have no difficulty in telling this Committee how much money has been spent on this. It is an expenditure after all.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if the Committee can wait it can have this information, I do not have it readily in my hand. At least I could deal with the time recorder which is a new item. It has been considered that much time has been lost by unpunctuality and inadequate vision, it seems, by section leaders. In an effort to improve the management at this level it was thought that the introduction of a time clock would be most useful. As the only industrial type department, the innovation will be closely studied both in its relation to improved hours of attendance and the minute control of hours of overtime. I am afraid that I have to apologise to the Committee for not having the other information available; it literally is not available within a stone's throw of where I am standing. (Mr. HINDS: That could not be true.) The hon. member says it is not true, and I would be glad if he could prove to me that it is not true, because that is what I have been told, that the information is not available here.

Mr. HINDS: It is not at a stone's throw at your right but it is a stone's throw at your front; I have the information here.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I wonder why we do not economise and throw the whole burden of the Public

Service on the hon. member. (Mr. HINDS: I have my job.) We could economise and employ the hon. member to do the work of the whole Public Service.

The question that the sum of $214,744 under Head 31 - Printing Office - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 34 - Ministry of Communications and Works was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, before committing the amount for Head 34, there are certain amendments which I would like to make. On page 80, Item 80 - Transport Services - delete the figure "$600,000" appearing under column "Other Expenditure" and delete the note to Item 80 appearing therein. On page 80, Item 33 - Government Buildings - delete the figure $124,502" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure $129,782" and amend the note to the Item by the addition of the words "Repeater Station, Castle Grant" at the end of the Item.
5.40 p.m.

After making the changes, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $7,638,943 under Head 34 - Ministry of Communications and Works - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we were promised some time ago that we would be circulated with a list of the Tenantry Road Programme for the coming financial year. I wonder whether the list is available. I should like to have a list of the areas where they propose to carry out maintenance and highway improvement this year. This list would considerably speed up the debate. I would suggest that we get that list, as it would help us tremendously in dealing with this Head. I am referring to Item 72 - Roads - $610,578. The Note says that it includes provision for maintenance of tools, repairs and maintenance of roads including parish roads, surfacing arterial and feeder roads, repairs and maintenance of guard walls, etc. We were promised to be circulated with a list showing what is proposed to be done in each parish, so that we can inform our constituents. If we cannot get that list, we will have a parish pump debate in here for 5 hours. It may even go on for 10 hours, because this is one Head that I do not believe any closure Motion will be moved to curtail the debate.

Mr. Chairman, Government must know by now in what areas they intend carrying out ordinary maintenance this year. I can start thinking of Christ Church, and I know that the whole $610,000 could be spent there. Mr. Chairman, I understand that in St. George you would feel that it would be necessary to spend $2 million on the roads up there, so neglectful have Government been in the maintenance of those roads. Can the Minister tell us anything about the list?

Mr. Chairman, Item 56 - Lighting of Street and Public Places - $300,000. When the Local Government used to provide street lights a procedure was established whereby the Councillors under their Highway and Lighting Committee toured the various parishes and allocated the lights on a reasonable and equitable basis. I am at a loss to understand how lights are allocated at the present moment. No doubt the Ministry has a policy in relation to this, but that policy is not sufficiently well known. I should be glad if the Hon. Minister would tell us about that. There are certain areas in my constituency in Christ Church where people are in grave danger due to the increase of traffic arising from certain developments that have taken place, and I would like to draw that to the attention of the Hon. Minister. One such area is Lodge Road. Lodge Road, because of the industrial estate and because of the narrowness of the roads, is an area where a tremendous increase in traffic has taken place recently. Sergeant's Village is a through road, and there is a tremendous amount of traffic going up and down.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is no quorum.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clerk, let the Bell be rung. It has been brought to my attention that there is no quorum.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of other areas where street lights were promised for years. I have a belief that can be proven that fewer street lights have been put in now than when the Local Government were dealing with the matter. Why is it that Christ Church does not have more lights? Do not tell me about the main road. I am talking of areas with the exception of Regency Park, Elizabeth Park and Rendezvous Gardens. Those are all first-class areas. *(Asides)* I am saying that Government should not appear to be catering to one particular section of the community, because other people want lights, too. We must defintely have lights in other areas. I notice that you have increased the vote by $100,000.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that I have had the experience of seeing both the Local Government and the Central Government allocating street lights, and I feel that the Local Government did the job better. There was more intimacy of contact, and the lights were allocated on a more equitable basis. What is more, Mr. Chairman, is that the maintenance of the street lights is not as good as it was in the past. Along Oistin Road there are a number of those street lights that have been out of order for long periods of time. I know that the Light and Power Company

have a contract to keep the lights going after the Government have paid the initial cost of installation, but the system of reporting defects and faults is not functioning because there are long periods of time when these lights are out of commission and nothing is done about the matter.

Mr. Chairman, on one occasion the Prime Minister agreed with us that it was the proper thing to have the allocations that the Ministry had decided upon brought in here and distributed to hon. members, parish by parish, so that representations could be made, and that would save a lot of debate and a lot of persecution which hon. members get from their constituents in respect of such matters. We still cannot get compliance with that. You would not have put in $300,000 in the Estimates unless you had a specific number of lights in mind. All of us have an interest in this.
5.50 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has left and I will leave the answer for my general reply.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you have an answer to give, you can give it. If he wants to hear it, he will hear it at some other time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The hon. senior member for Christ Church said that less lighting is taking place now in the Island than in previous years when it was done under Local Government. I would like to assure the hon. member that this is far from the truth.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I do not want the hon. senior member for Christ Church to be misunderstood. I got the impression that what he said was not that there was less lighting, but that there was less lighting in rural areas which originally were looked after by the Local Government, but that the main highways which were national projects still have lighting. The small tenantries were the areas that were suffering and were not getting any lights.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The hon. member admitted that on highways we were carrying out a good lighting system, but in tenantries and in the general smaller areas we were not carrying out any lighting. This is not so. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry in conjunction with the Electric Company is at present still carrying out a survey on density of population of the entire Island, and there is an order for over 3,000 lights which should be here at least by the middle of June for the entire lighting programme. These are not for highways alone, and it is not true to say that we have only carried out lighting on highways. I have a list of the number of lights that were installed during the end of last year and the early part of this year, and if hon. members would like me to call some of the areas and the amount of lights that have been installed, I will do so. At Gemswick in St. Philip fourteen new lights were installed.

Mr. CRAIG: Before the Minister goes on, how many houses are there in Gemswick?

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, there are about 120 houses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Let the Minister continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, would the Minister before he leaves Gemswick tell us how many miles of road the fourteen lights cover in the area?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I promise the hon. member to get that information for him as I have not got it here.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, would the Minister state the priority for putting lights in Gemswick as compared with an area like Dunlow Lane?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I will give hon. members the parishes where lights have been installed. In St. Philip, Gemswick 14, and Six Cross Roads 64. St. John.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, can the Minister tell us where Six Cross Roads begins and ends?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I have not got any information of the distances where the lights.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you realise that you have made the third member standing? Will hon. members please take their seats?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: *(Asides)* Is the hon. member asking me a question or telling me?

Mr. HINDS: After the Minister gave us Six Roads in St. Philip, he next mentioned Six Roads in Christ Church.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not so sure if you heard correctly, because I am making a note and he said St. John. I have not heard him call Christ Church yet. I am asking hon. members to give the Minister a chance to reply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Christ Church: Parish Land 12; Golf View Terrace 4; St. John: Gall Bill four old lights, 25 new ones; Massiah Street 6 old lights, 32 new ones. Edgecliff.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! The Hon. Minister is replying.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, all I need do is to rise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And when I rise will you please sit?

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Take your time. The Minister will give you the information.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rose before the hon. senior member for Bridgetown and you asked me to sit.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That may be true. Will both hon. members please take their seats? I am willing to hear the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Thank you, Mr, Chairman, but I now give way to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to tangle up the Minister, but I did not hear how many lights he said there were in Massiah Street.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I did not know hon. members were making notes, otherwise I would have read a bit slower so that they could take down the figures. Gall Hill 4 old lights, 25 new ones; Massiah Street 6 old ones and 32 new ones have been 6.00 p.m.
installed; Edgecliff, 8 new ones; Venture 22 new ones; Four Roads, 20 new ones. St. Michael and the City. Kensington New Road, New Orleans, Lightfoot Lane and Sobers Lane, 66 lights have been installed. Kensington New Road did not have lights before.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, in place of the old ones?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a point which must be cleared up by the Minister; they are either new ones or replacements.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: These are new lights.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That is not true.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, what about the old lights that were in this area?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there were 30 old lights and there are now 66 new ones. (Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: George, that is not true.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the last time, members not addressing the Chair please speak in undertones; there is no George in here.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: St. James. Baywoods, three old lights and 29 new ones. Holetown, three old ones and 11 new ones. St. Peter. Adventure Gap, Diamond Corner, 15 new lights; Burma Road, four old ones and 11 new ones. St. Thomas. Airy Cot, six new ones; Chapmans Village, 10 new ones and there were two old ones; Porey Spring and Spring Farm, 25 new ones; Redmans Village, 25 new ones. St. Joseph. Joes River, three; Barnwell, 15; Surinam, Horse Hill and Church Village, 36; St. Elizabeth's, Hillswick and Cleavers Hill, 50; Airy Hill, Coffee Gully and Parris Hill, 35; Blackman's Tenantry, six. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph is well informed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, they lighted the way to victory for the B.L.P.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, will the Minister be able to state about what time last year these lights in St. Joseph were installed?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: For Christmas. St. George. Charles Rowe Bridge and Salters Road, 39; Dash Valley, 15; Watts Village, 10; South District, six; Monroe Village and Haggatt Hall, which would be at the border line, 34; Malverton and Frenches, 16; Windsor, seven. St. Andrew. Walkers, 20; Lakes and Belleplaine, 67.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure hon. members that lights for the entire Island, and I have said this already, and I mean it, there are lights on order for the entire Island, for every village and creek not only for highways. This is the policy of the Government, and the Ministry is carrying it out. I would like to assure the hon. senior member for Christ Church that not only on the road from Seawell to Bridgetown will he have lights but in all the small villages there will be lights as well. Even in St. Michael, we have not had any big programme in certain areas, we had some but they were distributed and up to now there is not even one light yet in St. Lucy, and no one can think that I as Minister of Communications and Works can sit down and have my colleague go without having any lights in St. Lucy, as well as the Hon. Speaker. They will have to get lights like anybody else; the lights are the people's lights, not the representatives' lights.

Mr. St. JOHN: When I said in here that Christ Church, like St. Lucy, was not given proper treatment I knew what I was talking about, because I go around the area. Sixteen lights for a whole year were installed in Christ Church; that is the record of the Government.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is misleading the House, unless he cannot count or he does not go into Christ Church very often. There are lights from Seawell to Oistin, I have counted them myself and there are something like 73 lights from Seawell to Oistin; they are even too close to each other.

Mr. St. JOHN: The point that I am making is that only 16 lights were put in for a whole year, and that is most unsatisfactory for a parish that has the second largest population in Barbados. That is what I have been complaining about all the time in here that, with the exception of the road from Seawell to Oistin, Christ Church was grossly neglected for the financial year and that is proof now. I want to know what is the programme for this year; the 73 lights were put in so long ago that everybody has forgotten about them now. This Government is doing less street lighting than when Local Government was in operation, because Local Government has been out, for a very long time, and before that it was frozen. 6.10 p.m.

Of course, the hon. senior member for St. Lucy can be satisfied with this situation, but I am not satisfied with our situation. I should like to know how many you propose to put in Christ Church.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have just made a statement that the entire Island will be lit. I am Minister of Communications and Works for the whole Island; I am responsible for lighting the whole Island, and no hon. member or nobody is going to bully me for any single individual parish. I have the same responsibility to people in St. Joseph, St. Lucy, St. Philip and so on as I have for the people in St. Michael. I do not play politics with the taxpayers' money. It is the taxpayers' money of the entire Island and they should have the benefit of these things, and that is what I intend to do as a Minister; so I am not going to be bullied by the hon. member when he talks about 16 lights. If he had them last year he cannot have them this year, or he cannot expect to have all of them. A certain sum of money has been allocated to the Ministry to be spent, and I am not going to take up all and spend it in Christ Church. Besides Christ Church, I have 10 other parishes to look after.

Mr. St. JOHN: You looked after the other parishes extremely well last year. Show me any system whereby Christ Church does not deserve more than 16 lights in any lighting programme? It is rank, vindictive action against the parish of Christ Church.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am the Minister responsible for it, and I object to the hon. member saying that it is rank, vindictive action against Christ Church.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw it. We accuse him of culpable neglect.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Item 56 - Lighting of Streets and Public Places -$300,000. The Note says to meet the cost of lighting streets and public places. Increased to meet cost of expanded programme. What type of lights does the Minister propose putting in? Is he going to use Mercury fluorescence or the other type of light? Is he having 10 hours or 12 hours? How much has the Government agreed to pay for lighting? In other words, how much do you propose to pay and how many lights do you propose to have? You must know how many lights you are going to get, and how much the lights will cost you. You must know how much you are going to pay per unit, and the amount of light you are going to use. I am sure it is not impossible for the Minister to answer my questions. It must be remembered that at one period of the year the lights will be turned on at 6 p.m. and at other times they will be turned on about 5.30 p.m. I would like a breakdown of this amount in the Estimates.

Item 72 - Roads - $610,578. The Note says that it includes provision for maintenance of tools, repairs and maintenance of roads including parish roads, surfacing arterial and feeder roads, repairs and maintenance of guard walls. Labour costs under Item 42 - Casual Staff. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has asked questions which the Hon. Minister has not yet answered. Surely, in order to provide and prepare the Estimates for discussion by the Cabinet, some sort of breakdown had to be shown in order to arrive at the sum of $610,000 and insert it in the Estimates. I am sure the Minister will be able to get the information to my questions.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has asked the same questions as the hon. senior member for Christ Church. As the hon. senior member for the City has said, in order to arrive at the sum to be put in the Estimates, a list would have to be prepared, and I will be pleased to let the hon. members have a list of what roads are bring considered for repairs during this financial year. *(Asides)* If I do not have the list with me, I will have one prepared and circulated to hon. members. I do not think I have the list on me.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Then this Head will have to be postponed if your Advisers do not have the list.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Hon. Minister has yet been supplied with the information I was seeking earlier. I asked him how many miles of road were covered by these 14 lights in Gemswick.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, it was over one mile of road.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Philip seems to think this is a joke and he can jump up every minute and make these ridiculous remarks. I am directing my questions to the Minister of Communications and Works. If the hon. senior member for St. Philip has taken over that portfolio, I will start talking from now. I expect to get truthful answers. It is not over a mile of road. 6.20 p.m.

I am asking a factual question, and it is my duty to ask.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give the Minister a chance to collect his thoughts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to hear the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. Will all hon. members not addressing the Chair please speak in undertones?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to dwell at quite so great a length upon street lights as many of my colleagues have done, but I would like to thank the present Minister of Communications and Works and the Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. senior member for St. George for the very kind way in which they have kept the flag of street lights flying under the tenure of office of the previous Minister. I remember that in March 1967 a petition was presented from over 200 residents of the districts of Porey Spring, Dr. Moore's Woods, Dunscombe, Spring Farm, Barker Corner, Content, Fortress and Fortress Hill in the parish of St. Thomas asking for better street lighting, it being pointed out that there were no street lamps on Highway 2B between Shop Hill and Hillaby, all that long main highway. It was several months before an acknowledgement was received from the Ministry. After several more months, we had a promise that the lights would be installed, but at the same time I formed the unshakable impression which has proved to be right that as long as the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was the Minister for Communications, there would be no street lights in Porey Spring.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am asking you to ask the hon. member to withdraw that since he has imputed dishonourable accusations against me. He is stating that I did something rather dishonestly because he said openly that he was sure as long as I was Minister of Communications there would have been no street lights. He is therefore imputing bad insinuations towards me and I am asking that he withdraw those remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has made a statement to the effect that the senior member for St. Thomas has said something which in his opinion is derogatory to him, and he is asking that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas withdraw the remarks. Is the hon. member willing to withdraw the remarks?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You cannot ask him if he is willing to withdraw, I am saying he must withdraw. It is not a favour he is granting me.

Mr. ADAMS: If I had said anything.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing the derogatory remarks?

Mr. ADAMS: You asked if I am willing, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have been accused of making derogatory remarks. Will you please withdraw them?

Mr. ADAMS: You told me I am accused of making derogatory remarks and I must withdraw.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: There can be no debate on this. I am asking that the hon. member withdraw the remarks. He has to withdraw or leave.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am a peaceful man where it comes to the Rules of the House. I said I had formed the impression that as long as.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I heard what the hon. member said.

Mr. ADAMS: Bad behaved idiot! You make the House of Assembly like a pig sty. Behave your ignorant self. Have you ever seen me lose my temper in here?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members please sit? You all have no respect for the Chair whatsoever. Why generate so much heat? Elections will soon come, I believe, and that is the time to generate the heat, not in here, I will ask the Clerk to get from the Reporter the words complained of by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. *(A pause)*

Here are the words complained of: "After several more months, we had a promise that the lights would be installed, but at the same time I formed the unshakable impression which has proved to be right that as long as the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was the Minister for Communications, there would be no street lights in Porey Spring."

This in my opinion is a very shady way of getting around at the hon. junior member for St. Thomas who was in Communications and Works while he was Minister, but I do not deem it to be an attack on the hon. member or unparliamentary. I do not see that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas would have to withdraw any remarks.

6.30 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have taken heed of what you said about its being close to the border line, and therefore I will not add, as I would have added, that I thought the Minister's attitude was connected with the voting patterns of Porey Spring. In deference to your comment I will not proceed further with that, but the fact is that he was Minister of several years, there were no street lights in Porey Spring, and immediately after the junior member for St. Michael became Minister street lights were put in Porey Spring.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that this is a fair statement for the hon. senior member for St. Thomas to make against the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH resumed the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, for the incoming Minister to immediately have installed in Porey Spring, Fortress Hill, Spring Farm, Dunscombe area street lighting, and the hon. member will bear me out with this, he said that immediately the new Minister went in the lights were

installed. This means only one thing that the provision was made for the installation of the lights in this area under the former Minister, because it had to be voted in the Legislature. Because it was installed afterward it was not necessarily the work of the incoming Minister but the work of the outgoing Minister.

Mr. ADAMS: I am going to give the hon. senior member for St. Andrew some advice; no lawyer ever gets up to defend a client without knowing the case. The hon. junior member for St. Michael came into power and may have found a plan, he did not necessarily.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. junior member for St. Michael was always in power, we were in power since 1961.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. junior member for St. Michael came in and found a plan for a limited number of lights at Porey Spring and he sent somebody from the Electric Company up to Porey Spring and had a proper number of street lights put in, so if you do not know the case, do not get up and defend it. You are a member of an Inn of Court, you have a lot to learn about advocacy, that is what I say to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. One of the earliest things a lawyer learns is to keep his mouth shut if he does not know what to say, and if the plan goaded anybody into anything, it is to the hon. senior member for St. George because he has he has a lot to do, I believe, with deciding that decency and good sense should prevail in the Ministry of Communications and Works at certain times. I am not questioning the street lights, I am very glad the people of St. Joseph got theirs. I heard the hon. senior member for St. Peter complain he did not know St. Peter had so many; let him resign and by the end of April St. Peter will be covered in light, there would be no question about it.

I want to address my remarks and to direct the Minister's attention also to Item 71. I do not want to distract the Minister from any answers he might be preparing on street lights, but I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary will take notes. Sir, I do not quite understand what is the interplay between the Parks and Beaches Commission and the Ministry of Communications and Works. Item 71 points out that this provision includes the upkeep of the Esplanade at Speightstown, the cholera ground in St. Peter, the fountain gardens - I am not reading all, I am selecting the ones which would seem to be quite easy to deal with by the Parks and Beaches Commission - the Esplanade at Bay Street and the Band stand, lands behind the Drill Hall and also the upkeep of Farley Hill National Park. All these items are mentioned in the note to Item 71; if in fact any money is being voted to upkeep Farley Hill by the Ministry of Communications, and the Parks and Beaches Commission are upkeeping it, there must either be some waste, duplication or friction. I would suggest that while Esplanades are in fact concreted beaches I do not think that they should be exempted from the Parks and Beaches Commission. After all, that Commission has to take care of Band Stands in various places, and there is no reason why it should not take care of the Band Stand at the Esplanade in St. Peter and the Band Stand at the Esplanade in Bay Street. I think that the proper policy should surely be that the Minister of Communications would build and repair the Esplanade - it may be that the Esplanade is very broken down, in which case it should be put in order and handed over to the Parks and Beaches Commission. The Parks and Beaches Commission get a little fussy sometimes, they get a little particular in their ways, but nonetheless, without wishing to trespass upon Friday's guillotine to the debate, I am sure that hon. members can agree that it is going a good job and certainly a very active job, and I do not see that it should be necessary to put on to this Ministry the upkeep and the day to day maintenance of these areas which are very similar areas and which are already being looked after by another agency of Government.

Lands behind the Drill Hall. I am sure that if the Parks and Beaches Commission had the custody of the lands behind the Drill Hall they would not have allowed the indiscriminate and unwise building of groynes which has created beaches and produced sand where perhaps nobody wants sand in what was meant, I gather, to be a bathing pool at the Hilton, but is now in many parts completely sanded up, while taking all the sand away from one of the finest rows of coconut palm fringed beaches that existed anywhere in Barbados. I think the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has before now helped the House with descriptions of what it was like before, and the sort of sea life that existed, the turtles that used to crawl up there in days gone by. A combination of pollution and of the building of groynes at the Hilton has entirely ruined that beach, and the whole area between Hastings Rocks and the Hilton needs one authority to deal with all of it, who will tell the private owners where to put their groynes and where to put their drains, because there is a drain at Palm Beach that is altering the character of the beach, there is a groyne further down, there is a big apartment building - I do not know what permission has been given to that to go out into the sea - and the whole area needs a unified control, a control which I would suggest to members of the Government is better exercised by the Parks and Beaches Commission who can get an expert on the movement of beaches, something that Barbados sadly lacks, to advise them on how exactly beach control from the point of view of producing a beach, keeping it, eliminating sea weed and eliminating dangerous bathing; in other words, a beach attractive to the public of Barbados and the visitors alike, can best be done.
6.40 p.m.

We have Experts in every kind of field; Agricultural Experts of all sorts. They come here, and very often I think they come to tell planters and peasants how to do something that the planters and peasants may very well be able to tell them about. Our main crop now, as I said before, is growing tourists out of the sand. If growing tourists out of the

sand is more profitable, it demands the same amount of expertise. Our beaches will be ruined by piecemeal development. Three Ministries appear to have a share in this matter. The Ministry of Home Affairs grants permission, as I understand it, to build groynes and projections into the sea. They grant permission, perhaps, on the necessity of the owner or the general use of the beach, but probably without regard to the quality of the beach that was there before and the quality of the beach that will be there after you have built a groyne.

The Minister of Communications and Works deals with esplanades and with this sensitive area of beach behind the Drill Hall, and the Parks and Beaches Commission clean these beaches and so on. These functions should be all handed over to one body. I should like to think that in no circumstances should a groyne or a pier ever be built without the consent of the Parks and Beaches Commission. It should not be allowed in my submission, Sir. It interrupts the free access of Barbadians to their own beaches, and it can alter the character of the beach. I liked it very much when we had to pass a Bill in here to allow a projection to be built into the sea. I am not sure that I agree with the secrecies that go on in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister to give his attention to Item 78, which appears to be a consolidation of the cleaning of wells, drains, bridges and culverts, dredging, maintaining the pump house in the Deep Water Harbour, and the upkeep of pumps. Sir, we are fortunate that in the junior member for St. Michael we have a Minister who is both interested in and has an understanding about the drainage problem in the parish which he represents. Now that the Estimates have come up we do not want to press him too hard after he has given his quite comprehensive but not fully comprehensive answer about drainage a few weeks ago. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I would repeat my welcome to the new enquiry which he has instituted to report generally upon drainage in St. Michael and Barbados at large, but one particular aspect of the question which was asked was, in my view, not adequately dealt with.

Mr. Chairman, the water table for Bridgetown and St. Michael may have been raised by the Bridgetown Harbour, and this will explain why storm water takes longer to drain and rises higher in the roads. Many roads, Sir, appear to be built to specifications which, even if the water table was where it was before, could not carry off the water. What has the water table in Bridgetown to do with the Maxwell Road in Christ Church - the road from Top Rock to Welches? That is a road which is high enough above the sea to be entirely drained once there are proper culverts and deep gutters on each side and you can find a line down. There is a line down because there is a slight declension down to the Top Rock area, which I gather is sufficient to carry an overflow of water by gravity, and it can be run across Government property or open ground into the sea. On Maxwell Road in Christ Church you need a Hovercraft to skim over it after anything that approaches a heavy rain. The Barber Green has been put on, but the gutters have not been made adequate to deal with the volume of water that one finds up there. In fact, it is worse now than before. More difficulties have come about through the levelling by the Barber Green machine than in the old days when we had asphalt that scampered off and gave us a better run off of water. That is an example of a road that is not affected by any water table. There is plenty of space for the Maxwell Road to be drained.

Mr. Chairman, we have just seen in the heart of Bridgetown, by the fountain opposite the Waterworks Department, a road that is obviously built to excite the members of the staff of the Waterworks Department because that road always has water. There is no circumstance under which the slightest drizzle of rain falls anywhere when that newly cut-off corner does not carry so much water that one can hardly get out of a car, and this has been the pattern in other places. Some roads seem to have been improved by the few inches raising in level that they get from the Barber Green - for instance, Bush Hall Road and Tudor Bridge Road. However, on several roads when they put on the Barber Green they build what is called "Slipper Gutters" or some such technical expression and these gutters are not adequate.

For instance, Bay Street may be affected by the water table. If that is so the road should be built better. Bay Street was always a difficult area. The Dry River that runs along St. Paul's Avenue was once, I believe, the principal source of fresh water for Bridgetown. It is now dry, but it has a natural outlet to the sea underneath the Esplanade. Some effort should be made to utilise this to take off some of the drainage water that one sees so often in Bay Street. I am not an engineer and, perhaps, it may turn out that it will have to be well planned, but nonetheless I see none of the flexibility of approach in the rebuilding and resurfacing of the highways around Bridgetown that you would expect in an area subject to heavy rainfall and periodic flooding.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas corrected me when I said that during the 1928 floods a lighter found itself in the Public Buildings yard. I am now told that in 1921 that happened; I have checked on it. The fact is that every seven or eight years in Barbados there is a real serious flood and every year heavy rains are experienced which occasion more or less substantial flooding. I will not go over the years again, Sir, but the Minister can think about it. These things happen and they are written in the newspapers as if the memory of man is 5 years old. In 1970 the previous floods of 1966 are so close and have done precisely the same damage in many places that you cannot forget them. Now 1966 followed a hurricane; the hurricane in 1955 followed floods in 1949; 1949 followed 1938 and so on. There was a lot of substantial flooding.

Now, Item 78 provides money for the cleaning of drainage wells. The people in St. Thomas are lucky people. We get the highest rainfall, but we send it into St. James and St. Michael. We help wash

through Halls Road and so on, but in St. Thomas there is no flood particularly. With the deep gullies in St. Thomas, it seems that when people see three or four inches of water in them they think it is not much. However, three to four inches of water coming from Welchman Hall gully by the time it reaches Canewood it can move a substantial bridge, and by the time it reaches Bridgetown it can drown people. If the water is only a few inches high in St. Thomas and the wells are cleaned and drained at an early stage, it would cost less to drain off the water than it would cost if the water is allowed to find its way into Bridgetown and then try to drain it off. The Gully House River will always flood, because you have built up areas around there like Deans Village, Carrington's Village, Hindsbury Road and so on, and those areas will always discharge water.
6.50 p.m.

The accumulation of water coming down from the country that does not seem much in the country may only sometimes be a foot at Waterfords, and when it reaches Bridgetown it is a big volume of water. It is a foot of water running for some miles where there was no water before, and when it reaches high tide, you get a lot of flooding. We must stop this in Barbados now. I have said in the House before that overseas aid is very readily available for projects of flood control. These are projects which seem to appeal to the overseas planners. They hear about flood control and they are ready with it. A place like Barbados that has so many roads per square mile would find it hard to get overseas assistance in my view to build new roads, but they would get assistance for flood control. You should dig somewhere else and keep the wells clean.

I would like the Minister to tell the Committee as far as he can from his briefs what are the present arrangements for cleaning wells in the number of water courses running into Bridgetown. Is the Minister satisfied that he is getting his well cleaned enough? I remember a well being dug on my father's property in Spooners Hill many years ago. The well diggers were kind enough to let me go down into it. (A VOICE: Where?) The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has underlined the very point I am going to make, because he asks where. That is exactly what I mean. He was Minister of Communications and Works, and so little has this particular well impinged on the Ministry - I am not blaming either the present Minister or the former - that its cleaning is a thing of the past. For many years I have not known that well to be cleaned. I believe it was cleaned in 1963, but I have not had any observation of its being cleaned again. This is a well near the Stadium. The Ministry is anxious to have a piece of land for a sidewalk, road widening and so on; the owner is anxious to have an ancient public road restored to some of its ancient glory. All that is occupying the attention of the Chief Technical Officer, but the well cleaning in the district is not going on. I think the Minister is aware of this.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have to pick out every well I know is not much cleaned. It is common knowledge that it is difficult to get people to go down in wells today to pick up stuff and have it winched up to the surface. I do not know what the technical necessities are; I suppose we can get people to rake the stuff where it blocks the gratings. I suppose even the cantonniers would do it. All these are problems which the Minister can explain to the Committee; but the going down in wells to collect the vegetable matter that perhaps does not filter through quite so quickly seems to be something difficult, but it has to be done and the Minister can regard this as a crash problem when we have this flooding every year. Sir, I am sure the Minister has a lot of enlightenment to give the Committee on this point, and I look forward to hearing what he has to say on these particular items.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it does not look as though we are going to get the information on Item 72 - Tenantry Roads tonight; so I will now talk on the other aspects. Dealing with drainage and the Maxwell Road area touched on by the hon. member, part of the trouble in Maxwell Road is that there were three ponds in the Maxwell area. There was Deal Pond, Maxwell Pond and Dover Pond. Dover Pond has been filled in and houses have been built on it. The same thing happened with Maxwell Pond. The only other pond you have left is Deal Pond, and the water does not reach Deal Pond unless there is an extraordinary flow. It stays on the road. There are also a large number of wells along that road, and these have not been cleaned for years. On top the hill in Graeme Hall on the A.D.Cs property, there are a number of wells which used to take off the water. Those wells have not been cleaned, and when we had the flood on the last occasion, they overflowed so much that the water went into the houses there as well as in the houses at Kendal Hill. Since then although the A.D.C. has been written, they have not even bothered to clean them. Unless you carry out a programme of well-cleaning when the year comes, you will get this problem all the time. It may be true that it is difficult to get men to do it, but if you put it out on contract, there are people in St. David's who made their living by specialising in well digging and well cleaning, and I know they would do it again. These are very serious problems in relation to Maxwell Road area and what is more I see another very dangerous development taking place, and I would like to know how permission was granted because in what we used to call the St. Lawrence Salt Pond, they are filling that in now playing they are reclaiming the pond. I hope the Minister sees the implication of that, because that used to take off the water coming from Warners and parts of Graeme Hall. I would like to know who gave permission because I do not see any intermediate drainage for it. Somebody is filling it in with rubble. It is true the way they are filling it, it may take plenty years. But the point is that it is being blocked up.

Mr. Chairman, the question of drainage obviously is a matter on which Government has got to spend a considerable amount of time and money, and from the Minister's statement, I was not sure if he said

he had commissioned a study departmentally or outside. Under these roads, I really cannot be satisfied as to the maintenance of roads in my constituency. There were three programmes that we used to have under the Vestry system; they used to have maintenance of parish roads, repairs to parish roads and then we had tenantry roads for which there was a separate and distinct grant from the Government. One was ordinary maintenance of roads which had already been sealed, the other was maintenance of roads which were white roads and they were then sealing them for the first time, and then you had the tenantry roads.

When you look at the Lodge Road area or at parts of Silver Sands, with the exception of Carters Gap No. 2 which I believe was barber-greened some time ago, the whole situation of ordinary maintenance is definitely behind hand. If you go to Fairview, it is worse still, and Fairview is a road that every year they had to fill it back up. When you go down to Gibbons, the road connecting you from opposite Sayes Court back into Thornbury Bill, that is a shocking scandal. I remember saying that when permission was given for the sub-division of that agricultural land that a part of the conditions of the sub-division should be that they do some elementary maintenance on that road, but nothing happens. There are no specifications where you sub-divide agricultural land, and the Government is going to create problems for itself. There must be some elementary provision for roads, because the pressure is very great now, and if you pass there you will see that lorries cannot take out the crops this year without breaking axles or going at two or three miles an hour. In Lodge Road you have not touched any of those intermediate roads for about ten years. For the length of the life of this Government, these roads have not been touched, and the hon. senior member for St. George is well aware of this because he was in Local Government, and he knows that every year they used to go around and inspect, and this is not what we have been getting.
7.00 p.m.

Under new tenantry roads, I have some petitions in the Ministry and I hope they get attention this year, where they have people who have been promised roads so long, and I hope that we get that done at an early date because there are some 40 people involved. I would also like to draw the Hon. Minister's attention to the little piece at Warner's Terrace where they repaired it, cut off a little and left about 50 yards undone. I understand there is a difficulty because of the question of two supervisors in a different area. I know the Minister went and looked at it himself and it looks disgraceful; it looks so foolish that an area has been resurfaced connecting on to a main road, 50 yards is left out and they cannot understand why. You cannot explain to them that this is a technical matter and that two different Supervisors were in control and they did not measure; they feel it is discrimination against them. I had to explain to them that it is not so, but I hope that this is rectified this year. I am going to get some help from the junior member for Christ Church on this, because he knows they are really dissatisfied about what happened this year, so I hope we will get some action on this.

A very serious problem again on drainage. The Housing Area in Silver Hill No. 1, Silver Hill No. 2 and Gall Hill Housing Area has caused a problem. Roads on the Housing Area have provided a catchment for water to come down into Cane Vale, and the people who live at the bottom of Cane Vale are in a very serious position. There is a pond in Cane Vale and there are a number of suckwells in Cane Vale on the land itself. This was sub-divided by a gentleman called Mr. Power, and in those days you did not build any proper road, but everybody knows where this is, underneath the new extension to the Silver Hill Housing Area, and it is now merged into the old Gall Hill Housing Area, and that is a very serious situation. The people had to write a long letter in the newspaper. Those people are people who had very serious damage in the flood and they did not have much consideration up to now, but I will deal with that at another time, and I really hope that something is done before the rainy reason comes in because that area floods every year.

The programme that I drew to the attention of the Hon. Minister is just about enough for this year, so I will not deal with any more right now, and I hope that we get some action on these various sections in a constituency which, after all, has 35,000 people in it, and it will have four seats this time. I want to get plenty of action in this area.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I want the hon. member to realise that the fact that I did not rise earlier when he dealt with street lights for Christ Church does not mean that I am disinterested it is just that I wanted to hear what contribution he had to make. At least he showed a genuine interest in the requirements of our people in Christ Church. When he touched on the question of lights, I too am not entirely satisfied and have not been really convinced that enough has been done, but still I have received an assurance from both Ministers that the programme is not complete, and I made personal checks by going through Walrond and Charnocks, certain parts of St. Patrick's, Fair View, Lead Vale and places like Enterprise, Below Rock, Rollins Road, Fair Valley Rock, and I have seen the people going around and marking the various poles and so on, and I am satisfied that we will get these lights. I hope we get them soon, Christ Church has been - if I may be excused for putting it this way - has been the parish which has received more attention by way of street lighting; Christ Church under the late Mr. Lee Sargeant has had the benefit of street lights far and above the other parishes in the island, except St. Michael, so that we have enjoyed a lot of street lighting all along, but it is a fact that we have received some help along the main road but the villages are still neglected to some extent.

On the question of roads, we have definitely decided on Fair View Tenantry Road, Lands Down and Parish Land, and I am hoping that places like the three tenantry roads along Lodge Road which have

been looked at by the former Minister of Communications and Works - I do not know how far he has got - but those are in a very bad state, and there are other roads like Rollins Road, Walls Tenantry and places like that. There are many roads that need some attention, and I am hoping that the programme will get through. Along St. Lawrence there are some small tenantry roads at the back that have not been repaired for a long time, so Christ Church has a case. Christ Church has a large population, and there are dozens of villages, so that our claim should be proportionately greater because 35,000 or 40,000 people reside in Christ Church, and all over Christ Church is residential. I would like to mention this, that I assisted people in Fair View and Silver Hill in having lights installed in their houses, and they are now having street lights, but the assurance has been given and I am satisfied that the work will be done.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

7.10 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

On resumption --

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the time for resumption being passed and there being no quorum, will you please ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and thereto it automatically reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (CONTD.)

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are considering the question of voting the sum of $7,638,943 under Head 34 - Ministry of Communications and Works. We have already had the benefit of a considerable amount of comment from other hon. members, but whatever one may have to say it must all be placed against a background such as I will try to depict in my next few words.

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH took the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have a situation where a Department is staffed by an Acting Director, an Acting Deputy Director, an Acting Deputy Director of Maintenance, an Acting Deputy Director of Planning, an Acting Senior Personnel Officer, an Acting Personnel Officer, an Acting Personnel Officer, an Acting Deputy Director of Construction, an Acting Director and an Acting Deputy Director in many of the Departments. It is based on all of these things that one must see the sowing of seeds of discontent and dissatisfaction with which this Department is rife. One cannot expect any officer in any of these Departments that I have mentioned to give of his best at any stage.

Mr. Chairman, we have before us other contributing factors, The problem of staffing generally in this Department is a serious matter. What one will find is that there are many youngsters who are entering the Public Service and are attached to the Ministry of Communications and Works, but in truth and in fact the senior personnel in the Ministry are becoming somewhat disgruntled because it means that, after they have exerted their energies in trying to train and condition these young officers who enter the service to be of assistance to them in performing their duties in the Department, they then find that these officers are merely using the Department as a stepping stone.

8.20 p.m.

In other words they remain in the Department as long as it takes them to accumulate enough money to pay a fare to get to Canada or the United States of America or somewhere else; so the senior personnel officer must feel that his effort is lost in such a respect.

We have, Mr. Chairman, a situation with the Department occasioning a considerable loss of money. Now there are several avenues through which this Department can lose money and is losing money. One is by the maintaining of these depots. The Department has depots at Prospect in St. James, at Country Road, at Constant, at Seawell, at Six Cross Roads, one at St. Joseph, one at Golden Ridge and one at Belleplaine. I think there is also one at Four Roads and one at Chance Hall in St. Lucy. All of these depots are regarded as maintenance depots, but we are satisfied that they are now permanent structures in themselves and we are of the opinion that they would have been established, and since having been established they ought to be self-accounting so to speak so that one would be able to see that they are maintained at an efficient level and the losses that now accrue can be accounted for in a more satisfactory manner. At these depots local purchase orders are issued, but what strikes a very serious blow at this Department is the absence from the Department of the old post of storekeeper. I have been trying to find exactly where the storekeeper is accounted for in the Ministry, but it does not seem to exist. What you would find is that the former storekeeper has been detailed to do supervisory work in another capacity; so what happens with these depots is that local purchase orders are issued, but there is no storekeeper who is more or less responsible for receiving the materials when they are received from a store to account for them, not even a storekeeper whose main duty it would be to be at headquarters and then to carry out spot checks

on these depots. In the absence of this, therefore, these local purchase orders are issued and there is a sort of free hand in this, because the men on the job often tell the issuing Clerk where he can get the material from. The Clerk might not be aware of what is always aback of it and merely issues the order, but in truth and in fact these local purchase orders are very dangerous instruments at times, because they go into the hands of the suppliers and there is no check maintained to see that the goods as may be delivered by the supplier are really and truly received by the storekeeper or are carried to the site and accounted for there as having been properly received in accordance with the requirements of the local purchase order.

Now my attention has been drawn to Item 11. I really do not want to begin referring to the Items as such, but the storekeeper is not functioning. These local purchase orders for building or construction do not pass through the storekeeper and the materials as are ordered can go astray and do go astray. Mr. Chairman, we need site ledgers equally as well, because the slipshod manner in which much of the work is now carried out in the Ministry of Communications and Works leaves much to be desired. You will find that an officer is at the Prospect depot for the north. That officer has unlimited freedom. He is so free that even on Sundays when there is no work in progress - and in the northern parishes the only work that had been in progress on Sundays was the Salt Pond at St. Peter for some considerable time - he has been able to go to the Prospect depot and have material removed without having to account to anybody for it. What I am saying is that this might be a very appropriate hour for the Minister to have an opportunity to prove exactly whether we are on the ball, or whether somebody is just trying to put something over on somebody else. I want to tell the Minister that if he were to examine the delivery book from the Prospect depot, he would find an entry for 143 bags of cement and a quantity of iron for reinforcement. Now I do not want the Minister to tell me he is not a policeman, but the Minister must be, as I am, a guardian of the taxpayers' purse, and if the police were asked to carry out an investigation as from now and act before tomorrow morning, they would discover that 143 bags of cement were conveyed to a building in the Silver Sands area, not a Government building at all. The entry of 143 bags is in the delivery book, but the material I am saying was not used on any Government project. Now it would eventually turn over in the minds of somebody how a member of the House can come into possession of this information. Mr. Chairman, I want to say that it is a case when rogues and vagabonds do not always agree that members of the House of Assembly get to know what is going on. There is considerable discontent in the nothern district at this time over the management of affairs in that area.

8.30 p.m.

and we would urge upon the Minister that there is the necessity either to transfer all these officers that are in the area or to transfer those that are offending in order to reduce the possibilities of their carrying out further offences such as I have mentioned. Mr. Chairman, it has been drawn to the attention of the Hon. Minister time and again the numerous complaints of passersby about Cantonniers and like workers idling on the roads. I want to say that the Overseers are in very great measure to blame for this, and I will explain why.

The Overseers have suggested to the Chief Technical Officer and others that there should be a group or a number of these workers, about 10 or so together. The Overseers had very good reason, which is that when you have 30 workers to inspect and you have three groups of ten it will not take as much time to inspect three groups of ten as if you had to cover a nine-mile distance to inspect 30 workers who are separated one from the other, but the result is this, that human nature being what it is, when you group ten workers together they must discuss what happened last night, what is going to happen tomorrow night, and they are doing all this at the expense of the taxpayers. It is during the time they are carrying out all these discussions which need not be carried on on the job that people pass by and see them idling. This is not good enough.

There is the other system where you had more workers responsible for a mile of road in whatever parish it is, and it is best if you get a worker to be responsible for a mile of road as near to his home as possible, but it does not make sense having a worker from St. Peter working at Seawell when he could normally be employed at some place in St. Peter. The man gets to feel you are punishing him, so that he will go to Seawell, but he is going to make sure that he is going to reserve all his energy at least to get back from Seawell to his home, so what we are suggesting is this, that the 300' of road that was formerly required of these workers to keep clean as they now do with groups, we suggest that you do away with that system altogether and wherever possible, if you are going to give them back the 300' for the day's work give some workers a mile stretch of road and they will work at their level, so to speak. There will be no idleness, and the Inspectors can carry out regular inspections, because we pay them travelling allowance and they must travel to do it, but do not post all these people together and as they now do, find some lady's house in each district to go in and spend the rest of their time there and let the people have their own way. That is exactly what is ruining the situation.

Mr. Chairman, the question of overtime as at item 45, $80,000. The note says that overtime formerly included under various Items is now centralised, but I am challenging the Minister here and now to deny that Item 45 is not the only Item in this vote that consists of overtime; in other words, we are being told here by these notes that overtime is now centralized, because in the past on this job you were allowed so much overtime and it was scattered about the various projects and that they discontinued that and centralized it so that when overtime is to be spent on a job a request more or less has got to

be made for it, but what we are saying is that in these. Estimates overtime is at Item 45, $80,000, but there there is tucked away here at Item 42 an amount of $2,312,457 and this same Item alo includes an amount for overtime. I would like the Minister to check on this to prove exactly if we know what we are talking about. Whereas your overtime is shown here only at Item 45, and since, Mr. Chairman, it is claimed that it has been centralized as was in the case of the 1970-71 vote, what has been the advantage if any that has been derived from this centralization, because in truth and in fact by these very figures that are now before us we are proving to the Minister that there has been no centralization as such; this is what we are doing.

At Item 24, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what is responsible for the decrease in the vote this year.
8.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Item 24 - Trainee Draughtsman. At Item 50 there is also a provision for the sum of $2,000 to cover incidental expenses for all aspects of training. I should like to know what relation this bears to, let us say, Item 44 - Temporary staff - $13,855. At Item 44, the Note explains that the provision is for 6 trainees. Trainees for what? At Item 50 you have already covered all aspects of training. What relation has Item 50 to Item 44?

Item 52 - Insurance of Buildings and Equipment --$100,000. This is the same amount of money voted to be spent last year. Are we to understand that there is no more equipment to be added or no more buildings to be added?

Item 71 - Maintenance of Government Property other than Buildings - $18,580. This includes upkeep of the Cholera Ground, St. Peter, during last year. Exactly how much did you spend on the Cholera Ground last year and how much do you intend to spend on it this year? The hon. senior member for St. Thomas, I think, explained the conflict that must arise between the Parks and Beaches Commission and another Department in respect of the upkeep of Farley Hill National Park, but I do not want to belabour that point any further.

Item 73 - Car Parks and Bus Stands - $3,000 This amount is to provide for Maintenance of bus stands and parking areas. This can only mean your existing bus stands. I do not want to lay more criticism than is absolutely necessary on what I believe that some Ministers might still feel is a bus stand that has been provided at Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter, because the provision of a proper bus stand in Speightstown is still being awaited and expected by the people in St. Peter. Let that be clearly understood. We might tell ourselves that something near a car park has been provided but all of the buses are still occupying the school yard which they used to occupy before the taxpayers' money was spent to provide what has been provided so far. I should like to hear from the Minister what is going to be maintained when it comes to the bus stand at Speightstown. There is nothing to be maintained.

Item 74 - Sea Defences. In the first place, the Note shows that $250,000 is to be spent, only when there are extraordinary circumstances, to repair damage done to roads and structures. Mr. Chairman, who is to determine what is an extraordinary circumstance when it comes to the question of the sea damage? One might go to bed tonight; the tide might rise during the night and develop a swing which can create damage to our sea walls or properties nearby.

There is a situation at present going north along Speightstown, just a few yards away from where the former almshouse was situated, where considerable damage is being caused by the sea. Who is to determine when it is an extraordinary circumstance? It may not be an extraordinary circumstance which may merit Government's attention. One has to be satisfied that the sea has caused the damage and it is something which must be repaired. We cannot permit any further delay, because it might worsen matters.

Mr. LOWE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member said that he was speaking on Item 74, but he is actually dealing with Item75 - Special Reserve for Extraordinary Road Damage - $250,000.

Mr. HINDS: I am sorry about that, Mr. Chairman. I always thought that the hon. senior member for St. George would prove his worth in this hon. House someday. Item 74 is to meet the cost of repairs to areas along the sea coast damaged by the sea. My remarks with respect to extraordinary damage do not apply to the sea as such.
8.50. p.m.

It is a case where as long as it has been established that it is sea defence work, it must be attended to, and I would like to draw the Minister's attention to a case which I made mention of about 200 yards along the coast north of the former almshouse at St. Peter where I think some attention is needed amongst other places.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 76 there is a sum of $105,000 for upkeep of vehicles. I have given the House the benefit of my knowledge of some of the things that go on at the Pine workshop, and I would like to say, Mr. Chariman, that when hon. members try in some small way to draw the Government's attention to what is taking place where taxpayers' money is being spent in the wrong direction, that it is not for Ministers of Government merely to jump up and try to create a quarrel with hon. members on this side. We hear and we try to carry out investigations as best we can, and I think it is only when we are satisfied that there is some truth in what we have been told that an hon. member would then seek to bring it to this House.

For instance, in the same upkeep of vehicles department, there are men who work there painting vehicles. It is now common knowledge that they peg

in on mornings, but they spend the greater part of each day of the week painting vehicles elsewhere. Nobody is trying to put something over on anybody but at the same time they are drawing their week's pay from the Ministry of Communications and Works, when in truth and in fact they have worked elsewhere at some of the funeral directors about the place - not at Two Sons. All these things need to be checked on, and we will find that the Department can be run at less expense to the taxpayers of this country.

Now , Mr. Chairman, we have Item 67 - Removal of Offices, $5,000; but at Item 55 - Communications, we are going to spend $265,000, and the note reads "For details see Appendix J. Increased to provide for additional telephones and charges due to anticipated re-arrangement of Government Offices." That is the part I am concerned with. Surely an explanation is needed, because if you are going to remove Government Offices and re-arrange Government Offices and you are going to spend $5,000 for the removal of Government Offices - and we take it to mean transporting the furniture from here to there and shifting of the offices etc. - and for the actual installation of telephones you have increased to provide for additional telephones and charges due to anticipated re-arrangement of these offices, what re-arrangements are you going to carry out with telephones and the like that would cost $265,000 when the actual office removal in itself is going to cost $5,000? I would certainly like to hear what explanation the Minister would have to this.

At Item 78 - Drainage, we have been awaiting this report of flood damage which seems not to be forthcoming, but at Prospect in St. James - this is the first I am going to mention - just where Mr. K.C. Brown's property adjoins Miss Cumberbatch's, there was a drain built there leading to the sea, and it was completely washed out during the flood. I criticised the construction of that drain from its inception, and I have always said that the people who call themselves engineers and constructed that ought to have been hung. There are two many people masquerading about here calling themselves engineers and do not know as much as some of our old time foremen who have never even been to school. The drain I refer to was completely washed away during the flood, and I see no mention here whatsoever of rebuilding it. I am to wonder what is Government's plan for so doing in the very near future.

Now about 100 yards north of this drain is another drain leading from just by the standpost to the sea. This was not damaged except for the gabions. Here again I have given this House the benefit of what I have been able to learn from others, and it is that gabions have never been recommended for sea defence, but the engineers attached to Communications and Works still insist on using gabions for sea defence work. The gabions of this drain have been washed away, but the general construction of the drain was so low that whenever there is a flood, the water overflows the sides and is causing damage to property that adjoins the drain. This situation needs to be remedied.

9.00 p.m.

It calls for in addition to building may be a few feet more on each side of the drain to prevent the water from overflowing, and this should be done by way of what is called backfilling, because as one would see the moment the water comes down with force and is blocked by the sea water that is forcing itself up through the drain this problem will continue. The Engineers should have a look at this and should build two feet from the side of the road so that will carry the water from there to the sea allowing a sufficient gradient that it could flow into the sea without inconveniencing anybody at any point, but that has not been done, and as a consequence there is now a definite demand on Government to carry out this backfill work to restore people's property.

Item 83 - Government Buildings. It is somewhat surprising, Mr. Chairman, that these Items are not considered as Capital works. The amount of money involved is $129,782, and I would like to hear from the Minister exactly what prompted the inclusion of these items here and why they have not been placed under Capital Estimates. As for the St. Peter Post Office, why in the name of Heavens, Mr. Chairman, does Government not take a firm decision to provide the parish of St. Peter with a Post Office that is befitting the second real town in this island? Speightstown, from the business point of view, still comes second to Bridgetown. There is no doubt that the staff there work under cramped conditions, and as you would understand, the public cannot be served as it ought to be served when you have staff who are upset and nervous and tend to be itchy and the like. Irritable people cannot serve the public best, and we are trying to remove such conditions by suggesting to the Government to do a bit of planning and seek to provide Speightstown with better facilities, not in carrying out any extensions to the present Post Office, that does not answer the question at all, but I must say this, if ever a Post Office is to be built for the parish of St. Peter and it is to be built at Speightstown, they must not attempt to copy what was built up here at Eagle Hall for, Mr. Chairman, we have there a situation which leaves very much to be desired. The Old Age Pensioners and people who have to attend there are still out in the sun and in the rain, and one would say that enough land was available to Government to provide enough shelter so that the customers of the Post Office could have been accommodated, the business could have been conducted in healthier circumstances, but it is not so and I understand the staff has got to be very busy when rain falls removing the books from getting wet, although the building is all closed, and if they happen to leave them certain places overnight next morning they have to do the books like clothes, put them out to sun, and that is a Post Office that was recently built. If a decision is ever taken to build a Post Office at Speightstown we want something that becomes the people of St. Peter.

As for Farley Hill National Park, Mr. Chairman, I take it that these additions, improvements, alterations (Hon. G.G. FERGUSSON: It is a mistake). I have just learnt from the Minister that it is a mistake so I will not press the point. We were told, Mr.

Chairman, that Government was seeking to exercise considerable control where the matter of contingencies will arise, but in this Ministry there have been a certain amount of what we call accumulated balances, that is, sums of money heve been earmarked for jobs but it has been found time and again that a saving has been effected on a particular job. 9.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know from the Minister whether it is true that, if $1 million is voted for a particular project in the Ministry, the Engineer or Project Manager is not given the $1 million to spend however necessary it might be, but 10% is retained by the Ministry for contingencies. I should like to hear from the Minister how satisfactorily this practice has been working; if it means anything to the Ministry and, if not, how can he retain 10% for contingencies and still find in some projects that there is money left. I know of some small projects at Springhead, St. James, that although10% was retained, there was still a saving of $11,000. If 10% was not released and there is still a saving of $11,000, what kind of an estimate did you have for the job? Has the job been properly executed? Something is funny in all of these Estimates that come before us. Mr. Chairman, you will find that on a similar job an order was placed for 50 tons of graded material, but despite the fact that you saved $11,000 and you had retained 10% of the allocation, the 50 tons of graded material ordered to be sent on the site never reached the site. Especially, how did that happen on the Springhead job?

There is a lot of discontent in the Ministry. Some of the Supervisors and other categories of workers do not like the idea of sending them back to school. It has been mooted that some of them should be sent back to school. I am advising the Minister to have the matter investigated. While we would like to know that all of our Supervisors and Site Foremen are as efficient as possible, we should see that no steps are taken to make these people feel uncomfortable. If it is necessary to send them back to school, that could be introduced at the Department by way of lectures in the first instant. I am not attempting to run the Department, but I am suggesting that these people, who it might be felt could benefit from some sort of instruction, be lectured to first at the Department and, depending on their performance at the Department, then be transferred to a Training Unit or some other Department where they can be trained. Let them feel that they are being trained rather than allow them to feel that they have been sent back to school. There is a vast difference between sending a man back to school and training him. These are things, Mr. Chairman, that I feel need some investigation.

Mr. Chairman, we come to the Salt Pond at Speightstown. I should like to hear from the Minister how the Engineers, who have been wasting the taxpayers' money and misleading Government on this project, feel about it. I feel that we have reached the point where Government will have to tell some of these people who called themselves Engineers that the taxpayers cannot bear this any longer. I have seen that they have gone there and done what no layman would do. Because they are Engineers, they expect people to accept what they are doing.

After all, Mr. Chairman, if the sand is at a particular height, then the water that is being drained from the land must rest on some level or find a way of lowering the sand in order to get over it. In other words, the water cannot go through the land and penetrate into the sea. They are making a mountain out of a molehill. I have said over and over again that we have some old foremen in our midst who could be consulted as to how best to deal with this Salt Pond Project, and it can be done to our satisfaction and it would last for very many years unless we had some very unfavourable tides at Speightstown. The depth of the water, even the hon. junior member for St. Michael will admit, makes it unlikely for us to have those varying tides at this point. It is a case where we have been accepting for too long what the Experts say. Any Expert who will advise us on this Salt Pond Project will have to be down here for more than a year, and he will have to be familiar with the varying tides in that area. Anybody who comes here and drives about the place cannot give us expert knowledge on this matter. We should not go on throwing away the taxpayers' money. The Salt Pond Project is something that the Government will have to tackle. We feel that there is local expertise that can be brought to bear on this job, and it will give us lasting satisfaction. Do away with all of these Experts and save the taxpayers' money.
9.20 p.m.

I do not want to keep the Minister, Mr. Chairman. In the figures the Minister released tonight, I do not want to say that he made the proud boast, but I think he said we had something like 30 street lights in the whole parish of St. Peter, four old ones and 26 new ones. After all, Mr. Chairman, the parish of St. Peter must boast of a town, Speightstown which is second to Bridgetown. The Government must have some method of arriving at its priorities, and if you are illuminating the streets of Bridgetown, if you take the road from the Airport to Bridgetown, the Harbour and the road leading thereto, we must of necessity find very high up on the ladder the parish of St. Peter. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, so that I should not go on, I am hearing that we are going to get lights in Speightstown, but we want lights at Indian Ground. I hear the Parliamentary Secretaries saying that we will get them at Indian Ground. There is Doughlin Road next to old H.I Gill's property where even in dry weather the poor people cannot get out of their homes. A petition has been received at the Ministry of Communications and Works from people in that area. What has the Ministry done about the petition asking the Ministry to build a road? I remember the hon. junior member for St. Thomas at one time saying that attempts had been made to do something, but that the people would not decide to give up the road. I told the Minister then that the people were willing to give up every inch of the road and more. Since

then these people have themselves attested to the fact that they would give it up by appending their signatures to the petition. We would like the Ministry to go into it and see that this piece of road is built for the benefit of the people at Indian Ground. It is a short piece of road, but nevertheless quite a number of people live in the area and there are four or five motor cars in that road. The people have tried time and time again to carry loads of marl there. Similarly at Lonesome Hill, the people are crying out for electricity. Also in the Four Hill area and at the Whim people are calling on me to see what can be done to have electricity brought to the area so that they can enjoy some of the benefits.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has absolutely no problem whatsoever when it comes to Boscobelle, because there is electricity in the area and the road can now be properly paved, and you can have proper street lighting at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2, at Gays, at the Baltic and at Collins Tenantry Road. I remember the hon. senior member for St. Thomas making mention of water breaking across people's ground. I think there is a Mr. Aubrey Goring from Date Tree Hill in St. Peter who has suffered considerably during the flood by Government blocking what was formerly a gutter-way where water would by-pass his land, but having blocked the area the water now flows across the road and breaks through his land and washes the land. After the mould is washed from his land to somebody's else land, he cannot go there and reclaim it. I think it is about four to six feet of space that needs to be put right by Government which would protect this man's property. All these things need remedying.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has built up the road in Clarke's Gap coming from your left in Ashton Hall and the water just drains on to these people's land causing overflowing and rendering much difficulty. These are things that Government can remedy without spending much money, and it would be all to the Government's credit, not mine. If the people of St. Philip are served, I am happy.

Mr. Chairman, I want you to get your staff at Communications and Works to advise you whether there is a refrigerator at the Ministry that had been ordered for a considerable time but has never been put into use. It cost a lot of money and it is worthwhile investigating what has become of it. An officer placed the order for it without apparently having been properly authorised to do so, but it has been paid for and it has been on the premises of the Ministry of Communications and Works.
9.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have enquired enough of the Minister and I will afford an opportunity to make his replies; he would then be in a better position to gear himself for anything that other hon. members might want to ask.

At Item 58, Sir, my information is that there is a considereable amount of equipment that has been ordered from time to time; at one time there was a reluctance to certify payment, but nevertheless much of this equipment has just been knocking about the Drawing Office, and I would like to know if the Minister has been able to track down any of it with a view to saving the taxpayers spending money on something that is not really necessary, because if equipment can be ordered and not made use of it is not fair, in our view, to be just placing orders again and again in order for the same materials to be ordered and be allowed to knock about the place and somebody putting some under their arms walking out with it and it never returns.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, one of the questions asked by the hon. senior member for the City was in connection with the prices of the lights and what is being paid for them. The old 100-watt incandescent costs $3.52 per month, $3.20 per month for the twin 40-watt lights, $7.20 for the 175-watt, and this is used on the main highway. This includes energy, installation, replacement and maintenance.

Mr. HINDS: Are you going to have installation each month?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: In other words, they instal them and the prices paid per month include installation as well as maintenance.

Mr. HINDS: Installation is spread over a period, so that if you keep the light up for 100 years you will be paying installation for 100 years.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: No, the figure of $3.20 is for the twin 40 watts.

Mr. HINDS: Whatever the figure is a portion of that money is for installation.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Installation and maintenance are included.

Mr. HINDS: We admit you will have maintenance from month to month but will you have installation? Why should installation be spread over a period? Installation should be a fixed sum that you pay the first month, and after that you are finished, but maintenance is something you continue to pay afterwards.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Did I hear the hon member right? What do you pay per month for current?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The hon. junior member for St. Peter has said he cannot quite understand why installation should be included in maintenance; the installation, as far as I am concerned, might be nothing provided there is a certain agreement for a certain number of years which covers the capital cost. In other words, all this covers the capital

cost; the rent you are paying for them and the maintenance is part of the capital cost which also includes the maintenance.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has got to be better advised on this. We admit you will have maintenance costs for as long as you have the lights burning, but you cannot have installation costs for as long as you have the lights burning. There must be an end to installation, you instal today and that is the end of installation.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there can always be an agreement to put in something, I find the capital for putting it in and I have the responsibility for servicing it provided there is a limited guarantee on it, and no Government is going to put in lights say for two years or three years; as long as Governments remain things will have to remain, therefore they amortize possibly over 20 or 25 years and it is included in this. This is common practice, this is nothing fictitious or anything strange to say there should be some special installation charge, the installation charge is part of the transaction over a longterm period.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You decide that you are going to put in 300 mercury fluorescent or 100 incandescent lights, the installation is so much and that finishes there. I do not mind who told you differently, I am sure of this. Installation is one thing, for replacements now they are going to charge you and then they charge you for current. If a bulb blows there is somebody at the Electric Co. you must call; tell this House now who it is, you pay the installation when you put in the light, they supply and instal it, and I am sure I know what is the cost for each light. 9.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the installation is one thing and the current is something else. As you put in more lights each year, you reduce the cost of the current each year. If you have 1,000 lights you pay a certain amount, but if you have 5,000 lights you do not pay at the same rate.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have the information requested. It is a twin 40 watt.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: A twin 40 watt what?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: A twin 40 watt bulb.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: That could never be correct.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I should have said a twin 40 watt Mercury Vapour light. This is for supplying, installation, maintenance and replacements. Energy is $2.50 per month, and other charges 70¢ per month, making a total of $3.20 per month. The 175 watt is $5.50 for energy, other charges $1.50, making a total of $7.00 per month.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Does that 70¢ include an installation fee? If you are installing 300 lights, the installation fee should be so much. You pay the bill and that is the end of it. Why pay an installation fee every month? You should pay so much for maintenance monthly or yearly as the case might be. Are you going to make the taxpayers pay an installation fee over the next million years? What do you think it is?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the installation fee will vary depending upon whether current is in the area where you are putting the lights. If current is along the road, the installation fee is always lower than if they had to put in poles and so on. That is what the installation fee is for.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there are no lights along the Sandy Lane area because there are no poles in the area. If we have to put lights there it will create greater expenses. When the hon. member is going to his constituency, he will see that there is an area where there are no lights in St. James. When I refer to installation of lights, I do not include the erection of poles. If I have to put lights in an area where there are no poles, then the expenses would be considerably greater. I know that some people have to buy two or three poles at about $100 or $125 per pole in order to have lights installed in certain areas.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have to be told exactly why we have to pay an installation fee for the next million years. *(Asides)*

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have read what was sent to me. I received this information from my Technical Advisers. They refer to installation, supply, maintenance and replacements. Energy is $2.50, and the 70¢ must be for the other items that I have mentioned. In other words, $2.50 per month would have to be for energy and the 70¢ would have to be for replacements. That would have to be amortised over a limited amount of time that a bulb should normally last. A bulb would last for a certain amount of burning hours, and the 70¢ for maintenance may cover a certain period of time for amortisation over the life of the bulb.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have no complaint about maintenance costs or supply costs. Our stand is with reference to installation costs being paid on a monthly basis. That is what we are concerned with.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member, I have just been informed that they do not pay for installation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister was reading all the time was incorrect.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Yes, it is for supply, maintenance and replacement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, am I to understand that what the Minister is now saying is correct? Is this a case where the Minister has been told that short answers are good for floods?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I can only tell the hon. member what information was sent to me. I would not come in here and wilfully set about to misinform anybody in this House. If I misinformed anybody, it would be due to the advice given to me.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am quite satisfied that the Minister will not wilfully misinform this House. If anybody told me that he had done that, I would have to hear and see it for myself. I am saying that the Minister should be correctly advised on a matter of this sort. In other words, the Minister of Communications and Works cannot be presented with a bill each month from the Light and Power Company for $1,000, $10,000 and $2,000 out of the $10,000 or whatever the percentage might be for installation each month. How can it be? When you install lights, you pay for the installation and that is the end of it. After that you continue to maintain and pay for the current that you use.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for Christ Church asked for the list of roads and the programme for this financial year. 9.50 p.m.

The amount that is allocated here, Mr. Chairman, would be for the maintenance of roads, but there is no actual list of roads. The amount for construction of roads would come under Capital Estimates. The amount here is to cover maintenance of miles of roads which is separate and distinct from the building of roads.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, as I understand it, there are three categories. There are the tenantry roads, there is the ordinary resurfacing of roads which are already surfaced, and then you have these white roads in some areas which formerly under the Vestries had never been colassed and you either colas them or barbergreen them for the first time. If you look at Item 72, the note says "Includes provision for maintenance of tools, repairs and maintenance of roads including parish roads, surfacing arterial and feeder roads, repairs and maintenance of guard walls." This is not capital; this is an ordinary maintenance programme, and I want to know what roads you are going to maintain in the several parishes. I want to know the principle on which you allocate it. When it comes to highway improvement and major works, I can see that that comes under Capital Estimates.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, this money is to cover 204 miles of highway roads at $1,290 per mile; 605 miles of parish roads at $1,373 per mile; guard walls $6,050; asphalt surfacing $214,500; extraordinary maintenance $99,000; maintenance of tools $6,000; Housing Authority roads $37,200, making a total of $610,578. These roads would not be specified. As fast as somebody puts in a request for roads, it would be noted in the Ministry, but I cannot say exactly what would be done because we go to Central Planning Committee every two or three Fridays and that Committee decides on priorities and which roads should actually be done. As soon as requests are made for roads, they are considered and then priority is given to them by the Central Planning Committee.

Mr. St. JOHN: Now this is where we disagree completely with the Government, because the best people to understand when the roads want maintaining are the people in the Ministry of Communications and Works. No Central Planning Committee has any right dealing with this. They can allocate the amount of money and tell you how to phase it. I now see why the roads in Christ Church have not been resurfaced. We need more representation in the Central Planning Committee. This is something the Local Government used to do by going around and looking at the condition of the roads, but this hifalutin committee called the Central Planning Committee has to decide this on some basis. I heard the Hon. Prime Minister say that the Programme should go full steam ahead in St. John; but what about the roads around Maxwell Coast, Silver Sands and others which used to be maintained annually and now do not have any maintenance at all and the same thing is repeated in other parishes?

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, it is a known fact where roads are concerned in Barbados that at one stage all members of the Local Government used to talk about his particular constituency. This is the reason why the roads have become so bad at the present moment, because the Local Government would fix the roads and that was the end of it. There was no maintenance to these roads. I would like to allay the fears of the hon. senior member for Christ Church. As far as roads are concerned, I am taking a very active part in visiting them, and within the Ministry the recommendations will be made as to which roads should be fixed, and to be brutally frank, before we can go ahead with the roads, we must go to Central Planning Committee and prove that this road is a priority. I am not saying that Central Planning Committee can tell you not to spend the money, but we must go to Central Planning Committee with the roads which we are prepared to fix in the financial year.

Mr. St. JOHN: I now see where the trouble comes. The Ministry of Finance has so little confidence in the Ministry of Communications that they must add an additional brake. When we vote $610,000 the Legislature expresses its approval of this expenditure. What more Central Planning Committee do you want? The whole trouble is that if you look at it there is a lot of wastage going on in there. The road along Maxwell has been barbergreened at least three times since the bargergreen has come to Barbados. What does the Central Planning Committee say about that? On the other hand the other roads like Maxwell Coast and Fairview have had absolutely nothing done to them. Is the Central Planning Committee going to say that is not a priority when in truth and in fact it is acknowledged that it is a priority? It seems as though the Minister has not got enough influence in the Central Planning Committee.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the reasons why the Central Planning Committee has been established for all Ministries, because prior to the establishment of the Committee we would see highways barbergreened, dug up and gone over again within months, and in some of the small roads where poor people have been living nothing at all had been done. Let us take some of the roads leading on to the highway to Speightstown. I have seen them several times being dug up and none of the Ministers knew nothing at all about them, so by having the Central Planning Committee we can be kept up to date on what is going on. All the Ministers attend the Central Planning Committee and they know exactly what roads are being repaired otherwise we would know nothing at all unless we were passing on the highway and saw the roads being repaired.

Mr. St. JOHN: This is astounding and revealing. Do you mean to tell me that you have a Minister responsible for a Department and the Government has had to introduce another brake upon the Minister in addition to the normal brake he would get in a financial year when we are dealing with allocations and the limited amount of money because roads are being done and nobody knows anything about it? Presumably if the ministerial system was working properly, you would have a programme which you would decide upon and execute. What are you telling me about a Central Planning Committee having to tell you if they agree with you on this? I understand the situation now.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister responsible for the Ministry would have to sign the R.I.Es and would know, but none of Ministers involved in Government would know. In other words, if a Minister was sufficiently interested in his area to concentrate on it and carry out all the work there, this is to stop him from monopolising and doing a particular area to his own benefit and the Cabinet would know what is going on.
10.00 p.m.

This is to keep everybody informed and all the Ministers will be informed with exactly what is going on, and any separate and individual Minister that has the port folio under his jurisdiction. It is as simple as this, that everybody should know what is going on.

Mr. St. JOHN: Is the Minister saying that this was devised to keep the brake on other Ministers because they used to execute road programmes in accordance with their own political interests?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Maintenance of roads would not have to go to action planning, but the actual construction of roads would have to go to the Central Planning Unit.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the Hon. Minister would give way, I think I can assist the Committee at this stage. I happened to be Minister of Communications and Works for about 15 months in 1964-65, and I think the question of repairing roads, as far as priorities were worked out, in the Ministry, had to be referred to the Central Planning Committee; it was as a result to some extent of my activity, in that I recognised the need for all the roads to the airport, whether they were front roads or back roads, to be done, and I had 17 roads done in very quick time leading to the airport, because I felt not only the needs of the people of Barbados would have been met but also those of the tourist industry. First impressions count, so that anyone coming off a plane can have a very good impression of Barbados and see the roads are smooth roads. As a result of my activity and my attention to my constituency the question of submitting a list of roads to the Central Planning Committee came into being. That is really the true explanation.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, for that activity in that period of time they are punishing us all the time now.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister is first representative of St. Michael; surely the Hon. Minister must remember during the year I enquired as to whether there would have been any provision for New Orleans. I want to know it now, that is part of your constituency and part of mine too, and I want to know what you are doing about it. The people are there with the water and mosquitoes all around them; I am serious about this, and I want to know if the Minister is doing anything about it.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the hon. senior member for the City that the problem there now is more a drainage problem around the 7th and 8th Avenues. I have visited them myself over the last year, and a lot of the water floods and drains over on the people's land and this needs a certain amount of building up and drainage which will be done this year; the hon. member can rest assured about that.

I cannot afford to let the hon. senior member for St. Thomas get away with what he said about my colleague when he spoke about electricity in St. Thomas. I would like to assure the hon. senior member for St. Thomas that there were already lights in Porey Spring and the Minister himself would not want to be accused, because he was the Minister responsible for lights, that he lit up St. Thomas and had it looking like a Christmas tree and left other parishes without lights, therefore it was left to me then to carry it on so that nobody could accuse him in St. Thomas of using his influence as the Minister responsible for lights; I can accept that responsibility.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, did the Minister hear when I said that there was a petition for several years to have lights in St. Thomas? The former Minister of Communications and Works could hardly be accused for lighting up St. Thomas when he had a petition from the residents of Porey Spring to put in lights, and because I told him that one bulb was out of order in Welchman Hall he covered Welchman Hall with lights before he put lights in

Porey Spring. He cannot be absolved of the charge that his colleague is so very kind in trying to absolve him of, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to say anything because there are people and statements that must be ignored, and the hon. member has fallen under both categories. He ought to be the last person to come into this Chamber and talk about lights in Porey Spring, St. Thomas or any part of Barbados, because when Ronald Mapp was Minister of Communications and Works - I want the hon. member to understand that I beat two Ministers in St. Thomas, not one - Senator Ronald Mapp told the people in Porey Spring they would never live long enough to see lights in Porey Spring, and the hon. member has the temerity to come in here and talk about lights in Porey Spring.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, will the Minister deny that he said he is not giving the people any lights in Porey Spring to show them the road to go and vote for Tom Adams?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, this is stupid, this is no point of order, I never said that. Strange enough, the people in Porey Spring voted for Tom Adams but I am still in here, how did I get in here? By something fictitious? Did I steal something? The hon. member must realise that the Barbados Labour Party ran two candidates in St. Thomas, and this is the second time I have beaten Senator Mapp, but Senator Mapp told the people in Porey Spring and the people in Bridgefield. *(Asides)* I allowed you to make all the accusations, you vituperated, you did everything and I never interfered with you, I only asked that you withdraw a statement which you made in imputing improper motives to me and the Chairman did not see fit to make you withdraw, but that was the Chairman and all Chairmen do not really understand what is going on. Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has more brass than the statue of Nebuchadnezzar, more gall than ten bull elephants and the temerity of Al Capone when he could come in here and say on the floor of this Chamber that I refused to put lights in Porey Spring.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order, keep me from using my authority because I am willing to work now.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, sit down. Did I hear it right that somebody has more temerity than Al Capone?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: No, you did not hear right, I said Al Capon-e, because that is how it is pronounced; it is an Italian name, and I reminded the hon. member who sat down that at some time - I had better not bring in that now, because Mr. Chairman will say this is not what we are dealing with. 10.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, some people have short memories. The father of the senior member for St. Thomas said so some time ago, and the senior member for St. Thomas is proving how right his father was every time he opens his mouth in this House. I hate to agree with his father, but I have to. I told the hon. senior member for St. Andrew to allow the hon. member to talk, and I would get up and deal with him later. How could the hon. senior member for St. Thomas come in here and accuse me of something iniquitous? He said that I refused to put lights in Porey Spring because the people up there did not vote for me. That would have to be a joke, because if the people up there did not vote for me it would show how good I am. If they did not vote for me, how is it that I was able to beat his colleague after losing the votes in that district?

Mr. Chairman, our problem is that we do not have anybody in Barbados who can make these lamps. There was a gentleman here who was making the lamps for us. I think he found out that he could get a better price for them outside of Barbados.... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: We, eventually, had to send to England to get the lamps. There was a strike in England; then there was the devaluation of the pound and so on. It is not a question of my not wanting to put the lamps in St. Thomas. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas represents St. Thomas and so do I; he has friends in St. Thomas and so do I. I believe that I have more conscientious friends in Porey Spring than he has. Nobody voted for me in St. James, and St. James is one of the brightest places in Barbados. (Mr. ADAMS: "The President of your group in Porey Spring is a member of our Party.")

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member says that the President of our group in Porey Spring is a member of his party. That can be true because nobody knows how many parties a man belongs to. I know that the Secretary to his party in St. Thomas cannot read and write; so I cannot understand how he can write minutes.

Mr. ADAMS: Is the hon. member talking about Milton Wiles?

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: I am not talking about Milton Wiles; I am talking about the woman you have up there as a Secretary.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member saying that one of Her Majesty's Postmen, formerly under his direction cannot read and write?

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order. If he is talking about the person who wears the same type of clothes as he wears,

then I believe she can read and write, but I am not too sure. Do not let us waste time over nonsense. I do not know why the hon. member is always making these irrelevant statements. He must not be so boldfaced, especially when dealing with me, to make such statements because he cannot get away with them. The hon. member succeeded in getting away with accusing me of something nefarious or wicked when he knows it is not true.

Apart from that, Mr. Chairman, I have observed a lot of wasting of time in here the whole afternoon on certain matters. It is a matter for the other side if they want to waste time. I can assure the hon. member that nothing could be further from the truth than the accusation which he has made against me. He knows that it is not true.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, If I accuse the hon. member for telling lies in the House, I must withdraw it. He cannot say that an hon. member makes a statement in the House that is not true knowing that it is now true. He can say that it was a misstatement or that I was misled, especially when he knows that I am telling the truth. He will have to withdraw that. Sir.

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: I will withdraw it, but I feel the same way about it. Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows how I feel about it. We all know the hon. member. The hon. member could not tell the truth even by accident.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw that remark.

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: What have I said? I was talking so fast that I cannot remember what I have said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You said that an hon. member could not tell the truth even by accident.

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, that is unparliamentary and I will withdraw it. I will say that there are some people in this world who are congenital liars - liars from birth, and others who are embryonic liars.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member referring to hon. members in this Chamber?

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: I never said that, Mr. Chairman. I said that the world comprised of people - the world has in 3.6 billion people. I am dealing with people and I did not say hon. members.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You said that some people in this Chamber.....

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I never said that. I said people in this world. I could ask the Reporter to read it back, but I do not want to hold up the House and waste time. I always know what I am saying; I do not say things that I do not understand. I said that some people in this world are congenital liars and there are others who are embryonic liars that from the day conception took place. *(Asides)* When you were talking I did not interfere with you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is replying or anything on a particular Item he may do so, but do not worry to carry on.

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am not carrying on, but the hon. member says that I am talking nonsense. He does not understand nonsense when he hears it.

Mr. HINDS: Anyhow, quote your Item and let me hear you on it.

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, my Item is lights. I think it is Item 36. *(Asides)* They are misleading me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, some time ago.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In order to help the Chair, please quote the Item number.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: From Item 1 to the end, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is that?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I am speaking on the Resolution moved by the Hon. Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to quote the Item number.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on the Resolution moved by the junior member for St. Michael, the Minister of Communications and Works. (Hon. N.W. BOXILL: "On what Item are you speaking? You must call the number of the Item.") I am speaking on the Resolution, Sir. If at any stage you find that I am not speaking on the Resolution you can tell me.

10.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member heard me ask the Hon. Minister to call the Item number so as to guide me, and I am asking the hon. member to do so because I am not stopping him from talking, on the entire thing, but he should just give me the Item so as to guide me. I hear you are having an adviser in the back, but be careful with these advisers.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I understand it, a motion was moved by the hon. junior member for St. Michael that a certain sum under Head 34 stand part, and I am speaking on that motion at the moment. In speaking on that motion I shall keep within the portions of the Rules required for the debate. It is not my intention to deal with the statutory expenditure, but purely with the items under "Other

Expenditure". From time to time as I go ahead I shall indicate to you, Mr. Chairman, to what particular item I shall direct your attention. At this stage I prefer to speak generally on the motion rather than on any particular item. It does not make sense my telling you that I am speaking on a particular item, because I am speaking generally on the Government's policy on this programme under Communications and Works.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, some time ago when I was interviewed by a member of the C.B.C. staff....

Hon. N.W. BOXILL: On a point of order, just now when I was speaking as a Minister and replying to accusations levelled against me, I had to tell you, Mr. Chairman, on what item I was speaking. Am I to understand now that the hon. member because he is a lawyer can speak without indicating on which item he is speaking? I want to know what item he is speaking on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon member must sit and hear what the hon. junior member for Bridgetown is going to talk about just as I am going to sit and listen. If he should overstep his boundaries, I am capable of drawing it to his attention with something else. Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, some time ago when I was interviewed by a member of the C.B.C. staff, that interview was censured by the Leader of the House and he admitted it last week on his own motion, because he admitted that the interview was critical of the Government. In that interview I criticised the Government for neglecting the Bridgetown area when it came to the development of roads etc. Tonight I make the same charge against the Government in that it is clear from their programme that over the last five years, and at any rate particularly the last two years, there has been no attempt at all by the Government to have any sort of road programme within the limits of the city of Bridgetown. At this stage I do not speak of the St. Michael area; I speak of the constituency of the City of Bridgetown. For the purpose of this debate I will not even deal with areas such as Chapman Lane; I would like to consider areas such as Phillips Land in Lightsfoot Lane, Bedford Lane area in the Green Fields, Dunlow Lane area in Bay Street, and Church Village area just across from the Cathedral.

Now, Sir, I stated here tonight that over the period of the last five years nothing at all has been done by this Government to help the residents living in these areas I have mentioned. I know the practice may have been that with a by-election you make a stir. We saw school meals being brought quickly in the City as we saw in St. Joseph with the installation of 137 lights where before there was no proper programme of lighting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member saying there were no lights in St. Joseph before the by-election?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I said that there was a speeding up of the programme as regards lights in St. Joseph. You have represented St. Joseph for a very long time and you would know when in any one year during the past ten years the Government installed 130 lights in St. Joseph. There was a by-election and you had a stir of activity, but with the by-election over, particularly in the city, nothing else was done. This is the position as it is today because the philosophy of this Government seems to be that it does not make sense building roads in the city of Bridgetown to assist the people who live in Bridgetown because they know they cannot win a seat, and therefore they concentrate on areas they believe are borderline and in which they believe they can win a seat, and in an effort to carry out some electioneering programme, Government concentrates its efforts in certain areas. In any area where the Government is certain they are not going to win a seat, you find that that area is sadly neglected.

Mr. Chairman, I have only to cite the position with Christ Church as regards lighting. It may very well be that the Government realise that it is difficult for them to win seats in this particular parish, and this is why they adopt this particular attitude. This is an attitude that has come to the West Indies. I believe it is the attitude that was prevalent in Ghana during the period of Dr. Nkrumah when any part of Ghana that did not support Dr. Nkrumah...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is Ghana to do with this? I have not seen anything about Ghana anywhere in these Estimates.

10.30 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Sir, if you let me make my point you will see the analogy. If you do not want me to make any reference to Ghana I will not do it. What I was saying is that this Government has adopted a policy which is somewhat similar to the policy of Dr. Nkrumah in Ghana, that is, any area or portion of a country that was not sympathetic towards you, or that you do not have any chance of winning, you neglect any development in that particular portion of your country, and that is what the Government has been doing in the City of Bridgetown. I am not making vague allegations against the Government, I have sufficient evidence to substantiate my allegations against the Government.

On my election to this Chamber in 1969 I moved a Resolution calling on the Government to compulsorily acquire the Philip's Land Tenantry of Lightfoot Lane asking them to build proper roads, and it was pointed out by the Government that that would have been too costly to acquire the land, yet they cannot fix the road. Today the position is that not one thing has been done for the residents of Phillip's Land. This is part and parcel of my allegation that the Government has done nothing in the way of communications and works in the City of Bridgetown.

That is not the only thing, on the 12th August, 1969 I tabled a question in the Chamber enquiring of the ap-

propriate Minister or requesting the appropriate Minister to take urgent steps - those were the words used - to take urgent steps to provide (a) proper drainage and (b) proper road surfacing of Bedford Lane in the Greenfield area in Bridgetown. This question was asked as far back as the 12th August, 1969; the answer was given on 12th January, 1970, and the answer was: "Bedford Lane is part of a private tenantry and will be considered for improvement with other private tenantry roads in the Government's programme of repairs to private tenantry roads." That was in 1970; it took the Government from August when the question was asked to January to answer the question. Some 13 months now, since this question was asked, and not one single thing was done in the Bedford Lane area. A whole financial year has passed, and yet the residents in the Bedford Lane area in Greenfield in the City of Bridgetown still have to suffer the inconvenience of not having a proper drainage system and not having the road surfaced.

That is not all, as I said, I am not making vague allegations against the Government, I am making allegations that can be supported by evidence, and I am giving you the evidence, Sir. On the 28th October, 1969 I again enquired of the appropriate Minister, the Minister of Communications, if the Minister was aware that the roads running through Woodside Tenantry, Dunlow Lane, Bay Street, Bridgetown are well nigh impassable after heavy rain falls and are generally in a very bad state of disrepair, and I also enquired of the Minister on that occasion if the Minister would take such action as might be necessary to enforce the repair of the roads in this tenantry. On that occasion I also pointed out to the House that this was a tenantry, the Woodside tenantry, owned by the Governor-General of this country, and in the year 1969, within a short distance from the main shopping area of this country, you could find a tenantry owned by the Governor-General of this country, and in the year 1969, within a short distance from the main shopping area of this country, you could find a tenantry owned by the Governor-General of this country which did not have water. That was a shocking state of affairs, and I would say this, the putting of water in Dunlow Lane as a result of this question is the only thing the Democratic Labour Party has done during the past two years since I was elected in this House by the people of Bridgetown. I challenge any Government Minister to get up and state what the Democratic Labour Party has done for any of the residents of the City of Bridgetown in any of the tenantries, whether it is Chapman Lane, Dunlow Lane, Phillips Land, anywhere. They put in the water as a result of the question I asked because they know that if they did not put the water in they would have found the Governor-General of this country in a very embarrassing position, because it was my intention to go throughout the length and breadth of this country and let the public know that you have a Governor-General..... (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You are breaking the rules; surely you know this.) You had a man called Winston Scott who owns a tenantry in Woodside.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is now breaking the rules of this House.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I accept your ruling. There is a tenantry in Bay Street called the Woodside Tenantry, and the only access to it is by the way of Dunlow Lane, but the tenantry is owned by a man called Scott, I do not know who Scott he is, Sir, it is owned by a man called Scott, and the tenants live under very bad conditions. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You cannot do it, and you know you cannot do it.) Which is more important, the fact that people can live in a tenantry under bad conditions or my getting in here and calling the Governor-General's name?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member must speak according to the rules of this House; he cannot refer to the Governor-General like that. Rule 26(9): "The conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor-General of the West Indies, the Governor, Members of either House of the Legislature, Judges, or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be referred to except upon a substantive motion." The hon. member is breaking the rules of this House, and I will exercise my authority regardless of who the hon. member is.

10.40 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will exercise my authority regardless of whoever he may be. Now, hon. members have been breaking this Rule. I am drawing to the attention of both sides of this House that I will not be tolerating it any more. Take this as a warning from the Chair. If any member takes it upon himself to break this Rule or any other Rule, I will exercise my authority.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I accept your Ruling. I have no intention of speaking about the Governor of this country, but you must bear in mind that the Rule does not speak about the Governor-General. As far as I know, there is no consequential amendment to the Rule to say that "Governor-General" should be inserted for "Governor". Anyway, I accept your Ruling and I am not quarrelling with it. If you want to go into technical terms and stick to Rules, I must point out that the Rule does not refer to the Governor-General of this country. I am not questioning his conduct as the Governor-General of this country; I am questioning the conditions under which tenants live in the Dunlow area. I am saying that it is shocking that the owner of that tenantry could allow tenants to live under those conditions. It is even more shocking because the Government know who is the owner of the land, and they will do nothing to ensure that those tenants have proper conditions under which to live. That is what makes it so shocking. Members of the Government know who is the owner of that tenantry, and yet they condone the fact that people are made to live under such conditions.

As I pointed out earlier, Mr. Chairman, it was on the 28th October, 1969, I asked the Minister of Communications and Works if he was aware of the condition of the road running through Woodside Tenantry in Dunlow Lane. The answer was given in October, 1970. When I accuse the Government of something, I will quote Chapter and Verse and bring all the evidence required. Now, I have already said that the question was brought on the 28th October, 1969, and the answer was given on the 5th May, 1970. The reply was to the effect that the Minister was aware that the roads were impassable when there was heavy rainfall. What is interesting is the second part of the reply given by the Minister. He said that the roads are privately owned and are not maintained by the Government; however, consideration would be given to the inclusion of these roads in the 1970-71 Private Tenantry Roads Programme. Now, I would like the Hon. Minister to stand up in this House and let us know the true position of things.

A few weeks ago, as a result of continuous requests by the residents in this area, I wrote a letter to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Works. In that letter I requested a meeting with the Minister of Communications and Works for a delegation of the residents of the Dunlow Lane area. All I have had from that is a polite acknowledgement, but up to today a delegation of the residents of Dunlow La.. have not yet been received by the Minister. That is not right. If the Government want to play politics, then let them go ahead and play politics. When, as a member of this House, I write to a Government Official asking him to receive a delegation of persons in my constituency, he is not doing me any favour. You talk about having the interest of the people of this country at heart. What about the people in Dunlow Lane? Why has it taken so long for the Minister to receive a delegation? The answer is obvious, because the entire 1970-71 Programme for roads has been carried out and not a single thing has been done in this area.

On the 5th May, 1970, look at the sort of answers that you get from the Government. One can only come to the conclusion that you cannot accept the word of the Government even when it is given in a Parliamentary Reply. They stated specifically in the Reply that consideration would be given to the inclusion of these roads in the 1970-71 Private Tenantry Road Programme. I can only come to one of two conclusions: either that he did not give any consideration to the matter, or that if he did give it consideration he did not consider it as a priority or something essential for the residents in the area to have proper roads. It boils down to what I was saying earlier. That is why, by analogy, I can only come to conclusion that the Government are deliberately neglecting areas in which they know they cannot win seats. They know that they cannot win seats in that area in a General Elections. This is not fair to those people. They pay taxes in the same way as anybody else. The same way the Prime Minister can stand in this House and say that come 1st April he will be sending all of the equipment up to St. John, why cannot the equipment be sent to Dunlow Lane to repair those roads? Do not these people have a right to proper roads.?

Mr. Chairman, as I have said, I do not intend to accuse the Government falsely. I can accuse Government of things, and show that I have reasons for saying what I have to say. They promised to fix Phillips Land in Lightfoot Lane, and they have done nothing in the matter. They promised to fix Bedford Lane in the Green Field area, and nothing has been done there. A year ago they promised to fix the Dunlow Lane area. I have written requesting a meeting with the Minister - a meeting which it does not seem that I will be able to get. The Government should realise that they are not spiting me. They are spiting the people in the Dunlow Lane area, and those people have been crying out for a very long time. 10.50 p.m.

Another point arises on this question of fixing the roads. On the same occasion I pointed out to the Minister that the residents in the area were very concerned about having another way out of Dunlow Lane, and I was told then that the feasibility of providing an additional entrance to the tenantry was being examined. This was on 5th May last year, and this is almost a year later, a whole financial year has passed, and absolutely nothing has been done. You cannot say it is because you have no money. I want to hear anybody get up in this House and be bold enough to say that the reason why Dunlow Lane was not fixed was because they did not have money.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I quite understand how the hon. junior member for Bridgetown feels relative to Dunlow Lane, but after all I am Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works and I have visited Dunlow Lane more than twice or three times, and it is not fair to say that the Government has done nothing at about Dunlow Lane. We released from the Ministry a sum of $19,801 to fix Dunlow Lane. When we got the technical people to start to fix the road in Dunlow Lane, two land owners there refused permission. We could not touch these people's land. They decided they were not donating any land and therefore we have to fight to acquire it. This takes time. Since the people have their democratic rights to tell the Government not to touch their land, we have to try to acquire it compulsorily if they do not decide to sell. About three weeks ago I was back in Dunlow Lane. *(Asides)* Long before your letter was received. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members not speaking must be silent.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the conditions in Dunlow Lane at the present moment. I am also aware of what the Government is doing relative to that area. The second entrance that the hon. member talked about has been gone into, and it is a fact that we will have to acquire more land.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I heard the hon. member saying that

people told them not to touch their land. I would ask the hon. member to tell me who told them when they went into Waterhall Land that they had permission.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I will have to make a check on that. I do not like answering questions unless I know offhand.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary has said that two land owners said not to touch their land. I only know there are two land owners there; one is Spencer and the other is Scott. If you say that Spencer said not to touch his land, the residents in Dunlow Lane have been saying that Spencer has offered this to the Government years ago. It is the same land that I have come in here with a Resolution asking the Government to acquire for the purpose of a playing field for the area; so do not come with this nonsense to me. Besides, it cannot take you over a year to compulsorily acquire a piece of land and start to build on it. I want to tell the Parliamentary Secretary that it is not for me that Government is doing it; it is for the residents of the area, the people who have to walk through the water, mud and slush when the rain falls and they cannot put on their shoes. They have to walk bare footed until they get to the tar road and then wash their feet and put on their shoes and socks. Do you think this is any condition for the roads to be in in the City of Bridgetown in this year? You have barbergreen roads in St. Philip and all over the country.... *(Asides)* If the Minister has barbergreen right to his garage, that in his business, but I am concerned with the people in Dunlow Lane area. They have been complaining.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the Government has not seen it possible to receive a delegation of residents from the area, but I will get on the platform and read out the letters that I wrote in February and up to now you have not given an appointment to see the Minister. The roads in Church Village are in bad condition and nothing has been done there. I was very glad that the Parliamentary Secretary did not say that it was a lack of money that prevented this. I do not think the Government could be so mad as to squander money in foreign affairs and then tell the taxpayers of this country that they cannot get proper roads. I do not think that a Government which can afford to buy a house for $200,000 for a man not to live in can come here and say it has not got any money to fix these roads.

I go further, Mr. Chairman, and charge culpable neglect, as the member for Christ Church would say, on the part of the Government. There is a single old light in Dunlow Lane where there are as many people living as at Gemswick, but Gemswick has fourteen lights. That is the sort of justice that is meted out by the Government of this country to the people in the city of Bridgetown.

11.00 p.m.

That light is a very old light, Sir, and that is the reason why not so long ago I asked a question to this House asking the Minister if he would give instructions that Street lightings be placed in the Dunlow Lane area; this is so. I could spend the entire night making a speech on the negligence of the Government as regards people in the City of Bridgetown, but I am fully aware of the statement made by the Prime Minister of this country when he abolished Local Government, because nobody can justify the abolition of Local Government in this country other than that it was a spiteful and vindictive act designed to break the political power of one individual, and I recall the Prime Minister himself saying "If I cannot take Mottley from the City I will take the City from Mottley", and so we find we cannot take either Mottley from the City or the City from Mottley and therefore you find that he intends to deny the people in the City just the slightest bit of development. All they are begging you for is a little street light here in Dunlow Lane, a paved surface in Church Village, somewhere where they can walk properly at night; in Phillip's Land they have been begging you for this, but even these small mercies are too much for the Government of this country to give the City of Bridgetown.

As far as I am concerned war is declared because I shall be preaching throughout the length and breadth of the country, and I shall tell the people what Government considers a greater priority, and that is, buying houses overseas. They can get a vote of $50,000 can fix the roads and I appeal to the better mercies of the Government of Barbados to have some mercy on the people of Bridgetown, they are begging you like the poor man at the table of Dives, I think it was, they are begging you to let a crumb fall off your table and fall on the people of the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply to the hon. junior member for the City, The hon. member has made very strong accusations here against the Government, and accusations that are not true. The hon. member is trying to tell the people that this Government is adopting the very attitude of the former Government.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I have no objection to being accused of making untrue allegations against the Government, but I want to challenge the Minister now to tell me what the untrue allegations are; let me hear the untrue allegations.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Making accusations against the Government saying we are not doing things. Mr. Chairman, I have said in this Chamber already, and I will say this, that in any Ministry that I am running I will be the last man to be vindictive with the taxpayer's money. I will be vindictive with what is mine, but what is the taxpayer's they have a right to and I will never use taxpayer's money to be vindictive in any Government. There is no person in this Chamber who can tell you better than the hon.

senior member for the City that it was in 1962 that I had to clear the border line between St. Michael and the City in his constituency, so what is the hon. member saying? I would like to tell him now what is actually delaying the movement in Dunlow Lane and Henry's Lane, and it is for the good of the very people. There is money in the vote for it, and I went down in the area and I was not satisfied that the road was wide enough. Mr. Chairman, not even a fire engine can get in there if there is a fire in the area.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Minister has said so; let him have a look at the questions I asked and see who it was who drew to the attention of the Government that a fire engine could not get in there. Who asked about water hydrants in there? Look at the question asked on 28th October, 1969 and you will see that I brought it to the attention of this Government.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have not referred to any questions, but after I received a letter from the hon. member asking for a delegation to discuss this with me, I wanted to be *au fait* with what the delegation wanted to question me about, so I asked for an acknowledgement to be sent to him and in the meantime I wanted to see what was wrong so that I would know what they were talking about. We went there and there were three areas of land, but in the actual Woodside Tenantry itself there are not such bad roads, the entrance on Bay Street a fire engine cannot get in, there is an entrance that a man can barely pass through broadside, he cannot even pass head one. I went through the entire area, and if a fire takes place in here you cannot get in a fire engine, and I told my technical officers we have to have another meeting and bring in the Town Planner, because I am not satisfied with just putting in a piece of road and giving people services and if a fire takes place the road and the services will be of no use to them because the van cannot get in to their rescue, so it is a matter that requires more planning than I had anticipated, and I believe in doing things properly. I am the Minister responsible for it and I would not like to go up there and give the people light, water and roads and if a fire takes place they would then have to stew properly in there.

I have asked that arrangements be made for me to meet the Town Planner; on the first occasion he was busy and on the last occasion my Parliamentary Secretary and I waited up there till long after 4 o'clock, the Town Planner did not turn up, because the meeting was fairly late in the afternoon and I intended to carry it out. Arrangements are being made to go to Planning Committee not only for money to purchase the land that is required but also to have proper entrances and exits in and out of the area that the hon. member is talking about, so it is very heart-rending to me to sit here and hear him say that nobody has any consideration for the people in the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, how can Government say they have consideration for people when since 28th October, 1969 this was brought to the attention of the Government and the answer given by the former Minister was that it would have been included in the programme for 1970-71; that programme has been finished and nothing has been done. You talk about having consideration, but you have consideration only for yourselves.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I listened to the Hon. Minister about this communication that was sent to him; the Prime Minister said in here that he had given instructions to every department in this country that an acknowledgement to a letter, must go out within 24 hours. I am surprised at this particular Minister, if the Minister was going to Dunlow Lane to look at this matter, out of courtesy he could have said to the hon. junior member for the City who was responsible for heading this delegation that he was going to pay a visit and ask him to meet him there. I am surprised that this particular Minister did not do that.

11.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for the City has drawn to your attention something that I have been drawing your attention to for some time. If there was a heavy rain and the wall fell - I am not talking about the fire engine being unable to get in now - nobody would be able to get out. I do not understand what has been said about getting technicians to go into this matter. Who owns the land in Beckles Road at the back of Y.M.P.C.? The Government of Barbados owns that land, and it is a simple thing for engineers to construct a road there.

Mr. Chairman, I am surprised that the hon. Minister, having received this letter thought his Permanent Secretary, has done nothing in the matter. Of course, a lot of these youngsters keep their tongues off the Permanent Secretaries. During my 25 years in here I would curse a civil servant or anybody if it were necessary to curse him. It is damned unmannerly for a Minister to receive a letter from a member of the House of Assembly on an important matter; he acknowledges the letter, and then goes and visit the site without informing the hon. member. After all, he is an hon. member; he did not come in here on any blasted box-cart.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must withdraw that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I withdraw it. I am shocked at the attitude taken by the hon. Minister. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is breaking the Rules of this House.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: With regard to the Spencers not wanting to sell their land - Mr. Chairman, the Government bought land in Black Rock and other areas in order to widen or make roads, Why cannot they make roads in this area? Is it because poor people are living in that area? Government could acquire land up there to make the roads, The Housing Authority own the most stinking, nasty roads in this Island.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must try and control himself.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The hon. member said that the Housing Authority own the most stinking, nasty roads in the Island. He must understand that this is the House of Assembly and he must not lose his equilibrium in here. I am the Minister of Housing and I do not know of any place where the roads are nasty and dirty, except those houses that were built by the Labour Party of which he is a representative.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have never yet associated myself other than with one Party. I will die and go out of this House, and I will never change my colours. You went and throw some mould in Chapman Lane when there was a bye-election in the City. The Housing Authority own the bad part of Chapman Lane and the roads are stink, bad and so on. *(Asides)* You have no chance at getting in Tommy Millar; you merely run him for fun because he had money to throw away. I am really shocked at what the present Minister of Communications and Works has done.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. senior member for the City said that he is shocked. I have told him that, before I had made any arrangements to see a delegation, I wanted to see things for myself, and I went to the area. I asked that the junior member for the City be sent an acknowledgement of his letter. I was out of the Island and I have only just returned. I could not have been out of the Island and here, too.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Does the hon. Minister intend to receive the delegation now that he has visited the spot? When a member becomes a Minister, he is a Minister of the Island.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If I wanted to be discourteous to the hon. member, I would not have seen to it that he received an acknowledgement of his letter. I would have taken the letter and put it aside, but I instructed the Permanent Secretary to send him an acknowledgment. I told the Permanent Secretary that I would go and look at things, so that when I agreed to have a delegation I would know exactly what we were talking about. This is why the hon. member's remarks are hurtful to me.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, a lot is taken out of me when I have to reply to people with whom I have been friendly for years. The position is that the Hon. Minister was wrong. There are two Ministers in here who would shock me if they acted in any arbitrary manner: the Minister of Health and Communications and Works. I have had trouble at the Hospital; I complained to the Minister of Health, and he called a meeting within two days and had things settled. When you become a Minister you are not a Minister of a party, but a Minister of the Island.

This is how I personally see it, and I feel something should be done for the people in Dunlow Lane I will not continue the debate any longer on it.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, the amount voted under this Head is a large sum. I feel that as one of the representatives of St. George I should also make some contribution for the people who sent me here. I have heard many complaints about street lights and roads, both of which I intend to speak on. One of the first things I did in putting a question to the House was to ask for street lights. Fortunately I have got some, but I have heard tonight of parishes which have got a number far exceeding those in St. George, and St. George in my opinion is the third largest parish. There are many roads that need to be repaired, and the present Minister of Housing when he was Minister of Communications and Works did have a paper on roads and tenantry roads, and on it was one of the worst roads, a road known as Bairds Village. It is a feeder road which connects Braggs Hill Road, Fairview and Middleton where there are many people who are suffering. There is a large sum of $610,578 being voted and I would like this road repaired. This is the worst road in St. George today, and I hope that when the works programme starts in the coming year something will be done about it.

I understand that some time last week some members from the Ministry said they would carry some road fill and put in Bairds Village and stop my mouth, but the people in Bairds Village should have a proper road. I am one of the representatives of the parish and the other representative is in the Ministry which deals with this work, and I do not want our parish to suffer worse than any other. Let us get some of the money spent on the tenantries as well. We also have another feeder road from Moonshine to Newbury. Letters have been written to the Ministry about this road, and I understand that one of the supervisors went and inspected this road, but nothing has been done about it. I do not want any promises. -It does not matter whether this is St. George North or St. George South; all the people in St. George voted for me to come here.

Mr. Chairman, there is a part of Workmans near Rock Hall. That area is suffering as well, and I would like some money spent on the tenantry roads.

Some time ago I spoke to the Minister of Communications who is now Minister of Housing about bus stops, Item 69. Now the people who live in St. Helens and Belair have to walk up to Bridge Cot Corner to catch a bus. It is all right when they have no heavy burden, but when they come from the City there is no bus stop between St. Helens and the gas station. I feel there should be a bus stop to alleviate these people when they have heavy baskets, and I am hoping that the Ministry will look into the matter and erect a bus stop there. At Jericho corner which is very dangerous and one of the spots for which I have asked for a light, the bus stop is just a matter of a foot from the Bridge, and when the bus stops close to the bus stop the people cannot get off conveniently without stepping into the gutter, and if it is raining you can imagine that they would be stepping in mud. A bus landing is needed. I have also asked for a bus shelter at Locust Hall for the people of the Flat Rock area, Locust Hall tenantry and surrounding districts. Since Locust Hall has been built up, the old shed by the

scale beam has been removed, and there is nowhere for people to shelter either from sun or rain. There is also another place which needs a bus shelter, and it is the corner of Groves where people gather to catch the bus going to Horse Hill, Sweet Bottom and St. John. This work can be done by the Ministry, and these two bus shelters are needed by the people of St. George. We cannot wait until the Lions Club does this, and I am asking the Government to let us have these two shelters this year.

Under Item 78 - Drainage, water comes down to the foot of Bridge Cot by the gas station, and at the slightest rainfall there is flooding. The culverts need cleaning. I have spoken to the Supervisor of the area, but the condition remains the same. I am hoping that the Ministry will take notes of these points and have the drains cleared so that the water can run off and not cause inconvenience to the residents of these areas.
11.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am happy, very happy indeed, to hear the junior member for St. George castigate his own Party, literally lambast them for inefficiencies in the Ministry of Communications and Works. I do not think any member of this House could have done a better job, because he has now joined hands with you, Mr. Chairman, who have been pleading since 1961 with this Government to repair some of the roads in St. Joseph and nothing has been done, so if the hon. member finds that his own Party neglects his own parish he knows why, and I will tell him why. He was afraid to say it just now, and I am saying it now, the Hon. Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary were trying earlier tonight to tell this Chamber that priority of roads is controlled by something called the Central Planning Committee. I say now that some time ago it might have been done this way, but the Prime Minister stood in this Chamber last week and said that he directs what roads are to be done in this country. He said he gave instructions to stop work which was being done in St. John, but from the first week of April every bit of machinery will go back to St. John, and nobody can tell me now that any Central Planning Committee does anything on these roads because I know too that after the last Minister of Communications and Works and another Minister went into Christ Church and made arrangements for a job to be done, the directions were changed by the Hon. Prime Minister again, so do not tell anybody in this Chamber that the Central Planning Committee does anything on roads, because the Prime Minister said here that he directs what is to be done and he will direct as from 1st April.

I am convinced not only roads, but lights and all these things are done on a personalised basis, and I will show you why. I asked tonight about the length of roads covered by some 14 lights in Gemswick.....

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member to know that Gemswick is a part of St. Philip, and St. Philip is 1/7 of this Government.

Mr. BOLDEN: Gemswick is 1/3 of a mile long with 14 lights, but from Oldbury Woods to the Crane which is some 3 miles if you can find 14 lights you find a lot. Mr. Chairman, you have been asking since 1961 for certain roads to be done in St. Joseph, but the very road leading from Oldbury Woods to Gemswick had been paved at a certain time when a certain member was going to move to Gemswick, so you see, Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister says he is looking after Kendal, St. John in April, and they are looking after Gemswick when certain people are in Gemswick, it is now being done on a personalised basis. *(Asides)* I call it Penny Hole, so they had to give it a new name, but, Mr. Chairman, I have no quarrel about street lights, I am only using the example of street lights to show you how personalised this business has been and that it has not really and truly been under any Central Planning Committee, because had it not been for a bye-election which was due on 3rd December, 1970, St. Joseph would never have had 145 street lights put up in the course of one month.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How would you know that?

Mr. BOLDEN: Is Mr. Chairman, querying my knowledge? I know it because the Minister read out tonight that they were 145 street lights put up in St. Joseph, and I counted them to be 145. My arithmetic might be a little on the odd side. .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I had asked for those lights a long time ago.

Mr. BOLDEN: Am I being heckled from the Chair? I am pleased that St. Joseph has now got 145 lights.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I am wondering if the hon. member is suggesting that because he is representing St. Joseph they should not have light. Do you mean 145 street lamps are too many for St. Joseph? Is that what the hon. member is suggesting, Sir?

Mr. BOLDEN: They are not enough, but they went full steam ahead to suit Christmas, December 3. Mr. Chairman, what I want to get on to now on a more serious vein is the question of bus stops. Under Item 69 there is a sum of money which provides for bus stops; I would like to see a complete resiting of the bus stops in this country, I would like to know who is the idiot - and I use the word "idiot" - if he is a so-called Engineer, I would like to tell him to carry his engineering ability somewhere other than Barbados. I have never yet in my life seen bus stops put down as they are in Barbados; the present Minister of Communications and Works and the Leader of the House would know that a the bottom of Fontabelle there are two bus stops, one is outside the door of the Minister and the other is almost opposite that, and any time one bus is coming from Bridgetown and another one from Deacons Road and they meet at these bus stops the whole of Fontabelle is blocked up. You come up Westbury New Road and there is a bus stop literally at the corner and another one at the corner

by the Cemetery. Take every road in Barbados and you will see that bus stops are placed in the most unsuitable positions one can think of. If they were put down by the engineer at the Ministry of Communications and Works I believe he does not understand the traffic laws of this country. If you take the roads from Bridgetown to the country you will see that bus stops are placed on corners, they are placed next to major road signs and are placed too close to each other, and I would suggest that the Minister take a careful look at the bus stops in this country and have them resited.

I say this without fear, that there are too many bus stops along the routes. Go back to the instance in Fontabelle, what right do you have putting two bus stops on Westbury New Road? I cannot see it, and I believe that the Minister should take a careful look into this and have the bus stops relocated so as not to cause any obstruction in traffic.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member said that the bus stops are too close to each other, but the hon. member seems to have forgotten that we are living in a small community. I do not accept this nonsense about bus stops being placed around a corner; no bus stops at a bus stop for more than a few seconds, and if people cannot wait a few seconds they must go and kill themselves. 11.40 p.m.

It is all right for the hon. member to talk, because he has a car and his wife can drive.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. My wife is not in here. Perhaps the Minister wants me to refer to his new wife, but I do not want to do that.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has a car and a wife. Is he ashamed to having a car?

Mr. BOLDEN: I can refer to your wife, if you want me to do so.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Why is the hon. member getting on in such a frivolous manner? Is he ashamed of having a car? Well, I got mine honestly. *(Asides)* The hon. member must be realistic. I am not defending this. The Minister is in here and he has his Parliamentary Secretary. They can defend it, but I am speaking as a member of the House and as a Barbadian. It is unfair for the hon. member to say that the Engineers have no sense because they put down bus stops other than in conformity with his way of thinking. (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: "You can abuse Lawyers, but we cannot abuse Engineers!")

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Is the junior member for the City addressing the Chair?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, they can abuse me because I know how to deal with them. We are living in an Island 21 x 14 and there is no place in Barbados where one can get three straight miles; therefore, it is evident that you cannot have bus stops put in places that would be in conformity with the big countries. No bus stops at a bus stop longer than a few seconds, so why cannot people wait for a few seconds? People leave the country and come to town to shop with big baskets. Would it be fair to ask my mother to walk with a big basket on her head weighing about 300 lbs. for a half mile to catch a bus? Some people use the bus to convey certain things to their homes. Why is the hon. member trying to be difficult since he has entered politics? The bus stops were there from the time the hon. member was a little child. The hon. member has been talking a lot of nonsense about Engineers. I am going to represent the Engineers because they cannot come in here to represent themselves. The hon. member made one or two good points, but he must not allow sentiment to overrun his reason when talking about the position of bus stops.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with doing something about the bus stops in Belleville where almost everybody has a car, but it will still be necessary to have buses up there to facilitate the people who have to go to work as well as servants. Servants have to go to work, too, therefore when we are putting down bus stops we have to take all of these things into consideration. I do not want to allow the hon. member to go away with the idea that the bus stops are too close and the Engineers do not know what they are doing. We have competent Engineers in the Department.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has had his "fly off". I say that the Engineers who said where the bus stops should be put down do not know what they are doing. Let me tell the Minister that there is a law in this country which says that you must not park a vehicle within 30ft. of any corner, or you cannot stop around a curve, but the buses are breaking the law every day.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I know the law better than the hon. member does, because I have never been into any court and lose any case. The law says that you cannot park within 30 ft. of a corner and not near a curve.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member may know the law better than the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, but the law is that you cannot stop a vehicle around a curve. The law says a curve and not a corner.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if the Police would go out from tomorrow morning and do their duty we would get things straight. They can start from St. Joseph, and they will find that at Mayers Corner there is a bus stop within 15 ft. from a major road. You will then know if the Engineers at Highways and Transport know what they are doing. Go to the bottom of Fontabelle and you will see where a bus stop has been placed. When a bus stops there other vehicles can hardly pass. When you put a bus stop near a corner and a vehicle comes along and kills two or three people that will be a different matter. Everybody has to conform with the law. There is also a bus stop near Westbury Cemetery, and I do not see why that bus stop could not be put further down the road.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. member has said about the bus stop near the corner in Westbury Road. If a bus stalls at the corner, will he go and push it from there.?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member saying that the buses stall at these corners as many times as they make trips? That proves that the buses are no good.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not saying that. If the bus stops you will have to wait, and if it stalls you will have to wait.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not a question of proper planning. There is a bus stop at the top of Mapp Hill near a curve. I lost a car there, but it was no fault of the driver who ran into the back of my car. The bus stop is too close to the corner, and any on coming vehicle trying to overtake another vehicle is likely to cause an accident. If that bus stop were 40 ft. away, the accident would not have occurred. 11.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, now the question of sheds at these very bus stops. The Government seems to embark on a policy that service organisations must do what Government should do. Let us look at Item 60 which deals wtth Life Saving apparatus at beaches. The Government is voting the paltry sum of $200, and I know this has been voted simply because the Government is aware that the Jaycees have got a programme in life saving. I have said earlier in these debates that the Jaycees have been asking Government to take over the life saving business for a long tion. The Jaycees have been providing this service out of funds raised through Bingo by the Gambling Committee. I think it is unfair that private citizens should utilise their time to make money to do what Government should do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will hon. members in the backroom please lower their voices?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Lions have started a programme on providing sheds, but they have done this in the sophisticated areas of Bridgetown. Let us look at some of the bus stops placed in the country. I consider that Six Roads in St. Philip is a major gathering point for passengers trying to get to town. They have built a lay-by opposite Princess Margaret School, but they have not thought of putting a bus shed there. You only have to pass there on a morning when it is raining, and you will see all the people who are awaiting the bus crowded under the gas station. I think this is a suitable point at which to put a bus shed with two sides, because there is a lay-by there already, and people could wait under the shed and board a bus from there. Similarly the buses coming from the City have to put people off in the road for them to run across the road and go under the gas station.

Again, Blackmans corner in St. Joseph is a major meeting point. People from Branchbury and Blackman's Tenantry wait at the junction there, so Government should put a shelter there as well.

Coming back to life saving, I have said before that every time there is a death resulting from drowning on either one of our beaches, it reflects unfavourable on the tourist trade of this country, and I would like to see life savers placed at Foul Bay, the Crane and at Cattlewash along the East Coast Road, because quite recently they have been developing the St. Philip area and I have noticed quite a lot of bathers in the sea at the Crane and Foul Bay, and there is nobody there in case there are rough seas or if somebody gets into difficulty. I would like the Government to stop waiting on service organisations and do what they should do. I would like to see bus sheds erected and I would like to see life savers. I would also like to see the improvement of the lighting system. You can take half the lights from Gemswick and put them on the road from Oldbury Woods to the Crane, The Government has a light on practically every lamp pole from Seawell to St. James. I have made private enquiries and have been told that they are lighting up the roads so that when you come out of Seawell you can drive down the main road. I would like them to look in the opposite direction, because the last light is on the corner of Seawell and there is a long stretch of dark road from there to the Crane. There is one light at Oldbury and the rest are in Gemswick. I would like to see this road lit because you have the Crane, Crane Bank Hotel and Sam Lords Castle on that road. If the two members for St. Philip cannot represent the parish, I would have to represent it, and I hope that the Government would direct some of this money to installing lights in St. Philip.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has just said that there are too many lights in St. Philip and that we should move some of them out of Gemswick. On the other hand he is saying that there should be more lights going from the Airport towards St. Philip.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member was not listening carefully. I said there were too many lights in Gemswick, and that on one-third of a mile stretch of road there were fourteen lights.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, I think I heard tonight that you have approximately 300 lights in St. Joseph. Will the hon. member give the people of St. Philip some?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I do not know if the hon. senior member for St. Philip remembers the circumstances under which these lights were put in St. Joseph, because he is a member of the Party; he is also a member of the Government and he would be one of those who sat down and took the decision to direct Barbados Light and Power to shift their lighting programme from all parts of the country to St. Joseph in order that 3rd December might be a triumphant day for that side, but it turned out to be the opposite.

It lit the way of the people in St. Joseph so that they could see which was the better candidate. I am still saying however, that I would like the Hon. Minister to take seven of the lights from Gemswick and put in other parts of St. Philip.

Mr. Chairman, there is a point I would like to revert to. I am going to deal with barbergreen but not in the garage at Gemswick. It was said in here tonight that there is a Central Planning Committee which decides on priority in fixing these roads. I would like to draw to the attention of this Chamber that for the past three years I have noticed what in my opinion is something being done without any planning or consideration. There are two main roads which lead to the factories in St. Philip; there is the road which takes you from Searles to Four Square, and there is the road going through Watts Village in St. George which services Bulkely, Carrington, etc. For the last three years, the Ministry of Communications and Works has waited until the crop season begins to re-surface these roads. During the hard time when traffic is less on these roads, there is no barbergreen machine in the area at all, but as soon as the crop begins, for some unknown reason the barbergreen machines are moved on to these roads, they will do two or three hundred yards and stop at the end of the crop. These roads carry heavy traffic when the crop season begins and practically all the cane lorries and cars use them to get to Carrington, Four Square, Bulkeley and Searles, and I would hope that when the Minister decides to direct his attention to roads as from 1st April that he would have the barbergreen somewhere else. I would spread out some of the money in other areas because it is patently clear that the whole operation of roads and lights has been done on a vote-catching basis at a particular time.
12 midnight.

In St. Joseph, come a bye-election and they put in 145 lights; in Gall Hill, St. John 29 lights, in Massiah Street 38 lights. I know Massiah Street, I was born there, Massiah Street has got lights through every crack and crevice. Look at Venture and Edge Cliff, 8 lights, you do not see Sherbourne, but you hear when Kendal will get theirs, from 1st April. I support the junior member for the City in his view that where the Democratic Labour Party finds that they are not going to get votes there is no road programme or light programme. The Official Gazette records that when the hon. senior member for St. Joseph became so desperate late last year, he said that the people in the Ministry of Communications and Works do not care anything about the Prime Minister because they treat him like a boy, but I am satisfied that the Prime Minister has been fooling the senior member for St. Joseph all along, because when he stood in this Chamber and said that he directs which road should be done he has been fooling the senior member for St. Joseph all along and the senior member could not see that. I cannot see how it is possible that for nine long years - the words the senior member for St. Joseph used - he was crying in the wilderness for nine long years and could not get a road in Dark Hole, and people were complaining that they could not get through there to Church in St. Andrew any longer. The road in Melvins Hill was broken down for about five years now and nobody has seen fit to put it back.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to know that the roads in St. Joseph and St. Andrew are not just a problem of the Ministry of Communications and Works. This is very unstable area, it is part of the 1/7 of the Island with moving lands, so before the Ministry can go in to do any road works in St. Joseph or St. Andrew we have to get the consent and approval first of Soil Conservation, because this is where roads move, it is just not a matter for the Ministry. I am the Minister responsible for Communications and Works and I cannot approve the road unless it is approved first by Soil Conservation, and if the Soil Conservation authorities say it is not suitable to put in a road we just cannot go and put in a road, because we will just be wasting money. The soil has got to be stabilised, the underground water will have to be drained and certain problems like this, so it is not just a matter of Communications and Works coming just as they would with their normal road programme in St. Michael and St. George, we have got first to get the approval of Soil Conservation as to whether the area is stable enough or whether it is suitable to put in roads.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I understand this, but what I am saying is if the Hon. Minister says that he cannot repair the roads until Soil Conservation agrees, the Hon. Minister should ask what is Government's policy? For nine long years the roads in Dark Hole have broken down, the road in Mellowes Hill was broken down for some six years, do you mean to tell me that Soil Conservation is going to take this length of time to decide what to do with the roads in St. Joseph?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it is not a matter for the length of time to decide, it would take something like over $100 million if we consider the unstable areas of Barbados to stabilise it under Soil Conservation, but when I was formerly in the Ministry of Communications and Works some six years ago it was estimated at about $65 million to stabilise that part of this Island and it is now over $100 million, so it is not just a matter of coming to a decision, it is a matter of finding the finance to do the natural drainage to stabilise this area. This is a long term heavy capital programme.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, that is not the answer. If it costs $65 million some time ago and it is well over $100 million now, what is going to happen? Are you going to sit down and wait till one day when the Lord will come down out of Heaven and work a miracle and put back the road? Are you going to say that because the people choose to live in St. Joseph that they must be without roads? Has Government devised any sort of plan to deal with the roads in St. Joseph? The roads must have been there

at some time, but what is the position? For nine years the roads have been in the same condition, what must the people do?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If the hon. member would give way, on a point of elucidation, let me explain something to the hon. member. Barbados has been made up of three forms of strata.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me tell the Hon. Minister something. He may be a Minister and he may say that I am young, but I have studied the soils of Barbados just as much as he has or more.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If you know it you are not talking this way, because in the Scotland area, St. Joseph and St. Andrew, you get quite a lot of clay and as a result of this you get water seeping under when the rain falls. You get underground currents running all the time washing out the roads because it cannot penetrate the soil. This is what is called impermeable soil, so if we were to go and build roads on this kind of soil, when you get a heavy rainfall the whole thing will wash away again. The point is that Soil Conservation cannot get enough Officers who are qualified enough to go into this thing; this takes a lot of money as well as a lot of expertise. The second thing is our economy does not afford us to do this because we have a small economy. You spend all the money that Barbados is producing now for the whole Island in the Scotland District and you still will not be able to solve the problems. These are problems that no matter who comes in you are not going to be any better off. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew told me that when he was a boy he used to play cricket in the back of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph's residence; he is a fairly young man and if you look now in the back of where the hon. senior member for St. Joseph lives and you will see the chasm that has been created there. This will give you an idea of how the land is really eroding. Looking at it with the naked eye you cannot see it at a glance but over a period of years you can discover what is really taking place, and I can see that not too far away from now you may only have one road to get into St. Andrew or St. Joseph, because you will notice that the only roads that are really standing up are those roads that are paved.

When I was Minister of Communications and Works I went to help a man cut a cart track and as a result of cutting this cart track the whole thing broke away, so you must be realistic, do not try to put the blame on the Government and say that the Government does not have plans, this is not true. The Government has plans, but the Government's plans cannot be to waste money, because you will build a road today and it will be washed away tomorrow. Furthermore, I will say this to the hon. member, even the bulldozer that you put to clear away the roads, the weight of the bulldozer alone sometimes causes the road to break away. We are faced with two problems; one is that we do not have people qualified enough to go in and drain out the soil, and the other is a money problem, and the money problem is the big problem.

12.10 a.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to have lost track of what I have been saying. I have asked him to repair the roads which have broken down. One half of the road to Mellows Hill was broken down 5 years ago and the other half is still standing there. The two concrete posts which have been put in to show people that the road has broken down are still there. The road to Dark Hole has not been repaired. There is something called a suspended bridge or a hanging bridge. If you cannot repair the road, then you could construct a suspended or hanging bridge to the two parts of the road which are strong. I do not understand what the Minister is saying. I am not asking him to go to St. Joseph and build roads on clay. I am asking him to repair the roads already there.

Mr. Chairman, I was interested in peasant agriculture since 1951 - 1952. Last week I asked a question in this House as to whether consideration could be given to planting a different type of tree. I know about the clay structure. I hope that the Hon. Minister will look at these roads and have them repaired. I am not talking about building new roads.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not an expert in soil conservation or in building roads. As Minister of Communications and Works, I am responsible for roads and soil conservation. I have been instructed by the technicians in the Soil Conservation Department that that area is not suitable for building a road, and I cannot hold myself responsible for throwing away taxpayers' money. I am not prepared to go against the advice of technical officers in a field that I know nothing about. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has just mentioned that the road might break in a certain area and stand up in another, but in that same area you have to contend with impermeable soil and so on. The water cannot run through the soil, so it seeps through the top and causes a lot of damage. Unless you are prepared to put in pipes in that area to lead the water to the sea similar to what has been done in the Sedgepond area and some of the other places in St. Andrew, then it would be useless spending money on a road there. It would mean that a as soon as the rain falls the water undergorund would cause erosion and the roads would be washed away again. I must go by technical advice in this matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister say whether he has had any technical advice on the Mellows Hill Road?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is just one point I should like to bring to the attention of the Minister and his Technical Advisers. Originally it was used as a two-way road and traffic would come up Coleridge Street and turn through Magazine Lane. It is used for one-way traffic for vehicles travelling from Magazine Lane towards the Court. Unfortunately nothing was done about the major stop when the change was made; so very few vehicles are driven over on the side of the Waterworks where there is a major stop, but they turn on the side where there is

no major stop and drive straight up the road. This could be very dangerous, and I should like the Minister and his advisers to look into the matter.

There is one other point I should like to raise while I am on my feet. On Saturday morning while on my way to the House, I saw two lorries loading furniture on Broad Street. That should not be allowed in Broad Street. The lorries were in front of K. R. Hunte, and they were blocking traffic while they were being loaded. That should never be allowed particularly on a Saturday morning, and I would ask the Minister to look into this matter.

This may be in answer to what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas said about the Technical Advisers. There was a bus stop in Lower Broad Street which was moved since the change in the traffic system in Bridgetown. The bus stop is now placed within the studs where one could park originally. You now have studs there and you can park, and you also have a bus stop. I know this is a fact, and I believe the Commissioner of Police will be able to tell you about it. I think they have made representations to have the studs removed. The Commissioner of Police is aware of it, but I think there was some hitch with the Technical Advisers in the Ministry.

Perhaps the Minister may want to do something about the traffic at the Airport. It strikes me as unsatisfactory when you have traffic coming across and traffic going into the Airport without some proper system of dealing with it.

I should also like to hear something about the roundabout that is being built in Welches. How is it proposed to direct traffic there?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have taken note of what the hon. junior member for the City has said. There are some replies I should like to make for the benefit of the hon. junior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. 12.20 a.m.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph wanted to know what distance the fourteen lights at Gemswick covered. The lights are placed normally 150 feet apart. In some instances you may miss a pole so the greatest distance would be 13 spaces of 100 yards, and the maximum distance if they are at every other pole would be 1,300 yards.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter questioned Item 11. The Ministry does not have a central storeroom in which all the items can be received by the storekeeper.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I was not suggesting that you should have a central storeroom where all items can be received, because that would call for a storeroom covering acres.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member mentioned the various depots about the Island. I am saying that there is no central storeroom at which all the supplies could be placed and delivered as needed to subsidiary storerooms. By not having a central storeroom, you have to keep your supplies at the closest possible storeroom to the area in which you are working for convenience from which it can be transferred and used on the job sites as the material is required. Items such as tools, gasolene and diesel are stored at the Ministry of Communications and Works and no local purchase orders are required for those items. The other items are processed through the assistant Accountant in charge of stores who on receipt of requests duly approved by the officer in charge of production then issues requisitions for the material.

Mr. HINDS: One difficulty is that these local purchase orders are not directed by the officer who is issuing them. In other words, the men on the site are the persons who tell the officer where he can get the supplies, and that is where the Department can run into trouble. It is not a case where the requisition is presented and the issuing officer is left to find out where these goods can then be obtained for best prices and the like; but when a requisition is presented to the officer who is going to issue the local purchase order, very often negotiations have gone on with the person who is going to supply the goods. We want to cut that piece of the business out because it is here that these negotiations go on underhand and you merely tell the officer to issue the local purchase order to this particular store.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I have heard the hon. member's comments and I will look into that. Under Item 45 - Overtime, this is for the office staff of the Ministry. Overtime for the casual and unestablished staff of the Ministry is paid from Item 42 and from the respective Heads in the Capital Estimates.

Mr. HINDS: Your note does not say one word about overtime being involved in that. The note should explain that it is for normal labour plus overtime.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Under Item 50 - Training, it is proposed to organise a series of training courses for heavy equipment operators, site supervisors, accounting staff, registered staff and any other operators that may be necessary.
12. 30 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: My question, Mr. Chairman, was what relation this bears to Item 44.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Item 44 is to pay wages of four trainee draughtsmen and two trainee surveyors. Item 52 - Insurance of Buildings and Equipment. It is considered that the provision of $100,000 will be adequate to meet insurance premiums on buildings during the 1971-72 financial year. Premiums from 1970-71 will not exceed $85,000, therefore $100,000 will be ample for the new year.

Item 55 - Communications and Item 67 - Removal of Offices. The sum of $5,000 under Item 67 is to pay wages of workers who are required to assist

with the lifting and transporting of furniture when a department is being removed from one building to another; provision for construction, etc. of new offices is provided under Capital Estimates. The sum of $265,000 under Item 55 is to pay monthly services and new installations and changes for telephones at Government Departments listed at Appendix 5. The sum of $160,000 was included in the 1970-71 Estimates, and supplementary provision of $95,000 was obtained from Parliament in November last year on account of the revision of rates by the Barbados Telephone Company Limited. The amount which is estimated will be spent in the current year is therefore $255,000, which is an increase of $10,000.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister has just told us on Item 67, does the Minister not consider that to be casual work which could normally be paid for from Item 42?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Item 42 is Casual Staff and the note says that that is for casual labour employed on various projects detailed at Appendix L; in other words this is a separate and distinct vote. At Item 71 the sum of $553 is included in 1971-72 Estimates for the upkeep of the cholera ground in St. Peter; an amount of $410 was included in the 1970-71 Estimates for that purpose.

I think it was the hon. senior member for Christ Church who asked questions in connection with Farley Hill; I have been advised that Farley Hill has been included in the note by error and should be deleted. On the question of maintenance of some of the areas listed by the Parks and Beches Commission this will be discussed and adjustments will be made. Item 78. Apart from the drainage survey to be carried out with the technical assistance from the U.K. Government, particular attention will be paid in this year to suck wells, water courses and gullies draining the St. Thomas and St. George areas.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Charman, I think I can help the Minister in this respect. All the well diggers and well cleaners you want to service the entire Island can be found at Josey Hill, St. Lucy.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I thank the hon. member for that information, I will make a note of it. 12.40 a.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I thank the hon. member for that information. I will note it. Wells are cleaned on a 4-year basis except under circumstances deemed otherwise. Mr. Chairman, I would like to agree with the hon. member that in several of these instances if the water could be diverted into such wells before travelling such long distances it would save a lot of damage. When the water travels such long distances it takes up a lot of garbage, changes its course and creates all sort of damage. The greater the volume of water that is built up the greater will be the speed of the water, and when it overflows the gutters and so on great damage can be done to these bridges. The damage done to the bridges was caused by the water being unable to flow freely. I agree that we should have wells placed in an equidistant position so that the water would return to the earth rather than to accumulate and carry garbage down to the bridges.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is prepared to have these wells cleaned and the gullies cleared of bush before the rainy season comes in. In all of the bridges I have checked since the flood on the 2nd October, I have found that the water changed its course. Every time water changes its course it will have greater speed.

With regard to the Speightstown Bus Stand, a Committee, under the Chairmanship of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, was appointed to make recommendations to the Government for the redevelopment of Speightstown. The Committee have made their recommendations, and they are being considered at the moment. Included in the recommendations will be the construction of a new Bus Stand for Speightstown.

With regard to Salt Pond, I should like to inform the hon. junior member for St. Peter that funds are included in the Capital Estimates to tackle the Salt Pond project during the 1971-72 financial year. I should also like to tell the hon. member that the land changes its position in that area. I was in Speightstown recently and it was surprising to see the amount of land at a point north which was built up in that area just two weeks before we had the rain. The water from the sea had encroached considerably within the two-week period. It is now a question of the level of the area. On the night of the 2nd October there was a high spring tide. The drainage water was below the level of the sea water and it could not go into the sea. It could only get out after the spring tide had broken away a portion of the sand within the area of the Salt Pond. There was a type of trap built there with concrete slabs for the water to run out and, apparently, they kept the flood door seaward which the Engineers claimed was kept downward so as to stop silt from coming in and building up on the beach. My idea is that it should be opened so that when the water builds up with a heavy flow it would cut a channel and drain out.

In other words, if you are going to have that type of construction, whenever there is heavy rain somebody should be there to lift it up so that the pressure of water could go out. Instead of doing that it is left closed down; therefore, the water will expand and all sorts of things will take place.

The hon. junior member for the City asked a question about Phillips Land, Lightfoot Lane. The Ministry have investigated the provision of roads and drainage at Phillips Land. It has been discovered that several of the houses will have to be aligned and others will have to be removed to other areas to permit a road 14 ft. wide to be considered. The Ministry of Housing are examining the possibility of removing some of the houses under the Ministry's Slum Clearance Programme.

Bedford Lane would be considered for repairs under the Ministry's Private Tenantry Roads Pro-

gramme. It should be noted that more than 100. tenantries will qualify for repairs.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is just one small point I should like to raise. Next to Gills Memorial Church at Eagle Hall there is a bus stand, and Government must move immediately to acquire enough land on which to build a pavement where persons waiting to board a bus can stand rather than stand on the main highway. That is definitely a bit dangerous. There is another point concerning Highway 1. At Church Point just obliquely opposite the St. James Dispensary coming towards town, the bus stop there is very badly placed. Any vehicle coming from Porters Gap and going in the direction of Bridgetown will go too far over to the right and there is a tendency of getting into accidents with vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. The position is that when a bus stops at the bus stop any vehicle coming from Porters Gap and attempting to overtake the bus must go further to the right of the curve. I should like the Government to look into this matter.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the microphone seems to be afraid of me now. I only want the Minister to keep his pen in hand and make certain notes of things I want done in St. Joseph before I say goodbye.
12.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, under Item 56 - Lighting, I have heard hon. members willing to lambast the present Government for erecting street lights in St. Joseph, and even the hon. junior member for St. Joseph talk about the lights that were erected there. Now, Sir, I would like to see St. Joseph like a real electric company, as bright as can be, and I am asking the Minister to make notes of the places I will now call. There is Braggs Bottom, Vaughan's Land and Easy Hall Tenantry where you should either instal lights or remove the people. The same is true of Horton's Village. There are Fruitful Hill and St. Silvans Village generally called Dark Hole. There is also Joes River Tenantry. At the moment Joes River already has the poles, but the Government has to do the roads. *(Asides)* They could not have promised it for years because I only took it up with Mr. McGregor a few months ago.

Now there is a large stone above the house of a woman who complains that when heavy lorries or a bus passes the rock vibrates and there is a possibility that at any moment it will tumble over and crush her home, and it is also possible that children may be around at the same time. I passed there a few days ago and saw children on top of the rock. Imagine these children being on the rock when it tumbles? I want the Minister to make a special note of this, because if anything should happen with that woman's house and the children there through the lack of removing that rock, I am going to ask the Chief Justice to lodge a case of murder against the Minister. I spoke with the lady at the House who tells me that she would not allow her children to go on the rock, but she has a T.V. and the children go on the rock to have a look through the window. I do not think the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has seen that rock. You should also make a special note that a road should be put there. It only needs shaking and the Electric Company is willing to come in with their apparatus and give the people in that area light. There is also Cambridge which is in St. Joseph and St. Andrew that needs lighting. I want you to light up the whole parish of St. Joseph so that when I go it will be small electric company, because I do not think I will have the privilege after this year of taking part in the Estimates of this country. *(Asides)* The Leader of the Opposition has promised me that when I have gone and there is anything, he will bring it in for me. You also have Hackleton's Cliff.

Coming back to roads, I am asking again for a road at Fruitful Hill. That road was abandoned for the last eight years. When we had the first rainfall and it destroyed Coggins Bridge, it washed out Fruitful Hill Road. The Government replaced Coggins Bridge. The rain came again and washed out Coggins Bridge and it has been replaced, but Fruitful Hill Road has not been done. It makes me and the people in Fruitful Hill believe that the present Government does not want to do something by way of diverting the road or doing something for them to get to church and market. I want this done so that when I take my exit I will be able to tell the people in St. Joseph that I got the road fixed before I left. It seems to me to be a question of stubbornness, but it is time that this Government do something for the people at Fruitful Hill.

Sir, about two or three nights ago it was announced over the radio that all the bridges that had been washed away during the last flood are ready to take traffic again.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, I do not think anybody could tell the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that all the bridges that were washed away were ready. There are, I think, two bridges that need completely new construction. What we did was to temporarily repair bridges to get them in readiness to be used in the crop, but Dr. Smith's Bridge and Thompson's Bridge need new designing. What happened with some of these bridges is that they were not actually damaged but the water built up and cut around them. In these instances the roads have been repaired and rejoined at the points on either side of the Bridge where the water had broken through, but the actual foundation of Dr. Smith's Bridge was damaged and it will have to be reconstructed completely. It could not therefore be true to say that all the bridges are back in use, because this is not so. What I was trying to do mainly was to get the crop out.

Mr. SMITH: If Dr. Smith's Bridge is never fixed, you still have an outlet and the people can still use the road to get to and from church.
1 a.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, even if he had never fixed Dr. Smith's Bridge there would still be an outlet and the people could still use the road to get

to and from Church, but at Fruitful Hill they cannot get anywhere, so if Dr. Smith's Bridge has not been completed the people are in the same plight. I am sure I heard on the radio that all the bridges that had been washed away were restored, I made a note of it and maybe it was the announcer who made the mistake. Anyhow, if not all, whatever was done was damaged since Fruitful Hill.

Bus shelters. I was asking for a bus shelter at Horse Hill for a long time, I am not asking for a bus shelter where there are shops or other places nearby where people can shelter if the rain falls, but there is no place at Thorpes Corner nor at Horse Hill where these people would be able to shelter. I am asking the Minister to make a note of it and see to it that he puts shelters at Thorpes Corner and Horse Hill. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has already mentioned Blackmans so I will not speak on that now, but do not forget to consider the Inspectors at Highways and Transport. That is all I am asking for as far as Communications and Works is concerned.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to make any lengthy speech on this Head because I think we had a very full debate, and a Head of this nature is one on which most members always call for the things they need for their own constituencies. I was very happy this evening to see that you had the courage, Mr. Chairman, to castigate the Government on its policy, and if I can put my hands on the Hansard, you are going to lose your seat. I am sure it will not get out in time, but I would really like to read back your speech and this would give the people of St. George a classic example of Government's policy. If you have had so many promises and you are a pope in the Government's Party, then the people are well aware of what we on this side must go through. There are only one or two observations which I have to make under this Head, and I hope that Government will really assist us on this occasion.

Sometime ago, Mr. Chairman, I did draw to the attention of Government, on 21st January, 1969, that in as much as they had carried out a street lighting programme in Barbados - I am going to say that St. James was fairly well treated, I would not say that the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretaries must have asked for the wrong information and they were given the information which they asked for - but there are many more lights in St. James than the figure the Minister gave; however, I believe that was more or less an error. For the village of Morgans, if I had my case to argue at length I would argue on the premise of what the hon. senior member for St. Philip said, that in as much as approximately one mile of road in the area which was formerly known as Penny Hole is entitled to 14 lights, and because there are 120 houses in that area they would have priority, I am confident that the Hon. Minister would not have overlooked the area of Morgans and Sea View where there are 127 and 93 houses respectively and there are two street lamps, one at Morgans and one at Sea View for almost five miles of road. People who work at Sunset Crest, many of them come from Redmans Village and from some of the areas in St. Thomas, and some of them also come from the villages of Morgans and Sea View. It is really dreadful to walk along Sea View and Morgans any time after 6 o'clock, and I will go further, Sir, one may remember of the murder of a man by the name of Holford Johnson who some years ago was murdered in that very area. In the area of Sea View where he originally lived there is still a very poor street lighting programme going on, as a matter of fact there is one light that is almost half way in the hill, and from there on you have the houses and no light.

In the reply which the Government gave they said the general improvement of street lighting for the Island is being undertaken, and I would like to say that I can see there is at least some improvement, because even if there are not more lights they are brighter lights and you only have to go into St. Joseph to see this for yourself. There is a very important thing which is always resting on my mind, and that is in the area of Orange Hill. I know there is going to be a bitter fight in the minds of some members in here, not a political fight, but for what I know of Orange Hill there is going to be a fight. I have always been very concerned about the hydrants which they have in that area, and I asked the question some time ago about the amount of hydrants in Orange Hill to serve that area.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hydrants come under another Head.

Mr. CRAIG: I am talking under Communications and Works.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The senior member for St. James may proceed, but hydrants come under Head 35; this is Head 34.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I know what I am saying, I said that I asked a question in here some time ago about hydrants in Orange Hill, and I am trying to develop the point. I once asked a question in here, Mr. Chairman, about the few hydrants in

that area, and I asked about increasing the number of hydrants due to the fact that it is one of the heaviest populated agricultural areas in the country and there has been no answer on this. I have been told however that the problems which they have there..... 1.10 a.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Unless the hon. member is going to complete his speech in a short space of time, I will move that Your Honour do now report progress.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to finish just now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, if you do not report progress I will leave.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your Motion was not seconded, and I cannot put it, but you may leave whenever you like.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, he cannot get a member of the Government to second the Motion!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was told that the reason why this has not been done is due to some road problem in the Orange Hill area. I really do not see any road problem if you have to lay down a hydrant. I do not know whether the Minister has any information on this matter. That is what I was told by a man who works at the Waterworks. I am not saying that he is a technical man or that he knows the particular reason; I believe that everybody in that district is exposed to the danger of fire.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague drew to the attention of Parliament something which I wanted to mention, and it is in connection with the roundabout near the entrance of the Airport. I live in Christ Church, and I am very often at the Airport. There was a minor accident just at that point a week or two ago, and only quite recently there was also a fatal accident at that very point. I observe that visitors, in particular, to the Island when approaching the Airport have a tendency to drive on the right hand side instead of driving on the left hand side, and they usually find outgoing traffic on the same side. I know that there are accidents in that area quite frequently. I do not know what plans the Minister has in his Works Programme for this particular area near Seawell. I should like the Minister to tell me what plans he has for Morgans, Seaview and the Seawell Airport junction. I am very satisfied up to a point about certain things in St. James.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to inform the senior member for St. James that the junction at Seawell is under consideration. No plans are formulated as yet, but the matter is under consideration.

With regard to the question of lights for Seaview and Morgans, I should like to tell all hon. members in this Chamber that the entire Island of Barbados will soon be lit properly in this financial year.

Mr. HINDS: Lights before the election!

The question that the sum of $7,638,943 under Head 34 – Ministry of Communications & Works – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting now suspended until 11 a.m. of this day.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether this is going to be fair to the Clerks of the House and the Reporters.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been cleared.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Within 24 hours you will require them to work for 16 hours.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we are not going to vote for any honorarium to pay Reporters. Get that straight.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Leader of the House will make arrangements for the Clerk to have some aerosol or something like that sprayed under these tables. There are a number of large musquitoes making us uncomforatble in here, and I hope that this matter will be looked after.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 11 a.m. this day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

1.23 a.m.

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and thereto it automatically now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

HEAD 35 - WATERWORKS

Head 35 – WATER WORKS – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,760,180 under Head 35 - Waterworks - stand part of the Schedule. I should like to make some comments. There is no doubt that during the period 1962 up to the present time the Waterworks have more than doubled their services in this Island. The total number of services at the end of 1961 was 21,831. Up to the end of February this year the amount of services was 43,644 which is more than doubled over a period of 9 years. Mr. Chairman, I can give you the amount of services installed each year.

Now, in 1961 there were 1,204 services installed, which brought it to a total of 21,831. In 1962 there were 1,340 services installed, making a total of 23,171. In 1963 there were 2,827 services installed, making a total of 25,998. In 1964 there were 2,302 services installed, making a total of 28,300. In 1965 there were 2,293 services installed, making a total of 30,593. In 1966 there were 2,338 services installed, making a total of 32,931. In 1967 there were 2,420 services installed, making a total of 35,351. In 1968 there were 2,628 services installed, making a total of 37,979. In 1969 there were 2,452 services installed, making a total of 40,431. In 1970 there were 2,545 services installed, making a total of 42,976. For the month of January, 1971, there were 330 services installed, and at the end of February 338 services were installed, making a grand total up to the end of February, 1971, of 43,644 services.

Mr. Chairman, this is remarkable, because one must consider the policy of this Government. It is the policy of this Government to carry water into every possible home in this Island. From this record it can be clearly seen what are the intentions of this Government. For many years a lot of the revenue derived in this country came from the Law Courts as a result of rows at standpipes. Several years ago children and people fought at standpipes in order to get water, but with the educational system such as the Democratic Labour Party have instituted in this country for the upliftment of the people of the people as well as their pride and dignity, we did not want children who were given free secondary education to go to the schools and sit down amongst other children who had to go to the standpipe to carry water to their homes. That is one of the things that demoralises a child. We did not want to see this inequality between children sitting in schools.

Mr. Chairman, we instituted a system whereby the poorer classes in this country could make a down payment and pay instalments so that it would be no burden on them to have water installed in their homes. All of these are things that consideration should be given to in this country. Under this instalment plan, you can pay down 25% of the cost and the balance can be paid quarterly. The balance is attached to your bill, thereby making it reasonably easy for the poorest person in this country to have water installed in his home.

I should like to show here, Mr. Chairman, the development that has taken place in this country as well as the pride, the dignity and the rising standards of the people of this country, because the rise in tourism alone could not create the rise in the use of water in this country. A great part of the consumption of water must be regarded as due to the number of services installed in the Island since 1961, and that is sufficient proof of the upliftment of the standard of the poor masses in this country.

Now, in 1961 the total amount of water used in this country was 10.7 million gallons. Today it is over 20 million gallons per day. Again, Mr. Chairman, we have practically doubled the daily production of water used in this country. In 1961 there were 11 reservoirs with a total of practically 8 million gallons. The number in existence today is 13 with 9.5 million gallons. We have to date under construction two other reservoirs: one at Providence that will produce 2 million gallons per day, and one at Carlton which will produce 1.5 million gallons per day. All of this proves what this Government are doing for the production of water throughout the entire island.

Now, between 1961 to 1969 we have extended in this country 152 miles of water mains.
11.10 a.m.

There is one thing I would like to state here. People have been complaining that they have been gettting bills twice from the Waterworks, and other people have not been receiving their bills. One recognises that where the Waterworks building is at present there is no room for expansion of staff, and this has created a problem in its administration. I would like to assure hon. members that there is a new building under construction which is almost completed, and another one as a storeroom is being built, and it will be integrated into the Ministry of Communications and Works. In a short time we will be moving into these new offices. Now there will be a collecting depot at this office, but due to our transportation system, I still feel that the main office for collecting water rates should be in Bridgetown, because people would not like to come from all parts of the country to Bridgetown which is a central area then to catch another bus or find other transportation to come to the Pine. That is why I feel that the biggest collecting office of the Waterworks Department will still have to be in Bridgetown for the convenience of those who want to pay their bills. In the office at Bridgetown, we have not been able to increase the staff even by a small percentage although we have doubled our water supply, and this is definitely responsible for the problems we are having at present. The storage of supplies is another problem. Previously all our pipes had to go to the Bell and this

created high transportation costs, but recently we have been storing a fair amount of these pipes at the Deep Water Harbour site from where they would be hauled to the sites where they would be used, thus reducing considerably the expenditure in transportation to a central point and then re-distributing all over the place.

We are also, Mr. Chairman, considering a reduction in the office work by using the computer system which the Government presently has, so that we will be up to date in a short space of time and should have no more complaints about bills going out twice and some people not getting theirs at all. We have also had a temporary increase in staff which will be able to function much better in our new office, and there is a small overtime vote. Since we have had this, we have been able to cut down some of the complaints which we have been having over the last year.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,760,180 under Head 35 - Waterworks - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has given us figures with respect to the number of services installed between 1961 and the end of February, 1971, but these figures are meaningless until the Minister gives us the relevant figures for the number of applications received during that period and the period before it, and finally if at the end of February, there was a backlog, and if there was a backlog, for how long has this backlog been building up? In the absence of those relevant figures, all the Minister has been saying amounts to nothing. I am not going to prolong the debate on this Head, because although I have a Resolution standing in my name about the Waterworks Department, I am going to conserve my energies - I cannot say my ability because that does not exist - to deal with other matters that are coming up under other Heads pretty soon.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister like other people in Barbados is fooling himself that we are going to computerise this and that where our accounting system is concerned. I try to point out to everybody who comes to me with this that you only get out of a computer what you have fed into it, and people must realise this. At the Waterworks Department some people have not been billed for water they have been consuming for more than three years. What are you going to feed into the computer about those persons? What we know already? Other persons are billed and every time they see a bill it has on arrears whether you have paid your bill or not. The computer cannot correct this.

In view of the fact that the Minister has admitted cramped conditions under which the staff has been working, everybody would be glad when they move into the new building, but we are going back to our old biblical reference: they are going to be putting old wine into new wine skins. The Waterworks Department needs proper staffing and not merely a chartered accountant. It needs to be staffed with people who are interested in what is going on in the Department. There is too much gossiping going on in the Department. Too many women are employed in the Department working too closely one to the other, and this is one place where you get more gossiping than production.

In 1961 I think the Minister told us there were eleven reservoirs. I wonder how many there are at present. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Thirteen.)
11.20 a.m.

In other words they have built two and if two have been built during the period 1961-1970, what assistance have these two afforded in bringing up our water levels? We need, Mr. Chairman, at the Waterworks Department a completely new approach to the human problems surrounding this institution; for instance, we would like to see that amongst your Clerks and your office staff that the standard of dress is maintained that does not detract from the status of the office or does not in any way impinge upon the measure of dignity that should be associated with the office, but when it comes to the 1970s when you have people spending their earnings as they wish, what concern should it be if a plumber turns up for work in a three piece suit or in an Afro outfit? Provided he is going to give an honest day's work for a day's pay I think that that is all you should be concerned with, but at the Waterworks Department there have been instances where people have been refused employment because they were not dressed to suit somebody's peculiar taste. This is nonsense; after all, a man leaves home dressed as he thinks fit to go on the job.

I find that when such situations arise it is striking back at our Welfare Department which has been functioning in our midst for very many years but has not been able to dispense the type of culture to carry to the people the type of attention that they should be getting so as to enable them and direct them into spending their small earnings to the best advantage. We have had situations - and I have experienced this myself - where parents in themselves who are living on starvation wages but may have a little boy or girl whom they would like to send to an excursion, they go into town and with the only dollar they have they buy up all this fancy foolishness just for an excursion for one day, but the day following that the child has got to stay in the house and cannot go to school because the money which should have been put in a suit that the child could have worn to the excursion and could have worn to school as well has been spent as if carnival is everyday. That is the type of thing that our Welfare Department should have assisted them with in the earlier days, and by now we would have got over all this, but it is still obtaining today.

Mr. Chairman, what can we do today with grown-ups who refuse to shave; there are very many reasons why some people may refuse to shave, but you see young people, young men today with more hair on their heads than women and they feel proud of it. A

big bunch of hair that you do not know whether it is a man or a woman by the way they carry themselves and the way they dress; are we at the Waterworks Department going to lay ourselves down that we must have this standard of dress if you are a plumber or a track cutter or whatever you are going to be that you must wear a particular type of dress for the job? That is nonsense; you are inviting trouble, and when you turn away that type of worker he still has his family to feed, and here is a case where a man would have been willing to earn a dollar and you are sending that same man to watch and see how best to break your house because his children have got to be fed. We do not want to see those situations obtaining any more. Do not interfere with these people provided they are rendering a service, giving an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. That is what we are concerning ourselves with, but as I said, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to debate Waterworks as such now, I prefer to leave it until my Resolution comes up when we have a full dressed debate thereon. I would just like to hear the Minister's answers to those points I have raised.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make just a small contribution to this debate, and in reply to the Hon. Minister when he said he believed that the main collecting office for bills should still be in Bridgetown. I would like the Minister and those responsible to really consider the method of collecting Waterworks bills. It is pitiful to pass the Waterworks Department and see people queuing up all down the steps waiting to pay Waterworks bills; you turn up certain days to pay your bill and they tell you they are not taking bills today, they stop at specific hours, and I am in agreement with anybody who goes there to pay a bill and finds that he has to queue up all down in the yard and wait for two or three hours to pay a Waterworks bill and does not pay it. That is the main reason why the Waterworks staff has not been able to collect those outstanding accounts. I would like the Minister when they are reorganising the Waterworks Department to find out if it is possible that Waterworks bills could be paid at the Post Office in Bridgetown, some other central collecting agency or paid by cheques through the Bank. I will tell you something now, the stupid position which exists in the Waterworks Department today is that if you do not pay the bills for three or four months you get a letter from somebody at Waterworks saying they will not accept it by cheque; you can return the cheque with that letter and they will accept it. I think that this is the whole problem with the Waterworks and these bills. It is only in Barbados that I have found out that you use the Post Office but you do not give it the facilities to help the people, but you go in England and you pay certain bills in the Post Office, you receive certain money from the Post Office, and it is a service which assists the people.
11.30 p.m.

They are all Government services. They are talking about using a computer to speed up the work in the Post Offices. There is no point in putting a computer at the Post Office and the Treasury where money is collected. The City Council has recently been taken over by the Central Government. The people should be allowed to pay their bills at the Post Office; the accounts could be put through the computer and you would know for what the money is paid. If you were to put an office at the Pine and another office in Bridgetown it will boil down to the same thing. You will have people queuing up outside both offices waiting to pay their waterworks bills. When you consider the number of services installed in Barbados today, then you can imagine the number of people who will have to queue up to pay their waterworks bills.

Mr. Chairman, the Government should give serious consideration to the question of utilising the Post Offices for the payment of bills. For instance, the Post Office in St. Philip is closed at three o'clock in the afternoon and it does not open until eight o'clock or half-past eight the following day. That extra hour could be used for collecting bills. You have just constructed a new Post Office at Eagle Hall. Why should you bring all of those people from Spooners Hill, Bank Hall, Black Rock and so on into Bridgetown to pay bills when they could easily be paid at the Post Office at Eagle Hall? If you pass by the Post Office between eleven and two o'clock any day you will find no business going on there. If you go in there to buy a stamp, you will see two people sitting behind desks reading newspapers and their feet up. Sometimes they do not even know you are in there. I believe that if you make the necessary facilities for people to pay their bills with ease, you will not have any problem. There would not be any question of staff or room at any Post Office.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have discovered that there is no quorum. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the waterworks bills are divided into three portions. I think it is a simple matter. Several people now have current accounts. There are several banks which provide cheques for paying bills. Why cannot a bill be divided into three sections so that a person can remove one section of the bill; pin his cheque to it, and post it to the Waterworks Department? When the bill is paid they can stamp and return it. It will be all Government business; the bills will be officially paid, and there would be no incurring of extra duties with the exception of the postman who may have to carry a bill twice.

Mr. Chairman, a person who lives in St. Joseph or St. Andrew has to catch a bus to come to Bridgetown, and he has to pay 60¢ bus fare merely to pay a waterworks bill for something like $1.74. If he were permitted to pay the bill by cheque, then he could put the cheque in an envelope and post it. I should like the Hon. Minister to give consideration to these suggestions, and I hope that the money will be able to be paid in one or two places.

With regard to the question of running water mains in small areas, there are in Burke's Village near Horse Hill a number of houses and the people have been asking for water in that area. About 21/2 years ago they changed the water mains in St. Philip, and they told me that they were reserving the small mains they were taking up for other areas. I believe that those mains could be used in this area. When I hear of the 122 miles of water mains put down and the thousands of connections made, I know from personal experience that the miles of water mains are put down on development areas. For the last two years Sunset Crest in St. James have been building houses; people have been moving into them, and connections have been made. Last year they put a main in Blackmans, and when I went to the Waterworks Department I was shifted from pillar to post before I could get any information as to why connections had not been made. I was told that there was a shortage of lead; that the people in England were on strike and so on. Why is there a shortage of lead when it comes to connections in Blackmans, but when it comes to Sunset Crest there is lead to make the connections?

Mr. Chairman, I have said already that I am not going to sit down in this country - whether I am in this Chamber or not - and allow expatriates to come here and get all the privileges while Barbadians who have laboured to develop the country are unable to get any. I say so openly and I do not care. The Public Order Act will have to take care of me, because I will go outside and say so. I will say that no Government in this country – regardless of which Party it might be – should play politics with a white man. I know that the people in St. Philip have been asking for water for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, if you go to Coles, St. Philip, you will see something like 4 half-inch mains running from the road into houses. If the people at the Waterworks Department knew what they were doing they would have known that it would be uneconomical to put down those small mains when it was known that other people in the area would need water and it would be necessary to use bigger mains in order to cater to everybody. The hon. senior member for St. Philip knows the position at the back of St. Martins. I know of a case where a man was driving a car and one of these small mains were damaged. One of these days one of these small mains will break somebody's foot. I would certainly like to know where to find this 152 miles of water mains.

Mr. Chairman, I know that St. Philip used to suffer from water problems. Sometimes you would get water between ten and twelve o'clock on mornings and it would be shut off until the next day. Nobody cannot tell me that this is not playing politics with certain people. All of a sudden you hear about 12 inch mains being laid in St. Philip. Now, St. Philip is booming. The Barbados Cotton Factory Limited have bought the land at the Crane and we now have Crane Park. Sam Lords Castle has bought another piece of land. Long Bay has been bought. They buy the land first and immediately thereafter you will see the water mains going in.

Mr. Chairman, two years ago the land in St. Philip was selling at $2,000 an acre, but today the same land is sold at $7,000 or $8,000 an acre. Those people can always get water, but the poor people who live in the tenantries and cannot afford to buy a spot in the development areas cannot get certain things done.

11.40 a.m.

The poor people who live in the tenantries cannot afford to buy these spots in the development areas, and I would like to see you cut off some of the money for the development sites and help the poor people in the tenantries, because it will take a long time for these people to get out of the tenantries and get onto the development sites, because as soon as you develop one of these development sites, the price of the land goes up. It usually starts out at 80 cents or 90 cents a square foot. Take a look by the new Drive-In and see that that area has been developed. You will see a road go in and then you see the Waterworks moving in with big mains, but everytime you come to this House and ask for water mains for some of the poor individuals living in the tenantries, there is always an excuse about not having mains or lead to do the connections. They went and put down two mains in Blackmans. The people were told to run their lines and they would get connections, but if you go to Blackmans now, unless something was done in the last two weeks – the people have put their pipes within three or four inches of the main which the Government has put down, and everybody is asking for a connection. (Mr. LOWE: All who applied have got water.) Mr. Chairman, the Parliamentary Secretary has made a statement and I would like to know when these people got their water.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 35 which is to reinstate highways and roadways which were broken for repairs to mains and hydrants, I have noticed in travelling through the country that a considerable time has been taken in getting these roadways mended, and I hope that the Waterworks will speed up this work, because there have been many complaints by people with cars that some of these roadways have remained in a bad condition for long periods and the holes become wider, and in some instances people have reported to me that it cost them the springs of their cars which had been broken. I feel that the Waterworks Department should turn around quickly and get that matter fixed.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph made a point which also affects us in St. George, especially in Rock Hall/Workmans. There you can see five or six half-inch mains along the roadway; some of them are on people's hedge-rows and some are lying by the wayside, and when traffic passes on some occasions they are broken. I feel that in Rock Hall where there are so many houses that a four-inch or six-inch main would accommodate these people adequately, and these half-inch mains should be removed.

Now you have Item 46 – Delivery of Water by Lorry. It is surprising that at the School Meals Centre at Gun Hill they have to call up the Waterworks Department for water. As you know, water is a commodity that is used in every home for many purposes – for cleaning and in the preparation of meals, and sometimes when the supervisors reach the centre there is no water. There seems to be some difficulty in that area because complaints come from Newbury, Bridge Cot and the surrounding area about water. I know of cases of people in Bridge Cot going into the bath and soaping, and when they turn on the pipe again there is no water. The water truck sometimes has to go to far districts such as St. Andrew and St. Peter which are areas we are told suffer the same difficulty, and when the truck has to be taken off its fixed duty to bring water to Gun Hill, you will realise that there is a great delay in the preparation of the meals for the children. I do hope that the Minister will report to his Executive members, and his engineers, and have the matter of water around Gun Hill, Newbury and Bridge Cot fixed. This has been causing a great set back to the school meals programme and to the people in the area.

It was very good to hear from the Minister in his opening remarks something about the collection of arrears of water rates. Only yesterday before I came here I knew of someone who sent his bill to the office with arrears written on it for an explanation, and I had the opportunity of seeing the bill for December as also the bill dated 31/3/70, and there seems to be some misunderstanding in the Waterworks Department. As the Minister has promised, I do hope that these faults in accountancy will be rectified and no such claims will be sent out which have been embarrassing many a citizen.

There is a tidy sum under plumbing. We all know where we have to get lead and the other things from, but I do hope that the people who have applied for services will get them quicker than has been happening. I know there has been a great improvement since this Government has taken over, because the Minister of Housing who was once Minister of this Department did give this House a breakdown and I do remember the figures well. The services that are being done monthly and quarterly compares with the previous ones, but we still get complaints. People complain that they have paid their money for a long time and ask what is happening. I reported a case to the Minister of a lady at Jericho, but in this case the Minister said that there was no lead. I do hope that we will get adequate supplies so that these people who have applied for this service can get it and be happy because water is used daily. I feel that the Government in spending money in this Department is spending it wisely; but we would still like everything to be kept 100 per cent so that all the people will be satisfied with the Waterworks Department.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I sat and listened very carefully to the hon. junior member for St. Peter, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and the hon. junior member for St. George, and I am ready to answer these questions. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph in this Chamber a few weeks ago made mention of the people at Blackmans not receiving water although a main was laid down. I made enquiries myself and it was not so. A main was installed there and people have put in applications but have not paid their money.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the Hon. Minister is being misinformed. I do not want to call names because I see the gentleman sitting in here, but as I say, I hold no brief for anybody. They put in the mains. I have the list of names. I know the man who collected the forms and I went to the Waterworks Department and searched the book, and when I asked a question, he told me that there was a shortage of lead and at that Blackmans had to wait their turn as they were running mains somewhere else. Do not let them misinform you. You bring a bunch of Civil Servants here and they give you the most untrue answers which can be proved. If the Minister doubts me I will drive up there with him now and let him see the mains on the ground.
11.50 a.m.

Do not let them misinform you, Mr. Minister, what foolishness are they getting on with?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there are mains that have been installed at Blackmans. It cannot be conceivable that anyone working in a Department could be so ruthless or reckless to make a statement to a Minister stating that mains were run in a certain area when they were not, the hon. member is saying that the mains have not been installed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I said the mains were run in Blackmans in November prior to Polling Day on December 3. They started by the bath in Blackmans, went down to the bottom and also at the other end; one main went from east to west and the other went from north to south, and the people were told to run their lines up to the main and they would get water before Election Day. The last answer they gave the Minister in here was that there were some complications with the roads. If the Minister would give me five minutes I would go to my office and come back and give him 29 names of the people who have applied, and I would tell him who took the application forms. If you doubt me I will start calling names of people in the Waterworks Department who told me that Blackmans has to wait now. I do not call names, but if you are going to be misinformed by your officers I will start calling names in here now. During the debate on the supplementary estimates I brought this to the attention of the Committee.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, instructions were passed on by me and I will go and check on what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would write down the name of Catlyn.

Mr. LOWE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the fact is that at Blackmans since the main was put

in nearly all the people who have applied for water had got it, but what has happened is that some of them have not paid in the deposit, and this is what I would like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to know, but if he can tell me the names of those people who have paid in their deposit and have not received the service I will look into it. This is the information I have received; when we were dealing with the supplementary estimates I went myself and asked questions relative to Blackmans, because I do not think it is fair that if a man has paid in his money and they have all the necessary equipment present he should not get his water. Since these Estimates were coming up I went back and asked about Blackmans and I was told then that the people who paid in their money had received services but those who have not paid have not received services.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, that is the greatest untruth I have ever heard, and if anybody told that to the Parliamentary Secretary he is being misled. I went to Blackmans the weekend before I went to New York, which was about two weeks ago, and none of the new mains have been connected. I went to the Waterworks Department and asked about it and I was told there that they were not sending out any estimates as yet, so how could that be when the people in the Waterworks Department told me they were not sending out any estimates.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I will give an undertaking to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that I will investigate this matter, and if what he has alleged has taken place I will get the record straight.

Mr. BOLDEN: I came out of Court one morning and I saw the people sitting down there and I went in the office and asked about the estimates and they told me they were not sending out estimates because they had no lead, and in that case the people of Blackmans would have to wait. I went back to Blackmans and spoke to the people and they told me they were promised water before the 3rd December.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have often heard the hon. member make comments about developers and large developments taking place in this country and all these services have been used for these services; I would like to tell the hon. member that this is not true. I have been visiting many of these areas in the last couple of weeks, taking with me the Chief Engineer and my Parliamentary Secretary, and what we have been doing, especially in areas where we are going to do roads, we have been removing all these and putting in 2 inch mains to facilitate the people. As fast as the standards of people rise they then have an incentive to put in water, and in areas recommended for development, if there are residents in that area and they all make applications for water they will get the water because we will put in a main suitable to supply the service to them.

There is something else I would like to put on the record about private development, and that is that the private developers pay for their own installations, and even if they did not pay for their own installations, I would like to mention this here as a Minister of Government that I would be very displeased if the Government of which I am a member refused to aid development in this country to create work for the people of Barbados. I tell you that and I mean it. You talk about Sunset Crest, but at Sunset Crest they pay for their water and they are developers in the country creating work for the people; years ago I was accustomed to going down in the Lower Green when they had the big evergreen trees there for a little talk and you could get any amount of people there in need of work, but you cannot find that today, and those were the days when a fellow got 60¢ for a whole day he was pleased.

12.00 noon

Any workman that is seen walking around Barbados today without getting a job is no good. You do not see carpenters and masons walking about any more. The building boom in this country has created too much for them. It is the small man building a 10 x 18 who will experience trouble in getting a carpenter or a mason to work for him nowadays. Carpenters and masons are well employed today as a result of the development that is taking place in this country. Anybody interested in the welfare of the citizens of this country would do everything in his power to create reasonable development so that the carpenters, masons and other workmen in this country should have employment.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. member will tell me how many connections were made at Sunset Crest between September last year and March this year. I should like to know how many connections were made in the same period in the whole of St. Joseph.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I will check on that. I will quote from the list showing some of the areas where there had been development. The hon. member should not come in here and criticise something that he does not know about. It would be better for him to ask for information and, as the Minister, I would give it to him.

The following mains were laid under the Additional Mains and Standposts programme:

Location	Size and Length of main
Rock Gap Spooners Hill St. Michael	3" - 1,200'
Banister Land etc.	4" - 720'
Bird Hill Haggatt Hall	4" - 600'
Worrell's Tenantry Waterhall	4" - 350'
Pile,Bay, Black Rock	4" - 850'
Upper Ifill Road	4" - 410'
Dean's Village	4" - 1,475'
Sealy's Land	4" - 1,280'
Risk Gap, St. James	3" - 906'
Well Hill, St. James	3/4" - 800' (S.P.)
Benn Hill, St. Peter	4" - 700'
Mt. View Tenantry, St. Lucy	4" - 1,070'
Cleland, Merricks, St. Andrew	1" - 1,300' (S.P.)
Blackman's Tenantry, St. Joseph	1/2" – 1,214'

Location	Size and Length of main
Martin's Bay, St. John	3'' - 800'
Lemon Arbor, St. John	3'' - 1,050'
1st Ave., Sherbourne, St. John	3'' - 600'
Perry Tenantry, Vineyard, St. Philip	3'' - 2,150'
Highland, Nr. Four Square, St. Philip	4'' - 1,150'
Bayfield, St. Philip	1 1/2'' - 1,000'
Lower Burney's, Christ Church	4'' - 2,200'
Walrond Village, Christ Church	3'' - 2,200'
Boarded Hall Tenantry (two Aves.)	3'' - 1,050
Lower Grey's Tenantry, Christ Church	3'' - 1,500'
Dayrell's Hill, Christ Church	3'' - 450'
Bartlett's, Christ Church	4'' - 1,050'
Shophill-Jackson, St. Thomas	4'' - 1,839'
Woodside Tenantry Endeavour, St. James	4'' - 900'
Holder's Tenantry, Black Rock	3'' - 2,400'
Watts Village, St. George	3'' - 775'
Holder's Tenantry, Brandons St. Michael	3'' - 2,400'
Parish Land, St. George	3'' - 662'
1st Avenue, Haggatt Hall	1 1/2'' - 420'
Palm Beach, Hastings, Ch. Ch.	4'' - 350'

Mr. Chairman, after a record like that, would it be fair for somebody to sit down and accuse the Waterworks Department or the Ministry of only looking after big services for big developments and leaving out other people? I have called every one individually so that the hon. member could hear what was done in the various areas. It is a false accusation when the hon. member said that the Department is only looking after big people. It is unfair to the Department.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is no question of being unfair to the Department. I will bet the Minister that half of the measurements he has read out are replacements. Are you telling me that you are putting in water mains at Black Rock for the first time? Are you putting in water mains in St. James for the first time? I am talking about connections.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, in Pile Bay, Black Rock, they never had water. These are new areas and not replacements. If it is even a question of putting in bigger mains, it would be a matter of relieving the congestion. An area might have had a 2-inch main 20 years ago, but that would be useless today. Even if we were to change the water mains from a 2-inch to a 6-inch it would be a question of increasing the service because the small mains would have been useless to the people.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the senior member for Christ Church said that he had been asking for it for three years.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, so early this morning you seem to have generated a lot of steam. I am very glad to see that the Government have speeded up their programme in my parish in respect of this matter. I hope that in this financial year Laynes Gap, Fair View, Lands Down, Silver Hill / Maxwell Hill area will have some work done to them by way of additional mains. The basic point seems to be that there is not enough quick follow through after the mains have been laid to get the connections. There are several complaints in that direction. This is the sort of complaint that you get against all the utility services in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, what has happened is that since this Government came into power and reversed the trend whereby the previous Government had a number of apprentices in the construction industry so that you could have a regular flow of workmen, they now find themselves in a position where there is more work than workmen are available. Nowadays a workman does not produce as much as he used to in the past. Your difficulty is a question of manpower.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member fails to realise that the reason why you have more demand than supply is simply because the standard of living has gone up since the Democratic Labour Party came into power.

12.10 p.m.

The hon. member seems annoyed because people do not go to the standpipe like when his father-in-law was at the Waterworks and gave people all the trouble in the world to get a little water.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on a point of order, or is he making a speech?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that the point was made.

Mr. St. JOHN: That is a typical example of the talent at the disposal of the Government. It is nasty. I was talking about facts that affect the Government.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, how can you sit and allow the hon. member to say that my example is nasty and not call on him to withdraw? I had to withdraw when you called on me for saying something about the hon. member that was true. I am objecting to the hon. member saying that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is objecting to being accused of being nasty. Will the hon. member withdraw the word?

Mr. St. JOHN: I will withdraw the word "nasty" and say "vindictive, spiteful".

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, do you allow the hon. member to accuse me of vindictiveness and spitefulness?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not want to say this to the hon. member, but if the hon. member wants to take the Chair, let him come.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: The hon. member cannot use those words to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member used the remarks and you would not wait to see what I was going to do, but you are jumping up. The next time you jump up without addressing the Chair as you should, I am going to use my authority. I will not be warning the hon. member any more.

Now the hon. senior member for Christ Church must withdraw those remarks.

Mr. St. JOHN: I withdraw them. I say "petty". The hon. member must understand that he does not have a monopoly in here for being petty, and he must understand that he will be dealt with every time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you talking on the hon. member now?

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Government discontinued the apprenticeship programme that used to be carried on by the last Government, and I say that their educational policy is such that they have not provided for the foreseeable manpower needs of this country, otherwise you would have more workmen available in Barbados to carry out the programmes. It is no wonder because that is the calibre that you have on the Ministerial benches on that side; that that just spoke is the calibre you have, and you would not expect him to understand these factors.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member cannot refer to me as that is the calibre on the ministerial benches. He referred to me as "that".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When he said that is the calibre, did he mean you?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Yes. He said that is the calibre you have on the ministerial benches.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think he meant you.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I think he meant me. He cannot refer to an hon. member as "that".

Mr. St. JOHN: As I was saying, Sir, the connections must be speeded up because there is nothing more frustrating in all utility services than to have the lines run, whether they be the Electric Company's lines, the telephone lines or the Waterworks lines and people's expectations are raised, and then you are not able to satisfy them immediately. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear the voice of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member, but as I said already, I have been going around in most of these areas and checking on these small banjo strings, and one of the first things we have been doing in these tenantries is eliminating this type of idea altogether and running in the size main that would supply the services, because within a certain point it weakens the main with these several connections dotted over it. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department, my Parliamentary Secretary and myself have gone around to these areas where there were these banjo strings and we have now put in mains. It is the policy of the Government to lay mains instead of having these banjo strings and that is why there is such a heavy programme.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. member about the training programme, there is no need to have people in one particular department when you have a polytechnic for training people; so you should not try to make people believe that we have eliminated training at the Waterworks Department and there are no youths to take over or learn the profession. (Mr. St. JOHN: You do not have as many as before.) We would not have as many, we have more because we have a polytechnic for training in the water field. With the amount of building construction the amount of plumbers needed today would not be the same as ten years ago, because they would have been walking about. They are fully employed today because of the building boom, because it is not only at the Waterworks Department that they would have to put in these connections; it would be in private enterprise in which these people are being employed today.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order.....

Mr. St. JOHN: I was not finished. The hon. member interrupted my speech. The hon. member got up, and as is customary on this side, I sat down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. junior member for St. Thomas take his seat?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There cannot be a point of order because the hon. member has not yet said anything.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You do not know what the point of order is until you hear what I have to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was making a speech and he gave way for the Hon. Minister. He had not recommenced when you rose on a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You do not know what the point of order is. How do you know I am not going to say something in reply to what the Hon. Minister said?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Because the hon. member gave way for the Minister. I am not arguing with the Hon. Minister. Please take you seat.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Thomas must take his seat. Let the hon. senior member for Christ Church continue.

Mr. St. JOHN: The question of the banjo strings as described.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I can see that this meeting will be broken up today if you go on with this nonsense.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. member is going to make his point, please make it.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, don't shout at me; you cannot do it to the others.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of shouting at you.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am different from the rest. The hon. member spoke just now about the banjo strings. I want the hon. member to know that I am the person who stopped this nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member make his point, or I will ask him to take his seat.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, am I being heckled by the Chair?

I am making my point.

12.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you do not make it I am going to ask you to take your seat.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, am I being heckled by the Chair? What am I hearing at all? I want the hon. member to understand that not until I became Parliamentary Secretary that this banjo string business was stopped, and I instructed the Chief Engineer, Waterworks Department that in future when we put in a main, all the people who had in these banjo strings, they should make the connections for them without charging them additionally. This is the point I wanted to make, I do not want the hon. member to get away with murder in here.

Mr. St. JOHN: I will continue, Sir. A survey should be done; by now there has been sufficient mapping and planning done in Barbados that a survey could be done of these areas and a specific programme could be formulated in the Ministry to deal with these matters. One of the reasons why these debates on these specific Heads are held up for such a long period of time is because members are persecuted by their constituents in respect of these very matters, and we keep asking the Government to do some more forward planning on this. Give more information on what the specific areas they intend to do in each financial year so that we will be able to give such information to our constituents and that would save a lot of time in these debates every year.

I have drawn attention to Laynes Gap and the other areas, and I hope that they will come in this financial year, but one of the things that amazes me about the Waterworks Department is that it functions at all, because when you look at the staff structure of that Department in relation to any other utility, whether Government owned or the rest, you will see that the organisation and the staff structure of that Department is much different from any other, and you will not get 100% efficiency in operation in there until you have a new staff structure based upon modern conditions of organisation and based upon the fact that you are now catering to some 40,000 consumers as opposed to some 10,000 or 12,000 to which you were catering in the past.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Waterworks as a whole, after listening to the various speeches on the water services of the island, and then listening to the Minister on the various items raised, I must compliment the Waterworks Department for the great work it has done. First, we must realise, Mr. Chairman, that in every district development is going on, and in those districts there are small mains, maybe 2" or 4" mains according to the amount of people, and you have to lay down larger mains so the Waterworks Department has to remove those small mains and instal larger mains. That takes a lot of time, so it is not fair to say that the Waterworks Department is not speeding up their programme, they could not speed up any more than they have from October till now since the last flood. I am not satisfied to hear hon. members say that the Waterworks Department is not speeding up, because when some people are putting in water they have to get these mains installed before they can accommodate the people, and this takes time, so I hope that hon. members will think before they speak and act because the Waterworks Department cannot do more at this particular time.

I heard an hon. member say that the Government should do more planning; I agree with that, but that calls for more money, more labour and more time, so therefore, Mr. Chairman, I am very thankful for the amount of work that the Waterworks Department has done and I hope they will do more.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I heard a lot said about water today, but nobody has touched on the most important point. The Minister in reading out a statement said that we are using something like 20 million gallons of water per day; the total amount of water in the island, as far as I remember, is somewhere between 29 and 32 million gallons, and this is coming pretty close to the borderline. What I would like to say here now is that the time has come when we as Parliamentarians should start admonishing people on the wastage of water; too much water goes down the drain unnecessarily. Nobody turns on an electric light or a gas stove unless they intend to use it, but too many leaking faucets, too many toilets and so on go unreported; nobody wastes time to report these things, and water is more essential than electricity or gas, because you can live without these things but you certainly cannot live without water, and I would like to see that as leaders, as Parliamentarians, people who are supposed to be responsible people, and unlike some who can only rant and rave, that we really start telling people the facts about conserving water in the island, because if we do this we are going to find ourselves within the next five or ten years worse off than Antigua and some of the other islands that do not get water very often.

We have been sinking wells quite frequently I would say, but sometimes when we sink wells we come up against a lot of trouble. Take, for instance, the well up there by Applewhaites which we sunk about four years ago and up to now the well has not produced the amount of water which we were hoping it would have produced. We sunk a well at Alleynedale in St. Lucy, but these wells are not producing the amount of water we were hoping they would have produced, and it would appear from all this that we do not get the amount of rain today that we used to get when I was a boy; I do not know why, and our water resources, as a lot of people do not seem to know, really do not come from any rivers like Jamaica, Trinidad and the other places, we do not have any rivers here to use, our water comes when we get rain and any time we were to get a real drought here we are going to be in real serious trouble, We have jumped precipitately in our water usage in Barbados, and this is because the standard of living has gone up, because normally when a person built a little 16' x 9' house they only built a little outside toilet, this was a common thing, but nowadays everybody is becoming sophisticated and they have water-borne services, and each tank holds at least 2 gallons of water, so each time you flush the toilet it means 2 gallons of water down the drain. It is true you might get back some of it, but then the expense of getting it back up is very high, and if you look at the Estimates you will see that the cost of electricity alone is somewhere in the vicinity of $700,000. This is a lot of money to be spending, and this is where you are getting your problems getting the water to the consumer, and then after paying to have it piped to the consumer to have it being wasted, and it is time I should issue a warning to the residents of Barbados.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the senior member for Christ Church said that there was no planning when it came to the questioning of water. That is a joke, and the hon. member knows that very well. It is merely because I have touched his corns that he has decided to use invectives towards me. I have always warned the hon. member that my skin is thick, and anything he says about me I will take it as a joke. Probably he has never been to the pipe for water so he would not know what was going on. Years ago I know that people used to suffer terribly to get water, especially if the standpipe was turned off in the area in which they lived. I know that the people who had standpipes in their homes used to take a little vacation when the water in the neighbourhood was turned off. The 1/2 inch pipes were laid down for about two years.

Mr. Chairman, some time ago it used to take 2 years to get a water connection, but I changed things and gave instructions that within three months after the money was received that the connection should be made. We had to put up with certain things because that was the order of the day, and we had to improve on them from time to time. It is only since this Government came into power that things have been rejuvenated. I want the hon. member to understand that I am a Minister, and I am not afraid to call a spade a spade. I am not afraid to lead from in front; I am not the type who wants to lead from behind.

Mr. Chairman, I want the hon. members on the other side to tell the people the truth so far as water is concerned. When I was the Minister of Communications and Works on several occasions I had to stop my car and lock off leaking faucets. Even today I am still doing that. If I do not succeed in locking them, I would call up the Waterworks Department and ask them to send a man to fix them. I realise what is going to happen to our water in the next five or ten years. I know what it is to want water, because I have suffered in the navy to get water. This is nothing new to me; I am not putting on anything. I should like all hon. members in this Chamber to endeavour to close leaking faucets whenever they see them, because we had to spend something like $75,000 in order to provide water to facilitate the senior member for St. Joseph and others in the area by running a new pipeline from Golden Ridge to Castle Grant Reservoir. Despite the fact that we had done that, we then had to make another connection by tapping the main in order to get water to him.

Mr. Chairman, I am not an expert, but when it comes to the question of water I know what I am talking about. I should ask hon. members to call the Chief Engineer at the Waterworks or Mr. Oxley - these are two people who will attend to such matters expeditiously - whenever they see a leaking faucet that they cannot turn off. According to what the hon. member has said, the Government do not have any plans about anything, so I do not know how we are running the Government if what he says is true. *(Asides)* We must be running the Government by guess, but the people are still voting for us and they will vote for us again, too.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have put certain questions to the Hon. Minister, and I think I am entitled to a reply. At least the Minister is willing to give a reply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply to the hon. junior member for St. Peter. Before replying, I should like to ask hon. members to pay a great regard to what the former Minister of Communications and Works has said. In prefacing my remarks on this Head, I drew attention to the increase in water which had been made from 1961 to 1970 and pointed out that it had more than doubled during those years. The former Minister of Communications and Works has said that the maximum amount of water this country is capable of producing, after a survey had been carried out when I was the former Minister of Communications and Works, was - Mr. Chairman, I was the first Minister of Communications and Works in 1961. The amount of water used in 1961 was 10.7 million gallons, and the amount of water used today is over 20 million gallons. The maximum amount of water Barbados is

capable of producing is within the vicinity of 32 million gallons; therefore, the Minister, like myself, believes in not looking at something from day to day, but to have foresight of the future.

Mr. Chairman, in thinking of the future, if you take these figures and examine them you will see the trend of things. In 1961 the amount was 10.7 million gallons, and in 1970 it is over 20 million gallons with a maximum of 32 million gallons. With the average rate of increase in this country we will have to be very careful. I think the Minister is very wise in drawing to the attention of hon. Members how essential it is to pay strict attention to our water resources. Fortunately for the Minister he was in the navy travelling on powered ships, but I have spent a lot of my days under sails. I know that on many occasions I have had to look for the cleanest tarpaulin available to catch water when there was a rain squall. We know what it means to be without water and when you have to ration water. You resort to the sea to get water for washing, but you catch water on the tarpaulin to drink and to cook with. Sometimes you may be able to use sea water for cooking certain things.

Mr. Chairman, I was a very surprised man when the present Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department explained to me the difference in the consumption of water per person by those who go to the pipes to get water as compared with those who have water installed in their homes. I cannot remember offhand what it is, but I never thought that the difference could have been so great. These are things that every Barbadian should be aware of. There is no person in this country who is more desperate when he sees water wasting than the former Minister of Communications and Works. He would make a row; he would stop going to church or going to a wedding if he sees a pipe running and lock it off. Very often I thought that he was going too far with the rows that he would make with people on the road who were wasting water.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Peter said that the figures I gave of the amount of services laid over the period would be useless unless he knew the amount of applications that came in. I would like to say that the average amount of services laid per month is about 300. There is at present a backlog of about 500 applications with a waiting period of about three months just as the former Minister said. In the new headquarters we will have room for more trucks and more plumbers and we will be able to catch up with this backlog.

I think it was in 1963 when I was Minister of Communications and Works that we had to instigate a very serious programme. There were so many applications in that the Government had to take drastic measures and give the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department instructions to take on extra plumbers so as to keep up with the amount of applications. Those were the days when it was the poor fellow in tenantries and small districts who could not get water. His application was just thrown aside. It was only after we came into power that we had to set up a drastic programme in 1963. The last Government considered in their day that a standpost was good enough, the type of standpipe politics that somebody could go back and tell the people that they put a standpipe in their district. The difference with us is that we do not want people going to the standpipe.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, this is not standpiple politics but people have been going to the Waterworks and offering to pay in money to have services installed and the money has been refused.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I am aware of this. The first person that brought this to my attention was the former Minister of Communications and Works. This is the way we get on. If I am in a Ministry, anything that affects another Minister of the Government affects me, and although he was not the Minister, he heard about it and told me it was true. I would go further and say that he did not even wait to tell me, and I did not get offended about it, because he was defending the Government. He himself told the Chief Engineer not to let it happen, but the Chief Engineer explained to me that he did not wish to hold people's money for a period longer than three months. What the hon. member is saying is true and I have asked the Chief Engineer at the Waterworks Department to let me know what is causing any delay and I as a Minister of Government am prepared to take the necessary action that is required to stop this from going on.

Mr. HINDS: Why is it, Mr. Chairman, that the Waterworks Department cannot instal more than 300 services a month?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the sum of $2,760,180.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have asked the Minister a question.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, for the reason I have just mentioned. In the new headquarters we will have room for more trucks and more plumbers and can work on the backlog.

Mr. HINDS: Is it a case where you have no plumbers to instal these services?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, hon. members on the other side know the Waterworks Department because it is close to their offices. This department has been more than overloaded for the last five or six years, and that is why we have to have the new Waterworks Department completed. I have been in there myself and I do not know how the store-keeper can find his supplies, it is so congested. They must have room for the trucks. We have also stopped this idea of having to load trucks on mornings because too much time was wasted every morning. We thought we should have vehicles with standard equipment abroad so that when the driver and his crew come on mornings they can set off to their

destination. I have gone further than this, and I think that if it can be of benefit, we are prepared to carry out the programme through a telecommunications system. A vehicle may be in St. Lucy and then somebody makes a complaint, and through the office we would be able to control the movements of the vehicles and give instructions where to go. All this is essential if we are to have a good service.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, do not let the Minister travel so fast. Is it not a case where the department has been turning away whole gangs of workmen whom we hear from the Minister are sadly needed? What is the reason for it?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the best people in any profession are always the most ambitious, and any time there is an opportunity, these people are the first to go. A man with the greatest ambition is usually the fellow who is better mentally and otherwise in his profession, and we know that Barbados exports people to all parts of the world in every field. We have a polytechnic and we are prepared to train plumbers for the future, and a lot of youths who have already left school can go into the professions for which there is a demand. There is a high play in any profession where there is a great demand; but you will find that all the professions with low pay are always overcrowded, and you still have to watch this. We are now building up from the polytechnic where you will be training people in this field which is a main source of employment in the Waterworks Department.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has not answered my question at all. I asked the Minister why it is that the Waterworks Department has been turning away full crews.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Minister pointed out that the people turned away were workmen of the lower grade, but there was a shortage of plumbers and you cannot have the labourers dig the trenches without the plumbers to do the other work. There is manpower, but not skilled manpower.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister does not know what this is all about.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I understand what the Minister said, but the Minister in his reply tried to explain there was a shortage of skilled manpower, and if there is not the skilled manpower you cannot use the manpower that is available to you.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I promise the hon. junior member for St. Peter as soon as we move in to the new Headquarters at the Pine where there will be ample space, if we see it necessary for greater production in services we will have the room, the equipment and the boys being trained, and I will see to it that we can put in more services or as fast as the demands call for it we will be in a position to cope with it.

The question that the sum of $2,760,180 under Head 35 – Waterworks – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, we are going to stop for a few minutes; I wonder whether we can do Head 38 and then take the break.

HEAD 38 - ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 38 – ECCLESIASTICAL – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $12,575 under Head 38 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before I move the suspension I thought perhaps it would be as well to let it be known through the appropriate channels that when the House is about to move a motion for suspension that there must be no movement except of Your Honour. I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Let it be clearly understood that no person, when a motion for suspension is about to be moved, may move from his seat; let that be clearly understood.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
12.55 p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee; thereto it automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 37 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on Head 37(1) we have got some amendments. If hon. members turn

to page 89, after Item 41 - Maintenance of Vehicles, we are putting in Item 41A - Transport Services, the amount under "Other Expenditure" is $600,000, and over opposite on the right, the note to 41A will read: "To meet expenses involved-in the purchase and sale of bus tickets to school children. $200,000 recoverable." Then over on page 90 we have to change the total so that the sum to be appropriated would be $1,480,705. Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,480,705 under Head 37(1) stand part of the Schedule. Hon. members will of course raise any points on any of the Items that they are interested in, but I would like to say in respect of Item 37 - Teacher Training, that most of the local courses for teachers will be provided by Erdiston College and that this Item covers the cost of passages and other normal allowances which are not provided by organisations which award scholarships, bursaries and fellowships. There are also courses which are run for teachers but which are not strictly courses which teach them how to teach, the cost of which will also be met from this Item.

At Item 38 - Examinations, refunds of examination fees are made in respect of pupils of private secondary schools for subjects in which they gained passes at Ordinary and Advanced Levels provided that the pupils are nationals or the children of nationals and that they are under 18 years of age in the case of the Ordinary Level and under 20 years in the case of Advanced Level; provided also that the school of which they are pupils does not discriminate on grounds of class, colour or creed. No local fee is charged for the G. C. E. level of examinations of Oxford or Cambridge, London University, London Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Examining Board, the Royal Society of Arts, Pitmans Institute, City and Guilds of London Institute. All these examination bodies are bodies under whom public examinations are taken, and therefore no local fee is charged for any of these approved examining bodies. If there is anything else, hon. members will raise questions under the Items when they come to them.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again we enter upon the debate on Education without having at our disposal the benefit of a new Education Act which had been promised ever since 1962. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, we embark upon it against a background such as I shall attempt to describe as I go on, where you find that under this Head, General Administration, Government has demonstrated in no uncertain terms that it has not yet learnt or come to grips with the fact that our physical plan requires considerable overhauling, and failing this we must burst at our seams and the sides.

2.35 p.m.

We embark upon it, Mr. Chairman, to find that the whole exercise as practised is one involving a mass of time-wasting and the expending of energies to no beneficial avail. We embark upon it in the light of this type of experience where you have a Board of Education - we should not say functioning, but their present composition does not reflect in any manner the accumulative experience of the community in which we live. We embark upon it well knowing that our Advisory Board with their 5 Constituent Committees have been reduced to silence and have been replaced by *ad hoc* committees.

As for the Administration, Mr. Chairman, it might be better and properly described as maladministration, for members of the public witness an all-fools day exercise each working day in each year when they come to deal with the personnel of the Education Department. We embark upon it, Mr. Chairman, with a plethora of Education Officers whose services could better be employed in the schools, but what they do for the most part is to sit around several desks in the Ministry and their biggest role is saying "Yes, Sir" or "Yes, Mam."

Mr. Chairman, we want to appreciate that Rome was not built in a day but, nevertheless, we are faced with the very humiliating situation in which you can find female teachers are posted in very considerable numbers at schools which cater principally to boys, but the necessary physical facilities are totally absent. If I were to give the Committee the benefit of an instance which brought tears to the eyes of all who have heard and have known about it, I think it should suffice. Now, a female teacher found it necessary to report to her Head Teacher that she was unable on a particular day to continue working. In other words, she sought his leave of absence to return home. Here we found a case where the Head Teacher preferred to drill that female teacher while she stood before him until, perhaps, he got his satisfaction that - if I were to put it this way - her nakedness became exposed to a school of boys. That is the type of situation with which we are faced. Mr. Chairman, it is for us to move as quickly as possible to try to keep abreast of the times in order to save our female teachers from this indignity associated with exposure.

Mr. Chairman, youth and its upbringing will itself play a very important role, but we have to warn the Government at this early stage against embarking on any scheme which can have as its effect the further burdening of the taxpayers unnecessarily. In our view, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education and Social Welfare could cater admirably for the requirements of youth in our country, but education must spearhead the attack and social welfare used merely as the liaision between the two.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that in the Ministry of Education there was White Paper entitled "A Policy For Education" published many years ago.

2.45 p.m.

At pages 44 and 45 I think that very wonderful suggestions can be found to enable the Ministry to tackle this job with the zeal and the energy that it really requires. Now you are going to find, Mr. Chairman, that we are tackling the question of education which stands on a foundation which is false from the very root. You will find that there is presently to be found in schools in this Island - and when I say

"schools" I mean one of our leading grammar schools - children who cannot at all speak the English Language. Not only can't they speak, but they can neither write nor read it, but at the same time when entrance to that school is by means of passing an examination in English above everything else, it is a matter which the Ministry should find itself compelled to explain to the general public.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I tried in a small way to direct the attention of the Hon. Leader of the House, the Mover of this Head, to what his Ministry has subjected thousands of children taking the Common Entrance examination to quite recently. A situation arose where at one of the centres the invigilator was himself unable to explain on the set arithmetic paper whether sum #20 of Part I should read "X ÷ X+X= 21" or whether it should read "X + X+X = 21 what is the value of "X" and find the answer". Mr. Chairman, the invigilator is supposed to be a person who would have passed the Common Entrance Examination and gone far beyond; so when one finds that the little children, afraid for the most part, nervous and shivering, taking the examination, are presented with such a situation and turn to the invigilator for assistance and he finds himself and confesses to the children that he was unable to help since he could not determine whether it was a plus sign or a division sign, what results do we expect these little children to produce? But worse was to happen in the same examination. In the English paper that was set for Part 11, in question 2 the children were asked to write one word which could be used for each of the following, and (c) which was given to them read: "a large number of people". The Ministry of Education which is responsible for setting this examination also set the answer, and hear it was found that the one set answer to that question was "crowd". We find, Mr. Chairman, that several children might not have remembered at the time the word "crowd", but some would have remembered such a word as "multitude", others would have remembered "assembly", others "concourse" or "congregation". All the children who gave any answer besides the word "crowd" were marked as not having answered correctly.

Mr. Chairman, ignorance could not be associated with our Ministry of Education; it could not be called foolish or dishonest. I would like any hon. member to tell me exactly what it could be, because after all the persons charged with the responsibility for setting these questions must be a people with full knowledge of Barbadian standards, and above all with the age groups of the children taking the examination. What type of results are we to get then? What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we have got to act very quickly to find ways and means of overcoming, even when we look at the errors, mishaps, misdeeds, or whatever who care to call them, of the Education Officers. If that is the case, what think we of the little ones?

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one point more on this. I happen to glance here at the Report from the Ministry of Education laid on the Table of the House yesterday for the period 1st September, 1968 to 31st August, 1969, and it accounts for our Education Officers visiting schools and being fully involved in the supervision of our seven comprehensive schools and certain aspects of the aided independent schools. I also came across a paragraph which accounted for their frequent visits to the various primary and all age schools. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Education ought to know that this is one of the chief concerns of parents today. Parents generally are wondering why Education Officers do not now visit the primary schools and the senior elementary schools with a view to checking on punctuality and discipline.

2. 55 p.m.

Although this report, as I tell you, covers the period ending 31st March, 1969, one could hardly believe that there has been any increased activity on the part of these officers in the intervening period, and the reason for that I think I have made perfectly clear.

Mr. Chairman, I want to turn now to Item 32. I would like to learn from the Minister if the term "itinerant teachers" is applicable to those teachers engaged in what I would call hybridising our educational system. I mean those in the team teaching scheme. What one has got to be very careful about is this, we might very well be told that we receive assistance from various sources overseas; that might be very true, but if we were to sit down one good day and make an assessment of what we are receiving from these various sources we will come to the stark fact in conclusion that we are merely receiving something from these sources, but in each case it is costing the taxpayers much more than we can receive. Further, it is about time that Government carry out a reassessment of this particular team teaching project; we are not convinced that it is required here.

One has got to face up to facts; years ago people in the United States, particularly the Barbadians and West Indians, did all they could to have their children brought up under the Barbados educational system. We, Mr. Chairman, supplied and provided many of the educational experts, people who have distinguished themselves in the field of education, many who have gone abroad to the United States, Canada and elsewhere, not to mention the neighbouring colonies, but now we find that the shoe between 1961, 1962 proper and today, has suddenly got on the other foot, and we are just mimicking everything that the United States particularly has got to offer by way of education. Whether it suits us or not we are just swallowing it line, hook and sinker as Barbadians usually say. It may be, Mr. Chairman, that something has gone wrong with our system, but we on this side of the House have a confidence that the electorate will remedy this situation some time during this present year.

Let us go to Item 33. This Item calls for $23,050, and the note reads: "To provide for stationery, postage, toilet requisites, newspaper....." - and what I want to concern myself with is this, ..." ... repairs to office furniture and equipment, and other incidental office expenses." I do not mind the other incidental office expenses, but at a later stage I am

hoping to relate the expenditure involved here with the repairs to office furniture and equipment to another Item that is going to appear in these Estimates, and I would certainly like to hear from the Minister exactly what is going to be done with this money.

At Item 37 there is an amount of $149,765 to be spent on teacher training. The Leader of the House essayed to give us some sort of an explanation that perhaps would not hold water when examined about all of this, but what we have got to face and to face it quickly and to tackle boldly is this, we have got to decide to borrow a very considerable sum of money to build schools to house all the children who have got to be housed there and to carry out a teacher training scheme to produce teachers to staff these schools as quickly as possible.
3.05 p.m.

There is no question of delaying this any longer. We are committing suicide if we were to postpone it any longer than we have done in the past. It is not one of these cases that can be toyed with.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard that some of these local courses are referred to in educational terms as "Induction Courses" where young people are being introduced into the Teaching Service by courses held at Richmond during the vacation period and so on. If these courses are beneficial to the Service as a whole, then you cannot merely decide to have them for an 8-week or a 6-week period. They will have to be carried on continuously. We will have to find some method of doing this. There are buildings in our midst that are not used continuously, and they can very well be put to use as an institution for Teachers Training, especially when dealing with this type of teacher.

For instance, last year we had $81,600, and this is now an increase of $68,165. Surely this is an Item that we must ask the Minister to explain. The Note tells us that Teacher Training in Comprehensive Schools is going to be intensified. We are really making sport about this matter. When I say we I mean the Government. We have had Head Teachers; we have had some Education Officers and civil servants who have become Heads of Departments and the heads of some of the same Comprehensive Schools who have received their training right here. In other words, we already have the nucleus upon which to build a foundation. What is the delay? I can say that no just reason can be advanced in this respect.

I feel that the Government are asking for money, perhaps, because it is the election year, and they want to put it before the electorate that they have voted so many millions of dollars to be spent on education, but where Government intend spending these sums is an entirely different matter. I should certainly like to hear all that the Minister can tell us on this.

Mr. Chairman, Item 40 - Contingencies. We have heard that so much care is being exercised on this matter of contingencies that we felt that no Ministry would have been entrusted with any funds, and that an approach would have to be made to the Cabinet whenever a contingency arises to get money from the Contingencies Vote. Now, there is an amount of $5,000 in this Contingencies Vote. Why has it been allowed to remain under this Head when it was taken away from the Police? What is the reason for that? Is it a case where the Minister of Education is more honest than the Commissioner of Police? Or is it that he is not as dishonest as the Commissioner of Police? That is the inference that must be drawn from the arguments that have been adduced here with regard to these Contingencies Votes. We were told that this is being centralised and so on. Now, $5,000 was allocated last year, and it has been allowed to remain under this Head this year. The Note says that expenditure is subject to the prior approval of the Cabinet. Exactly what does this mean?

Mr. Chairman, after this Hon. House has passed a vote for Contingencies, why then should Cabinet approval be sought to spend the money? Who is it that does not trust anybody else? Is not the Minister of Education a member of the Cabinet? Are not all Ministers, who are responsible for the control of the various sums, members of the Cabinet? Is it not collective responsibility? What are we to understand by the words: "Expenditure subject to the prior approval of the Cabinet"?

Now, the Minister has moved in Item 41A- Transport Services - $600,000.
3.15 p.m.

Under the item Transport Services, to meet the expenses involved in the purchase and sale of bus tickets to school children, $200,000 recoverable, I would like to know from the Minister to what extent is Government now indebted to the three bus concessionaires - the Transport Board, the Elite Bus Co. and the Rocklyn Bus Co. How is the system administered in the light of Government's experience in handling the scheme? We very well remember that a former Minister replying some time ago said that he was not then in a position to give any progress report on the scheme, and we agreed somewhat because it might be that there was not enough time at his disposal, but we believe that it has been in operation for a long enough period that we should be given a progress report to know how the scheme is going on, and to what extent are children suffering, because the amusing thing about it is that the children buy tickets in advance after shifting from here to there, and the tickets serve no useful purpose because they cannot get buses to take them to and from school. I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has to say in this respect. In view of the fact that we are told that the sum of $200,000 is recoverable, what is the sale value of the tickets that must go into circulation, and over what period of time to make $200,000 recoverable by Government? I think the basis upon which we should approach this ticket system is to know exactly how much capital has been invested in the first instance, either by Government as a whole or by the three concessionaires. Is it a case where Government bought all the tickets and deposited them with the concessionaires, or is it a case where the concessionaries were forced to raise money by way of overdraft or otherwise from the Bank, purchase these tickets and store them? You

should remember that storage space for these tickets is not an easy thing, because one must remember that they have got to be kept with utmost safety, otherwise the whole scheme can collapse, because one would find that children are travelling up and down, and in the long run there would be neither $200,000 nor part thereof that would become recoverable. I would like to know if there have been any reasons whatsoever to feel that there have been leakages, and to know generally what progress, if any, has there been in the scheme.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if we were to look back at Item 37 for a moment, what we are going to find is that the scheme that was instituted in Barbados before this Government came into office was a scheme that took into consideration planning for going into the latter half of the present century. It was a scheme of training which took into consideration firstly primary education; it took into consideration secondary education, and it further took into consideration what the present Minister of Education prefers to call tertiary education. There is nothing except faulty administration which can convince anybody that there is something wrong with our system of teacher training, and if we can have this adjusted as soon as possible, we have every confidence that we will overcome many of the problems with which we are presently faced. We have in our educational set up teachers who serve with credit, but when the hour for promotion comes, they are conveniently overlooked. We are often told that the Public Service Commission is responsible for making this or that appointment.
3.25 p.m.

We do not doubt that at all, but certainly as in the case of, let us say, St. Alban's and the Headship of Hillaby, the case of Holy Innocents', we want these matters - and when I make mention of those schools, every living creature in Education every person associated with the Public Service Commission would very well understand, but an end will come to all this however bitter it might be, because we are satisfied, looking at appointments that are made from time to time by the Public Service Commission in the teaching service as elsewhere, there is some, as perhaps the hon. junior member for St. Andrew would say, there is some sort of current that can go forth from the ministerial level to the Public Service Commission, and as a consequence the same way that Ministers might be thinking, the Public Service Commission is seen to act in making these appointments. We are saying it is not making good, it does not make for progress in the service, and the sooner that these matters can be adjusted the better.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Committee listened with great interest to the hon. member who just sat down, and thought his remarks were not particularly critical of the Ministry, at the same time I think they reflect a point of view which, even if valid, is still not always acceptable. I think, Mr. Chairman, the first thing one has to take into account is this, no educational system is entirely perfect anywhere in the world, and particularly in the context of a developing country; you will always find on any day something to find fault with and on a clear day more than one thing. The very nature of development is such that you are always trying experiments, you are always watching the results of experiments which you may try, and even successful policies have a way of carrying their own problems with them.

He mentioned a little while ago - well, he hinted that there might conceivably be snags in the question of the transportation of pupils to school and the subvention which the Government provides in this respect. I have no doubt that there are problems in this particular policy, but there are problems principally because we are doing something about it. I could not imagine that if the policy were not in force the question of school children bunching up at inconvenient places and inconvenient times to purchase tickets would arise, they may still have been doing them, but the questions then asked would not be why can the Government not improve its system, rather would the question be can the Government find a system which would help school children to get to school on a cheaper basis, so what I am trying to illustrate is this, that with every improvement and development in the system there are bound to be some administrative problems and we would not wish to hide this, because problems are a challenge, so the hon. member will not, I fear, catch the Ministry denying that problems exist; what he will find the Ministry doing is admitting that its developments are proceeding so rapidly that it has to take care of a few of the problems which arise out of improvements which it is making to the educational system of the country.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Leader of the House would be willing to admit that the problems that exist were created by the Minister himself in very great measure as from 1962, because it was the Minister himself who instituted the system which caused children to have to leave the 19-mile stone in St. Lucy, his own constituency, and drive all the way to St. Leonard's to receive a little education, and to go further, to Foundation, and a girl or boy living next door to Foundation to go down to the Coleridge-Parry and all that kind of thing. The Minister himself instituted that system in 1962.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will easily admit this, just as the hon. member will not admit that his Party did not even think to send them anywhere, and I thought it was better to send them from St. Lucy to the Foundation than not to send them at all.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Leader of the House will admit that as from 1949 a system of free secondary education was introduced into this island by whichever Government was in power, and that there are presently the all-age schools through which the system was to have been perfected.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, I cannot admit that, I was in Guyana at the time, and in any case that was the year .....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, if the Minister would give way.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am not giving way.

Mr. HINDS: I rose on a point of order, and I will explain why the Minister will find it very difficult to explain why the very last report published by the Minister makes no mention whatsoever of his all-age schools.
3.35 p.m.

If he does not acknowledge the existence of the schools, how can he acknowledge the system that obtains in the schools?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot have it both ways. In the first instance, he was not interrupted when he was explaining his point of view to the Committee, and he is not going to put me off my stride now that I am explaining my point of view to the Committee. If the hon. member wishes me to believe that there was free secondary education in 1949, I am afraid I cannot accommodate him because I cannot believe it. The hon. member always reminds me of a story in this respect of the Duke of Wellington walking through St. James' Park. A man goes up to him and says: "Mr. Jones, I believe." The Duke of Wellington turned to him and said: "If you believe that I am Mr. Jones, you will believe anything." *(Asides)* I am saying that if the hon. member believes that there was free education in 1949, he will believe anything, and nothing that I can say is rebuttal will convince him that it is not so.

Now, he did ask, speaking more specifically..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. Minister give way. I can hear a member on the Government Bench speaking, and he is addressing the Chair. Let us have some kind of order. Let the Hon. Minister continue.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member asked about Item 32 which includes provision for itinerant teachers. Due to the shortage of trained teachers in Home Economics and other specialised areas, teachers are required to go to these schools at which they are no teachers attached to give instructions in particular subjects. The teachers are, therefore, paid travelling expenses in accordance with the Travelling Schedule. A travelling allowance is charged from and to the teachers are substantively assigned.

Item 37 - Teacher Training - $149,763. I believe he requested a breakdown of expenditure. This seems to be as follows:

Language training	$ 2,500
Passages for teachers awarded scholarships by the Indian Government	$ 3,000
Passages for Commonwealth Bursars	$30,000
The Teacher Interchange Scheme	$ 5,450
The Teacher Observation Courses	$ 2,400
The Professional Course Certificate of Education	$ 4,260
The Professional Course Diploma of Education	$ 4,260
Industrial Arts Training for two Teachers	$13,600
Course for the Teacher of the Deaf ..	$ 2,295
The Science and Mathematics Course ..	$ 2,000
The Diploma Course for Teachers in Comprehensive Schools	$75,000
The U.N.E.S.C.O./U.N.I.C.E.F. project	$ 4,000

That seems to be the total breakdown, Mr. Chairman.

Under Item 40 - Contingencies - the sum of $5,000 was also provided in the Estimates for the year 1970-71. The amount is required to meet unforeseen expenditure for the Ministry and its Departments.

With regard to Item 33, Office Expenses include repairs to office furniture. This is the position in all Heads of Expenditure. I cannot at the moment recall the hon. member's question, but if the answer is unclear he can repeat the question. The hon. member also asked a question under Item 37 in respect of the Induction Courses. I think he asked why there was no provision for it. This is now being provided under Head 37(4) Erdiston College. It was moved from one Head to another. I am also reminded that the All Age Schools are mentioned at page 18 of the Report from which the hon. member was quoting.

Mr. HINDS: I referred to your 1967-68 Report.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I thought the 1968-69 Report had been laid. There is reference to that on page 18 of the 1968-69 Report. The hon. member also mentioned the Common Entrance Examination. I believe it is more Part 1 than Part 11. Perhaps I could give the Committee an idea of how the questions for the Common Entrance Examination Part 1 are set. Three Specialist in English and 3 in Mathematics drawn from the Secondary Grammar Schools, the Comprehensive Schools nand Erdiston Training College meet with the Common Entrance Examination Organising Committee at the Ministry and discuss the standard of the papers to be set. Then these 6 persons submit 3 papers in English and 3 in Mathematics to the Ministry. The next step is the selection of the items or question from the papers submitted to form two suitable test papers: one in English and the other in Mathematics. This is done by a panel of Moderators consisting of the Deputy Chief Information Officer, the Senior Education Officer for Research and Planning, the Senior Education Officer (Secondary), the Senior Education Officer (Primary), a representative nominated by the Association of Headmasters and Headmistresses, a representative nominated by the Heads of Comprehensive Schools, a representative nominated by the Barbados Secondary School Teachers Association and a representative nominated by the Barbados Union of Teachers.
3.45 p.m.

This panel of moderators resolved itself into two sub-Committees, one of which deals with the Maths paper and the other with English. Items from each of the papers submitted are carefully considered, and if suitable, are selected for the final papers. All papers are then discussed by the full panel in plenary session and changes are not made until final agreement is reached. Every person who sits must first declare that he has no interest in the result of the Examination. When a member of the Ministry's staff has a personal interest another officer takes his place on the Committee. No member of the panel of moderators is allowed to carry any notes or other material from the meeting. The draft examination papers are kept under strict security. They are printed at the Government Printery, always on a Sunday, hence the overtime, and at least two Education Officers are continually on duty throughout the whole printing process. In addition to this, there are some instructions which are issued to invigilators, and of course since this examination is always sat or for the most part sat in primary school buildings, the headteachers of the particular schools are invariably the invigilators. There are some regulations or instructions which are issued to all the teachers as to what should be done before the test, during the test and after the test. Before the test the invigilator is to see that every child is provided with a pencil and he must keep reserves of writing materials in readiness through the examination. The seal of the envelope containing the question papers must be broken in the examination room not earlier than fifteen minutes before the paper is due to begin. The English paper is to be handed out first and in time for the candidates to begin work at 9.30 a.m. The invigilator must also draw the attention of the candidate to any special instructions which are given at the head of the papers. The order of the examination will be English from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.; there is then a break from 10.30 to 10.45 a.m., and the Arithmetic paper begins at 10.45 and work on this continue until 11.45 a.m. Those are all the before the test instructions.

During the test the invigilators are to take special care to see that each candidate writes his name, date of birth and the name of his school on the paper. Before the commencement of each paper, candidates are to be given-the following instructions: "when you reach the end of page 2 turn to page 3." The children must not be disturbed by too many or too frequent interruptions. The chief invigilator and his assistants are requested to see that the examination is conducted with meticulous care and scrupulous integrity, and no explanation must be given to candidates unless it relates to misprint or a difficulty in deciphering a letter or a figure.

I pause at this point to say that the particular instance mentioned by the hon. member would, I think, have been covered under this regulation, because if an examination paper or a question on an examination paper is so printed that the pupil cannot distinguish between a plus sign and a division sign, then I would think that this would be valid interruption on the part of the invigilator to explain a misprint or a difficulty in deciphering a letter or a figure. Other than that, I am afraid the pupil would have to divide and rule.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, isn't it interesting to hear the Leader of the House say that other than that the pupil would have to divide and rule in a case such as this? Do you know what happened on this very day, Mr. Chairman? I showed the Leader of the House the item to which he is now referring, and I asked him to read it for me, and he immediately read it as most of the pupils were reading it. He asked me if it were a division sign. That is the very question that the children got up and asked the invigilator. He knowing that it ought to have been a plus sign to get the answer that had been set, found himself in a very awkward position, but he certainly did lead them to divide and rule.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: We are not at cross purposes on this. If the pupils made the same mistake, it shows that I made the mistake in good company. It also shows that this should have been the occasion for a valid interruption on the part of the invigilator to say "you may not take what looks like a division sign as a division sign; it is a misprint for a plus sign." It would have been a perfectly valid interruption on the part of the invigilator, and the rules make room for this. Also no child must be allowed to enter the examination room if the examination is in progress for half an hour, or leave the examination room until half an hour has elapsed. All those which I have read out are during the test regulations, and those for after the test are as follows: after each examination the scripts will be collected in the order set out on marks sheet, boys separately from girls. At 1030 the English script and English answers sheet and marking scheme will be handed to the marking team who can get on with the marking of the English scripts while the Arithmetic paper is being done by the pupils. When the scripts have been marked, marks should be kept and entered on the marks sheet in the proper column. The mark allowance for 1970-71 examination has been changed from the pattern used up to 1970. No plus allowance will be made for any child between the ages of 10 and 11. A half mark is substracted for each month over the age of 11 in such a way that for every two months one mark is lost. The mark allowance has therefore been worked out as a minus quantity.

3.55 p.m.

Head Teachers should inform their staffs that these marks are confidential and should not be disclosed either to parents or pupils; Head Teachers of schools are asked to deliver the mark sheets, which must be enclosed in a separate envelope, the corrected scripts and any unused scripts to the Ministry on the morning of Saturday, 27th February - of course this date has passed. Head Teachers for whom this is inconvenient should inform the Education Officer at the time of delivery of the question papers on the Thursday preceding the examination. Those, Sir, are the regulations and the stipulations which cover the Common Entrance Part I Examination.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has given us the security surrounding the test period, at least up to immediately after the examination has been taken. Now, what is the security that is brought into play that after a child has taken the examination the child is forbidden to leave the room with the test paper which he has just taken? In other words, what is wrong about it that he cannot carry it out to show anybody?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would think this is obvious; in an examination which is going on in all parts of the island at the same time, it is conceivable that there may be some reason in another part of the island why the examination could not have started at 9.30 but might have had to be deferred until 11.30 or a quarter to twelve. There is therefore a risk if in this part or from this school you allow people to come out of communication of the contents of the examination paper to people who have not yet written the examination; there is always this, and it is so too in the Oxford and Cambridge Examination.

Mr. HINDS: Is it not a case, Mr. Chairman, whether the child passes or not it must fail? Is your system not based on this?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, I could not accept that. How could I tolerate the hon. member saying that whether they pass or not they must fail? I cannot accept that, and he would have to prove it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, of the numbers taking the Part I examination, are there school places for all of them if they pass?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That question could not arise because the places are not awarded on the basis of Part I.

Mr. HINDS: We agree, Mr. Chairman, that it is based finally on Part II, but there are children who after they have passed Part I and do not pass Part II are awarded bursaries on Part I, so that Part I is still of some sort of significance in the line up. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am with you up to that point). So that if all the children who take Part II were to pass the examination, what is your position in such a matter?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: To speak of passing Part II is rather an extensive phrase, Part 11 is a selective examination and must therefore hinge on the number of places at a given school or at a given group of schools at a given time.

Mr. HINDS: I do not want to spend any time on this question of a selective examination or what it means, because if it is selective it is not an examination.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: A selective exercise, then.

Mr. HINDS: Is it still a selective examination or is he now saying it is a selective exercise, and if it is a selective exercise on what is it based?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It is based on results.

Mr. HINDS: How do you arrive at these results? From where are they obtained?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Is it Part I or Part II the hon. member is speaking about now? He has moved about the territory so quickly that I cannot tell which he is talking about now; I have been explaining to him the procedures for Part I.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House says that his examination is a selective one. I tried to intimate to him that since it is an examination it could not be a selective examination; he then intimated that it would have to be a selective exercise. If it is merely an exercise why have you got to go through this sitting of Part I and Part II? Is all this merely an exercise, and if so, for what purpose?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Let me put it this way. In the old days when you had to sit at individual schools scholarships or entrance examinations, there always used to be more people applying even in those days than there were places available, and on any morning, say a week or two weeks before Harrison College or Queen's College was due to open there would be an entrance examination and there always used to be more people writing the examination than there were places available. Then there was the interview, and even in those days sometimes when you satisfied them in one respect you could not jump the hurdle in another because they used to ask all kinds of questions,

and that was the selective hurdle pupils used to have to jump over not with any ease in those days. They used to ask if you used to bring water and things like this, but this does not happen nowadays, and even now with the Common Entrance there are more pupils wishing to try their hands and their fortunes than there are places available, but the point must surely be this, that the entrance into the grammar schools of this island is now on the basis of merit and no other consideration applies, and if the hon. member wants to tell me that there is no difference between the hazards of those days and the certainties of this, then we will have to argue about it, because we will not be able to convince each other.

The question that the sum of $1,480,705 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (1) General Administration stand part of the Schedule was put and re solved in the affirmative without division.

4.05 p.m.

Hon J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under Head 37 (2) - Primary, Adult and Special Education - there are some amendments to be made mostly to the Notes on the right hand side of two pages. Now, opposite page 91 Note 3 should read: "To provide for teachers required to maintain the appropriate teacher/pupil ratio."

At Note 5, second line, take out the words "to pay" and the words after the word "substitutes". In other words, delete the words "when employees are on sick leave." The Note would now read:

> "To provide for watchmen, groundsmen, gardeners and cleaners. Includes provision for vacation pay and for substitutes."

At Note 14, we have to substitute the word "cleanser" for the word "cleaner", and take out all the words after "materials' . The words "Includes provision for the cleaning of utensils at schools being served with hot lunches -" will be deleted. The Note will then read:

> "To provide for toilet paper, soap, cleanser, insecticides and other cleansing materials."

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,955,854 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think there is a correction to this Head. The amount should be $3,810,606.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is my mistake, Mr. Chairman, I looked at the wrong column. I beg to move that the sum of $3,810,606 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Chairman, I think I had better give the Committee some information under this Head. If hon. members look at Item 9 - Maintenance of Grounds, they would wish to know that Turners Hall, Christ Church Boys', St. James Mixed and Wesley Hall. Infants all had fences erected or repaired during this financial year. Other schools which had work done to their grounds include the Pine Grammar School and St. Martins Boys', and only $91 of the current provision up to the present moment.

Now, Item 11 - Maintenance of Buildings. Maintenance was carried on at Wesley Hall Infants, Wesley Hall Primary, Pine Primary, Carringtons Primary, St. Paul's Primary, Edgehill Memorial, St. Albans Junior, Speightstown Boys', Half Moon Fort Primary, St. Saviour's Mixed, St. Joseph Girls', St. Matthias Girls', St. Philip Girls', St. Matthias Boys', St. Augustine's Girls', St. Jude's Mixed, St. Martins Girls' and Holy Innocents.

Now, the plans for ground repairs and maintenance under this provision include 20 schools, namely, Westbury Infants, Westbury Junior, St. Mary's Infants, Belmont Girls', St. Giles Boys', Montgomery Boys', St. Bartholomew's Girls', St. Patrick's Girls', St. Martin's Boys', Shrewsbury Primary, Mount Tabor Mixed, Cherrygrove Primary, South District Girls', St. George's Girls' , St. Joseph Boys', Boughton's Mixed, Sharon's Mixed, St. Clement's Senior, Boscobelle Boys' and Paynes Bay Infants.

During the current year repairs were carried out or are still being carried out on the roadways or yards of 4 schools, that is, St. Matthias Boys', St. Mary's Infants, Wesley Hall Boys' and Wesley Hall Infants.

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

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we ask that the statistics be circulated in order to expedite progress. I understand that they are available, and I am sure that hon. members on this side would like to see them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have two copies here, but it looks as if more of them were done.

Mr. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, 24 copies have been done. Please ask the Marshal for them. Some time ago I asked a question about the old St. Bartholomew's School. I asked who it belonged to, and whether steps would be taken to remove this unsightly building, and suggested that the area which it occupies could be put to some other use. *(Asides)* I am referring to an old wooden building on the way to Seawell. A new school has been built to replace it. I wanted to know to whom it belonged.

Now, under Items 15 and 16, Evening Institute and Adult Education, I wonder whether the Government would consider making available to a wider section of people the Industrial Arts Wings which are attached to the Comprehensive and Secondary Schools for children and people who are not members of the schools. I am speaking particularly of the Independent Private Schools. There are some in Christ Church, and I understand that efforts have been made to have the use of these wings in the afternoon subject, of

course, to the usual provisions in relation to security and responsibility.
4.15 p.m.

As I understand it, you have 4,390 children in your primary school senior departments and we on this are concerned that the curriculum which they operate under is not wide enough, and if you take the number of people who are going into your polytechnic, you will see that there are a large number of people there who are not getting as wide an education as we feel is necessary, and I would like to know what are the Government's plans in relation to this, because build as fast as you can, I do not think that in the very near future you envisage the removal of these from these schools into the comprehensive or approved independent schools.

There is just one domestic matter that happened at St. Bernards School at St. Joseph. There is a problem with a member of the casual staff which last year was the subject matter of an enquiry by the Minister. I wonder what was the result of it. I should like to find out whether the lady has been paid what she should have been paid a long time ago. Those are the only points I want to raise under this Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder what is Government's policy with respect to the Edghill Memorial School and what plans they have for it. I believe that one can safely say that the siting of the school is completely outdated. It is on a highway where there is quite a bit of traffic passing all the time; there are no recreational facilities at all for the children, and I would have thought that in Government's programme for the past five years they would have made some provision for the children of that school. If you know the place, Mr. Chairman, it is in a bend when you come through White Hall and I feel it is really impossible for the children crowded in the school as it is right now to continue in the existing building. I would like to know if the Ministry of Education is contemplating resiting the school, because I do not think that the school can serve any useful purpose there apart from just accommodating the children, but I cannot say that it is a place where they can be comfortable during their sessions. I would have thought that rather than spending $225,000 for the purpose of patching some of these buildings, there would have been a greater expansion of some of these schools. I do not know what the Minister would say on this. I am not one who really looks at this subject very closely, but this attracted my attention some time ago and I would like to hear what the Minister has to say about it.

I see also, Mr. Chairman, that there is an error and that you have Note 14 twice. I want to deal with Item 13 – Games, to which the note says "to provide grant towards annual athletic meetings. Also to provide games and equipment for schools." This is the biggest joke in the world. Here you are providing $5,000, which means you are increasing from $3,800 by an additional vote of $1,200. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I am doing the wrong Head.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think it is about time that the public's mind be set at rest about our primary school system in this Island. Now we have a system in this Island which makes it compulsory that children on reaching 11 years of age must leave the primary schools, but our system has been so conditioned that it provides for those children to go on to a secondary school system of education, but there has been so much to do here and there with this system that one now finds it extremely difficult to be able to discern at what point we are going to be really ever able to decide what is best for the children who have got to leave these schools at the end of each year.

Now when children leave the primary schools they have to go either to the senior elementary schools or all-age schools as referred to at page nine of the Report made yesterday, and you must either go to one of the 46 senior elementary schools, to the comprehensive schools, to a grammar school or to one of the private secondary schools. Now there can be no denying that in the primary schools under the system as it obtains at present, the teachers are made mere scapegoats, and in very great measure we find that the senior elementary schools are a neglected lot. Now let us for a single moment cast our eyes at the Ministry of Education.
4.25 p.m.

You will find there not an officer who we must admit has the greatest experience both in length and in variety in education in this island, he has been moved out, so to speak, to become Training Officer, and they have taken away an excellent Training Officer and installed him in the Ministry, merely because he is an officer who we must say has the knack of adapting himself to suit situations. What a tremendous loss to our primary school system, our secondary school system, this has been, cannot easily be told, and people in the Ministry of Education, people who know how to value education, Mr. Chairman, ought not to be content with situations such as these being allowed one way or the other.

We have at Item 3 the Supernumerary Teacher, and that is to provide for teachers required to maintain the appropriate Teachers ratio. Mr. Chairman, we very well know that in England – because we have referred somehow and we have no reason to be ashamed of it, we have patterned our system on the English system for many years much to our credit – that a Teacher is expected to cater carefully to a class of between 36 and 44; he should have 40, but if he were to go up to 44, that should be the limit. Let the Minister examine his present school system, let the Minister examine all his primary schools and tell us if there are not classes with more than 44, and worst of all, despite of our being asked here to allocate money in the sum of $1,214,740 to provide Teachers for these various schools, let the Minister deny that in some of his primary schools these children are left for periods to teach themselves. If the Minister wants to invite me to make mention of the schools I can do so, but that is the situation

with which we are faced, and this, Mr. Chairman, the system has been embarked upon for re-employing retired Head Teachers and other Teachers on a non-pensionable basis.

We have absolutely nothing against this, because we feel that these Teachers are people who are bringing to bear upon their tasks a considerable knowledge of all there is to be known about the job, their approach to the problem is something that the younger ones can emulate, and they can exercise an influence in the school which the Head Teachers could feel proud of, in that they can shoulder some measure of responsibility. They are not greenhorns, so to speak, but what is worrying us is this, what is Government's policy when it comes to recruiting back to the Teaching Service these retired Teachers? We know of some who were Head Teachers, some who were Senior Assistants that have been refused, they have offered their services and have been refused, and in one case we must stress that there is absolutely nothing at which the Ministry can point against the person's ability, character or anything else, it is that there has been a more clash of personalities, so you will see that our school system, our shortage of Teachers is further aggravated by the onesided policy of the Government in recruiting these retired Teachers.

We believe that we want to have the people's children taught, they must be taught, and if people are to be found and can be found to teach them, they should be re-employed, and as has been experienced in the past, if it is a case where it is not felt that a person can give of his or her best at a particular school, place the person in an area in a school where he or she can function most effectively.
4.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is the system which we want to have perfected. I believe that Government have fallen down on this matter of teachers and the necessary provision of teachers, because the Education Officers are not making their presence felt in the Ministry, or in the schools. I do not think they are making enough suggestions, and, if they know that something is good for the Island's educational system, they are not men enough to stand by what they know and have proven to be in the best interest of education as a whole in this country. They are too spineless to be guiding the careers of so many thousand people under them.

Mr. Chairman, Item 4 – Acting Staff – $1,147,500. Here, again, we have received Reports from time to time which suggest what is likely to be required within the next five or ten years for the housing of our children; for the feeding of our children and all things related thereto. But, Mr. Chairman, have the Government ever yet carried out a survey in order that they may determine what would be their actual teacher requirements, let us say, for the next five years? This matter of Acting Staff has been recurring for the past 15 years or more. It means that one will find among the number to be employed by this $1,147,500 a number of people who cannot be expected to have security of tenure – no permanence, so to speak. We would like the Government to look into this matter with all the seriousness it deserves. We would also like to know that the Government would be making adequate provision for the staffing of our schools in the same way as they have carried out an assessment to know what our school population is likely to be within the next five or 10 years.

With regard to Item 7 – Apparatus and Material $135,450, the Note refers to record cards. I wonder whether the Hon. Minister can tell us of the number of schools in which record cards are kept. I should like to know whether they are kept up to date, but initially it was felt that record cards should be kept by the Primary Schools as well as by the Secondary Schools. If they were kept for a 6-year period or any part thereof, then they would ably assist when a child is going to be transferred to another school or is leaving school. My information is that the Secondary Schools have never been interested with that. If it is essential to have these cards, then it is for our Minister of Education to see to it that the system works throughout the schools. The Minister might be able to tell us how successful we have been in this respect. We find that we have to provide freight charges for books donated by external agencies.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Education has not shown the type of appreciation to this gift scheme as one would expect, because there have been instances where the Legislature has been called upon to vote money for dues in respect of books that were given to the Ministry by Overseas Agencies. Very often the packages were not drawn from the Customs within the 5-day period, and nobody had paid the whole consignment the attention to which it ought to have been paid.
4.45 p.m.

Another thing that comes to mind is that many of the schools are not getting the literature and benefitting from it, because headteachers themselves are called upon from time to time to go to the Ministry of Education and take these books to their schools. Headteachers have been doing it with the assistance of others from their schools, but I am saying here and now that there are very few who really like doing it, and they feel that if they do not undertake the task, they will be black listed and would earn the disfavour of some senior officer in the Ministry. What we would agree, Mr. Chairman, is that there should be in the Ministry of Education officers who ought to be able to choose for the schools in their respective areas what volumes are best suited, and surely it should not be beyond the Department to have a distribution system whereby these volumes of books or magazines could be delivered to the schools for which they are consigned. If this had been done, there could be no question of a headteacher or an assistant headteacher having to feel that unless he does this or that he will earn any senior officer's disfavour. We would like these matters gone into and something done to remedy the situation.

At Item 7, there is the question of rental of the speakers for Rediffusion broadcast at schools. I want

the Minister to tell me, Mr. Chairman, how many schools have these speakers installed, and how many schools have adequate provision for receiving these broadcasts. When I say adequate provision, I mean how many schools are really receiving the broadcasts in an isolated area so as not to distract the attention of other classrooms while these broadcasts are going on, because Mr. Chairman, I am certain that there are several headteachers, assistant headteachers and others who do not worry to turn up the speakers to receive the broadcasts because they will disturb the greater part of the school since the schools were not conditioned for receiving them. It is folly to be telling ourselves that we are directing broadcasts to schools when they are not being received. As a result the Minister ought to be in a position to tell us how many children receive these broadcasts and what are the comments by headteachers on the material that is broadcast, because I am willing to bet my last dollar that many headteachers could not comment on the broadcast. If requested by the Ministry to do so, they would have to get in touch with their colleagues to know what was broadcast to be able to return a report to the Ministry; so we should not continue to fool ourselves about these school broadcasts when they are really and truly not serving the purpose. What would be better than for these education officers, if they were visiting the schools, to carry out spot checks on the children themselves to determine if any benefit whatsoever is derived by them from these broadcasts that are directed to their respective schools.

Now, Mr. Chairman, at Item 6 – Furniture, we are going to replace domestic science equipment from a vote of $110,825. We ought to be given a breakdown as to exactly what is going to be replaced from this money.

At Item 8 we are going to provide a sum of $71,415, an increase by $9,755 over last year's amount, and the reason is due to increase in the intake of students who are doing art, needlecraft, handicraft and domestic science.
4.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know the basis on which we have this increase in the intake of students. It would be good to know what was last year's student roll, and since this intake, or since the last intake what that roll has swollen to.

At Item 9 - Maintenance of Grounds, Mr. Chairman, some of the gardens and grounds at some of the schools resemble a wilderness, but this Government will have to accept in very fair measure the responsibility for this, because this Government has sought to decry anything and everything associated with land cultivation proper, and in the past many of our school gardens, boys felt proud, teachers, all who had received some method of training which they passed on to the children, and the approach to school gardening was something which did not carry any flavour of degradation; there was no degrading flavour whatsoever attached to it. For some boys it became a hobby, and for others it was an occupation which many of them cherished, and if we were to look around us now, many of the people who are now doing market gardening and supplying the bulk of vegetables that are put on sale at our supermarkets and our public markets are people who have received their basic training at the elementary schools of this island whilst they were children, and some of them have had the experience of going - and perhaps some people even present today would want to decry this - but there were industrial exhibitions held at some of the plantations on the island where children were taught to make cane holes and beds for the planting of slips and the potato, and make up yam beds.

As I say, Mr. Chairman, the approach to the problem was not what people have tried to make it out today, but we have come on to find that perhaps to go in our own gardens they are some people today to go in their own gardens at their own homes they have to look around to see who is looking at them, but gardening was a healthy exercise, it helped to build the body, it also helped to exercise the mind and cultivate it within the spirit of endeavour that you try and try until you can win a prize. That was some of what was associated with the school gardening; the cultivation of these little crops and these little flowers in the gardens at our schools in years past, but as I say, all of this has gone.

I think the Minister mentioned Boscobelle Boys' School in his list for repairs; am I right in saying that the Minister mentioned that Boscobelle Boys' School is listed for having its grounds and gardens brought into a shape that would become the school in the coming financial year?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: But not under this Head we are discussing now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am discussing Item 9 which is to cover maintenance of school gardens and grounds, so what is the Minister telling me? Boscobelle Boys' School falls within the primary and adult education group of schools, what is the Minister trying to say? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am trying to put you off). You may try. I am indeed glad, Mr. Chairman, to learn from the Minister that an attempt will be made to improve Boscobelle Boys' School, and I hope that something will be done. What I would hope further is this, that Government not only spend a few dollars trying to level the present grounds or anything like that, but that Government acquire lands adjoining and give the Boscobelle Boys' School a respectable plot upon which the little children could exercise their legs and play their games. That should not be a difficult task, and we do not want to say that attention to one school must not of necessity create jealousy in the minds of the others, but the grounds at Boscobelle Girls' School is also in bad shape, and what is the point going into St. Peter to pay attention to the grounds at Boscobelle Boys' School and leave the grounds at the Girls' School in equally as bad a condition? The two schools should be tackled at the same time; what sense does it make? Why leave out the Girls' School? We want to see our flowering plants grown around the Girls' School as we used to

see them in years past; we want to see our little girls even running the three-legged race and the sack race on the plot of land which they have north of the school, but there are plenty stones that make this almost impossible, and it is not beyond the ability of the Government to attend to this in the present financial year.

It would be of some interest to us if the Minister could tell us how they arrive at their priorities in matters of this sort. I quite realise, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister might have mentioned there Boscobelle Boys' School, I believe he added it on almost at the end of the list. I think if he were to re-examine his list Boscobelle Boys' School was the very last school called, but it might have been called so as to bring a measure of satisfaction to me and so cause me not to talk too long; I do not intend to talk much longer.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, it may be well for the hon. member to know that Boscobelle Boys' School still carries on rock gardening, and this was encouraged by this Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of explanation.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am one of the products of Boscobelle Boys' School. I have walked long distances with stones on my head and under my arm in order to make garden beds, and my school has a record for winning prizes at the exhibition for school gardening. Mr. Chairman, school gardening is part of the life of Boscobelle Boys' School.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Then it is not true to say that this Government are responsible for the schools not keeping gardens. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture renders any advice asked for by the Boscobelle Boys' School in respect of market gardening.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in many of the schools in this Island School Gardening went off the curriculum altogether.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, it is not true to make such a statement. Even in the Annual Agricultural Exhibitions special attention is paid to school Gardens. About four years ago the Ministry of Agriculture increased the grant to the Agricultural Society, so that better prizes could be given for School Gardens. It is unfair and unreasonable to say that this Government have done nothing to encourage School Gardening. As a matter of fact, this Government have done more to encourage School Gardens than the previous Government.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I really have not had and opportunity to read the Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for 1968-69 which was laid yesterday. I want to bet the Minister that there is no mention of School Gardening or of any encouragement in the Schools' Report. I should like to be advised on that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I could not take on that bet because, like the hon. member, I have not yet read the Report.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I also want to remind the hon. member that it was this Government that initiated the Course in Agricultural Science in some of the schools in this country. People in West St. Joseph, and I think at the Alleyne School, have gained passes in the Cambridge Examination in Agricultural Science as well as in the Federal High School.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is only trying to make me go away from this Head in order to reply to him. Let the Minister tell us who was responsible for people like T. O. Phillips. We had the late Mr. Moe who was attached to Erdiston Teachers' Training College and taught Agricultural Science there. At the time Agricultural Science at Erdiston was a must, but today it is optional. I am going to enquire later whether anybody takes the subject nowadays, but I do not want to go into that now.

Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that the number of schools exhibiting things at the Annual Industrial Exhibition today has fallen off considerably. We are saying that the interest or the competitive spirit that lived within the people or the school children in years gone by is no longer there. I remember such names as - *(Asides)*

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

Mr. HINDS: I will address the Chair now, Mr. Chairman. I remember attending the Annual Agricultural Exhibition and hearing the names of the Schools ringing out.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member will still hear the names ringing out today at the Annual Agricultural Exhibition. The point is that there are so many other things that the young people participate in today that their participation in agriculture is shadowed by their participation in other things, even if it is dope.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is right - even if it is dope. The leader of the House has had to admit in here that children in some of our schools in this Island are participating in dope.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, that does not happen in Barbados alone.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, did you hear what the hon. Minister has said? The Minister is making out a case for the children in Barbados to use dope.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not making out any case; I am only saying that the children in Barbados are not worst than in other places.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister says that the children in Barbados are not the only children taking dope, what does he mean?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, let the hon. member quote me correctly. I said that the children are not the worst.
5.15 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: What we are saying, Mr. Chairman, is that provision is also included for the enclosure of gardens and grounds. I wonder if the Minister can tell me if the grounds at Boscobelle Boys' School will have an enclosure.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will probably have to answer that more fully later, but I may remind the hon. member that Boscobelle Boys' School is one of the twenty schools which are scheduled for ground repairs and maintenance in the coming financial year. (Mr. HINDS: Is it the last on the list?) It is the penultimate. The hon. member has just managed to nose out Paynes Bay Infants by a digit.

Mr. HINDS: Anyhow, I hope you will start your repairs due north and come back this way. At Item 11 - Maintenance of Buildings, do you know how sickening it is that we have a Buildings Officer in the Department, and yet the Chief Buildings Officer today is the Minister of Education himself? Do you mean he has nothing else to do? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You must not say that.) How do you mean I must not say that? He is walking about inspecting buildings and looking for termites. Is he the Rentokil man? If it were a question that you were considering making an extension to house more children and the Minister lends his presence, by all means that would be all right. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Doesn't he do this too?) He did it in Bay Land.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member referring to a school in the Bay Land?

Mr. HINDS: That is where they go and rob the little children of their food, but we are going to come to these things under school meals.

Now at Item 13 - Games, this is where the Minister of Education must come into play, because I understand that directives have been sent out to schools having as their object the restricting of a number of persons from attending sports.. In other words, the parents of friends or children at these secondary schools will no longer be able to attend their school sports. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You must not say that.) I am willing to let the Minister put me right. I want to be advised on the matter, and the Minister is here.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 15 - Evening Institute, it is said that $150,000 is required. There is an increase of $31,527 and it is to provide for the operation of the Evening Institute programme. Increase is to meet the cost of the increased fees payable to lecturers. Now it is to be regretted that the increase is not due to an increase in the number of students attending. We are not opposing the increase in fees. What we are concerned with is whether the increase of fees to the lecturers will mean that the standard of lecturing is going to improve, or the number of hours will be increased, or that the lecturers are going to be punctual. How many times do you find one lecturer having to go and observe what is going on in another classroom because the lecturer has not turned up? We are not opposing the fees because we quite appreciate that travel is costing more, but if these lecturers are demanding increased fees, what we want to know is that they increase their efficiency and discharge their duties in a more efficient manner at the institute. Is the institute now catering to as many pupils as it did in the past? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They no longer teach advanced work.) Mr. Chairman, I am being told by the Leader of the House that they no longer teach advanced level work, so they would not have the number. I did not expect to hear this from the Leader of the House. What the Leader of the House should concern himself with and be able to tell us are the ages of those people who we find making use of the Evening Institute.
5.25 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not think those figures would be readily available, but I think it will be obvious to the hon. member if he were to look at the figures for the Evening Institute and the Community College he will see that there are 430 made up of 253 first year and 177 second year, and I would believe that this large number accounts for the fact that most people are doing their "A" Level work at the Community College, whereas in fact before the Community College was established they would have been spread out among the various classes of the Evening Institute; this is how I would interpret it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister really understands that even when the Evening Institute was catering to as many as it possibly could, that there were hundreds of others who could not be taught, and those hundreds have since had numerous others added to them; are we to understand that the Leader of the House is not aware of the vast number of 14+ children leaving our schools annually? His own primary schools are throwing them at the doors on reaching the age of 14, throwing them on the road in thousands each year. Let the Minister answer this, what is he doing for those between 14 and 18? How many of those are in the Evening Institute?

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH resumed the Chair.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the problem separately when I come to reply, but I would like to remind the hon. member that my first interjection on this point was in respect of 'A' Level courses; I pointed out to the hon. member that the Evening Institute does not do any more 'A' Level work, and I explained that this was due to the fact that a lot of people who would normally have wanted to attend Evening Institute 'A' Level courses are now accommodated at the Community College. It is that we were talking about; coming on to the 14+

is a different matter, which I will deal with separately.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when you move out your 'A' Level students from the Evening Institute you were only making room for the 'O' Levels; that is all I want to tell the Minister.

Item 16 - Adult Education. The most I should ask the Leader of the House is to give us an up-to-date report, what figures he has available, as to the numbers taking advantage of his Adult Education classes. The note says that the Adult Education programme includes fees for part-time Supervisors and Lecturers. We are having a lot of lecturing; how many lecture hours per day persons taking part in the Adult Education programme are receiving? How many lecture hours per day are available to those people? We realise that in Adult Education maybe a very wide curriculum covering a vast number of subjects, wide and varied, all of this is taken into consideration, but what would enlighten us further is the number of persons; you are spending $160,000 on this.

Item 17 - Roadways to Schools. Is any part of this money that is voted here for the building of the roadway to Ellerslie Comprehensive School? If it is not, I would like to hear the Minister's list of roadways that he has for repairs to these various schools, because in as much as he is going to carry out repairs to the grounds at Boscobelle Boys' School, I am sure common sense will only dictate that repairs should be carried out to Gay's Road that leads to the same school at the same time.

Item 18 is a very good one indeed, Mr. Chairman, because it is a grant more or less of $4,500 to schools which have raised 60% of the funds for the purchase of pianos, tape recorders or other musical instruments. My view is this, Mr. Chairman, I think that Government could very well consider at this stage giving 60% and let the schools raise 40%. We do not want to find ourselves in the position of providing everything and just having people with no interest in it but merely to destroy it, but I still feel that to encourage a greater number of schools in their various efforts at fund raising for this purpose, that if Government made it known that if the schools raises 40% Government would give the other 60% to help them acquire things like pianos and other musical instruments, that it would go a long way and we would support this most wholeheartedly.
5.35 p.m.

We do not want them, but I still feel that, in order to encourage a greater number of schools in their various efforts at fund raising, if Government made it known that if the schools could raise 40% Government would give them the other 60% to help them to acquire pianos and other musical instruments that it would be a great help and we would support it wholeheartedly.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you can well remember the St. Joseph Boys' School with their Boys' Band. I can remember the old Headmaster, Mr. Walcott, in those days had the villages bright. He taught everybody how to "sol fa" in St. Joseph, but that spirit is no longer there. We want to encourage our boys and girls in these schools to become interested in the art of music. Let us do the best we can to encourage them to provide themselves with these instruments. I think we used to have a Schools Music Festival. I think it was a biennial affair, but what has become of it? The Minister ought to be in a position to tell us something about the Schools Music Festival.

Now, Item 20 deals with financing Extra Mural Programmes and $6,000 is provided. I want to warn this Committee to be very careful with this $6,000, because it is a fact that if you or I became interested tomorrow in enjoying any of the facilities offered by our Extra Mural Department in Barbados, if we live next door to the Pine Extra Mural Centre and the fee for the course we wanted to attend was 10¢, we could not do as we have done over the past years, pay our 10¢, at the Extra Mural Centre, get a receipt therefor, and begin to avail ourselves of the facilities offered at the Extra Mural Centre.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Why not?

Mr. HINDS: That is what you must investigate. The very reason why we cannot get a receipt is the very reason why I am warning the Committee to call for a statement as to how our $6,000 is disbursed. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for the City is interrupting the Chair and the speaker also.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it will be found that the University of the West Indies no longer finds it possible to entrust the extra Mural Centre at the Pine with receiving fees of any kind. *(Asides)* I say that and I can say it on oath. If you lived next door to the Extra Mural Centre at the Pine, you still have to go to the University Centre at Cave Hill and pay your fees there. That is due to the fact that the Overseas Auditors have discovered that the funds of the Extra Mural Centre at the Pine have not been handled as carefully as they ought to have been and, Mr. Chairman, not by any Clerk or anybody employed at the Department. *(Asides)* If you believe it is not true, then have the matter investigated. All financial transactions have to be carried on at the University at Cave Hill.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member surely must know that the central organisation of the University in this territory is at Cave Hill. If they choose to administer their financial affairs in such a manner as to require all the disbursements to be made at Cave Hill and all moneys receivable to be received at Cave Hill, the hon. member should not draw any inference from that. They have the staff at Cave Hill to do the bookkeeping and the accounting.

Mr. HINDS: I am not drawing any inference, Mr. Chairman, I am stating facts. The Minister is sadly mistaken. I made a statement of fact that the Overseas Auditors have come face to face with discrepancies. I am asking this Committee to call

for a statement showing how our $6,000 that will be voted will be dispersed. Several years ago a student living in Christ Church or St. Michael could go to the Pine, pay his registration fee, and start attending the course, but he will now have to go to the University at Cave Hill and pay the fee before he can go to the Pine to attend his course.

Now Item 22 - Furniture and Equipment - $14,454. This amount will be used to purchase stoves, refrigerators, ironing boards, sewing machines, ovens, electric irons and specialised equipment for the School for the Deaf.
5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that we have all that note would want to convey. I am not querying it to any extent except to make sure that it is really for the school for the deaf. The Minister promised to enlighten me under Item 13 as to exactly what are the terms of the directive that has gone out.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have covered most of the points which I have noted under this Head, and I am sure that the Minister will now be in a position to reply.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, before I start to deal with the many questions which have been raised from the other side, I want to apologise to the Committee for not giving, while we were doing the other Head, a reply to one question which was asked by the same hon. member in respect of the transport services. The hon. member had asked what we owe the bus concessionaires and the Transport Board up to the present date. The answer is, to the Transport Board $64,750, to the Elite Bus Company $29,050 and to the Rocklyn Bus Company $33,950.

Mr. HINDS: That is due to what date?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It says outstanding to date. Secondly before I forget, I should just like to explain to the Committee in respect of the item which concerns the contribution in respect of the Extra-Mural Department, that the $6,000 is given by the Government of Barbados to the University of the West Indies. It is a contribution which we make to the University over and above all other contributions for the carrying on of extra-mural work in this country. The difference is that it is not made privately to the Extra-Mural Department; it is made to the University of the West Indies and goes through University funds, and is then disbursed by the University to the Barbados extra-mural people for the carrying on of their work here.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder if the Minister is in a position to direct my attention to the Regulation or the Resolution that first brought it about.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: My recollection is that we have always given the University something for this purpose, and I believe it was in 1964 that we increased either from $3,000 to $6,000 or from $4,000 to what it is now. It has been this amount for some time unless I am mistaken.

Mr. HINDS: That does not help me. I would like the authority for granting the money. On what was it based? The Leader of the House is telling us that it is a grant to the University of the West Indies and not to the Extra-Mural Department, but there would have been a Resolution or something before the House at some time enlighting us to that effect, and I would like to see it or know it for myself.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Unless the hon. member doubts what I have just said, the Government agreed to a request of the University for assistance in the carrying out of its extra-mural work. It was a certain fixed amount for a long time, and they asked us, I believe, in 1964, whether we could increase it. It was an agreement with the University to assist with extra-mural work and we increased it, and I believe it has been fixed at the level of $6,000 ever since. It was not a hole-in-the corner arrangement; it was an agreement openly arrived at between the Government of Barbados and the University of the West Indies.

The hon. member was under some doubt as to whether and how many schools had school gardens. The number is 26 schools so far as my information goes. We have schools like Chalky Mount, Selah Primary, Half Moon Fort, Black Bess, Boscobelle Boys', Welches Mixed, Hillaby Mixed, Clifton Hall, St. George's Boys', St. Luke's Boy's, St. Augustine's Boys', St. Martins Boys', St. Marks Senior, St. Matthews, Christ Church Boys', St. David's Boys', Providence Boys', St. John's mixed, Mount Tabor Mixed, St. Margaret's Mixed, Princess Margaret's and West St. Joseph. Those are some of them.

Mr. HINDS: How many schools do you have in all?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Approximately 126 primary schools. Under Head 37(2), Items 3 and 4, the Ministry is currently considering its teaching establishment, and the points made by the hon. member about the projected school population and the insecurity of acting teachers are among the matters to be taken into account.
5.55 p.m.

It is hoped to come to the House with a Civil Establishment Order early in the new financial year.

Mr. HINDS: And not with a new Education Act to cover everything there is in Education?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: A new Education Act, anxious as the hon. member is for it, will not cover the Civil Establishment for the teachers, but I may tell the hon. member this; I do not know how the hon. member can get voluminous information on some aspects of Government Policy and the streams seem to dry up in other respects, whereas in some respects they flow most abundantly. The point about the Education Act is this; a draft was prepared and the Cabinet approved it, we directed that it be sent to the Teachers' Unions, I believe they have sent it and they have reported back on it, I cannot tell the hon. member in detail about their comments, and the

draftsmen have been asked to get it to us as quickly as they can, so I am hoping that some time..... (Mr. HINDS: Do you want to see my copy?) I have no doubt that the hon. member has been favoured with a copy. I am advised that I should have replied "yes", but anyhow the question of the acting Teachers is being considered and we hope to come with a Civil Establishment Order early in the new financial year.

While I am on my feet I must say this, that I know there is a great temptation to say that the Government is doing nothing about anything at all, and this is the year in which this is the open season for Governments, at least for shooting them down, but I would like to remind the Committee that there were things that we corrected in the Teaching establishment which I was personally proud to be associated with. The change in the old Relief Teacher system; when I became Minister of Education a Teacher was employed in this island like a Casual Labourer, and if a Bank Holiday.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, they are still working now for months and cannot get paid, they go up to the Ministry of Education and are being treated like dogs after they work, being fooled, turned about, sent to this officer and to the other officer till they get disgusted and go home; they telephone somebody and are told to ring them the next day, the person is not there, all this is nonsense, that is still happening up to say a few days ago.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that there will be individual cases illustrating what the hon. member has just said, but this could not be general because if it were general.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you have Teachers whose cheques are to be paid into the bank; they leave the country and go down to the bank when there is no cheque there. All that is still going on.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member is not saying there is not any money to pay them.

Mr. HINDS: We do not know, because Postmen and Government Pensioners do not always get theirs, so the School Teachers might not get theirs as well.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am not going to be put off what I was saying, it is we who made it possible for them to stop working on the day to day basis; what the hon. member is complaining about is different. To say that they work and do not get paid promptly is a different matter from saying that their conditions of work are not securely guaranteed, and we have to do this. There was a time when a Teacher who was not appointed, particularly a Relief Teacher, could not have been paid for a Bank Holiday.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir, the Leader of the House made mention of a Bank Holiday, but what about the Vacation? Are they paid during the vacation periods?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We are the people who started to pay them in the vacations.

Mr. HINDS: I would really like to hear what category of Teachers get paid during the vacation, apart from those who are permanently appointed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Those that are employed by the Barbados Government, that is the category. The next thing is this, it was we who instituted and applied the equal pay for equal work principle and spread it over a three year period, I believe from 1964 to 1967. I would not like the Government's case to go by default in this matter.

Now the hon. member asked about the old St. Bartholomew's building; this is Government property, and the Ministry says that the removal of the building will be taken up.

Mr. St. JOHN: What are you going to do with the area which it now occupies? Are you going to put facilities for netball or something like that?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am advised that they are contemplating on open playground. The information about the Cleaner at St. Bernard's and other personnel matters is not readily available, but a note has been made and the case will be investigated.

On Item 7A - Record Cards are not currently being kept; the Ministry is however considering the re-introduction. Gift books are now transported to the schools by hired transport or by Ministry transport but not by Head Teachers as in the past; it is not that the Head Teachers have refused but that the vans are available.

In respect of Rediffusion speakers, there are very few schools at which Rediffusion speakers are so sited as not to cause some disruption. The whole system of schools broadcast is however due for revision, and it is expected that the Schools Broadcast Officer will assume duties on 1st June, 1971. The plan is to integrate the programme into the schools' curriculum and the replacement of the sets in the schools will accord with modern educational practice. The Audio-Visual Aids Department is now responsible for schools broadcasts.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister to say that we will have a Schools Broadcast Officer as from the 1st June; how many schools now receive the broadcasts?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member will remind me to give him that answer while I proceed. In respect of the Industrial Arts wings, these are used in evening programme; some primary schools used these wings for appropriate instruction, but at the moment private schools do not. We do not exclude them, my understanding is that they have not taken up this matter with us.

Mr. St. JOHN: Are they encouraged? Particularly the ones in Christ Church where you have a

relatively large private independent school, one that is approved too, and is situated very near to an Industrial Arts wing and they do teach Geometrical Drawing there, and they would like to use it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They probably do not encourage them but at the same time they do not discourage them, but anyhow I will suggest to the Minister that he might let it be known to them that they might use them.

Item 6, the Domestic Science equipment to be replaced is limited to cutlery and crockery.

In respect of Item 8, the increased numbers in Art, Needlecraft, etc, are based on the general projected increase in the school population.
6.05 p.m.

Item 9. This, Mr. Chairman, is not one of priorities, but rather the school grounds which will be specially maintained in 1971-72. This is a problem at Boscobelle. We tried during last year to get land to expand the playing area but, apparently, negotiations broke down and other arrangements will have to be made to meet this requirement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would give me an idea as to where he tried to get the land, because I will be able to assist him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am told that it was land adjoining the school.

Item 15. While we are on this point about the advanced level classes at the Evening Institute, I had said that in my view these classes were stopped because of the inflow into the Community College which offered Sixth Form Courses, but I was mistaken. These were stopped some years ago when the Extra Mural Classes began A level instructions. The actual figures are very difficult to arrive at. The Ministry had 405 applications for Commercial Classes and 360 applications for Academic Classes in September, 1970.

In respect of roadways, the hon. member asked about Ellerslie. If he looks at the Capital Estimates, he will see that there is some provision there - some of it is a revote, I believe, - for the completion of Ellerslie and that will naturally include the roadway.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does that mean that no part of this money is for Ellerslie?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No. I am not dealing with Comprehensive Schools here at all. For elimination heats only the competitors were to be absent from school. On the Sports Day, however, all the pupils should go, and the schools were closed for that purpose. *(Asides)* This is in connection with school sports, but I do not think it answers the hon. member's question. The question, as I understand it, was whether the parents and friends of pupils were allowed to attend on these occasions, but what I have just told the hon. member was something rather different. Between me and you it does not quite make sense.

On the teacher/pupil ratio, there is a difficult as to which teachers are included when arriving at the ratio. Some authorities include Head Teachers and others do not. The aim is to have average classes of about 40 in the Primary Schools, but there are considerations, for instance, class-room area, teacher availability and the subject being taken. All of these considerations influence the actual position in any given class situation.

Science Classes are smaller, say, than History Classes, and the laboratory facilities are based on 20. There will, therefore, be occasions when classes will exceed 40. There are others in which Classes will be permanently less than 40. For instance, there is one school in which there are 94 children being serviced by 1 Head Teacher and 5 Teachers. This is largely the result of population density, and a school catering to children from 5 to 14 years must result in the minimum even if uneconomic staff. As far as I can see, except for this last one, all schools are wired, but we have no returns of how many actually make use of the programme. This is in response to the rediffusion question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what is the Minister saying? Do not the Education Officers visit the schools to see how the broadcast is being received so that he can make a monthly or quarterly Report? What is the point of spending money on this if your Education Officers will not visit the schools to see how things are going on? The same thing applies to your record cards. What is the point of asking us to vote money for record cards, and then tell us that the system is not in operation? We are told that all schools are wired to receive the broadcast, but there is nobody to tell us how many schools receive it and like it; how many schools do not like it and so on. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will have to draw that to their attention. Now, the Minister was accused of going about looking at school buildings. It seems as if neither of the Ministers of Education of this Government can please the Opposition. I was said to be too lazy, and now this one is said to be too busy. It would appear that whether the Minister of Education is apathetic or whether he is peripatetic, the hon. member will still be unsympathetic.

Mr. HINDS: With regard to Item 13, the Minister was to tell us something about a directive that went out from the Ministry. *(Asides)* Unless an hon. member could produce one to show you it will have to be an alleged directive. I understand that a directive went out from the Ministry forbidding parents and friends from attending functions where the children were participating.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Is the hon. member referring to Domestic School Sports or Inter School Sports?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it arose as a result of some sort of bad behaviour that occurred at the National Stadium, and then the Minister decided to put his pen to paper. That is the offending directive to which I refer.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will investigate this further and let the hon. member know the position on another occasion.

The question that the sum of $3,810,606 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult And Special Education – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

6.15 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 37(3), we also have some amendments to make. Opposite page 92 the first note to be amended is note 4 and it should read to provide for teachers required to maintain the appropriate teacher/pupil ratio. Then you should insert a new Note 5 to read "To provide for substitutes and for additional teachers." Note 6 should read "To provide for gardeners, groundsmen, watchmen and cleaners. Includes provision for substitutes." Delete the printed Note 7 and substitute therefor "To provide for additions and repairs to and replacement of school furniture and equipment including clocks, bells, pianos, duplicators and domestic science equipment." The next one is Note 9; take out the words "and equipment." The next one is to strike out the first of the figures "14" and substitute the figures "13" for that and the note would read "To provide grants towards annual atheletic meetings. Also to provide games." Take out the word "and" and put in the words "including swimming and equipment for schools" and then take out all the words that come after the word "schools." Then there will be a new note which will be numbered "23" coming after "22A" and it will read as follows: "Provision for bursaries teachers' salaries, training courses for teachers, subventions for special subjects and other authorised assistance to approved independent schools".

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,828,844 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am going directly to my items under this Head and let the Minister tell me directly, because as you would notice, Mr. Chairman, according to our social stratification we have three types of secondary education in this Island. At the very bottom of the ladder we have the senior elementary schools, a little higher up we have the comprehensive schools and then we go right up to the grammar schools. Our view, Mr. Chairman, is that this should not really be so because a case has certainly been made out, even listening to the hon. junior member for St. Lucy today, for us to have in our secondary school system children remaining in school at least up to the age of 18. That is something which has got to be considered sooner or later by the Government, and I would say sooner rather than later.

Let us come to Item 5. You may observe that there is no note provided there although the item in itself covers $623,400. Undoubtedly you will be told that some of the money will be spent when teachers go on study leave, and you have got to provide replacements, but I wonder what note the Leader of the House is providing at Item 5.

6.25 p.m.

Item 5, Mr. Chairman. Is there no explanation that the Minister has to offer on Item 5?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, Item5 provides for substitutes and for additional teachers. I wonder if the hon. member took down that note when it was given by the junior member for St. Lucy, but it provides for substitutes; this is when Teachers are on leave.

Mr. HINDS: We have got, Mr. Chairman, to relate our Teacher Training scheme, because when a Teacher goes abroad to study it must be regarded as a measure of training, and what we do know is that a Teacher obtains study leave to improve his own education to gain better qualifications for his post. In doing so, we realise that at the same time the Teacher is preparing for an increase in his earning capacity, his ability to earn more is heightened, but what has happened in the past is this, Mr. Chairman, that very often a Teacher is granted leave to go abroad to study and improve his knowledge, he spends one, two or three years as the case might be and returns, but then one will find that he returns not to give the benefit of his increase in knowledge to the institution which might have granted him the study leave, the knowledge that he has gained abroad is often taken and diverted into another channel, and it has happened in the past that officers have just been receiving training or going on study leave and acquiring diplomas and certificates and what not, but in truth and in fact, in the long run the only person who stands to benefit is the officer himself.

Nobody, Mr. Chairman, should ever stand in the way of any individual trying to further his knowledge, but what we have got to do is this, we cannot continue for ever and for ever sending people abroad, giving Teachers leave to go and study and then they are not returning to assist in the Teaching Service. This is something we have got to be very careful about, and we have got to let this entire exercise of Teachers and their qualifications and their efforts at furthering their education bear some sort of relation to the cost to the community and to the Teaching Service as a whole. When an officer goes abroad on study leave a replacement has got to be found, but what we find is this, there is hardly ever a case where a temporary replacement is as qualified as the permanent holder of the post who has gone abroad to study, so if you were to examine even our whole teaching structure at the moment, you may very well come up with a very fair percentage of substitutes, make-shifts, in the whole Teaching Service. If we

were to set out to assess their contribution to the advancement of education, we would see really and truly that we are getting nowhere, but nevertheless the persons in whose places they happen to be acting are receiving their salaries, but it is the children who are in the classrooms who are suffering, because the quality of the substitute is not what is really required and desired for the school.

It is a very good thing, Mr. Chairman, to have qualified Teachers; each and every one should be qualified , but we quite agree that we have got to look at the expense that is involved at the same time and to see the benefits that are accruing to the classroom as a result. We cannot get around this however one may try to look at it, and when we find ourselves spending $623,400 in the coming financial year to pay these acting Teachers it would be a good thing if we could be told exactly how many acting posts Government expects to be concerning itself with in the coming financial year, hence the allocation as set out here.
6.35 p.m.

For instance, only last Saturday there was a discussion amongst a teaching group about Heads of Departments posts that have been created in some of these Comprehensive Schools particularly by the Government. This is going to cause more confusion than anything else, and many people are not too happy about the matter.

With regard to Item 6 - Casual Staff - $95,000, this amount is to provide for gardeners, groundsmen, watchmen and so on. It is our view, Mr. Chairman, that it is time the Ministry of Education should endeavour to accord parity of esteem to all schools. For instance, we are providing gardeners and groundsmen for some schools and not for others. What a groundsman and a gardener have to do for one school will invariably have to be done at another school for which provision has not been made here. What will be the position in a case of that sort? We are of the opinion that the Government's best approach to this matter would be to make sure that all schools with gardens should have gardeners attached to them. If a school does not have a garden, then it would be nonsense to suggest that a gardener should be provided. We believe that Government should make an assessment of the situation and spend the money wisely. We do not feel that one school should be placed in a position to feel that it has something over another school, because it has been provided with a gardener or groundsman. Let us seek to avoid any sort of friction among these schools.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 9 - Practical Education - $68,605, all of our Grammar Schools, as far as I know, are bilateral, that is, they have an academic stream as well as a technical stream. I feel that schools in the country districts such as the Alleyne School in St. Andrew, Coleridge-Parry, St. Peter, the Foundation Schools, Princess Margaret, West St. Joseph and Lodge School should all be teaching or conducting courses in animal husbandry. That is the type of inroad we will have to make in our educational system. We have to treat any technical education not as an alternative for academic education, but as an equal. If we can do this we will go a long way in achieving what we want.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I just want to advise the hon. member that animal Husbandry is taught in at least three of the Comprehensive Schools, because they do Agricultural Science and Animal Husbandry is part of the course in Agricultural Science.

Mr. HINDS: Who said not? Mr. Chairman, lands can acquired at most of these schools for promoting the type of industry that we are discussing here, and we believe that it can be acquired in some cases at very little cost to Government. Government, we are sure, could be aided very considerably by local people if we were to tackle this situation.
6.45 p.m.

We believe that it could be acquired in some places at very little cost to Government, and we are sure that Government would be aided very considerably by local people as well if we were really and truly to tackle this situation for promoting animal husbandry in those schools I have mentioned. The schemes as a whole for our secondary schools are now pretty well obselete and need revising and remodelling to suit present day thinking.

Now we have our industrial arts at Item 15. What we know is that formerly children got a three to four year course between 11 and 15 years in useful arts and crafts, and then they went on to the Technical Institute. These technical wings are very good, but the only thing about them is that if you have, as at the Speightstown Boys' School or either one of the primary schools, an Arts Wing, and your Art instructor is doing the best job, and if the adjoining schools, say Alexandra or Coleridge-Parry wants an Arts Tutor, you will find that these places are filled at the expense of the primary school. We cannot expect to deny our Art tutors promotion although I could hardly believe that any of those people who have gone abroad on study have really come back here to be promoted on the basis of being good technical men. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, we feel that much can be done for our children, but since the phasing out of the Technical Institute is with us, we have a system which amounts to duplication by sending the children of the same ages that could normally be catered to at our primary schools to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, doing the work of the senior elementary and comprehensive schools, the same work that the grammar schools as well taught in their Arts wings. This is one of those things which could certainly be looked into.

At Item 22A we are going to meet telephone service charges for comprehensive schools. This, Sir, is going to be another means of creating discontent in several of the schools of this Island. We will find that the telephones at some of our primary schools are paid for out of the pockets of the teachers. If Government is adopting as its policy the paying of the service charge for comprehensive

schools, our view is that the Government should think in terms of communications on an island-wide basis, because we feel that every school wherever it is situated ought to be equipped with a telephone. No greater case could be made out for it than those instances which need to be reported to the Ministry of Education by telephone. I am serious about this. Today, Mr. Chairman, the headteacher of a school has a greater need for direct contact with the Ministry of Education than in the past. With the type of teacher that is sent out to these schools, the headteacher needs to get in touch with her Education Officer more often than in the past, complaints are more frequently made, but the means for having grievances redressed do not exist. What we urge upon the Government therefore is to pay for the telephones in the comprehensive schools by all means, pay for the telephones in the secondary schools, but go to your primary and senior elementary schools and if Government is satisfied that the need exists for a telephone to be placed in each of these schools, have it installed and let us be prepared to pay the service charge for each and every such telephone that is in use. It is unfair to my mind to have the teachers in the primary schools paying for it out of their pockets whilst the ones in the comprehensive schools are getting it at the taxpayers' expense. Let us pay for all if we are satisfied that the necessity arises for them to be so placed.

Item 23, $617,660 is the contribution to be made to the Approved Independent Schools.
6.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, let us tell ourselves this; there was a time there were ten aided Grammar Schools in this island; in 1962 Government decided that it would have been against their policy to continue having children in these schools paying fees and as a result Government abolished the fee paying system in the Government aided Grammar Schools. In any case Government prepared the way that rich people who are even now willing to pay for the education of their children could have it free. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You did not say so in 1962, you praised us.) Government paved the way for this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If I may correct the hon. member, it was Truth that paved the way and the Government introduced it.

Mr. HINDS: I do not want to deny that, it might be on record, but things seem to have gone almost full circle, and Government has now recreated 17 aided schools and call them Assisted Schools. In 1962 there were ten Government aided schools, but now there are 17, and they no longer call them Government aided schools, they prefer to call them Government assisted schools. Well, Mr. Chairman, there are 17 schools supposedly independent but Government aided, but they are schools over which Government can exercise no financial control. Our view is this, that if Government is going to assist these schools to the extent to which they are to be assisted under this scheme, Government should insist that each of these schools should have a Governing Body and that an officer from the Ministry of Education should sit in at their regular monthly meetings. After all, from what I can gather, Government is contributing to these schools but all is not working well with all these schools, something must go wrong somewhere some time; we appreciate that, but Government ought to be able, since it is supporting these schools, to carry out some measure of control even if it is remote control, and I think that it would give the schools a face lift, and Government I feel should have something to do with the planning of curricula for these schools and not merely just send people's children there without at the same time being able to guarantee what Government is going to get in return or what the child is going to get in return. That is not good enough, in our view.

What Government has got to tackle and tackle boldly, too, is this, when Government gives a child a scholarship at one of these schools, it is equivalent now to $40 a term, but we know that there was a time when it was $25 and that $25 was only stopping a hole in the bottom of the bucket, and now it is $40 some of these schools have seen to it that the $40 is only a drop in the well, so that the children, despite the fact that Government is subsidising the scholarship to the tune of $40 there are still some parents who have got to find more than $40 to pay for their children. Government has seen fit to abolish fee paying in its own schools; our view is that Government will have to subsidise these independent schools and control school fees, or have a controlling voice in some form to save the poor parents and guardians. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that some of these independent schools are trying in very difficult circumstances to give of their best, but that cannot be said in each and every such school that is an approved school. There are other schools that have not been approved; what is the position with them? Are we to have our educational system geared in such a way that some can rape and rob and Government support them in their wrong doings?
7.05 p.m.

If the Leader of the House does not like me to say that Government support some in their wrong doings, then I will say that Government support some that do wrong. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, something will have to done expeditiously for the simple reason that too much is taken away from parents of children and too little is given in return. Very often it is a case where the Heads of these schools are satisfied beyond a shadow of doubt that if a particular child were to remain at a school for a million years the child would not benefit from the instruction the school is giving. The Head of the School, because it is a question of dollars, because school fees can be jacked up each term, will continue to keep that child at the school, because dollars count. We feel that that is not good enough. We do not want to tell Government not to go to the assistance of these schools, because the time might very well arise when Government will have to take over all of these Independent schools, or all of these schools that are now called independent.

Mr. Chairman, you have less than one-third of your school population getting education free at the taxpayers' expense, and a very fair percentage having to pay high rates of school fees for what they are really not getting in some cases. We know that our Ministry of Education is staffed with Education Officers whose spine could be starched and stiffened. If that is done and they were given a free hand, I am sure that they could for themselves write for this country a White Paper that could be examined by everyone of us and it would be found to redound to the credit of the Island and the people as a whole. I maintain that they are spineless and lazy; they want waking up; they are not performing their duties as men in their jobs, otherwise there would have been drastic changes during the last 10 years, and we would not be in this wilderness in which we now find ourselves today.

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned earlier about free Secondary Education being introduced into this Island around 1949. I may mention that the Common Course was introduced in 1949. I may mention that the Common Course was introduced in 1949. Exactly how far the then Officers of the Ministry, or the Department as it was then called, were prepared to push it I do not know. To prove that some of our Education Officers do some research, not many nights ago at the Multi Racial Centre at Cave Hill, a retired Education Officer, a Barbadian, was present and one of our present Education Officers was one of the panelist. The Retired Officer mentiioned the Common Course that was introduced here in 1949, and the present Education Officer said that he had never heard of it.

Now, I have heard of it. I know something about it, because I know that it still forms the basis of the curriculum of our Comprehensive Schools. *(Asides)* You seek your advice and you will find out. That is a fact, Mr. Chairman. In the face of this, I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has to say on this matter.
7.15 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member asked something about Item 5. We have sought provision for 168 acting teachers and this will cost $525,000, then for 20 additional teachers costing $98,400, making a total of $623,400. This is to cover the temporary insufficiency in the establishment.

Now as to the point which the hon. member raised about animal husbandry and practical education, this course is taught at Princess Margret's and West St. Joseph, and agricultural science at both these schools as well as at Parkinson. This is being worked up through the system and at West St. Joseph where it reached ordinary level, pupils obtained passes at ordinary level in agricultural science.

Now the hon. member made points about the approved secondary schools. I would like to give him some figures. I am going to call the name of the school, then the number of pupils between the ages of ten and eighteen years, then the number of bursaries and the number of subsidised teachers.

School	Pupils between 10 & 18	Bursaries	Subsidised Teachers
Christ Church High	447	222	2
Codrington High	163	30	1
Co-Operative High	201	24	1
Community High	454	174	2
Federal High	695	294	4
Industry High	266	53	2
Unique High	320	56	1
Ursuline Convent	344	76	2
Wakefield High	250	159	1
Washington High	384	151	2
Lynch's Secondary	463	326	2
Modern High	852	323	5
Presentation	226	45	1
Seventh Day Adventists	341	107	1
St. Gabriel's	156	54	1
St. Winifred's	179	54	1
Mapps	130	12	0

Now the point which the hon. member mentioned about more scrutiny being exercised over the schools is a well taken point. If he looks in our policy statement of 1965 he will see what we have said there, and if he calls to mind the recently announced statement about increased aid, he will see that the Ministry has said that schools will be required before they receive any financial assistance in any financial year, to present to the Ministry of Education an audited or certified financial statement covering their transactions in the preceding year.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, certified by whom? There are auditors and auditors.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: By their qualified auditors. I do not think I had anything else for the hon. member, but I would like to take advantage now that the hon. senior member for St. James is back in his place to answer a question which properly does not belong to this Head, but which I promised to answer two Heads ago. He asked about the Edgehill Memorial School and whether there were any plans for resiting it. There are no plans at the moment for resiting it, but the Ministry has just put on some additional classrooms, and they are either at the moment or will soon undertake some more general repairs to the school.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I really did not enquire about the actual repairs to the school. I asked what was Government's view to the resiting of the school due to the fact that it was right on the highway and there were no proper recreational facilities for the children. I do not think the school really serves its purpose there now, because it is on a very dangerous bend. You have heavy traffic passing there, all the Ready-Mix concrete trucks, and I believe that it would serve Government very well if the Ministry would think of

resiting the school where there would be better facilities all around. At present it is just a house for children, and I believe it would be a good idea if the Ministry would look into resiting the schools.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We will look at this.

Mr. CRAIG: We are still on secondary education. I would like to draw to Government's attention that at Combermere School and Foundation School which I have visited, the furniture is broken down and there are hardly any proper chairs and desks for the pupils to use. At Combermere in particular I am told that when it is raining you have to move the boys from one form and take them into another part of the building. I am told that there is a watchman on the premises, but I am under the impression that there is a bit of vandalism maybe from some of the neighbouring areas around the school grounds. I do not know if some of the vote of $70,000 which is for maintenance of buildings is to take care of this. From what I have seen at Combermere, no boy would be particularly proud to take a visitor from overseas or even his parents there to see the bad condition of the class rooms, and from my observations it appears that it would take $23,000 alone to repair Combermere. The toilets there are in a horrible state. What is also of concern to me is having a secondary school like Combermere and no pavilion for the children. You have teams playing there and there is only a small shed which they scotch under. The same thing applies to Foundation School.

7.25 p.m.

The same thing applies to Foundation. These two schools I have seen myself because I have visited them, and I would like to draw to Government's attention that I believe it would be a very good idea if they were to pay a bit more attention to the furniture and buildings, and to provide for both of these schools, and if any other schools need this provision, a proper pavilion whereby the teams when they are engaged in their various games would have some accommodation. I do hope the Minister would pay some attention to this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can give the hon. member the assurance now that the furniture at Combermere will be looked after in this financial year. If he looks at the back of the Estimates at Appendix G, Grants for schools, there is a non-recurrent Item there in this provision of nearly $20,000 against the Item-Furniture, so I believe it is this provision which they will use to restock themselves with furniture and bring everything up to date in that respect.

Mr. CRAIG: It would also be a good idea, Mr. Chairman, if they would think also of employing an additional security man at the school, otherwise you will have this all over again. I do not believe the school children are doing all this damage because people will carry away the Watchman himself if he is not careful because he is really on the spot to sleep. It might be a better idea to fence it in, otherwise you will be coming back to the Legislature asking for money for the maintenance of these schools, and I have a bit more to say when we come around to games.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member's point is well taken; as a matter of fact I will agree with him on the question of the Watchman. I remember many years ago when I was Minister we had a problem with a Watchman there and this particular person was brought up before the Governing Body on a disciplinary charge, and one of the charges against him was that he was not performing his duties efficiently, and his defence was that the mosquitoes would not allow him to sleep at night.

The question that the sum of $4,828,844 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum and I ask that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member: let the bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; thereto automatically it reverts.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(4) ERDISTON COLLEGE

HEAD 37 - Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on this we have also to make some amendments. Opposite page 94 there is a new note 19: "Includes provision for the maintenance of furniture and equipment and replacement of the Domestic Science equipment due to breakages and wear and tear." We have to delete the existing note 20 and insert a new note to read as follows: "Includes provision for garden seeds and plants, weeding, manure, insecticides, garden tools,

and for repairs to garden tools and equipment." I believe they want all this in order to be able to clean up the bush more efficiently. On the next page, a new note 24"to provide for pre-service and in-service Teacher Training courses and seminars." Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $100,666 under Head 37(4) stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister just a couple of questions. What extensions, if any, have they made to Erdiston College, and how many students have they provided for between 1966 to date. I would also like to know what is the position with the science laboratory equipment, if any provision for additional equipment has been brought in to the College. Just these three questions for the time being; I believe I will say a little more on this as soon as the information comes to hand.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can assist the hon. member with the answer to one question in respect of the buildings. Because of the expanded student body, two new classrooms were built during the current year and four men's dormitories were converted into three classrooms, so this will be an additional five.
8.35 p.m.

Four men's dormitories were converted into 3 classrooms, and 2 new classrooms were built in addition. I can partly answer the question of the student roll in respect, of course, of this year. The College at the moment has 223 students, 2 of whom are from Montserrat and 6 from Dominica. This is in the normal 2-year Course. The Governments of these two territories pay their fees, and you will see information about this in the Revenue Estimates. Now, 2 months ago in January the College began a 1-year Part-Time Course for 85 Teachers. In addition to this, or probably concurrent with this, 25 Teachers are being trained in a joint project with the Community College. This Course began in September 1970 and it is a 2-year Course.

Mr. CRAIG: How many students can the dormitory accommodate?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Now that we have the 283 students on the roll, a lot of them are now allowed to live out, and this explains why the dormitory accommodation could be turned into classrooms. On the question of how many students were turned out since 1966, I would say an average of 100 to 150 a year.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think many of us will agree that it is always best to dig a foundation and build on that foundation. Maybe the Engineers and the Quantity Surveyors at times may err and, therefore, provide a bad foundation. I used that statement because it was between 1961 and 1966 that apart from the economic policy of the Government which they preached they also preached that there would have been a new educational structure for this country.

Mr. Chairman, when you look at the Estimates for 1960-61 with a Budget of $22 million the then Government were providing Erdiston Training College with $69,000. In 1971 on an estimated expenditure of some $92 million this Government are now going to spend $227,956. Note carefully, Sir, that it was the policy which the Government were then preaching. There was an economic policy on one side and an educational policy on the other side. It is pathetic when one looks around and sees that Erdiston Training College - Mr. Chairman, in their own Manifesto they said:

> "A new building containing a laboratory, library, 2 lecture rooms, a lunch room and 2 Administrative Offices."

Today we are told that they have now converted 4 men's dormitories into classrooms.

Mr. Chairman, it is also regrettable to know that enough money is not being spent to turn out better teachers for the Primary Schools. The Minister has sent a directive to the Primary Schools warning them not to coach. There must be no coaching, but you can find the Smales and the Carrington playing on the financial nerves of the haves and some of the would-like-to-have at $80 and $90 a term. They are being stuffed to get into the Secondary Schools.

My honest belief is that if you can turn out a number of Teachers to serve in the Primary Schools, some of these Kindergarten Schools, who are stuffing the children for the Common Entrance Examination, will die a natural death. Until the Government decide to look at the educational policy and make a thorough survey of things instead of the Minister walking around with three or four photographers and a man called Gollop, this country will get nowhere.
8.45 p.m.

If you study this carefully, you will see that whereas on a budget of $22 million the Barbados Labour Party spent $60,000 on the Teachers Training College, the present Government on $92 million is only spending $200,000 on the people who are to teach the pupils in the primary schools who are to go on to the secondary schools. It is a scandalous, vicious, wicked approach by the Ministry of Education. I sympathise with many of the mothers and fathers and the children themselves who have to go through the ordeal of the 11 + examination. I do not know if you have found yourself in this position, Mr. Chairman, but you would be the most surprised man to know the amount of doctors who must give children sedatives to calm them down because of the 11 + examination. I should like to say too, Mr. Chairman, that it is the haves today who are still benefiting from the best schools, because if you

examine it carefully you will see discrimination in that the best must go to (a) Harrison College and Lodge School, (b) Combermere and Foundation, and then you drift down the line to Coleridge-Parry and the Alleyne School; yet the same masters with the same qualifications are asked to teach in these schools to provide the children of this country with a better education. It is no wonder, Mr. Chairman, that in these schools you find there is so much dope. The masters are frustrated, and that is why for the first time in the history of this country you have had a strike in the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Chairman, you only have to examine the Community College and you will find that there is no Government policy at all. In some cases there is one master with two students, while at Queens College, Harrison College, Foundation and Lodge, children are overcrowded in a form with one master to teach them. I know the Minister may argue that they would like to abolish the Sixth Forms. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You know who would like to put up that argument?) I do not know if you are Minister of Education. When I look at the manifesto and see the things they promised and the things they failed to do, it is scandalous. It is all right to say you are providing free secondary education, but look around carefully and see who are the ones provided with free secondary education. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 80% of the primary schools.) Look at the amount of children you have in the primary schools, and the amount you have in Smale and Carrington Schools. There may be about 200 children in those two private schools of which 195 would get in to the secondary schools, but you may have 30,000 or 40,000 in the primary schools and can only provide places for 700 or 800. *(Asides)* When the Minister is ready, I am quite sure he is very able to deal with all I had to say. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that the report on Teacher Training says that "the facilities of the Science laboratories at Harrison College were readily made available. Certain equipment was borrowed from the division of Natural Sciences of the College of Arts and Science at Cave Hill."

I find myself deeply concerned with this particular Head. As you may have observed, I said nothing when we were discussing the other Heads in the Estimates, but I know as a parent how I feel. I have met young men and women who would like to get into Erdiston College, but they cannot find places in there, and my contention is that the amount you have in the vote on $92 million is inadequate, and here it is you are converting dormitories into classrooms and telling us that the students are now living out, when on $22 million we had all of them living in. Mr. Chairman, there were 300 teachers trained in 1962 300 in 1963, 200 in 1964, 271 in 1965, 238 in 1966 and in 1971 you are turning out 223. This is the same Government which set about to establish, as they claim, an educational system in this country which could be matched by any in the West Indies. It is no wonder that as a businessman I am the most amazed person when I get letters from boys and girls who spell Barbarees as "Barabise". There is absolute-no foundation, and you can only get the best out of the pupils if you have properly trained teachers. There are absolutely no facilities provided at Erdiston College to turn out teachers to provide the primary school children with a better education.

You, Mr. Chairman, may be able to take your child to a kindergarten school and pay $70 or $80 a week. I see the hon. senior member for St. Michael is pointing at me; but it is the masses on whom they play that suffer the brunt of these problems. I thought I would have seen this evening a substantial vote for the extension of Erdiston College. Some time ago I brought a question in here asking the Government to standardize text books in this country, and they told me that it is under review. For three years nothing has been done. It is a scandalous Government policy in the Ministry of Education, but if you look in the papers every day, you can see the Minister giving away a cup or a goat or having lunch with the Governor General at the Bay Primary School. He does not have to go in the Bay Land. He was born in St. James, and he lives in St. James; let him come in St. James. He must pay attention to the duties which we vote money in here for him to do. He should resign for that matter, because I believe he is going down on record as the worse Minister of Education this country has ever had, because his promises were too great and he has never been able to fulfil them. He has brought about more problems between himself and the Teachers Associations both at primary and secondary level. We have just had UNICEF here, it is pathetic to note that there is the Secondary School Teachers Association and not one of its members was invited to attend any of the meetings. 8.55 p.m.

This is the same Minister himself. Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not really heckling me, the Minister is happy to see me "pouring licks" in that Minister, you do not know what we know, you do not know what is going on, Sir.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, Mr. Chairman, he cannot say that I am happy to see him attacking one of my colleagues unjustly. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. junior member for St. Joseph addressing the Chair? I can hear his voice above everyone else here.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is really imputing improper motives to me because if I were to enjoy that, knowing what the hon. member is saying can be challenged, I would not only be a bad colleague but an indifferent member of this House, and I object to it. I am not one of the "would-like-to-haves".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the senior member for St. James withdraw that remark?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have objected to the statement that I am happy to see him, as he puts it, "pouring licks" into one of my colleagues.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I will withdraw that, but I will say he is bathing his colleague on the policy of Government, the ridiculous policy in the Ministry of Education, that all the Minister has done during his term of office is to walk around and put a couple of extensions on schools and repair them, and the *Advocate* behind him. I do not think there is any Minister who has ever been on television more than the Minister of Education, and I know that the Leader of the House is a publicity man. I know this, Sir, he is a Pope, a graceful person; that is the Leader of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I look at this entire Head, and as you know I cannot go back to any of the Heads which we have already passed, but I think that overall the entire Ministry is calling for some three or four million dollars, almost as much if not more than the Ministry of External Affairs; the two failures, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of External Affairs, and they are taking all the taxpayers of this country for more money than any department. I would like to know from the Minister in his reply what plans have they for building a dormitory since they have now converted the four men's dormitories into three classrooms; by this I understand that the men's dormitories are now classrooms, and according to their own Manifesto they had promised this country a new dormitory. I would like to know what plans they have in these present Estimates for this, Sir.

I would also like to know, Mr. Chairman, for what reason they are going to turn out less students in 1971 than they turned out in 1962; what is responsible for this? Is the need for education not as great in 1971 as it was in 1962? What is the problem? I would be very grateful if the Minister in his reply would be able to give this information. For what reason are we turning out less students in 1971 than we were turning out in 1962? If your Manifesto is true, which I believe it is a true document or ought to be a true document, I would like to know what is responsible for turning out less students in 1971 than they were turning out in 1962 and up to 1966. I believe from the Minister's reply I may have one or two things to say.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult really to argue with the hon. member; he makes some statements that if I were really unfamiliar with the facts of the case I would find them rather convincing. He discovers that in 1962, 1963 and possibly 1964 we turned out say an average of 300 students, then he discovers we are only doing 220, 223 or 150 now as the case may be, and he draws some peculiar conclusion. What the hon. member of course would not know is this, that when I became Minister in 1962 and saw the backlog, which I inherited, of untrained teachers, I instituted a parallel one-year course alongside the two-year course which was then running, so that obviously we would have a hundred extra people coming out every year alongside with the output from the two-year course, and that explains that.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, is this the one-year course that the hon. member criticised Mr. Thorne, the former Minister, so bitterly on? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes). Is not that a typical ex-example of hypocrisy?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, Sir, on the contrary, it is one of commonsense and realism. It is a good example of how you can run your mouth in Opposition and come up against realities in Government; if only Cassius Clay could do with his hands what I could do with my mouth, Mr. Chairman. The next thing is this, the fact that we are allowing people to sleep out does not mean that the output of trained teachers will be less, it will be more, because there are more people. For instance, the married men or the married women as the case may be, would it not be better to allow them to come up to Erdiston during the day, to go home - well at least if not to their wives or husbands to their loved ones - every night than to subject them while they are studying to the various stresses and strains of domestic entanglement? Certainly it would be more convenient for those who have households to sleep away from the College at night so that the dormitories can be converted into more classrooms.
9.05 p.m.

Obviously, what the hon. member wants to see, that is, a stepping up of the training at Erdiston is actually being done. The more people you allow to sleep out the more classrooms you will have available. I do not want to make party political controversy out of this, because God knows that on both sides of this House there is a realisation that there is need for 100% trained teaching force, and nobody would argue against that. The argument by the hon. member that we are only spending three times the amount of what they were spending in the past whereas in fact the total expenditure of the Government has gone up nearly 5 times as much is true. You also have to remember that we are now spending on education only $5 million less than the total budget of the other side in 1951.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is this the same Minister who said the other day that they are still only producing not more than 150 5 'O' levels at the first shot?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, but the fact is that it is the people who teach the "O" level people, generally speaking, that we are dealing with now. We are dealing with the Primary School Teachers or, for the most part, are trained at Erdiston. The hon. member has to remember that however much they may criticise what we are doing at Erdiston, there are certain things that we are doing which have to be taken into account.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Have there been any applicants who have been turned away during the year because of lack of accommodation? Is there adequate accommodation for

the untrained Teachers who would like to get into Erdiston?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would say yes. So long as the Ministry works its declared policy of running the 2-year Course; running the Part-time 1-year Course for the 85 Teachers, and the joint project for the Community College.....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister say whether there is a waiting list so that if Erdiston College cannot accommodate 150, they will have to wait until 1972 to get in or that an additional 50 could be accommodated now?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is dealing with accommodation as though we are discussing a Boarding School. The trouble is not in that region at all. You can have at Erdiston one unit participating in one of three Heads. You can be one of the people in the normal 2-year Course, or you can be one of the 85 or whatever number it is who from January this year are taking the 1-year Part-Time Course, or you can be one of the others.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. Will the Minister give way? How many qualified Primary School Teachers are there in Barbados, and how many unqualified Primary School Teachers are there? I think we can actually close the debate on this premise.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can get this information for the hon. member. I expect it is available. I think the hon. member means untrained Teachers.

Mr. CRAIG: Untrained, Sir.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Do not forget to give us the annual output from Erdiston College.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I gave it already.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Will you break it down for me, please?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there are 223 students doing the normal 2-year Course; all but 8 of these are our own people, because 2 are from Montserrat and 6 are from Dominica.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is not the answer.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The hon. member was not in his place when I gave the information earlier, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I understand it, Sir, the Minister is not certain what the output is. If he says that 200 people are doing the 2-year Course, it does not mean that he is putting out 200 people every year. I have heard a talk about output being 223, but your output can only be about 100 a year. In your Development Plan you said that the average is 90.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That is a weak point.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's word must either mean something, or he must give accurate figures. Either this Development Plan contains accurate figures or it does not. There must be some sort of consistency. I should like to get from the Minister the yearly output.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have already said that this can be in any year between 100 and 150. Long before the hon. member returned to this House I said that. It is based on the people who satisfy the examiners.

Mr. CRAIG: Is there a backlog of applications at Erdiston College now? I refer to people who are trying to get into Erdiston but cannot get in.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have already told the hon. member that you do not speak of a backlog in a Teachers' Training College which has more than one Course going at the same time. There is a backlog of untrained teachers, but that does not follow that there is necessarily a backlog of applications. The very fact that you can have so versatile a system as to provide (a) a 2-year Course; (b) for the 1-year Part-Time, and (c) the joint project at the Community College, means that you are trying at one and the same time several ways of cutting down the backlog of untrained teachers. If the Ministry see fit, they will devise another system.

Now, hon. members must be aware of the fact that when we go down to the other end of the scale, even before you enter the Teaching Service in this Island, every year an Induction Course is held of probably 6 weeks duration and then some of it is continued in actual practice in the schools. Nowadays you almost never enter the Barbados Teaching Service unless you have been first exposed to some form of training.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is missing the point of my argument. He is letting loose a bunch of untrained teachers on pupils.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Marshal, I can hear a lady's voice in the background annoying us.

Mr. CRAIG: What is really happening is that the Ministry are giving us an army of untrained teachers in the Primary Schools.

9.15 p.m.

Because of this you must have as you go up the scale a poorer bunch of students as the years go on. The Minister himself said that 80% go into the secondary and comprehensive schools, but you cannot consider that as a good percentage when you may have three or four of these kindergarten schools turning out 95% or 100% into the secondary schools.

The burden of my argument is that Government should have provided more money to expand Erdiston College so that it can take in a greater number of untrained teachers and train them to fill the gaps in the primary schools for the purpose of turning out pupils that will get into the secondary schools. This is where Government has failed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not accept that. The hon. member is talking as if all the problems of teacher training are now descending upon this House, this Committee and the world only at 9.20 tonight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two members on their feet.

Mr. CRAIG: I am saying, Sir, that on $22 million we were spending $60,000 at Erdiston College, but on $97 million the present Government is spending $140,000 more. It is scandalous because if at the bottom you have to provide the best possible teachers for the primary schools, you have to train them, and therefore there should be greater training at Erdiston College than you had many years ago.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Honestly to hear the hon. member talking, you would think that we are now hearing for the first time in creation about the problems in teacher training. All of what the hon. member is saying is not only common ground between us, but familiar territory to the people who run the Ministry of Education who have to do the planning, but there are certain things which the hon. member must always remember. First of all in any underdeveloped territory or in any ex-colonial territory, this is the kind of problem that you must necessarily have and strive to overcome. The Minister has just come from Australia attending the Commonwealth Education Ministers Conference. I have not seen all the documentation from that conference, but I went to the last one in 1968 and I know then that from figures produced for the benefit of the Commonwealth Ministers of Education, it was said that in the total ex-colonial world or the total Commonwealth outside Great Britain, New Zealand, Canada and Australia, there was need then in 1968 for something like 10 million trained primary school teachers among a population of something like 500 million people. We knew this then, so this is the kind of problem that everybody faces, and each country must strive to overcome it as best it can.

Now the second thing the hon. member has forgotten is that no country does all of its teacher training in one way. Even in our teacher training establishment, there is a variety of ways in which the problem is tackled. The hon. member forgets that outside of what is done at Erdiston, the Government spends a lot of money on bursaries and scholarships and other means of training teachers, and a lot of whom come back into the school system. The induction course, although it may only last six weeks and although most of the people attending it may be 16, 17, 18 and 19 years old, six weeks of that exposure is worth much more to these young people at the beginning of their service than probably even the impact which the one year part-time course makes on them in seven or eight months. It simply is not true that the Government is not aware of these problems. It is true that we are doing all we can, but we have no reason to be complacent and the hon. member can rest assured that we understand the problems and are taking steps to tackle them.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman,,,,,,

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member is going on, I would prefer to report progress.

Mr. HINDS: But I have not even begun.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have no means of knowing how long the hon. member intends to speak. (Mr. CRAIG: You should check with the reporters first.) Quite frankly I do not think that they would be in a mood to take much more.

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

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

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

RESOLUTION *re* GRATUITY AND PENSION TO FORMER CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before the House rises, there is a matter which I think it would wish to deal with and which would not detain the House. There is a Resolution which has been circulated to hon. members in connection with the provision of retiring benefits to Mr. H. O. St.C. Cumberbatch, former Clerk of the House of Assembly. The Resolution merely seeks to empower the Committee of Supply which is currently considering the Estimates to include under Head 3 - Parliament, a sum of $16,560 in the Estimates. The Schedule sets out the reduced pension and gratuity, and the figures are given.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, before the motion is put, I think a note should be sounded on behalf of Mr. Cumberbatch, who for several years served Parliament. There are varying opinions. I was not in my seat at the time when he was relieved of his office, but I would like it to be recorded that I as an individual found him rather helpful as I believe both sides of the House did on several occasions. We find ourselves now with three new and young Clerks assisting us, and I have observed that sometimes even you, Mr. Speaker, might not have remembered that they are here to assist us. There is no reason why we should have one or two bad rulings which cannot be challenged except on a substantive motion, and I personally would like to say that I sincerely hope

that any of us at any time would be able to call on Mr. Cumberbatch to give us advice outside of this august Assembly.

9.25 p.m.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Chairman, whoever he is, to remember a book written by Harold Rhodes James just doing the work of Erskine May, who said that a good Speaker always rested his shoulders on the Clerks of the House and not to ignore them. I have observed, Mr. Speaker, that some of the Presiding Officers have been overlooking the Clerks and I would like to say that I am very grateful to see that I can associate myself in supporting a Resolution of this nature for Mr. Hugh Cumberbatch.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I am entirely in agreement with the last speaker, but I am not entirely in agreement with the wording of the Resolution. I would not have known, reading this Resolution, how many years Mr. Cumberbatch has served in this House, but I happen to know the number of years he has served.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: All we are doing in this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, is empowering the Committee of Supply to make the appropriation. We are asking the House to give instructions to the Committee of Supply in the Estimates to make the appriation so that there will be authority for paying the pension. When we are in Committee we can look more carefully and act accordingly, but we must have some authority for discussing it in Committee, this is all, and this is why I have not myself paid any tribute yet to Mr. Cumberbatch because the House is not now engaged in paying tribute to Mr. Cumberbatch, but giving instructions to its Committee about an appropriation.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am submitting to you that this Resolution is out of order and not properly worded, and I am submitting to you that it cannot be allowed like this, you are asking members to vote a sum of money in the Estimates without actually saying how many years the man served. Suppose you had terminated an office in 1970 and the man had served from 1969,.....(Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We are giving instructions to the Committee.) Mr. Speaker, I am asking you for a ruling on this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: My ruling is that this Resolution as such is not out of order.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You have ruled and I have to bow to your ruling.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 11.00 a.m. of tomorrow's date.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would not say I am going to appeal to the Hon. Leader of the House, but I do not think it is fair to us after leaving here this morning and it is almost tomorrow morning again for us to come tomorrow at 11 o'clock. I can remember that the lawyers always think about their offices, and rightly so, because they have something to do, but I am thinking about my office also and I was away from my business place since last week, coming here every day and I will not be able to come tomorrow at 11 o'clock. I am in favour of coming at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and working right through till 4 o'clock in the morning.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way, last week when we were meeting from 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock as the case may be, this did not please some people; we switched back to 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon, this did not please other people, this is how it is. I thought that I was in possession of a consensus of the House when we met at 11 o'clock this morning, and therefore I proposed the same kind of motion. I am sure the Committee or the House would be indulgent enough to excuse the hon. temporary Chairman until what time he finds it convenient to come, but this should be no reason for us to change the scheduled time of meeting.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: This is all well and good, Mr. Speaker, but the hon. member must remember the Reporters as well.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is exactly why I am stopping now.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: You must remember you are stopping now, but they had yesterday. I will tell you something, Mr. Speaker, the next time people are speaking in here and anybody gets in the Gallery and suck their teeth they will have to be put out, whether they are Civil Servants or not. The senior member for St. Joseph is right, so you can make an amendment; I say we should meet at 4 o'clock.

Mr. SMITH: I will move that this House be suspended till 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

9.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am not going to hold up the business of this House, but I think we must have consideration for some people. As far as I am concerned you can call me any time. I will sleep when I feel like sleeping, and get up when I feel like getting up. I am concerned with the fact that we have civil servants in here. We know it is their duty to be here. If you are going to ask these civil servants to come back here tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock after going home at this late hour, and then work until ten o'clock tomorrow night, I believe that it would be very difficult.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that that is not really a valid argument, because a lot of their work will be held up until the Appropriation Bill is passed.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not see the reason why we should come here at eleven o'clock tomorrow. That is making a mockery of this whole thing. *(Asides)*

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to speak until I get complete silence. *(Asides)*

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that you name the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House is saying that his reason for wanting to come here tomorrow at eleven o'clock is to enable him to get through the Estimates early.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I never said that. We want to pass the Appropriation Bill. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot be heard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members not addressing the Chair, please allow the hon. junior member for the City to continue his speech without interruption.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House says that he wants to come here at eleven o'clock tomorrow to enable him to have the Appropriation Bill passed. *(Asides)*

Mr. SPEAKER: Members not addressing the Chair, please let us end this day as we begun it.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before I was interrupted, if we come here tomorrow at eleven o'clock, the Government will take the luncheon adjournment for 1 1/2 hours, and that does not make sense. What is the point of coming here at eleven o'clock, and then go away at one o'clock for 1 1/2 hours? *(Asides)*

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members not addressing the Chair!

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I should like to address the House in silence, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member has nothing to say, and he has repeated himself three times. I am asking that the question be put.

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, a Motion is before the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I should like to speak.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Do we not have any feelings for the civil servants and the reporters, Sir? When we adjourned this morning at one o'clock, we pointed out to the Government that we came here at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. If you adjourn until eleven o'clock this morning by four o'clock this afternoon you will be asking the reporters to work for 13 or 14 hours, and that is unfair. I am not surprised that the Government want to adjourn until eleven o'clock without considering the civil servants and the reporters, because we know the Government's attitude towards the civil servants and the reporters. I support the Motion made by the senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on the Motion.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: You are right to call him the Chairman, because he is nothing more than that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. junior member for St. Thomas withdraw that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Put him out, Sir.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I withdraw that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, when we met this morning at eleven o'clock there was no quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: There was a quorum. I can assure the hon. member that there was a quorum.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, two of us ran in here together at five past eleven.

Mr. SPEAKER: There was a quorum at eleven.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the suspension until three o'clock tomorrow. *(Asides)* Mr. Speaker, I am being heckled by the junior member for St. Thomas, and I am asking you to protect me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will all hon. members observe the Standing Orders, even though tempers may be frayed at the end of a long and trying day.

Now, a Motion has been made that this sitting be now suspended until 11 a.m. tomorrow, and an amendment has been made that this sitting be suspended until 3. p.m. The amendment will be put first.

The amendment that the sitting be now suspended until 4 p.m. tomorrow was put and resolved in the negative the House dividing as follows:

NOES: Mr. HOPPIN; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. LOWE and Mr. WEEKES - 9.

AYES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. St. JOHN; Mr. SMITH and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY - 7.
9.45 p.m.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: *(On being called to vote)* Before I cast my vote, I did not hear how the hon. junior member for St. Thomas voted.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper matter to be enquiring about. Mr. Clerk, please take the hon. member's vote.

AYE: Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that nine hon. members voted "No" and seven hon. members voted "Aye". The amendment is therefore lost.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 24th March, 1971, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Mr. HOPPIN; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. LOWE and Mr. WEEKES - 9.

NOES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. St. JOHN; Mr. SMITH and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY - 7.
9.50 p.m.

On resumption: 24th March

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. Thereto it now automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(4) ERDISTON COLLEGE

HEAD 37 - Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College - was called.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the foundation of our education system is rooted more or less in our primary school education. In other words that is where the strength of it lies. The task of the Ministry of Education therefore is to strengthen that system and in doing so we must go to the foundation thereof. There are many approaches, Mr. Chairman, with a view to accomplishing this end. Our view is that there can be no short cut to this in its proper sense, because in the matter of education, as long as there is life in the body, education being what it is, one never stops learning, and as such the prime task therefore is to look at our teacher training system and in a very great measure whilst in the case of Erdiston Teachers Training College we have got to look at it in a two-fold manner, that is, training for our primary school system and at the same time for our secondary stage in our educational system. We feel sure that Erdiston has been able in its existence to justify the very fair percentage of the money that has been expended on that institution from time to time; but we have had it shouted out loud and long in this country, and it has been told world-wide and by no other person than the Minister of Education himself that more than half of the teachers in our primary school system is untrained. If this information is correct, this situation poses a challenge to the Ministry and to the Government as a whole. We have got therefore to examine the actions of Government and see how Government is reacting to this challenge.

Now this year, Mr. Chairman, we are spending over $23 million of our annual budget on education. We want to look at things to see if in education as in any other field there must be priorities. First things must come first, and if the Ministry of Education really wants to see the system grow and to have the tree so to speak bringing forth fruit that will not wither by the wayside, the tree must be planted and nourished and fed on good soil, and that good soil is in our primary school system. We therefore must look to see how Government sees this in the light of the requirements for teacher training at the primary school level, and for that matter at all levels.

I think I am right in saying that there is an amount not exceeding $169,000 to be spent on teacher training from a $23 million budget. Now we are to ask ourselves with a bigger scandal, what greater manifestations of incompetence or inefficiency. There can be no question, Mr. Chairman, of inadequacy of funds. What there is is undoubtedly a lack of ability to dispense those funds in the most appropriate manner befitting the several interests of the community. That is how the situation presents itself to us at the present moment. The whole scheme of teacher training is interwoven between the primary schools and our secondary schools, because for the greater part we do find that the bulk of teachers entering into the teaching service of this Island now and consequently into Erdiston Teachers Training College happens to be people with a smattering of a secondary education obtained at one of our secondary schools whether a secondary grammar, a secondary private or a comprehensive school. Rightly enough, Mr. Chairman, even in our grammar school system there are very few teachers who are trained, and we want to say that the few in the grammar schools who are trained are people who have been trained at Erdiston Teachers Training College. Now there was a scheme whereby places were provided for four teachers from secondary schools, to enter Erdiston for training.
11.10 a.m.

Our view is, Mr. Chairman, that the pace has been so accelerated consequent upon the demand for

places in our secondary schools that Government should set about without any delay whatsoever to increase the number of places for Secondary Teachers in Erdiston Training College to a minimum of 12 per annum, if not more. Mr. Chairman, the question of entry to Erdiston Teachers Training College must come to mind. We have this pre-Erdiston course; exactly what it means, not *prima facie*, but what relation does it actually bear to the life of the Teaching Service as a whole? In the past one could not enter Erdiston Teachers Training College without having passed Part I or Certificate B, and that meant, amongst other things, that one had to satisfy the examiners in English Language and Mathematics, but today we are turning out Teachers who are supposedly trained, we are turning them out from Erdiston Teachers Training College who enter our primary school system and they are not equipped for teaching either English Language or Mathematics at the primary school level; that is a fact.

In the first place, Mathematics is no longer considered compulsory. I can give the Committee the benefit of an experience which the Head Teacher of a school had recently after receiving a Teacher who had been trained at Erdiston, and what we are saying here is this, I do not think this is any reflection on Erdiston in itself, but the system is that the Teachers concern themselves more with cramming for passing their own examinations than they are with certain basic principles. We must say, Sir, they forget the four simple rules, to say nothing of the compound rules. A Teacher giving a class Arithmetic wrote on his blackboard for the benefit of the children, 48 multiplied by 6, and it came the Teacher's turn to demonstrate, and this is how the Teacher went about it. Six eights are 48 and he put down 48, six fours are 24 and he put down 24, so that 48 multiplied by 6 gave him 2,448. That is a fact. The Headmaster, perhaps he was let down, he might almost have lost his temper, but the Headmaster promptly rushed to the class - I want to say he might have lost some sort of control of himself - because he removed the nonsense that was written on the board and explained to the children the correct method of multiplying 48 by 6 in the presence of the Teacher, but then before the class we were to have a real scene because the Teacher felt that despite the fact that he was wrong the Head Teacher had no right remonstrating with him in the presence of the pupils. That is a fact. The Teacher, as I said, had been trained at Erdiston, and this, Mr. Chairman, I am not saying is what happens with every Teacher who is trained at Erdiston, I am not suggesting that at all, but one must wonder when one hears of the complaints of the business community about the out-turn from these various institutions, it gives one quite a bit to think about.
11.20 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, what we should look into a little is what percentage of those Teachers who entered Erdiston Training College graduated from the College within the allotted span of the course, in the first instance. How many teachers left the College and had to return to the classroom because they were unsuccessful? They study, perhaps, on their own or take lectures, and at the end of a year they are allowed to return to Erdiston and take the examination again. How many of those teachers have we had during the past three years? What percentage of those who have entered the College have proved to be failures? We want to admit that teachers are not infallibles. Our system being what it is, is there any such thing as a follow up course? I know that postgraduate courses are open to some of these people. We are saying that a fair percentage of these teachers who enter Erdiston College and other Institutions - some of them who have gone abroad to study - have proven to be failures, and others have proven to be failures after they have received their Diploma of Education.. How many of those have we been in contact with? How many of those have we experienced during the life of Erdiston and in our schools?

With regard to Religious Knowledge, Parent Teacher Bodies have been very concerned recently with the fact that children attending the Primary Schools no longer come home with scripture as part of their homework to be prepared for the next day. I think that we still have in our Primary School system Boards of Managers and that the Chairman of each such Board is usually the Minister of Religion in the parish or at least one of the Ministers of Religion in the parish who has some connection with the school. I think that under the Scheme provision is made for those Ministers to enter the school and give Religious Instructions - I am subject to correction - one hour per week. What I understand is presently obtaining is that from the time control of the schools were taken out of the hands of the Ministers and they no longer have the power to hire and fire the school teachers that they also lost an interest in visiting these schools and in participating in the religious training which used to be carried out in these Primary Schools.

Mr. Chairman, we do not know what would be the attitude of some of our present day Head Teachers to some of these Ministers. I feel that the Ministers will realise that wearing their collars, as my dog wears his, buckled behind no longer exempts them or gives them any special power or authority. I remember as a boy attending the Boscobelle Boys' School. There was an Anglican Minister attached to the Boscobelle Church, and he would visit the school every Wednesday morning. Whenever he entered the school, he would look at his watch and the school's clock would always be wrong and his watch would always be right. The Head Teacher at the time sat on a hard bench. The Anglican Minister would walk into the school; all of the boys would spring to attention, and the Minister would stand on the bench. He would not discuss anything with the Head Teacher of the school. In those days our Head Teacher carried a pocket-watch with a long silver or gold chain attached to it across his waistcoat.
11.30 a.m.

The Minister would never discuss whether the clock was right or the watch was wrong and he would do this each Wednesday morning. He would get on

the stool but he would not put a piece of paper or anything on it whether or not he had just come from walking through mud or else. The Head Teacher could not bear it any longer and one morning as the Minister went up equally as quickly the bench just disappeared from under him and he and the bench came tumbling down and the whole school scampered. We do not know if the bench got angry over the whole situation. It is not for me to say what happened, but I well remember that the Head Teacher always kept a piece of bullet wood or one of those round rulers on his desk and it went to work. I do not remember now how much work it did, but I am saying that the Minister kept away from the school for several weeks, and when he did return he never gave any thought even to looking at the clock apart from noting in the register what time he had visited.

I made mention of this to demonstrate in some small manner the sort of power that some of these Ministers of religion felt they had over these Head Teachers in times past. We do not want to go back to the days when the same Head Teachers had to wait at the back doors of the Ministers for payment. But, Mr. Chairman, as for religious instruction now, we find that it is being neglected in our grammar school system. Religious knowledge has been dropped completely in Fifth forms. In other words, students can take religious knowledge or do science. The community is suffering as a result, and in our primary schools not enough attention is being paid to the giving of religious instruction.

At. Erdiston Teachers Training College, Mr. Chairman, there used to be a part-time lecturer in religious knowledge. I remember at the time that the Reverend Harold Tudor was the lecturer, but I am to ask if there is still a part-time lecturer in religious knowledge or whether the subject is now given a more appropriate title, and if so, who is the lecturer. As for Erdiston, we spent some time yesterday on school gardening. At Item 14 there is an amount of $14,778 and part of this money is for employing eight gardeners in all. I wonder if Erdiston will ever be able to grow enough vegetables to meet its own daily requirements, and if the land area that can be cultivated for the purpose is enough. If it is enough, is it under full cultivation? On the other hand, if it is producing more than can be consumed on the premises, what are the methods of disposal of any surplus? I think we should wait until we get a reply from the Minister on that particular point before we make further comment.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I well remember that at Erdiston Training College agricultural science was taught for very many years by the late Mr. Moe. It would be good if we could be told how much attention is now paid to this, and if we have found a lecturer with the interest which Mr. Moe displayed and what are the results all told from this exercise.
11.40 a.m.

Erdiston Teachers Training College, Mr. Chairman, has passed through enough in itself. We feel, in other words, that it should have got over all its teething problems, and if we are going to tackle Teacher Training as it must be tackled, we cannot merely content ourselves with saying that the U.W.I. is going to assist us there, I understand some Teacher Training is carried on at the Community College, what we want, Mr. Chairman, is to leave Erdiston Teachers Training College to carry out its present work, but here is a golden opportunity to see that Codrington College is put to further and better use by having it assist us once more in our Teacher Training programme.

Codrington College has given us many of our worthiest sons, our distinguished sons, many who have shone and are presently shining in our educational system in this country and elsewhere. Several of them, we have since learnt, that when I think it was a former Director of Education, Mr. Howard Hayden, in 1944 when he ruthlessly brought about the closing of the Rawle Training Institute which had its training conducted at Erdiston, it was a grave mistake, and we have since lived to see it, so what we should do and could do now is to sound our voices for a claim at re-establishing Codrington College, having it to assist us once more, not in a crash programme, because there cannot be a crash programme as such in education. Education is a continuous process, and we are only fooling ourselves, even although we get back to the Minister of Education again, because he has created for himself and for the Ministry a situation which is becoming very untenable in this country and perhaps beyond, as the Secretary of one of the Trade Unions, Mr. Halley Marville, not long ago has had to remark on what he describes as detestable practices in the Ministry of Education. Mr. Chairman, this should never be, it is bad in itself.

The Barbados Union of Teachers, they themselves had to come out; the Secondary School Teachers Association, they themselves had to come out and deny certain statements made by the Minister of Education. We cannot get anywhere if this is to continue; what we want to see is this, we want Government to realise that education is a giant-sized job, it is not a job, despite the fact that it involves children, for children to be playing with. I would just make a single observation here on the place of the graduates in our teaching system. We have, Mr. Chairman, quite a number of Teachers who possess the Teachers' Diploma. This is obtained after a one-year post graduate study in psychology, methodology, amongst other subjects, but in any case it is obtained with a minimum, and I repeat, with a minimum of Teaching Practice. We can put it the other way around, the minimum of Practice Teaching; that is it. We find that after these Teachers return to the classroom they create more problems for the school than many of the untrained ones. Having acquired the Teachers' Diploma they believe it is the passport to Heaven, it is the all-in-all in education for them, but what we are maintaining is, that it is a passport for them to get additional increments, it does not always serve as a means of enabling the children under their care to approaching passport stage.
11.50 a.m.

That is one of the reasons why we are having these dismal failures in our Overseas Examinations - our GCE's and so on. That is the disgraceful side of things. We think that the Ministry of Education have set up a committee to enquire into this matter. They are trying to find out the reason for our failures in these Overseas Examinations. The Minister ought to be in a position to present this Report or at least to give us some of the details of the Report. We ought to know exactly where we are going in matters of education. We are spending too much money and not getting enough in return for what we are spending. With the giant-size problem that Teacher Training is presenting us with, we find that the Government are guilty of gross neglect and gross indifference in their approach to this problem.

Mr. Chairman, we are urging the Government to look at the matter seriously, and to realise that it is no point building Community Colleges or other Institutions at the top, so to speak, until we have gone to the bottom of our structure and provided vital nourishment that will give life to the tree. That is the great mistake being made in our educational system today. We are being criticised too much everywhere, and we are not turning out from Erdiston or from anywhere else what we should be turning out today.

Mr. Chairman, the graduates from Erdiston today are not as respected a people in the field of education as they were in the early days. They are not able to demonstrate that they carry within them a knowledge that has not been available to lesser mortals. Some return to the classroom exhibiting an air of importance which they cannot very well bear out upon a careful examination. We are asking that something be done in this very, very important matter where Erdiston Teachers' Training College is concerned.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have covered enough ground on this Head, and I should like to hear what replies the Minister may have to any points I may have raised during the course of my address.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not recall any specific questions which the hon. member may have raised. The hon. member ranged far and wide. He puts me rather in mind of Goldsmith's schoolmaster: "They gazed and gazed, and still the wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew." However, there are some facts that, perhaps, the Committee might like to have. In August, 1969, there were 763 trained and 1,095 untrained teachers in Government owned and maintained schools.

Now, attendance at Erdiston is voluntary, and the Education Officers have had to persuade teachers, most of them unsuccessfully, to go to Erdiston. The number of teachers who have basic qualifications of four 'O' levels and who are willing to go to Erdiston are insufficient to guarantee a full complement of 200 at Erdiston every year for the 2-year Residential Course. We have been forced, in order to keep the College student population up with the places provided, to take in teachers who are underqualified, but who have agreed to top up the 'O' levels during the 2-year period.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to know how many untrained Primary School Teachers are in Barbados.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member could not have been listening when I gave the figures. I said that three times already. I have said that at August, 1969, there were 763 trained and 1,095 untrained.

Mr. CRAIG: We cannot hear very well out here.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister give us a breakdown of these 763 teachers who are trained. I refer to the Residential 2-year Course. I think there should be a difference between the 2-year Course and the 1-year Course.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this scarcely matters. I cannot supply the breakdown because some of these could easily be people who were not trained at Erdiston at all. They may have been trained in other places.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Will the Minister state how many people have been trained at Erdiston in the 2-year Course and in the 1-year Course?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member will appreciate that is the kind of information that will be laid before him, if he puts down a substantive question. How can he expect me to answer that question now, when it involves some sort of research? I have already given the Committee the figures I have available.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, of the 763 trained teachers, were the majority trained in the 1-year Course or the 2-year Course?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House must know. He must know whether the majority of teachers trained at Erdiston Training College did the 1-year Course or the 2-year Course.

12.00 (noon)

This cannot be difficult to ascertain. The hon. member was Minister of Education and he should know the system.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I wonder if I can continue. There are about 2,000 teachers in the system. To take out more than 10 percent or so of these at any given time while others are out on leave or overseas or training or on University courses would leave us in a very perilous position. I tried to explain this tonight when I was interrupted by hon. members.

Teacher Training in the Barbados educational system is not confined entirely and exclusively to Erdiston. The bulk of the primary school teachers are trained at Erdiston, but other people are trained elsewhere. You have people who go to the University of the West Indies, people who go abroad on Commonwealth Bursaries and Scholarships, and they are all part of the total compliment of teachers in the Island, and I think the percentage of trained teachers to untrained teachers would not be altered considerably if you took all of them into account. It would be less than 50 per cent.

Now I have some other questions to answer. We are at the moment negotiating with the University of the West Indies to institute an in-service course for secondary school teachers on a part-time basis. This matter is still being discussed, but we have included $75,000 on this account under Head 39 (1) Item 37.

Mr. St. JOHN: In view of the fact that you have such a low percentage of teachers who are untrained, would the Minister not agree that the policy of the Ministry should be that when trained teachers are retired and are willing to work again after retirement that every effort should be made to recruit them?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not think the Ministry would have any objection to this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I told the Minister yesterday that the Ministry had refused to re-employ head teachers and others who had offered their services.

Mr. St. JOHN: I can point to people who had been trained at Erdiston who have retired but are in good physical health and would gladly come back, but they are told "no". This is genuinely true. I can carry you to St. Lawrence and show you one now. There are a number of them who would like to come back and they do not mind not being paid in the vacation, but they want something to do.

Mr. HINDS: I want the Minister to tell me about the part-time lecturer in religious instruction, and agricultural science teaching as was carried out by Mr. Moe.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is very sad to hear in here from time to time that you have to lower your standards in an effort to get people to do things. We are spending over $23 million in education. The Government is boasting that they are spending more money on education than the Barbados Labour Party spent on the entire Island. You have free secondary education, you have made certain efforts, but one thing stands out very clear as regards education, and it is that the educational standards of this country have fallen off very rapidly. From time to time you hear that it is difficult to get people with four "O" level certificates to enter Erdiston College, and therefore as a result you have to lower your standards to one or two "O" levels with the undertaking that they would take other subjects. You hear this in relation to the nurses and to the Civil Service. This shows that something is basically wrong. It must mean that there is a serious falling off of standards in education in this country, and the time has come when the Government must realise that all this travelling about by a Minister, all this pomp and display by the Minister of Education is only having one effect in Barbados, and it is that the educational standards of this country have now reached a new low, because every time you come in here, the Government must admit that they have lowered the standards to get nurses, to get Civil Servants and to get people at Erdiston. The thing that Government must look at is why they have to lower the standards.

Mr. Chairman, you get people in the commercial sector complaining that the standards have gone down, and this gives rise to a very serious thought.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, after hearing the figures from the Minister, one can only conclude that my argument yesterday evening in here was a logical one, because we are hearing from the Minister's mouth that in this country which has a budget of $97 million, they are spending $23 million on education more than we budgeted for in 1961, and yet there are 763 trained teachers and 1,095 untrained teachers in Barbados, and out of the Minister's mouth it is said that they cannot get teachers with four "O" level certificates. We have to reach some decision. You either have to lower the standard of the teachers who apply to go into Erdiston so as to be trained to help the children of tomorrow, or you are going to ruin the education system of this country once and for all, and the high literacy rate which we boast of 98 per cent would only be a paper rate. If a man can just read and write you say he is literate, but take some of the children today and look at the actual results and see what a bandy policy the Government has. I have said that the Minister ought to stop running up and down with the *Advocate* behind his coat-tail and Gollop the Social Welfare Officer. I hope he does not come in here because I do not care whether or not he can defend himself. I have quite a bit to say about him because I consider him a nuisance. However you look in the paper you can find the Minister of Education, the Social Welfare Officer and Shorty. (A VOICE: Who is Shorty?) The fellow from Val Rosa Club. This is something heart burning.

12.10 p.m.

Yesterday afternoon when I said that a girl spelt "Barbarees Hill" - B-a-r-b-a-i-s-e, the Minister told me there is nothing wrong with that. I will tell you something now, Sir, she was working in my office and I eased her out of my office, and one morning my wife came into my home and told me, "Lionel, if I were to tell you who is working at the Bank of Nova Scotia you would be the most surprised man in the world", and I questioned her and she told me Jane Citizen was the person working there, and from that day I pledged that I will be prepared to check everything on my bank statement, because if that is the calibre of person you have working in the Banks, no longer can one sit down and think that whatever the Bank sends you is correct. I know as a young man if I had to go to a Bank and a Cashier had to

change $100 for me, I accepted it; this is something I felt that a Cashier at the Bank could not go wrong with, but this might have been out of ignorance, but it is only because of one young lady who went to a secondary school and then to Duff's, applied for a job at a business which I have, I employed this young lady, and when I saw that girl spell Barbarees Hill, I came to the conclusion that I would have to try and help her to get another job. She helped herself, because she applied at the Bank and the Bank gave her a job.

That is the type of mentality that we have throughout the country, and the Government is to be blamed for this. They walked around here in 1960-61 and preached an educational policy to the country, and when I said they were bluffers of the society, this is a classic example this morning and it is shameless to hear a Minister say that in 1971 they have 763 trained Teachers in Barbados and 1,095 untrained; they are calling for $22 million out of the taxpayers money, I would really like to go through this Head with a fine-tooth comb to determine what this $22 million is here for.

I cannot really understand, and we have argued in here and have repeatedly said that Erdiston should be extended to provide for these untrained Teachers better facilities, bring them in, train them so that they will be able to come out and help in the primary schools, otherwise you are going to lose the best material from some of those primary schools; not at Mrs. Smale or Mrs. Carrington or any of these kindergarten schools that coach children for the purpose of getting into the secondary schools, those are profiteering businesses, but it is in the primary schools that you have the best material, but the conditions under which they work is a nerve wrecking exercise.

The Ministry sent out a directive to the primary schools not to coach the children, and there was a man at St. Giles' Boys' School who used to turn out a lot of bright children. If St. Giles' entered 50 children, they would turn out 30 and 40; his name was Mr. Greenidge, and they sent a directive to the primary schools telling them not to coach the children. You cannot tell me, Mr. Chairman, that one can determine the future of a child at the age of 11, you have children who develop when they reach 15 and 16 and become giants in their own fields; they are late developers, but you are completely knocking out these children at the age of 11, telling them they are complete discards in this society. If you look around carefully, you will see many of these young men working day and night, they go abroad and get the opportunity to study, and many of them end up like the same Dr. Ramsay you have as High Commissioner now, in one of the highest posts in the land. It is pathetic, it is heart-burn to the parents to see that these primary school children cannot get a chance.

You only have to go up to the Drill Hall or to any of the places where they take examinations and see the mothers with them, bringing them from the country, some of them having to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning to catch the 6 o'clock bus and go up there and wait, because the bus service is so rotten that if they do not catch the 6 o'clock bus they cannot get there at all, and they have to sit down there. The tension and the pressure is too much for them, and this Government who walked around with all the experts at ministerial level - they claim they have all the experts in education - the same Leader of the House has an M.A. (Oxon.), Mr. Thorne did not have anything, and they said that Sir Grantley Adams was the worst Minister of Education of all time, and now we have Senator Sandiford, a Barbados Scholar, and he has a degree, an M.A. or something - I know exactly what the M.A. is for, but it would be unparliamentary to say - and this is the standard which the present Government has projected, bluffing their way through all the time.

I am quite sure, Sir, even my colleague, the senior member for St. Andrew, did not have the opportunity which is provided for the children today, and I am sure that he will agree with me - I do not know about the Federal High School - but even when he was at the Modern High School, people like Esther Archer would have been a discard if we did not have the former Mayor here, and the late Louis Lynch, and people of the calibre of the Minister himself, the senior member for St. Andrew, to assist these people. Today Miss Archer is a doctor, and another very outstanding pupil, Oakley Brathwaite. I remember the late Louis Lynch would hold on to the Barbados Scholars as soon as they came out of the various secondary schools, as soon as they received the results, I am quite sure one of the Clerks here used to teach at the Modern High School for a year or two, Richie Haynes, all of them. It was the feeling that the late Louis Lynch had for education that he was able to grasp this type of people to be able to produce from his own school a better product of the school, and the Government's policy of spending $20,000 on Teacher Training out of an estimated expenditure of $23 million, and they have the audacity to come in here and say there are some 763 trained Teachers in Barbados in 1971, and 1,095 untrained.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that they are really singing the swan's tune now, because they are not going to be in a position, I pray to God, to direct the educational policy of this country again. Say what you like about the former Government's policy, when you look at it and compare it, the Ministers who were in charge of education on the other side can hang their heads in shame.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be too long on this Head. I asked a question about the attitude of the Ministry towards people who were trained and who are retired and wanted to come back into the Service, and I think that all of us could give the Hon. Minister instances of where these people are not being utilised, but it would seem sense to me that in view of your drastic manpower shortage, particularly when one takes into consideration the question of the quality that you have, that it would be good sense to have these people back in the establishment

even if they fall alongside people you admitted you had to lower your standards to get in and who have not gone into training first. I think that they would be a useful influence among those teachers and relieve them the administrative burden of most of them being Head Teachers or Senior Teachers so that they would be a great asset to the school.
12.20 p.m.

I should really like to know what is the problem in connection with these people. There can be no doubt about it that, from the statistics that have been submitted periodically in this House both by the Hon. Prime Minister and other Ministers, we in Barbados are suffering from the fact that we are not producing out of our secondary schools annually a sufficient number of people with the requisite qualifications to cater for the job opportunities which demand these qualifications. The statistics are there to show. This is a serious problem, and it is definitely going to affect the productivity of the country. It means that you are going to have people in jobs who are not capable of performing some of the requirements of certain jobs.

I am not an educational expert, but certainly I am aware of the fact that there are a large number of people in our schools who are pursuing courses which they are not interested in, although they have been able to pass the hurdle of the Common Entrance Examination. It may be that the Educational Experts are working on widening the curriculum. When you are talking of 'O' level results, you are talking about results in a very narrow field. I think that other societies have come around to the view that they have to widen the basis of the curriculum to include other subjects - subjects fit for 'O' level Examinations. If we had done this and directed more streams towards these other subjects, it is possible that we would have improved our 'O' level statistics.

Nevertheless, I think it is a matter of great concern to us that people are leaving Primary Schools and Secondary Schools without that basic knowledge of the English language, Reading, Appreciating and Understanding, and without a basic knowledge of Mathematics and other things which are in this society. I should also like to ask under this Head what the Ministry are doing in respect of the metric system in Barbados. We should be teaching the metric system in all schools. I believe it is generally accepted that most of the people with whom we are doing trade are now quoting the metric system in their invoices as well as in the import and export trade. They are moving away from the former system and going into the metric system. Some time ago I read that 1972 was the year in which Trinidad was going to introduce the metric system. I am wondering what preparations this Government are making in this matter. If we are going to introduce the metric system into this country, then we should start very early to train the children in the metric system. I understand that some of the new textbooks have in the metric system together with the other system. I feel that the Government should introduce it particularly in the Primary Schools as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the question of textbooks is another matter. I should like to know whether it is not a case for a certain amount of standardisation of these books. It seems to me that there are a large number of books attempting to cover the same area, and I know that there is great difficulty in getting these books in the requisite time. We cannot debate this matter fully at the moment. A debate on the educational pattern or policy will have to take place in the very near future. Some time this year it will take place, but in a different forum.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell this Committee how many trained teachers were there up to 1961, and how many untrained teachers were there in 1961? We know how many there are in 1971. I think it is fair for us to know how many trained and untrained teachers were there in 1961. I hope that is not a difficult question.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is almost impossible to give this information now. The hon. member cannot expect to have it now. If he asks a question on this matter, it is something that the figures have to be set out in a table of reference.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I imagine that there must have been a Report on this matter. Will the Minister have the information for us by the time we reach Capital Education? Will you give the Committee that assurance?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I can safely give the Committee that assurance, because between now and then there will be enough time to get it. Now, the Leader of the Opposition asked about the employment of Retired Teachers. There are certainly some Retired Teachers not employed, but we do employ Retired Teachers and Retired Head Teachers as teachers. We do not have the figures to hand, but there is no policy necessarily to exclude them.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in view of the statistics here and in view of the fact that it was necessary to lower the qualifications for entrance - the qualifications were not only lowered for Erdiston Training College, but there are in fact people teaching with one or two GCE's - would it not be right for the Ministry to give active encouragement to these people?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member's point is well taken. This is a matter which will have to be taken up with the Teachers' Unions as well, because they will desire to say something about it. Now, as to the 1-year Course, not more than 200 teachers, that is to say most of the very experienced, took the 1-year Course at Erdiston between 1960 and 1965. This means that there are many more who did the 2-year Course than the 1-year Course.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, that does not necessarily follow. The Minister said that between 1961 and 1965 200 did the 1-year Course and, therefore, more would have done the 1-year Course.

It must be remembered that this is 1971. What about the period between 1965 and 1970?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will have to get that information.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: You are trying to give the Committee the impression that more people did the 2-year Course than the 1-year Course. Working by your figures, if between 1961 and 1965 it is true that 200 did the 1-year Course, then in 1970 you may get almost the same number or the number might be increased.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The Course may have been discontinued by then. I will have to get that information for you. The Course was discontinued at some period. There is now re-established as from 1971..... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet!

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member may have heard me say yesterday that as from January, 1971, they have started a 1-Year Part-time Course.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is not the point. I want to know in what year it was discontinued.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In 1965.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Then there was no 1-Year Course between 1965 and 1970.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On Religious Instruction, Mr. Chairman, I should point out to the Committee that this is an optional subject in the curriculum. However, the Rev. Lewellyn Amstrong does one hour a week Religious Instructions at Erdiston. He has been so employed since 1968. Before him there was the Rev. James Springer, the Rev. Oliver Haynes, and the Rev. Harold Tudor.
12.30 p.m.

It is an optional subject.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder how many students take this religious Knowledge? In other words, when he goes for this one hour, how many students does he lecture to?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Twelve.

Mr. St. JOHN: What about metrication?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The schools certainly at secondary level always use the metric system. The matter of its introduction probably to the exclusion of the British system is currently being studied by a sub-Committee of the Ministry They are looking into it. I am also told that in all maths and science ETV programmes, the metric system has been introduced and is used with emphasis on the conversion from feet to metric. This means that some 10,000 children in comprehensive schools, Bay Primary and St. Matthias Girls' now know the metric system and are learning to use it.

Mr. St. JOHN: If the Minister would give way, what I am concerned about is that sufficient advance notice ought to be given to this matter. This matter seems to me from what I have read and am told by people in the commercial world, to be a matter of immediate concern, because there are deadlines by which other countries with whom we do business have said they are going to introduce it, and in Trinidad they have already said they are introducing it in 1972 which is only one year away.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I myself was interested to learn that already 10,000 children are learning to use it. This only refers to the comprehensive schools and a couple of the primary schools. It has of course to be spread. I do not know if there was anything else.

I would like before I sit to tell hon. members that when the Education Bill is before the House I shall take the opportunity as properly advised by the Ministry to speak in greater detail on all these matters which I have left for some time, but I have taken note of all the issues raised and the Ministry will be so informed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that there are only twelve students at Erdiston presently taking religious knowledge. Now I wonder if it would be of any concern to the Minister to know that boys are presently leaving our Government grammar schools and they are expounding a gospel that there is no God.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member on my left wants to address the Chair, he should stand and do so.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am serious about it. Boys are preaching that there is no God.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would personally share the hon. member's concern, but the sort of people who come out of secondary schools with that kind of argument are really not intellectually equipped to deal with that kind of field.

Mr. HINDS: These are Fifth and Sixth formers.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There is one more thing. Standardisation of text. The Ministry has started standardisation of text. English and Maths have already been dealt with and are being used and have been used since September 1970. The question of Caribbean text books is a subject of prolonged discussion with other Caribbean Governments and the University of the West Indies. I can say something

of this from my recollection. The University of the West Indies had some years ago gone into this matter and had authorised a sort of scheme in which teachers from all the territories of the region participated. The present headmistress of St. Leonard's Girls', Miss Watts, had done quite a lot on this matter as well as teachers from other territories, and I believe that some textbooks for the primary schools are in use now throughout the region; but of course there is a big problem because in the secondary schools, with the cost and the frequent changes to meet curriculum requirements, I believe this is still being studied.

Mr. HINDS: In your teacher training programme will anyone be going to the United Kingdom in the exchange teacher scheme in 1971?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am advised that would be so.

Mr. HINDS: How many are you going to send?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: One, I am told.

The question that the sum of $100,666 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(5) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

HEAD 37 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under the note to Item 9 there is to be an amendment. "To provide for maintenance, repairs and replacement of equipment end furniture".

I beg to move that the sum of $20,779 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(6) SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $277,803 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, stand part of the Schedule.

The House might like some information. There are 965 students in the polytechnic made up of 216 full-time first year day students, 184 full-time secone year day students, 334 part-time day students and 226 evening students.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: If the Hon. Minister would give way, you would remember I asked for some statistics; they were circulated yesterday but there is a big discrepancy in the figures. 205 evening students, 500 full time and 360 part time, including 360 at the Technical Institute. The figures do not tally at all.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: My figures are 965 students, made up of 216 full time first year day students, 184 full time second year day students, 334 part time day students and 226 evening students. Subjects offered include motor mechanics, welding, plumbing, masonry, electricity, electronics, typewriting and shorthand. Courses in agriculture, barbering and beauty culture have not yet begun. I am afraid the way these words are spelt the person would have to find a job in a bank.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, is the Minister trying to show too that the standard of education has gone down?

Hon. J C. TUDOR: Details of the merger of the Technical Institute and the Polytechnic are mainly of a personnel nature and are still being worked out; it is hoped that the merger will be effected by the next academic year beginning in September 1971, and on account of this the residual Head, which is 37 (7), covering only Personal Emoluments for the Technical Institute still appears in the Estimates, but the programmes of instruction have already been integrated.

Accommodation. A number of sites are being evaluated for permanently housing the Polytechnic; meanwhile, the severe shortage of classroom and workshop space at the temporary harbour site is being partly met by the provision of two additional temporary classrooms. The Hotel School is a division of the Polytechnic; two posts of instructor, two of Trainee Instructor and one of Typist shown under 37 (7) are still utilised at the Hotel School. The Canadian International Development Agency has provided two Instructors, and consideration is being given to the possibility of further assistance; in January, 1971 a middle management course designed to train suitably qualified Barbadians for management positions was inaugurated. There are 22 students doing this two year course; there are 120 other students pursuing courses at the craft level, and these are run on a part time day release basis, the students spending two days at the school and three days in practical attachment at the hotels. These courses range from the food and beverage operations lasting one year to short courses for bell boys.

Proposals are being considered for the establishment of a new hotel school with adequate capacity and facilities to meet the needs of the local industry. The establishment at the University of the West Indies of a school of tourism, including hotel management, is also being considered. That is about all I can give hon. members until questions are asked.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, when the Polytechnic was introduced..... *(Asides)* ..... My figures are as follows: 205 evening, 500 full time - that would be first and second year as I understand it. You gave us 216 first year or second year and 184, and I think that makes 500 too. 360 part time day release, making a total of 1,065, including 360 at the Technical Institute. Your figures, as I understand it, do not include the students at the Technical Institute, because you said that you hope to get the integration process going by next year.

Sir, I remember saying that the proposals of the Government in this respect was grossly inadequate, and I pointed out that it seems to me to be farcial to think that you can confine your technical training to one centre in Barbados, and I said that there were people living in the northern and southern parishes who would be at a great disadvantage, and I am sure that the Ministry now be convinced in their own minds that what we said on that occasion, when you were setting up the Polytechnic, was correct. This Polytechnic has a very important role to play in Barbados, because what we have to realise whether we like it or not is that we have got to educate our people to such an extent that the standards of productivity in this country will rise. You cannot go ahead with the system of low productivity that we have in Barbados, and people will understand that the key to better wages and better conditions of service must be greater production in your individual endeavour.

According to the statistics that have been circulated, there are 4,390 children in the senior departments of the primary schools. There must be some sort of continuing education for those children when they leave school at 15; they can only go into your adult education programme or into your Polytechnic except they leave the island or they go into the apprenticeship system. The apprenticeship system is very disorganised, so you are really making sport when you tell me that your total intake is in the vicinity of 200 people a year at the Polytechnic. We continue to feel on this side that what you need in Barbados is not one, you need at least three centres if you are going to give everybody a fair chance of getting this education.

That is one aspect of it; secondly, I am shocked at the very narrow range of the curriculum as read out by the hon. member. There are certain trades in Barbados which are in great demand, not only in demand in Barbados but also command the power to permit people holding them to emigrate, and I am thinking of things like printing and tailoring; all the tailors have gone to the United States of America.
12.50 p.m.

All of the tailors have gone to the United States of America already. As long as you are a tailor it is easy for you to get into the U.S.A. Last year we were talking about barbers, beauty culture and other courses. I see that that Programme has not yet started. We are really and truly not paying sufficient attention to this aspect of our educational needs in Barbados. I think there is now in the Ministry of Education a Vocational Guidance Officer. It would be interesting to know whether a manpower survey of our requirements has been done. It is in this field that the true needs of Barbados will be seen and our deficiencies can be measured. I thought that on this occasion in these Estimates the Minister would have come down with a big Programme for the expansion in facilities for technical education. One cannot help reading and seeing what is taking place in other areas in the Caribbean where there is also acute manpower shortage. In some places are people are using a crash programme and training as much as 1500 people in a variety of skills. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, the contractors have started their own minor training, but that is a costly thing. It seems to me that they are training potential supervisors and so on. Their immediate requirements are so great that they must indulge in that sort of thing. We really need a Crash Programme for this sort of thing. I am very interested to hear about the integration of the Technical Institute, because unless you integrate it I cannot see how one is going to get students for the Technology Division in the Community College. I think you will have to expand you technical education at Secondary School level to provide the potential flow of recruits into the Community College. You say you want people up there with four 'O' levels. Perhaps you may have to produce students via the Polytechnic with the requisite examination requirements for entry into the Community College. This is a very serious matter, and we do not believe that enough money has been spent. We also do not believe that the existing facilities and the variety of the curriculum at the Polytechnic can be said to be meeting with the basic requirements of Barbados.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member will certainly find the members on this side agreeing with this. Recently the Ministry have been giving consideration to expanding the Polytechnic in the North and in the South. *(Asides)* I myself went out on a site visit some weeks ago to see whether the site for the expansion of the Polytechnic for the North should be in St. Lucy or in St. Peter. I am afraid I was overruled by the Minister, and it is more likely now to be in St. Peter. The site is likely to be in Speightstown.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, that is the logical place to put it. The logical place to put these sites are obviously in areas where people gravitate to the concept of township. You must have that in conjunction with your planning legislation. They should be sited in Oistin and Speightstown whether you like it or not.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I was not quarrelling; I was merely saying that I was overruled. Surely it is better from my point of view to be able to say that I was overruled than for it to be said that I did not ask. They are seriously considering an expansion to the North and to the south.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I appreciate what the Minister is doing . What are

you going to do with people under the hills? What will be the position of the people in Belleplane and the people in St. Joseph? Would you not think of siting one in an area such as that?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is not a great problem. I will tell you why. There are certain subjects, for instance, those dealing with Agricultural Sciences which can be attached and sited even at some of the schools where they are now taught as curriculum subjects, but they can be divisions of the Polytechnic. This is being looked after. I, certainly from my point of view, will say that you cannot see it soon enough. The hon. member will appreciate the force of what I am saying. Only the other day I discovered for the first time that in the United States there are 27,000 different occupations that an American citizen can choose to do, and I suspect that the tremendous development in the U.S.A. is as much due to this variety of choice as it is to natural resources or anything else.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I asked about the manpower survey.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am told that they have not got that as yet. It seems to me, therefore, that the more occupations you can train people to do, the greater will be the place at which the development of the country will take place. I am hoping that they will get on to it now that they have heard your message.

The question that the sum of $277,803 under Head 37 - Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(7) TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (7) Technical Institute - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $24,578 under Head 37 - Ministry Education (7) Technical Institute - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell us what progress, if any, has been made with regard to the phasing out of the Technical Institute? Is this still an activity engaged in by the Government?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have said, first of all, that there has been a merger except for certain staff which still appears under the Technical Institute Establishment, and that the merger will be complete for the next academic year beginning in 1971. From September 1971 and thereafter the Technical Institute will not appear as a separate Head in these Estimates.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear the Minister's policy on this, because I am one who was very concerned over what was going to become of the Technical Institute. If you had heard the opening remarks of the Minister's speech on the Technical Institute, you would not have thought that it had ever served any purpose in Barbados. 1 p.m.

I turned to a friend of mine and said that the polytechnic is only cold soup warmed up. It was just the same flower with another name because I have always contended that Richmond would have served a useful purpose if you had expanded it and used the present site for something else. I am glad to hear this morning that the Minister admits to making a statement on the floor of the House that the Technical Institute and the Polytechnic are now merging. I would like to know what you are going to call it now. What I am dealing with is that this was the same Technical Institute that so many arguments were raised against that you could not believe it. This morning I would like to support the Government in hearing how they are coming around all the time to whatever we have been suggesting on the floor of this House and in the highways and byways. You wanted to scrap the Technical Institute and you had all sorts of arguments. You said it served no useful purpose, the machinery was old, you could not get instructors; so you came to open another something and called it a polytechnic, a fancy name, another training school, another Technical Institute, As a matter of fact, I am sorry to see that you are not even voting more money for it. I wonder if the Minister would tell us if there is any need for additional lecturers in any of the skills and in what skills you are short of lecturers.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I had already told the hon. member that as the intake of students increases, more and more lecturers will be provided, but there are certain courses which we have not yet begun. I have always said that obviously when we spread out, the establishment would have to be increased.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister to say that there are certain courses which have not yet begun. Could the Minister give us an idea of what courses he has in mind?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Agriculture, barbering and beauty culture.

Mr. HINDS: Are you prepared to include the graphic arts?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said this when we were doing the Printing Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. junior member for St. Thomas please take his seat in the House instead of in the Gallery? He is contravening the Rules by sitting in the Gallery.

Mr. HINDS: All the activities of the Technical Institute have not been merged as far as we can gather into the activities of the polytechnic. In other words there are certain instructions that were given at the Technical Institute that are not yet given at the polytechnic.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In the sense that you started the polytechnic a year ago, so you would be in the second year of some two year courses at the Technical Institute for which you are preparing people for public examinations. You could not stop teaching these now to bring them down to the level of the courses which are beginners courses at the polytechnic. So until July this year up to September some of that work will still have to continue until the full merger takes place at the beginning of the academic year.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister not now agree that the Government is engaging in wickedness in trying in any respect to phase out the Technical Institute and its activities when in truth and in fact we are now learning from the Minister that the polytechnic is prepared to carry on the work and does just what the Technical Institute had been doing for the people of this country all the years? All that was necessary - and from the beginning we said so - was for Government to expand the work of the Technical Institute, but just for the Minister's glorification, just that it could be said that one Minister had something to his credit, that was done. The Technical Institute has something to its credit; the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic has absolutely nothing to its credit except creating confusion in the minds of young people in this country who really want a technical education, because this lowering of standards to accommodate people is working to the detriment of industry on the whole.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one and a half hours.

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

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

1.10 p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; thereto automatically it reverts.

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(8) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND SUBVENTIONS

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships Grants and Subventions – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,657,470 under Head 37 (8) stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Speaking under this Head, Sir, in respect of Item 1 - Apprenticeship Bursaries, we differ profoundly from the Government on their attitude towards apprenticeship. It is obvious from the figures circulated that the programme for technical education is insufficient to cover the manpower needs in existence at the present moment as well as in the foreseeable future. I would have thought that the Government would have speeded up their programme in relation to apprenticeship and modernised it, especially in view of the limitations of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Technical Institute and the other endeavours of Government in this respect. Surely the Government must now be conconvinced in their own minds that the greatest mistake they have made in their lives was when they cut down on the programme which the Public Works Department used to do in relation to the training of apprentices in Barbados, and I want to hear the Hon. Minister on this, because what he has told us in the last two Heads, and the variety of subjects that he spoke of are insignificant in relation to the total manpower needs in Barbados.

An increase of $468 only in 1970 when the construction industry is short? I will talk very seriously on this. As I understand it, the industry has established a training within industry scheme which is costing a tremendous amount of money, and it is being passed on in skills that are not offered to a great enough degree at the Polytechnic, and I understood the Government had promised them a grant and nothing is in the Estimates in relation to it. That is another of the false promises made by the Government, because do not let us fool ourselves, if we improve the productivity of the construction industry we are improving the productivity not only in the private sector but also in the Government sector, and there can be no doubt about it, that the Government suffers as great a shortage of people to carry out

their development programme as in the private industry, and what is more, the construction industry in Barbados plays a vital role in providing employment for our people, so I hope that the Government sees the significance of this. Even if you may argue that there will possibly be a curtailment of building in the private sector because of the question of whether there has been overbuilding in the hotel industry or not, there is still a large area in the provision of basic housing needs in Barbados which nobody has begun to tap yet, and in my opinion, and in our opinion over here, anyone who studies the need and necessity for housing in Barbados cannot but fail to comprehend that there will be a tremendous need for skilled trades in the construction industry for at least 15 years to come, having regard to the backlog of the housing programme in Barbados.

I want to hear in particular what the Government has to say on this apprenticeship scheme; $11,000 in a budget of $98 million for apprenticeship, and a significant amount of money, nowhere else will you get this on technical training. Let us add these together; you are spending $11,00 on that, you are spending $136,000 in the Technical Institute and $491,000 in the Polytechnic. Surely we are just behind hand; you cannot attempt to cover the needs of the country. As the statistics prove, there are 4,392 children in the senior departments; they must go somewhere, your intake at the Polytechnic is 200, your intake at the continuation programme is probably another 200, the rest must be apprenticed, and one of the reasons why young people are not being apprenticed as in the past is because their parents lose hope in them if they do not get in at 11, they cannot get into the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and they feel they have lost hope in them. They feel they must walk about until they get the physical strength to be able to go and work as labourers and untrained people, or they must go if they come from parishes like Christ Church, St. Lucy and St. James as beach boys. What are we doing about these people? They are part and parcel of the productive force in the country, what are we doing about them? We ought to be able to do something about them, and Government should make a contribution to them in the form of at least giving them a sufficient sum per week to cover the cost of transport; $5.00 per week is the wage they get. At least a contribution that they can be clothed, that they can get to their work, together with a contribution to their employers to encourage them to keep apprentices.

I remember when I was younger - and I have fairly detailed knowledge of the construction industry - people used to bring boys from the time they left elementary school to you and tell you they want you to apprentice them and they were going to give them the clothes and they used to be tagged on to a master workman; they used to do certain things for the master workman and they used to get something when the week ended. This is an important Head, an important method of training; it is better than no training at all. They talk about letting them go into agriculture, but if anybody studies the pattern of agriculture which we are developing in the future with mechanisation, these are people who have got to have technological skills, and you do not have any courses at the present moment at all, with the exception of the mechanics trades where they can maintain the equipment, we will have nothing to teach these people, even to operate the equipment and to know something about a machine costing $20,000 or $30,000 to be aware of the technical problems in the machine and whether it is functioning properly or not.

2.50 p.m.

Do you know that, I was most shocked and stunned when people tell me that they cannot get drivers in Barbados, because people cannot afford to pay the cost of going through the course at the Driving Schools? A good indication of the shortage of people is when you see people advertising for jobs. You will see jobs for van drivers, truck drivers and so on advertised in Barbados. You can look at the Sunday *Advocate* and see what I am talking about.

Mr. Chairman, we came in here with a Resolution some time ago where we asked to amend the law to permit people at the age of 18 to obtain a licence to drive a heavy duty vehicle. There are still a large number of people who do not have the money to pay to learn to drive. How can you talk about unemployment when there are jobs in Barbados, people unemployed, but the educational and manpower training of the Government do not match the job requirements in Barbados. Are you telling me that you are seriously interested in training people when you have only voted $11,000 for Apprenticeship Training?

Even if you say that in the printing industry you could not get the Instructors to be able to teach the people at Polytechnic level in the Printing and Graphic Arts Trade, there are still sufficient printeries in Barbados where you could encourage people by way of a grant of so much per year to do some of the preliminary training as the construction industry have decided to do for themselves. This is a very serious point, and the Government are failing in this respect. I say that $11,052 is a ridiculous sum of money to put in the Estimates for training people.

Mr. Chairman, I see a grant here of $1,200 for Codrington College, and I do not know what the grant is for. There is no Note in the Estimates to cover it. I am very familiar with the situation in relation to Codrington College. There is no doubt about it that Codrington College will continue, especially since the judicial decision declaring them as a Trust and allowing certain minor alterations in the scope of the Educational Trust. It is an Institution that I feel can play an important role in some of the educational problems of this country. I understand that they are trying to develop a course in Rural Economy up there as well as in Co-operatives and so on. I wonder what this $1,200 is for. I really hope that the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Board of Trustees And Management of Codrington College could get together and decide upon a course of training in certain specialised subjects such as Communications, Co-operatives and matters relating to Rural Studies which could be a build up for specialised

courses. It could be something like the Institutions you have in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. At the moment we have to send our Co-operative Officers to be trained in either England or Canada where there is a different environment and an economy different from ours. Certainly the Trade Unions use Codrington College for week-end Courses and so on. I know that the Religious Authorities now feel that the training of a Priest involves not only training him in doctrine and so on, but he must be aware of the society in which he is operating. I believe it is true to say that this is a new concept in training, and Codrington College is envisaged now as a sort of Postgraduate Institution for primarily training people in the awareness of a Priest in the society. There is great need for that, because he cannot live in an isolated community or in an isolated world. I should really like to hear what the Minister has to say on that.

As far as the National Development Scholarships and the other matters are concerned, I believe there are others who will deal with them. I do not want to touch on any of those subjects. Some time ago, I asked the Hon. Minister about the University of the West Indies, and I brought to his attention matters which came to me about a conflict that was going on and a state of uncertainty for expansion because of indecision. The Hon. Minister told me that he was not aware of it. Now, all of this is in the open, because the newspapers carry stories by the Vice-Chancellor not only in Barbados but in other areas around. There was a serious crisis in relation to the University, because of the uncertainty of the University as to its financial position in the future. I understand that the Barbados Government stand will be that they are committed. I understand that there is no problem as far as the Barbados Government are concerned in relation to this matter, but I want to know what is the true position.

Mr. Chairman, in view of the uncertainty of this matter, I should like to know what Government are doing to help solve the problem. I think that we should publicise the attitude of the Barbados Government, because I have never seen it in print. Do not let us fool ourselves, because we are unable to run our own University. If we try to run our own University it will run us in bankruptcy. We cannot afford it, and our duty is to see that the original Institution continues. By publicising our stand and using our influence, we might be able to help them over the impasse that they have reached.

Now, do not let us fool ourselves. The idea that we can go to Canada and the United Kingdom for graduate training is out. It is far more difficult today to get in than it was formerly. The Faculties that you do not have at our University you may have a reasonable chance of getting in abroad. The Overseas Universities have their own students to look after. Graduate status is a different thing. There are a number of postgraduate scholarships and places available. I want to hear the Hon. Minister on that.

Now, I see here under Scholarships and Bursaries that the provision is to meet National Scholarships. I should like to know who are on the Selection Committee for these Scholarships, and I should like to know how they are awarded. I am watching the situation very carefully in respect of this, and I hope that there will be no political victimisation in respect of these scholarships. When one looks at the areas for which these scholarships have been granted there are only tokens. The Civil Service and our manpower requirements in Barbados in fields such as dentistry, architecture, specialised fields of tourism and things of that kind cannot be covered by these few scholarships. With regard to the question of accountancy, we are in a terrible condition. All of these are problems, and I want to hear the Minister on them.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. senior member for Christ Church, I am particularly worried over the lack of finance which the Government are providing for Apprenticeship Bursaries. It is clear that the Government have no fixed policy on this particular Head.

3 p.m.

Some two years ago I came face to face with the problem that we have no young persons entering into some of the specialised trades which we require in this country. I cannot see how a sum of $11,052 can ever hope to satisfy this particular aspect of the situation. I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church when he says that years ago one could see workmen with juniors who were learning the trades. There is no doubt that we are in a transitional period when it comes to particularly housing development in this country. People are moving away from the 16 x 9 and the two roof wooden houses into the brick or wall buildings. Two or three years ago I discovered that today in Barbados there is no one person who knows the art of laying bricks. Some masons in fact know how to lay concerte blocks, but if you take the 8 x 4 x 4 brick, the ones you pull out of the chimney stacks, it is very difficult indeed to find anybody in Barbados who has got the ability of laying any of them; and if you begin to talk about a two-course building, they are at a loss because they do not know what you are speaking about.

Quite recently I know of a particular drawing firm that made a design in which it called for an oval archway to be laid of bricks, and it could not be done. They could not find a workman to do it. Eventually they had to cast these doorways out of boxing and concrete. Probably other people have known of this problem before, and I would have thought that the Government, having its fingers in every possible pie available in this country, would have forseen the problem it would surely face in this country. Again we have to look at it as being due to the particular educational policy which is operating in this country, one which I consider to be the worst policy on education any Government can devise, and that is the 11 + examination. Countries like Great Britain which used it are now aware that the 11 - examination is a discriminatory examination and are

finding ways and means of getting out of it. This examination in my opinion is causing an increased production of non-technical labour, because if a child does not succeed in passing the 11 + examination to get into Harrison College, Queens College, St. Michael's Girls' School or either one of the Government institution, there are rather few of the approved schools which are producing any children with certificates today. There is one school which up to last year had persons - I refuse to use the word "children" because persons were going to school who had reached the age of twenty years - over the age of nineteen, and one particular student was twenty-one and on leaving did not even succeed in getting a certificate.

Now if you produce this kind of education, you will have these people. Let us even assume that they get certificates. When you read the newspaper, the bulk of achievement lies in two subjects: English Literature and Religious Knowledge, and in my opinion neither one of these subjects is a subject capable of carrying any person today anywhere unless he wants to join the ministry. Therefore if you are going to half educate the community, I believe you have to supplement that half education by another system of education whereby you produce persons qualified to take their places not only in this community but in the entire world. It is known that Barbados produces labour for other territories, and with the immigration problem becoming more and more difficult, the only way we can hope to get rid of our surplus population is by virtue of the fact that that population has got a skill and knowledge which is needed in other territories.

Mr. Chairman, today there is no country in the world which is taking in untrained man power in the form of labourers. If we look at our own situation here, the Government can take a check today in any one of the garages around Barbados and find that they are telling you that they cannot do better, because they have not got the workmen. About a year ago I enquired at the Barbados Foundry about having a man apprentice somebody in the Foundry to do welding, and I was told that they did not have the room, and in any case they were not taking in apprentices. Now the Barbados Foundry is the only mechanic workshop of that standard that can be found in this entire community. The machine shop work which is done at the Barbados Foundry is not done at any other place in Barbados. The Central Foundry has been closed down; so the Barbados Foundry does all the work pertaining to the sugar cane industry, and if that firm is telling you that they are not taking in apprentices, it is going to be very difficult. They tell you that they take in those who are sent to them from the Institute, but the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, the Minister of Agriculture, said in here on Saturday that the Government is faced with a problem that practically all the persons in the Agricultural Department were calling themselves experts, and this is what we are going to come up against in the next few years unless Government sees fit to increase the potential for apprenticeship training, because when you send people to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or to the other institutes and they come out with a second class or part of a City & Guilds certificate, those are the people who are going to create the problems and tell you they have got certificates, they are experts.

Mr. Chairman, my view is that the Government should create grants and make them available to persons or institutions which are prepared to accept apprentices. I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the apprentices should be given a subsistence in order that they can follow the scheme until they become workmen, because unless something like this is done, the Waterworks Department will tell you that they have not got plumbers; and with the volume of building which is going on in this community, we should have as many plumbers and carpenters as possible. Mr. Chairman, if you want a carpenter today, you cannot find one. The building industry is crying out that they cannot find carpenters, and they have not got masons. You talk about unemployment, but where are the carpenters and the masons? Where are the van drivers and lorry drivers? I spoke on Agriculture on Saturday and if the Minister chooses to find out, there was one particular factory that last year had three lorries laid up in the garage because there were no drivers for heavy goods vehicles.
3.10 p.m.

This is a serious situation; very, very serious indeed. Let us look back at the motor trade, there is the electrical side of it, do you mean to tell me that with the garages around this place that all the Government could put forward is $11,052? It means that the scheme will become limited; as a result of this limitation we will go from year to year and will soon find one day that we have not got the necessary workmen in this community to carry out work which is needed, and unless the Government does something immediately - there has got to be some crash programme or something - decide on a policy and increase this grant in respect of apprenticeship so that we can find ourselves in the position where you can have people to do the work which is necessary.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked several questions; first about Codrington College. This sum of $1,200 is the usual annual subvention which we give for the general maintenance of Codrington College. I believe it is a contribution towards their building fund, and we have been giving them now for certainly at least ten years and maybe more.

On the question of the University, the policy of the Government of Barbados is of course to support and help maintain a regional university; to this end the Government of Barbados has always paid whatever contribution it is required to meet under an agreed method of assessment. ; However, the Government does not support the contention of the Jamaican Government that they should lower qualification entry for the university; we do not support that and we certainly do not support any attempt on the par

other regional Governments to treat the university as their own special preserve. All our pronouncements, both in the Council of the University, in the Grants Committee and in the Heads of Government conferences we have made it quite clear that we support the concept of a regional university, that we will pay our fair share of any assessment which is agreed upon, and that we certainly do not approve of individual territories giving the impression that the University belongs to them. So far as our commitment to the regional concept is concerned, we stand four square by this.

On the national development scholarships, notices were published in the newspapers inviting applications for these scholarships. A committee comprising the following persons are interviewing the applicants: The Deputy Chief Education Officer, a representative of the University of the West Indies, a representative of the Medical Association, a representative of the hotel industry and the Headmaster of Harrison College, and persons with expertise in each subject area are invited to attend the interview to give technical advice to the committee. Scholarships offered are 21 as follows: 2 in architecture, 2 in land surveying, 2 in accountancy, 2 in dietetics, 2 in dentistry, 4 in veterinary science, 4 in hotel management and catering, 1 in quantity surveying, 1 in sanitary engineering, and 1 in radar or aircarft engineering.

On the question of apprenticeship bursaries, the hon. member's point is very well taken. As I have already said, we have plans to extend this type of training, but members would like to know that there were 70 applications made for bursaries for the academic year and 48 were awarded in the following trades: automobile, carpentry, joinery, welding, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to find out is what these scholarships offered are based on.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: These are either to be graduate or post graduate scholarships for people to get their first degree in any of these things, or if they already have their first degree to get Master's and Doctor's degrees.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I want to know what was the basis for awarding these scholarships; why did you award scholarships in accountancy and hotel administration? What is the basis for these particular subjects?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There were what we thought would respond to national needs, so we took agriculture, land surveying, accountancy, dietetics, dentistry, veterinary science, hotel management, quantity surveying, sanitary engineering and radar or aircraft engineering.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I thought this was the answer the Minister was going to give. I want to find out if any survey was done to see the national requirements in any of these particular subjects; you just offered two scholarships in accountancy, what is the national requirement for accountancy? What is your basis for arriving at these things? Do you just pick out subjects and award scholarships? There must be some criterion you use; do you really know the national needs of these particular subjects? When you come to hotel administration, the national needs must be more than four scholarships a year.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The point is that if you are awarding a limited number of scholarships and you want to cover the widest possible fields of national interest, it is obvious that although you may need at the given moment and could do with say ten fully trained accountants as of now, you still need land surveyors, you still need sanitary engineers and you still need architects, so what you do, you take the number and you spread it out among all the areas of need and you try and adjust the numbers to suit so that you would cover 10 or 12 fields with at least one person each.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: This is a very peculiar way of awarding scholarships, because even with the award of scholarships this must bear some relationship to the national needs, and it boils down to this. Are you saying that the national need could only provide for 23 scholarships in these fields per year?

3.20 p.m.

Do the Government recognise that the National needs would require even more than the number of scholarships being offered? Why should not the Government offer more scholarships?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, these are not the only scholarships. These are scholarships which we instituted to mark International Education Year, and these scholarships are over and above the scholarships which we award. The point is that we want all of these people, and we would like fully qualified people in all of these areas. It would not make sense, for instance, to award all 20 in Accountancy, or all 22 in another subject.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is not my point. What I am trying to find out is, how did the Minister arrive at 23 scholarships? What did you base this on? Did you carry out a survey as to the National needs? How many qualified people would you require, for instance, in Accountancy for the purposes of the Government? How many Dental Surgeons would you require? How many Surveyors would you require? How many Architects do you require? The awards of scholarships must bear some relation to the National needs.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They do.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: What are the National needs?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Unlimited.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is a bogus argument. Do you believe that Barbados could take care of 500 Architects?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It would be better to have one or two of them.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is another classic example of no proper planning.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will forgive me, may I say this again. The Government decided to award about twenty scholarships to mark a special occasion. Now, we can do one of two things: we can say that there are 20 scholarships, put the money at their disposal, take the best 20 people who apply and let them spend the money as they wish. Some would no doubt wish to do Ceramics and so on. However, we said that although we require all of these categories, we will not award the scholarships exclusively in one category to the weakness or the exclusion of another. We will spread the 20 or 23 scholarships out and we will come up with a wide range. We realise that although, for instance, we might have awarded only one in Sanitary Engineering we did not think that that was as important as the lack of qualified people, say, in Veterinary Science. In the circumstances, we would give them 4 scholarships. That is how we done it. We have not arbitrarily done it; we balanced things.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about the distribution of the scholarships to the particular field. I am just trying to find out why he arrived at 23 and not more. The Minister said that these scholarships were awarded to mark National Education Year. Do we understand that these scholarships are going to be awarded next year also?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, these are special scholarships. We are going to carry these people through.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Will the Government give consideration to awarding these National Development Scholarships as Annual Award Scholarships?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The very fact that we have started with them is an indication that we will have to continue with them. You could not stop with your one Sanitary Engineer. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is pushing an open door. Having awarded one scholarship for Sanitary Engineering, when this particular officer gets through, then we will have to give the others because you have only awarded one. Until you complete your complement, you will have to continue awarding scholarships.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, all I am trying to find out from the Minister is whether the Government will be awarding National Development Scholarships next year.

(Mr. St. JOHN: "He will not be here.")

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 29(6). The voice of the Leader of the Opposition is rather strong.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will not press the point, since the Leader of the Opposition says the Minister will not be here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Leader of the House could tell us how many Bursaries were awarded in 1970; the value of each Bursary, and in what trades?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I had said that these that we were awarding in the Academic Year 1971-72 would go to automobile, carpentry and joinery, welding....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not worrying about 1971-72. I should like to know how many were awarded in the years 1970-71. I do not want to hear anything about 1971-72.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Well, let me give the hon. member what information I have. In 1970-71 we made provision for 197 Bursaries. Some of them would have been first year, second year and so on. *(Asides)* The new ones would have been about forty-eight. This year provision has been made for 210, but I explained that of the 72 applications which were made we have awarded 48.

Mr. BOLDEN: What was the value of each of these Bursaries and in what trades?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, these apprentices are paid at the rate of $3 a month and in addition are provided with their textbooks and trade manuals.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is patently clear why you are not having more apprentices. Even if you had to come from Bush Hall to Bridgetown, $3 a month would not be able to pay your bus fare. No wonder there is only the sum of $11,000. The Government are merely giving the children 10¢ a day. There is no wonder why more people are not interested. There should be some policy whereby Institutions which are prepared to take these persons could be given some sort of grant. If you take in an apprentice in a garage, he will throw away somebody's points and break something.

3.30 p.m.

Let us take the mechanic trade. If you take in an apprentice, he is going to throw away somebody's points or break something; but what is 10 cents a day?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the national scholarship for your radar technician, where is he going to be trained?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I would like to find out from the Minister how many scholarships the Government offers annually in hotel administration.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will make a note and give those replies when we are doing the Capital Estimates. The question of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown will require some research. Apparently we cannot say where the radar technician would be trained because there have been no applications yet for that scholarship.

Mr. HINDS: The application does not determine where you are going to train the officer. It is when you are inviting applications that you are in a position to state where the person will be trained. You do not tell people you have education come and get it. You offer so many scholarships to Combermere, Harrison College or the U.W.I.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, no. If for instance there were a Barbadian studying in that particular subject somewhere at his own expense and he now applies for that scholarship, we would pay for him wherever he is.

Mr. HINDS: It might be better in such a case to give him an enabling scholarship and assist him to continue with what he is doing, but continue with what you are doing here otherwise. But we want to know where you are going to train your radar technician.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out from the Leader of the House whether these scholarships would be granted on condition that the holders be bonded to return to Barbados and work for a period after the completion of their courses. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes.) I would like to know for how long they would be required to work in Barbados. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Three years.)

Mr. HINDS: In the case of your radar technician, isn't it a case where a decision will be taken to train your technician in the country that has supplied you with your equipment? In other words, that he would become familar with the equipment from the country that he will be working on when he comes back home?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am told this is so.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, is the radar equipment that this technician will be coming back to work on the Canadian type or did it come from England? What I want to ask the Minister if he does not know, is to deny that a British firm offered to repair the equipment free and to train technicians free and you refused it in preference to a Canadian gift.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Is the hon. member saying that we were offered both British and Canadian and we accepted the Canadian?

Mr. HINDS: I am not saying you were offered any Canadian. I am saying that you were offered by a United Kindgom firm and they would have trained your technicians and you refused it and accepted a gift from the Canadians. I want you to deny this.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is nothing either to confirm or deny. Are you saying that we had a choice either of a Canadian or a British gift and we took the Canadian?

Mr. HINDS: Whether you had a choice or not, there was an underlying reason for accepting the Canadian radar equipment, and one of the reasons was that there was a servicing contract. Let the Minister deny that this was tied on to the Canadian equipment. The Minister must know about this servicing contract. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Why must I know?) The Barbadian taxpayers' money has to pay for this. I am going to ask you further if the servicing contract is in the region of $20,000 annually and who has the contract for servicing the Canadian equipment? The British firm would have trained technicians and they have people on the spot who could have serviced it until the technicians returned to Barbados, but because friends of the Government had to get $20,000 they formed a bogus firm down here just as they did with the shrimp company. Some of the same people who formed the bogus Shrimp Company formed a bogus firm for servicing the radar equipment. Ask the Leader of the House if Mr. Carlton Brathwaite is one of the people who formed this company to service radar equipment at over $20,000 annually out of the taxpayers of this country.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member wishes to tell the Committee this, I say I do not accept it.

Mr. HINDS: You do not accept the truth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. HINDS: I do not care how many members are on their feet, Mr. Chairman. I am telling the Minister just what is true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you objecting to the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: I cannot object to the ruling of the Chair.

3.40 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It has become the fashion in this house now for the last five years that if you hate people you can get up in the House and say anything about them; what can I do about that?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is suggesting that I hate Carlton Brathwaite.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know who is Carlton Brathwaite, we are not discussing anything so.

Mr. HINDS: We are discussing a man called Carlton Brathwaite.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, this Head says nothing about Carlton Brathwaite.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are discussing a radar station.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That falls under the Ministry of Education, Scholarships and Grants; I grant you that.

Mr. HINDS: And all the Minister can say, the minute they are found out, as they are found out.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, what can the hon. member mean by saying "as they are found out"? He has asked me some questions in respect of the award of a scholarship, that is how it started, I gave him the answer in the light of what I myself knew and in the light of information supplied to me. The hon. member went off on another tactic because he wanted to say something else, and he has said it, but he cannot make me admit what I know nothing about, and if I say therefore I do not accept it, I do not accept it. (Mr. HINDS: It is not that you do not know, you choose not to know.) He cannot say I choose not to know anything about it. This whole Committee, this whole House has become almost a scavenging department, every bit of garbage is dumped on the floor of this House; do you expect hon. members to be able to separate.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Minister means that the taxpayers of this country are scavengers, since the business of the taxpayers is scavenging business. That is how the Minister looks at the taxpayers of this country; we are discussing $20,000 of their money, and the Minister describes it as scavenging being dumped on the floor of this House; That is what the Minister is telling us now, Mr. Chairman, the taxpayers of this country, the people of St. Lucy now are mere scavengers, that is what the Leader of the House is saying. They are taking $20,000 of the taxpayers' money to give away to a bogus company calling themselves one Computer Devices; believe me, they could not be more aptly named, all the devices in the world to get the taxpayers' money by crookery, by deceit, by every sort of thing. Computer Devices, I cannot say that the Minister himself condones all these things.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The inference is that I condone some of them.

Mr. HINDS: He might not condone any of them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, do you see what you are up against? This is exactly what I am saying.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, he might be quite innocent, they might not let him know all these things; they might want to accuse him of telling me later on.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I contend that what we are doing here is nothing less than an abuse of Parliament.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like every member to speak on Head 37(8); the hon. junior member for St. Peter spoke about $20,000, and as I look through here there is no $20,000, for any Item. I was about to stop him, and if he can..... *(Asides)* Am I am being heckled by the junior member for Bridgetown? I am willing to hear any member on the Items before us.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question? At Item 9, how much out of the national scholarship fund will be allocated to the training of radar technicians?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It is difficult, Mr. Chairman, to answer this question because as I say to date nobody has applied for this particular type of training.

Mr. BOLDEN: I asked how much money has been allocated. Mr. Chairman, if the Leader of the House will hear me, in my view, if they have 20 scholarships, at least you must allocate so much money for a scholarship in a particular field, and that is what I want to find out. How much money has the Government allocated when it comes to radar?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: A rough calculation will tell the hon. member that if they have appropriated $220,200 and there are 22 scholarships we are awarding, divide the appropriation by the number of scholarships to be awarded.

Mr. BOLDEN: No, Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House said that this House is being treated like a scavenging department, that members are dropping rubbish on the floor of the House, but that is utter rubbish, because obviously.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It would appear as if you are agreeing with the Leader of the House because you are repeating rubbish also; will you please stick to Item 9?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on Item 9, Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with radar; are you calling radar rubbish? If radar has been termed as rubbish, I will say radar and not rubbish, but it is clear that if you are going to train people in hotel work, in sanitary engineering and in the techniques of radar, each of these fields carry different periods of time that the courses will take. The universities or the training institutes have got higher fees in respect of certain things than in others, so we just cannot divide it by

20 or 22, and even if we do that there must be a little bit left over, what are you going to do with that?

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: I have been in this House for 16 years and have been a Minister for nearly ten, and all through my Parliamentary career I have never been ashamed to say that I do not know anything, and when I tell the hon. member I do not know I really do not know, and if I can get that kind of information for him I will get it. I do not have the kind of pride that will make me tell the hon. member that I know when I do not know. I am informed that there is no allocation for each or any scholarship, we took an average cost of $5,000 per scholarship per year based on the Barbados Scholarship experience. *(Asides)*

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot hear what is going on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot hear what is going on because your own colleagues on your side are heckling you.

Mr. BOLDEN: No, Sir, with all due respect to the Chair, I heard an old voice or a young voice coming from the other side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are no old voices or young voices in here; I will not have that.

Mr. BOLDEN: I apologise, Mr. Chairman.

The question that the sum of $2,657,170 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(10) AUDIO VISUAL AIDS DEPARTMENT

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (10) Audio Visual Aids Department – was called.

Mr. HINDS: We are saying that if you are going to jump from one Head to another you should give some indication to the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am doing Head 37 (10). 3.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: We are not objecting to doing Head 37 (10) if the Leader of the House wants to do it. Just as he can arrange his business, we on this side should be given an opportunity to arrange our business.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's point is not valid, because whether I were doing 37 (1), (2), (6), (48), or (49), the hon. member would speak on it and he would be the most knowledgable person on it to the exclusion of all other hon. members. He does not have a point there.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to do is to show the hon. member what he should do in his Ministry to become familar with the operations as I am, and I am on the outside. (An HON. MEMBER: "What is before the Committee?")

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(10) AUDIO VISUAL AIDS DEPARTMENT

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (10) Audio Visual Aids Department – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $102,777 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (10) Audio Visual Aids Department - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 37 (11) - INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 37(11) – Industrial Schools – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $73,155 under Head 37 (11) - Industrial Schools - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The voice of the junior member for Bridgetown is rather strong, and he is interrupting the Leader of the House. The next time I will ask him to leave.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if you will look at the Note to Item 31, we will have to remove the "s" from the word "gears". The Note should read: "To purchase sports gear and equipment and gramophone records."

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is there any explanation to Item 14?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There is no Note to it. As I understand it, and I do not understand it too well, because every year I have to ask for an explanation of it. I understand that the Unestablished Staff are junior grades of the Established Staff, but I will get a more definitive definition for the Committee.

Mr. HINDS: Protect him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I need no protection.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, is it not a distinction between those who are paid weekly and those who are paid at a different period by the week, and those who come under one Pensions Act and those who come under another Pensions Act? I think it is those who are politically appointed and those who are not politically appointed, because this difficulty arises in the School Meals Service.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, let me put it this way. If that is the definition it is a valid one, because any side when they have the opportunity can do what they like.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, is the Hon. Minister now telling these people that they can look for a notice to quit on the appropriate date?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If you get the Government, of course, you will sack them. Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to the Note at Item 24. Strike out what it says there, and put in:

"Includes provision for medical supplies, spectacles and dentures for pupils."

Mr. St. JOHN: Dentures for pupils? Are you saying that the state of Public Health and the Health Services in this country is so bad that 16-year-olds need dentures? You should really say dental treatment, to try to cover up at least. Old people and not young people need dentures.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: When you try to cover up, you can run into serious trouble. You will be accused of all sorts of things.

Now, it appears that this provision is to pay the two watchmen. Unestablished Staff are appointed by the Public Service Commission, and consist of persons who do not hold public office in terms of the Civil Establishment Act, but who do so under the Constitution. It has nothing to do with D.L.P. yard fowls.

Mr. St. JOHN: What about the Non-established Staff? You say that there is a difference between Non-established Staff and Unestablished Staff. Look under School Meals and you will see the distinction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing School Meals as yet.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Item 27 - Vocational Training - $4,304. How many Instructors do you have?

Mr. St. JOHN: The Note says 5.

Mr. HINDS: I am talking about Item 27 . How many Instructors do you have, and what are their rates of pay?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You will have to sit while I get the information for you.
4 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: First on vocational training, provision is made for the payment of fees to instructors at the rate of $6.50 per hour.

Mr. HINDS: Is this a new scale of pay?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes.

Mr. HINDS: What were they getting before?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: $5 an hour.

The question that the sum of $73,155 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (11) Industrial Schools, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(12) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (12) Public Library – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $152,616 under Head 37 - Ministry of Education (12) Public Library, stand part of the Schedule.

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
(9) SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (9) Schools Meals Department – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, we had better make a correction. The note to Item15 should read "To pay wages for casual employees. Includes provision to pay substitutes".

The unestablished staff are persons who perform duties in posts which would normally be established. The school meals staff, at least the kitchen and cooking staff, are non-established. I think the hon. member knows that.

Now I had better give hon. members of the Committee what I have at my disposal and them answer questions which they may ask. The School Meals Department staff was established during 1970. You will remember that the Department staff was established for the first time during 1970 and will begin to function as such from April, 1971 rather than as a division of the Ministry as it at present is. During the year the service was extended to twenty-two additional schools involving about 5,000 children. This brought the numbers involved in the daily school lunch programme to 80 schools and about 17,000 children in all eleven parishes. I will give the schools.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, if on 4th March this year the Information Office released that there were 18,000 children being fed, who is right? In other words, did 18,000 eat up to the 4th March and only 17,000 are eating now?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You take the higher figure because that is to our credit. I really could not comment on that now because there is a lot I would like to be able to say on it.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, is the scheme now being extended to include 12,000 children?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The figure is 18,000; the Government Information Service is right. (Mr. HINDS: And your were wrong?) I can afford to be wrong because the correct figures gives it 1,000 more than I thought and you are always telling me I do not know what is going on, and here it is you are feeding 1,000 more children and I do not know it. *(Asides)* Anyhow I would be grateful not to be interrupted. The number of schools by parish in the school lunch programme is 13 in St. Philip, 11 in St. Michael, 10 in St. George, 9 in Christ Church, 7 each in St. Thomas, St. Lucy, St. John and St. Andrew, 5 in St. Joseph, 2 each in St. Peter and St. James, there being 38 schools which are not yet in the school lunch programme.
4.10 p.m.

Plans are being considered for the provision of an additional centre to feed some 5,000 more children. If hon. members ask me where those 5,000 more will come from, plans will be announced for the feeding of an extra 5,000 as soon as the financial year opens, but until the Minister announces this I am not in a position to say what other schools they will be. The six centres are staffed and serviced by 449 persons made up of 6 Supervisors, 12 Senior School Meals Assistants, 151 School Meals Assistants, 211 School Meals Servers, 16 Van Drivers as set out in the notes opposite page 101 in the Draft Estimates, and 46 Casual Staff and 7 Watchmen.

Headquarters Staff. The established Headquarters staff consists of 1 Chief School Meals Officer, 4 School Meals Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 2 Executive Officers, 1 Accountant, 1 Plant and Works Superintendent, 2 Assistant Accountants, 2 Senior/Clerks, 5 Accounting Aides, 6 Clerical Officers, 2 Stenographer/Typists and 1 Messenger.

Most of these posts are filled by acting appointments, but permanent appointments are being processed. It is proposed to fill only such posts as are necessary to cope with the situation; this proposal particularly affects the post of School Meals Officer and Accounting Aides, I think the establishment will call for five of them.

As for the World Food Programme assistance, the World Food Programme Agreement has been extended to continue to provide assistance for the school meals programme by way of food up to 1973 when it is expected that 34,000 school children will take the school lunch every day under this programme. It is expected that the World Food Programme assistance will amount $3,020,000 over the three year period. This Government's contribution over the same period is estimated at $6,960,624.

Storage facilities. A warehouse with over 9,000 feet of floor space will be completed by June 1971 when the cold storage equipment will have been installed. The cost of the equipped warehouse will be about $75,000 of which $25,000 represents the cost of the cold storage plant.

Transport. There are 21 delivery vans and 2 trucks which deliver supplies to the schools; 16 delivery vans are constantly in use, but all available vans are put into service as and when required. In the latter case the drivers are provided from the Casual Staff provision under Item 15.

Revenue. The estimate of revenue shows that it is expected to collect $380,000 during 1971-72. This infers an estimated net cost of the service for 1971-72 of $31.9 million. The figures, along with the $2.3 million estimated total expenditure, suggest that it will cost the Government $100 per year to feed each child, and the actual revenue collected for the period 1/4/70 to 28/2/71 is $236,248.70.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there has been one report of ill health during this financial year indicating the possibility that the school lunch may have been the source. This occurred on Friday, 12th March, 1971 when all the schools in St. John, St. George and one in St. Joseph served by the Gun Hill centre were affected. At the extremes, one school, St. George's Girls', all 268 children, all 11 teachers and all 3 school meals staff who took the lunch on that day were affected, whereas at another school, Cherry Grove, only 6 children of the 119 who took the meal were affected, and no teachers or staff who took the meal were affected. (Mr. HINDS: How many children at Cherry Grove?) 119 took the meal, I do not have the figure for the total school roll here, but of the 119 who took the meal only 6 were affected at that school. (Mr. HINDS: Is it not a case of 61 at Cherry Grove? Do not let people mislead you.)
4.20 p.m.

Anyhow, I had better say what my information is, because this might turn out to be a more serious matter than we might imagine outside the terms of this debate. Only 6 of the 119 children who took the meal and no teachers or staff were affected. The total figures are 4,071 children; 109 teachers, and 44 staff took the meal from that Centre on Thursday, 11th March, and 2,250 children, 91 teachers and 40 of the staff were affected. The report was made to the Ministry on the morning of Friday, 12th March, and immediately normal procedures were put into effect. Two schools, that is St. George's Girls' and Workman's Junior, were closed for the greater part of the day, but other schools received the school lunch from the Gun Hill Centre on Friday, 12th March, as usual.

Now, the lunch served was soused pork, sliced sweet patatoes, coconut buns and skimmed milk. It is emphasised that no other Centres were involved in any outbreaks of ill health and that the feeding programme

continued as usual, although there was a drop of about 11% of the luncheon served in the week following the 12th March from the Gun Hill Centre.

I am also informed that the Health Authorities have made a report to their Doctor who has not found anything which suggests food poisoning. They have tested samples of the food taken on the day in question, that is on Thursday, 11th March, and also the equipment which was used. They are continuing further tests. *(Asides)* There is a real possibility, and we are not saying this definitively, that the illness was a reaction to certain types of pork by some children and some adults.

I myself, Mr. Chairman, speaking personally now, would not serve anything with coconut, pork and milk all in the same menu. I am not an expert; they are the people who know what they are doing, and that is what they served for lunch on that day. I want to emphasise to the Committee, before I sit down, that I have put at the disposal of the Committee the information which I have. I, therefore, do not look forward to be accused of hiding information or of misleading the House. Any questions which are asked, I will try my best to get the information for hon. members.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, what is the difference between the 18,000 who get school meals and the 43,000 in these schools? What meals do they get?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: They would still continue to get the milk and biscuits, because the Scheme is not extended to them as yet.

Mr. St. JOHN: Any cheese?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Plain vitamin biscuits.

Mr. St. JOHN: When you expand the school meals to those areas which did not have them before, what happened to those people who were employed in the past in connection with the milk and Biscuits Scheme washing up things and so on?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am told that we retain them.

Mr. St. JOHN: Did that occur at the St. Bernard School in St. Joseph?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, while the Hon. Minister is waiting for the information, I wonder if he will tell us what is the Government's current position in respect of the personnel who have been employed in the Milk and Biscuits Scheme washing up things on a weekly basis as against those who are now in the School Meals Scheme and are paid during the holiday term. This is causing grave dissatisfaction among the various personnel. Some people want to know why when they serve milk and biscuits they are not paid during the holiday period, but those who are working with the School Meals Programme are paid throughout the year?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The people who work in the Milk and Biscuits Scheme are really called janitors. They are casual employees who are paid on an hourly basis. They are, however, entitled to vacation. 4.30 p.m.

I am telling you now that I have been trying to get this from the Ministry of Education and they have been dodging me for the longest time. I know of one person who was removed from one school and taken over to St. Bernard's new school with the school meals programme. These people are paid right through the holidays year in and year out, but when they are working with the milk and biscuit scheme, there is some cock and bull arrangement whereby the headmaster draws the money and keeps it until the end of the month and then pays them, and they are not paid at all during the holidays. I want to know what is the difference. They are all in Government, all in schools, and all in the school meals programme.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It is not like that. The position is this with the school meals people: it is true that the end of the term may come say today, and as from tomorrow and the next three weeks they are not actually feeding the children during the school vacation, but they go out to work for a week or two during the holiday sometimes for a week immediately after the end of the school term, for a week before and in between they report for duty, for seminars or lecturers; so that throughout the vacation period you will find the school meals people turning out at the request of the authorities and having various duties assigned to them either for cleaning or for study or lectures. It is rather different with the other people.

Mr. St. JOHN: This is exactly the case. We are saying that if it operates at one school, there is a possibility that it could be operating at other schools. What the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said is correct. Isn't it a fact that the money is paid to the headmasters? And as to these people, I want to know if it is not a fact that disputes have been carried to the Ministry particurlarly from St. Bernard's school in St. Joseph where a person was not getting the stipulated rate of pay, and it was only discovered four years after. I want to know what happened with it. I do not want to call names.

Mr. BOLDEN: At the same time, some of the janitors are required to work before school begins and after school is ended. It is not a question of those in the school meals programme going out for seminars. I will go further and say that some of the janitors are required to work even after school is finished to collect the milk and biscuits to carry home for the schoolmaster, and I would like an answer, otherwise I will be forced to call names.

St. JOHN: Perhaps this might help the Minister. As I understand it, janitor is another name for a porter or cleaner. I can understand how they have to work before school opens because presumably they

have to dust the schools particularly now in the country areas at this time of the year when there are cane fires. I can understand them having to work after because whether the children are supposed to eat in school or not, you know that at some time there is going to be refuse and the school has to be cleaned up; but what I do not understand is your telling me that they are paid by the hour, because from the statement made by the Hon. Minister, it would suggest to me that they are only required to work during the course of serving the meals, and they would not be required to work daily.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am sorry if I misled the hon. member. Janitors are the sweepers and cleaners. The other people work in the preparation of the meals.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am not dealing at all with the school meals. I am dealing with the two situations where you have the milk and biscuit scheme, and I want to be assured that a system has been established where these people get the pay which the Ministry stipulates, because this money goes as a vote apparently to the headmaster and he hires the people.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am seeking that assurance. I am not going to give it to you unless it has been given to me definitively.

Mr. St. JOHN: I want secondly to know that if there are people who have been working for years in this service when school meals are brought to school, they have some claim for employment. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am advised to tell the hon. member "yes")

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, another point is this: I would like to know what is going to be the position of those persons when the Ministry is alleging that they work by the hour, and they are being paid by the month. In St. Joseph there is a woman who has been to the Ministry several times complaining about her money and that they were paying her by the month, while the Ministry is saying that they are paid by the hour. I want to know what is the position of those persons because if I receive my money by the month, I am a monthly employee.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, just one little point that may assist the Minister. I am sure the officers from his Department can refer to the case, and it must be fresh in their minds still, of the former janitor of the Edgehill Memorial School. If they were just to direct their minds to that case, they would have it before them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the wages of casual employees are paid into accounts at the Government Savings Bank. The Headteachers withdraw the money from the respective accounts and should pay the casual employees based on their actual number of hours of work. If the hon. member tells me that there are some cases in which the money is retained by the headteachers and not paid weekly, this is reprehensible, but so far as the Ministry is concerned, the money is paid into the accounts at the Government Saving Bank, presumably accounts for each school, with the headteachers withdrawing what they need each week to pay the wages.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad for this answer, because there are more than one of these cases existing in St. Joseph. There was one of these cases in which I was told "don't mind this woman, she is mad!" I am glad to know that the money is paid into the Bank and the headmaster draws it, because I am now going to pursue it with all the vigour in my body, because I am satisfied that this woman is not mad.

Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Government now to hold an inquiry into this whole operation of the headmaster paying janitors at these schools. It is going to create a big stink in the community. There are at least three cases in St. Joseph.

There is another point I would like to make, Mr. Chairman. Would the Leader of the House care to tell us whether the persons who are going to be engaged in school meals are employed through the Ministry before they start work or after they start work? I ask that for a particular reason. I want to know what is the hiring policy of the persons who are going to work in the school meals programme at the schools. As a supplementary question, I should like to ask whether it is correct in the school meals service that persons are put to work and then later their services are terminated without any proper explanation.

4.40 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House has tried as best he can to devise ways and means to reduce wherever any criticism of the administration of the school meals programme. Whether or not he has succeeded is yet to be seen. However one might look at it, Sir, this scheme that has been launched since March 1963.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the conduct of the senior member for St. Peter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the senior member for St. Peter please take his seat? Let the junior member for St. Peter continue.

Mr. HINDS: It has taken 8 full years before they could feed a mere handful, 18,000 children. It is not a case, Mr. Chairman, where money was not available, it is not a case where food was not available, it was a case where workmen and lumber, material as such, happened not to be available, let the Minister tell us exactly what has brought about the delay in the expansion of this scheme. This is a case of making haste very slowly, and there is a reason behind it which the Minister was not man enough to stand up and explain to any hon. member of this Committee. We on this side of the House are

aware of the fact that there is still some conflict between the school meals programme proper and the Government's nutrition scheme, and I mean at the administrative level.

The nutrition scheme, that is what has been re-referred to by other hon. members as the milk and biscuits scheme, as a scheme which has been in operation since the year 1937. That scheme is supposed to be still in existence, it is now characterised by teaching staff as a mid-morning snack, because the time at which it is served, if one is not very careful, it can create a sort of a problem when the school meals are really served, but the school meals programme has run into trouble or has created problems for many an honest scheme that has been functioning. When this scheme was launched some of the centres of the Housecraft Centre became victims of neglect financially because the school meals programme had to be put on its feet. Since this scheme has been functioning, the nutrition scheme has also suffered because, despite all the transport which the Minister has told us is available for ferrying the meals here and there, it is a known fact that the milk and biscuits are still arriving at schools - they are not conveyed by the school meals vans, an entirely different service - the milk and biscuits arrive at the schools not on time and as a result there are cases where the children do not get their milk and biscuits when they ought to have them. This, Mr. Chairman, is not good, is not reasonable enough, and there are a number of Head Teachers who are complaining that that school meals scheme is depriving the school children of from 2 1/2 to 3 hours of timetable teaching weekly.

In the school meals programme the Government has not brought to bear any real sense of the urgency that the scheme requires, the punctuality that must be associated with the functioning of the programme. You might have all the vans drawn up at the doors of the centres, you might have everything ready, but, Mr. Chairman, we have got to look at one of the questions that was posed to the hon. junior member for St. Lucy here today with regard to the appointment of staff.
4.50 p.m.

Now, one would have thought that in selecting staff for the School Meals Service that Government's first concern would have been to make the fullest use of all those persons who had received training at the Housecraft Centre and were available for work in such a Scheme. In other words, it was the first great opportunity for some of them to put any knowledge that they acquired in the course of training at the Housecraf Centre into actual practice. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear voices. Who wants to address the Chair, will he please stand?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that has not been the case. As proof that that has not been the case, the Minister ought to be in a position to tell us out of the 151 School Meals Assistants, the 211 Servers and the 46 Casuals, how many of them possess a Grade 1 or a Grade 11 Certificate from the Housecraft Centre. We do not blame the Government for employing methods that they thought best to employ in selecting staff for the School Meals Centre. As a matter of fact, they knew that they were free to do as they like and they did as they like. But the Supervisors who are charged with getting the meals out on time from these various Centres to be sent to the various schools will tell you of the difficulty they are having inside the Centres, and what is responsible for many of the delays.

For instance, when the luncheon break comes at the Primary School or the Comprehensive School, it is the normal 12 to 1 p.m. break. At twelve o'clock the bell is rung. The Head Teacher does not say that the school meals have not yet arrived and we must go on working until 12.15 p.m. or 12.20 p.m. as the case might be. It is time for luncheon; it is time for a break, and break there must be. After the children are out for half an hour or in some cases three-quarters of an hour before the van arrives with their lunch, what is the position? There are some schools, Mr. Chairman, serving over 200 meals. At what school can you effectively serve 200 meals in a quarter of an hour and have children take those meals in a proper manner? The whole Scheme has lost its social and cultural value. You will find, except in those schools where you have Nutrition Rooms, that is those schools that are provided with tables, the system that obtains is the turning of a blackboard on top of a desk or a number of desks on which the children must be fed. That is an improvised sort of a table. There are instances, as one might expect, where the blackboard is not properly settled and it will tilt over throwing away the meals. There are instances of this. We are dealing with children, Mr. Chairman. In such cases the children will have to scramble for things. After all, it is 10¢ at stake.

It is not a case, Mr. Chairman, where meals are served in such a manner that the children are taught how to use a knife and a fork, or they can be taught table manners. It is impossible to teach them table manners in the School Meals Programme. In other words, the Scheme has reduced itself to being a mere belly full. That is what the School Meals Programme really is. We want the children to be fed decently.

Mr. Chairman, we have a classic example. Now, the Governor-General, accompied by the Minister of Education and others, carried out visits to schools recently to see how the Scheme was working. At Westbury School - this is hot meals programme- why was a bun lunch served?
5 p.m.

Why was a bun lunch served at Westbury School?: There was a reason for that because what really goes on at some of these schools at meal time is not anything to invite anybody to see, and the Minister should know all these things. There is still lacking in most

of the schools that are presently served certain facilities where these children can turn away from the class room, wash their hands, sit and be served, rise, push the chair, ask to be excused, wash their hands, play a while and be ready for the class room again. It is not that type of atmosphere that prevails, and that is what we want the Minister to look into. The Minister gave us acting upon the advice that he had received what was reported to him about the illness that had been caused in March this year by this soused pork. What the Health authorities might not have seen or known or even tried to find out is exactly what time the souse was prepared and whether or not it had been left overnight and in what type of containers. However, what I want to tell the Minister is that, as he would know, I have carried out an investigation and I have my information. I only want to take up the Minister on the Cherry Grove school. The report was given to the Minister and I would like him to look and see if that report was signed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, signed or not, the report said that six out of the 119 who took the meal were affected and not 61, as the hon. member seems to believe. The Report reads: Ministry of Education, School Meals Department. School: Cherry Grove Primary; number of participants 119 children, three teachers and two staff. Number affected: children 6; no teachers, no staff. Remarks: Children came to school as usual; six children complained of slight tummy ache. Signed: E.M. Elder. Dated 16/3/71."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not attach any blame to the Minister any more. The Minister's report can only be taken to refer to the recovery. In other words, when the person who signed that report was making it, the person was making the report on the state of recovery, that is, of the 61 persons who had been found affected, only six at this time were affected at the time of the report. That is all the person could have meant on 16/3/71.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, no. Either 119 children partook of the meal or they did not, but 119 children partook of the meal and of that 119 six only were affected and not 61 as the hon. member believes.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, I cannot expose my hand.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Do you know why you cannot? It is not a matter of exposing your hand. If I am misleading the House, if I am lying to the Committee, everybody will hear that I have deliberately misled the Committee. I have said that my information is, and I accept it, that six out of the 119 were affected. The hon. member wants me to believe it is 61, but I cannot accept that because my information says six.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's report refers to the day of the 16th. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That is when it was signed.) But the children were affected on the 11th, and what we are saying is that there was much confusion at Cherry Grove.

5.10 p.m.

What we are saying is this, that there was such confusion at Cherry Grove; let us ask ourselves this, at the Cherry Grove School there was a reasonable stock of toilet paper - I am getting down to brass tacks with the Minister now on this - and the situation became so bad with only six children, as the Minister is saying, that they had to send to the shops nearby to get additional toilet paper to serve. You either had a full stock of toilet paper or you did not have at the school, and I know what they had, and if 6 children were affected, I am telling you we are very lucky to be hearing that they are still alive, because for the amount of toilet paper that those 6 would have to use to up the stock the school had at that time.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the information given by the Minister is information which the Education Officers went to the school on the 16th when they took this form to the school, had the Head Teacher report on this very sheet and sign it and brought it back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is this, if there were 6 children affected and only 6, something went very wrong with the stock of toilet paper that was there that day; who used it?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member asking us to find out what went wrong with the toilet paper?

Mr. HINDS: What I am saying is this, that the demand for it was so great, and the demand could not have been that much great by only 6; there were 61 children affected and not 6. Why is it, Mr. Chairman, that this illness affected children on the 11th, why was the Ministry of Education not supplied with a report on the morning of the 12th? Why did you have to wait until the 16th, and not only that, you had to send out to the school to get your report.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The 11th was a Thursday; the report of what happened was on the 12th, Saturday was the 13th, Sunday was the 14th, they started investigations on the 15th and they got to this school on the 16th, and this is a factual report on what took place in accordance with the report of the Head Teacher. The Ministry of Education would have to go by the report of the Head Teacher, and you have the report here signed by the Head Teacher.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister is badly advised. I do not mind what the Minister might say, what I would like to do for the Minister right now, if the Minister provides transportation I will go and collect the Head Teacher from the school and carry every member here present to the homes of 6 and stop and say these are your 6 you reported on, and then show him a portion of the other 55. In other words, I would show him that there were more than 6; that is all I have to establish. Somebody is misleading the Minister as if to make the Minister believe that things were not as bad at this school as there were at other schools.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I want the hon. member to appreciate the fact that in a Ministry some sort of confidence has got to be placed in the officers who have to advise the Minister. We have no lack of confidence in the officers in the Ministry, and we accept that the information which they have brought is accurate information; this is why we can stand firmly here and tell you that this is factual, because we have confidence in the officers of the Ministry.

Mr. HINDS: These are all the same Civil Servants and Officers. When the same Minister, the Leader of the House, was telling was of the number of lunches provided by the school meals programme the Minister told us he had been advised that there were 17,000 meals that are presently being served. Would you expect the Minister, Mr. Chairman, to doubt his advisers? I wonder if the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would doubt the Minister in such a case if he had been advised that the programme now provides 17,000 and the Minister said so, if he would have doubted the Minister.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I want to point out that all Senior Officers in the Government Service are aware of their obligations under the Official Secrets Act. It is accepted that the advice which you get from them ought to be true and accurate advice. They are aware of their obligations and their duties, and if they advise me as Minister or any other Minister, he would find it extremely difficult not to accept their advice.

Mr. HINDS: Most of your Officers, especially in the Ministry of Education, I have said already - "Yes, Sir" and "Yes, Ma'am' .

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I wonder if the hon. member would give way so that I could put on record the reports of the other schools. I want to begin with St. Augustine's Boys; at that school the number of persons participating in the meal was as follows: 160 children, 5 teachers, 2 staff. The number affected was as follows: 114 children, 4 teachers, 2 staff, and the remarks are: "stomach disorders began at home during Thursday night, 23 pupils were unable to attend on Friday. Of those attending, about half visited the lavatory frequently, while the others visited only occasionally. One parent complained at the school." For the Girls' School, the number of participants was 171 children who took the meal, 5 teachers and 2 staff; the number affected 113 children, 4 teachers, 2 staff. Remarks: "Stomach disorders began during the night of the 11th instant, vomiting occurred in some cases. Attendance dropped from 202 to 165 on February 12.'

5.20 p.m.

St. George's Boys': 326 children participated, 12 teachers and 3 staff. The number affected was 182, 12 and 3. The remarks are: "This school was open all day, though frequent use was made of the toilet."

St. George's Girls': 268 children participated, 11 teachers and 3 staff. The number affected was 268, 11, and 3.

Mr. HINDS: At the St. George's Girls' everybody was sick.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: At St. Luke's Boys' the figures are: 286, 7, 3 and 160, 4, 3. The remarks are: "Vomiting and frequenting latrines. The first signs appeared in the early morning."

St. Luke's Girls': 218, 7, 3 and 51, 7, 2. The remarks are: "Three pupils attended the Doctor. The first symptoms appeared around midnight."

St. Luke's Primary: 188, 72, and 65, 6, 2. The remarks: "One parent complained of a child's vomiting. Some of the teachers suffered sever abdominal pains around midnight. The pupils suffered attacks before coming to school, and made regular trips throughout the day."

South District Girls': 100, 2, 2, and 88, 2, 2. The remarks are: "The majority of the girls well ill." (Mr. HINDS: "Well ill?") That is how it is put. (Mr. HINDS: "Did a Headmaster sign that?") It looks like a Headteacher. I will continue with the remarks: "Some worst than others." (Mr. HINDS: "Some well ill, but some worst than others.") Yes. "Although some were ill, they attended on Friday. The school was not closed though the toilet facilities were in demand."

Workman's Primary: 251, 6, 2 and 197, 6, 2. The remarks are: "The children and teachers took lunch about twelve o'clock on Thursday. During the night about eight o'clock many fell ill. This illness continued about Saturday. Throughout the day on Friday there were frequent visits to the latrine. The school was closed at twelve o'clock."

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. What is the date of that Report?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The 15th March, 1971.

Welch Village Junior: 45, 1, 2 and 12, 1, 2. It is a very small school. The remarks are: "Of the number reported 3 remained at home and 9 attended school. The staff was present although not feeling quite well."

Hothersal Primary: 127, 6, 1 and 120, 4, 1. The remarks are: "40 pupils were absent. During the day, a few pupils complained of pains in the stomach. One pupil had to be sent home. The others went to the lavatory frequently."

Mount Tabor Mixed: 267, 5, 3 and 180, 5, 3.

5.30 p.m.

The remarks are: After visit of Attendance Officers many of the children had to go home.

St. John's Mixed: Participants 382 Children, 6 Teachers and 6 Staff. Numbers affected 75 Children, 3 Teachers and 6 Staff. Remarks: In the afternoon more children were affected.

St. Margaret's Mixed: Participants 178 Children, 7 Teachers and 2 Staff. Numbers affected 50 Children, 5 Teachers and 1 Staff. Remarks: In as much as the children were affected, the situation was under control.

Society Mixed: Participants 209 Children, 6 Teachers and 3 Staff. Numbers affected 7 Children, 4 Teachers and 3 Staff. Remarks: Nothing very serious. Children attended as usual.

St. Jude's Mixed: Participants 354 Children, 13 Teachers and 4 Staff. Numbers affected 163 Children, 13 Teachers and 3 staff. Remarks: Sympathy reactions were very much in evidence. No unusual behaviour or use of the lavatory was noticed on Friday 12th.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, would the Hon. Minister read that again?

Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Sympathy reactions were very much in evidence. No unusual behaviour or use of the lavatory was noticed on Friday 12th. (Mr. HINDS: With 163 affected?) Don't quarrel with me; he probably sees this every day.

I think I have given all in relation to this one. I wish only to add that the exception of St. George Boys', St. George Girls', St. Luke's Boys' and St. Luke's Girls', I think I had better let the Committee know which were signed on the 16th and which on the 15th. Cherry Grove Primary's report was signed on the 16th; so was St. Augustine Boys', St. Agustine Girls'; St. George Boys' on the 15th; St. George Girls' on the 15th; St. Luke's Boys' on the 15; St. Luke's Girls' on the 15th; St. Luke's Primary on the 15th; South District Girls' on the 15th; Workmans Primary on the 15th; Welch Village Primary on the 16th; Hothersal Primary on the 16th; Mount Tabor Mixed on the 16th; St. John's Mixed on the 16th; St. Margaret's Mixed on the 16th; Society Mixed on the 16th; St. Jude's Mixed on the 15th. That is the information which I put before the Committee as it has come in from the Heads of the schools.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is... *(Interruption.)* As long as no member rises, I am entitled to put the question. So do not question my authority.

Mr. HINDS: I am not questioning your authority.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I heard someone saying "no, man!" There is no "no man" or nomads in here.

Mr. HINDS: I do not want the Chairman to quarrel with any member of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not quarrelling.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House was supposed to give us some information.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I thought, Mr. Chairman, that other hon. members were contributing to the discussion. I have some replies.

Now there was a question asked about the unexplained termination of services of somebody at St. Bernard's Primary School.
5.40 p.m.

We have knowledge of one instance where the Server was taken on by the Head Teacher from 11th November to 6th December, 1970 without authority. It took the Ministry until 19th March to rectify this position, and the authority for payment was received only today, 24th March. Payment will be made promptly.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, that seems to anticipate what I was getting at. My question was what was the method of employing personnel for the school meals service.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is in respect of a Server who was taken on by a Head Teacher. This is a particular case where the Head Teacher took on somebody without authority; I am also going to answer the method of appointment.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House has been given a reply which does not fit the question I asked. Let me explain the situation to the Leader - this is why I asked for the method of payment, and what you have been given is what was anticipated was coming after you had given the answer to method of appointment, so somebody is feeding the Leader of the House with information that bypasses what I want. I would like to get that first because I am still going to say what I want to say, and they do not know what I am coming with, so tell them not to try to anticipate me at all.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There is no reason for the hon. member to be so contentious, I have told the hon. member I will answer his question. I understood this particular reply to be in respect of a certain question concerning a particular person.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House is being misled, because whoever is feeding the information is trying to anticipate what we are asking; what the senior member for Christ Church has asked pertains to somebody else, but because they do not know what we are getting at, and because they are prepared to anticipate what is coming from this side, they are feeding the Leader of the House wrong information. I can tell the Leader of the House that the question asked by the senior member for Christ Church relates to something quite different, somebody from St. Joseph but a different instance, so do not let them mislead the Leader of the House, please.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, I cannot accept that.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is not the fault of the Leader of the House

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: What I am going to say is this, that in respect of whatever question was asked con-

cerning this, I have answered it, and I will proceed to answer the others.

There was also one asked in respect of the delay in delivery of the milk and biscuits to certain schools. There were a few cases where the milk and biscuits did not reach schools in time for serving on the first day of term; as soon as this was known, effective action was taken end the schools' supplies delivered. In order to ensure that everyone appreciates that both the milk and biscuits scheme and the school lunch programme are part of the same school meals programme, we have adopted the new name of mid-morning snack for the milk and biscuits at 10.00 - 10.15 a.m., and the school lunch for the lunch served with dessert and vegetables, and school lunch for the bun lunch, that is to say, the bread and meat or cheese with a sweet and milk, or the hot lunch, that is to say, meat and vegetables with a dessert and milk or cocoa. We do not have readily available the numbers of school meals staff that have the Housecraft Center certificate; that is in respect to part of the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, he would not have that available, and he would not have it available for another year. His answer to that ought to have been, everybody that is employed. Mr. Chairman, the Government is betraying the purpose of an institution such as the Housecraft Centre; for years the Housecraft Centre has been training people here, and apart from the few domestics employed here and some who were sent to Canada, 30 per year, of late some have been sent to the United Kingdom in the tea shop scheme, but apart from those, I have said that our people had their first break, so to speak, on a big scale in a scheme such as the school meals, so it was the opportunity for Government to demonstrate its own belief in other words, Government had its first opportunity to put money value, to attach some sort of employment value to a certificate gained at the Housecraft Centre; that is what we want to establish. If the Government had done this in the school meals programme - the same thing that the Government is doing with its school leaving certificate, it would not put an employment value on the school leaving certificate, that is why you have quite a number of children with this certificate, they do not want them at the hospital, nobody wants them in business, they just cannot get anywhere on this school leaving certificate, but at the same time people who have since become Education Officers in the Ministry, when they first entered the Ministry they entered on the school leaving certificate and nothing more.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I was not here to hear all the argument on this matter; I would like the Leader of the House to tell me, having listened to the numbers which he has given relative to the children who were needing sympathy, or who had some gastric internal disorder, I wonder if he can give this House a report on the cause. This is very important, because these things can happen and these things will happen, but what caused this? You must have brought in the Ministry of Health, in fact, I did see in the newspapers that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education were investigating it, but could you tell me what report the Ministry of Health had to make on it? I understand this was souse; can you say what the souse was made in?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I had earlier told the Committee that the Health Authorities had made a report to their doctor who has not found anything which suggests food poisoning. They have tested samples of the food which was taken on the day in question and they have also tested the equipment used.

5.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, they have tested the equipment shown as having been used. I know what I am saying.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The final Report has not yet been handed in to the Minister. I have already told the Committee what the meal was. I said that the meal was soused pork, sliced sweet potatoes, coconut buns and skimmed milk. I gave my own personal opinion that I, personally, would not have served a combination of coconut and souse, but the experts must know what they are doing. (Asides.) One other point before I sit down at this stage. An hon. member asked whether the souse was prepared the day before. My information is that it was prepared on the day of eating.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, did the Doctor test the faeces of any of the children? Were they called in early enough to do this? We are discussing people's children and not hogs.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I never suggested that.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Doctors should have been called in immediately after this thing had happened. Is the Minister in a position to tell me where the soused pork came from? Was it foreign pork, or pork kept in a deep freeze?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the soused pork came from the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me get back to the answer given by the Hon. Leader of the House. What I should like the Committee to know is the method used for appointing .....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am going to come to that, but I cannot do it until I have got rid of other things.

Mr. BOLDEN: Do not get hot.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I take an exceptionally dim view of what has happened to the School Meals Programme in St. George and in St. John. I believe that something more than a Departmental Enquiry is required in this instance. It was a year ago, and I believe it was during the time we were discussing the Estimates - (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: "It always is.") – that we had the question

of the minced rat that was served to the children in the Northern parishes. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: "You should have said the alleged.") It is difficult to see how in less than a year this sort of thing can happen again.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It is not difficult.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If we are dealing with children - children to a large extent from working-class homes - I think greater care has to be taken in looking after the interest of these people. On the last occasion when we were dealing with the minced rat, the Ministry of Health carried out an Enquiry. I really do not know whether the Enquiry was carried out, but I am sure that the results of the Enquiry was never made public.

Again, we hear that the Ministry of Health has carried out an Enquiry, and as a result nothing has been found to suggest food poisoning. I am not an expert; I do not want to cast any opinion as to what could have caused this sickness, but I think the Government owe a duty to the parents of the children involved to have a public Departmental Enquiry conducted to see the causes of the sickness that occured last year and this year. On the last occasion the Leader of the House told us that it was alleged that the children had been served a minced rat.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I did not say that. It came in here through one of your colleagues. How can you blame me for saying that?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that on that occasion the Leader of the House said that it was alleged that a minced rat had been served to the children. Whether or not a minced rat was served to the children, I think the time has come, in view of this second serving of obviously bad food, for a public independent Enquiry to be conducted to find out the causes of the sickness and to ensure that this sort of thing does not happen again in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I do not look at this as a matter of any party politics. I think this is a matter of the health of the children involved. I would not feel happy to know that I sent my child to school; she partook of meals prepared by the Government, and in eating that food she was likely to get sick. Let us take the average number of school meals served in the course of a year, and you will see the risk these children run. Sir, I am not saying that this is so, but we only know about the serious illness that took place on two occasions. I do not believe the public may be aware that any illness to such a great extent has ever taken place. In order to allay the fears and feelings of parents whose children had taken the meals and became ill, some sort of public Enquiry should be carried out to ascertain the true cause of this illness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has said that there was no trace of food poisoning. Has any test been made of the meat supplied by the Barbados Marketing Corporation? Was any Enquiry carried out at the Marketing Corporation as to the time when the meat was taken from the deep freeze? How long did it remain out of the deep freeze before it was used? 6 p.m.

I should like to know how long did the meat remain off the deep freeze before it was used? These are the things that only a public enquiry can ascertain, not anybody in a Department protecting somebody else in a Department. That is why I am against a departmental enquiry.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If the hon. member would give way, it is so easy to say these things if you do not take the trouble to understand what is actually happening. There are standing instructions and I have no reason to believe that these instructions are disobeyed. There are standing instructions that each day a portion of the meal prepared and served has to be retained maybe 24 or 48 hours, and it cannot be disposed of within a certain time; so that you can always go and see in the evening or on the next day and see what was served.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If you prepare souse in various containers, does it necessarily mean that if the fault is due to certain containers that you are going to retain some of the souse prepared in each and every container? Is that the instruction? Sir, why doesn't the hon. junior member for St. Thomas behave himself?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see the hon. junior member for St. Thomas misbehaving.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: As I was saying, Sir, these instructions would hold good if the cause could be traced to one direct source, but if you prepare souse and put it in various meal containers to be sent out to various schools, unless you are going to retain some of the souse actually put in each and every container, you are not going to have it done properly. The point is that I am somewhat suspicious of these departmental enquiries. There was supposed to be a departmental enquiry last year, and the Government has never seen fit to make public the results of that enquiry, and today I think it is only fair to have a proper enquiry carried out where you can summon before the commission persons involved with the meat from the time it was at the Marketing Corporation, the time it was taken out, the length of time it was there, the time it was sent to the centre and the people involved in the preparation of it, not just having a statement covering up somebody as you go along. (Hon. J.C. TUDOR: Why do you imagine that?) It is simple, because nobody is going to admit he made a mistake, because if anybody made a mistake, you or the Public Service Commission would have no alternative but to fire him, and he would not admit that he made a mistake in the preparation of school meals. The only way you can ascertain it is to have a proper enquiry. The Government does not want to have an enquiry and they can hide, but the time will come when you will prepare bad meals and as a result somebody's child is going to die, and then you will realise that you should have had an equiry and stopped it at an

early stage. It is a matter entirely for the Government.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I see it the enquiry would centre around the question of dealing with frozen food, and people can be fired if they made a mistake. The conjecture here today is that the souse was done in some receptacles not of the type in which it should have been done, but I think the enquiry should be along the line that if the pork for making the souse came from the Marketing Corporation - and I presume this was a frozen pig - then it must leave the Marketing Corporation at a certain time. The enquiry would ascertain how long it had left the Barbados Marketing Corporation, whether it left before or on the same day, how long it took to thaw out and so on. What happened on the last occasion is that the meat had been taken out and a lot of water was thrown on it to get it to thaw out during the same morning; but in this case the enquiry would deal with the question of frozen foods, not that somebody would wilfully in the preparation of food make such a mistake. This is where I was shocked to find that a proper enquiry was not made about the frozen meat, because the pork I presume was frozen and not a freshly killed pig, and therefore you had to move it from the Marketing Corporation. That is why in dealing with frozen food you will find that all the people who used the souse were not affected.

There was an occasion when the hon. junior member for Bridgetown and his brother used some frozen food, and other people who used some of it were not sick, but they were sick. You are taking frozen meat from the Marketing Corporation and lugging it to St. George or bringing it to Reed Street and to other places, and this will happen again unless they are told what to do. Why do you think the Ice Factory asked the Government to let them get a piece of land on the Deep Water Harbour site to put the frozen meat which came from Australia for trans-shipment? They found that in the time taken between the Deep Water Harbour and the Ice Factory in Bay Street the meat became dangerous. You know that what I am saying is true, Mr. Chairman. It happens with chicken parts and with other frozen foods. This is where an expert enquiry is necessary so as to point out that such items should be used within a certain time, because some people take out things and try to thaw them out overnight or during the same morning. I do not accuse anybody of doing it, but this is the second time this has happened. On the last occasion when the rat question came in, they had taken the meat from the merchant in Roebuck Street and put it on the ground in the bags and the rats got in. You have the Director of Medical Services and you have Meat and Food Inspectors who would know to give instructions about frozen foods, and if they carried out these instructions I do not suppose this would happen again.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, one difference that I have with the Minister about his figures is with respect to his Cherry Grove School where the figure "1" dropped off and left the "6" from the amount that were affected, and at St. John's Mixed, I would like the Minister to find out if those affected were not 119 instead of 75. Everybody, Mr. Chairman, is sorry to know that the scheme is not working as well as we would like; we appreciate the fact that there can be mishaps, and we do expect at some time or other something will happen, but in the case of this souse that is supposed to have affected all these children, it is not a case where - as the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has said - that Government should take it upon itself to carry out a mere departmental enquiry, this is a case where we know that the meat was boiled the day before it was soused, and that cannot be denied, I do not mind what attempt might be made to deny this, and members must not allow themselves to be fooled in a matter of this sort.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is impugning the integrity of the Public Service.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, no, I am on my feet, I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members please sit?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is this, the hon. member asked me a question, I gave a reply, the reply was that the souse was prepared on the same day, and the hon. member is saying now it was prepared the night before.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who just sat down claims to be a first-class cook. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not claim to be, I am). I am not saying that the souse was made the night before, the meat was boiled the night before and left in aluminum containers.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: But that is not my information.

Mr. HINDS: I do not mind what information the Minister gets.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The preparations were made on the same day; I take preparations to include the boiling of meat.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that is worrying me in this whole exercise, if not, I would sprawl the Minister flat with the information I have at my disposal.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You would be sprawling the Public Service of this island.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Hon. Minister is the first person who admitted in here that these people are appointed by virtue of political patronage, and now he is talking about the Public Service.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This is not what we are talking about, I just want to make this clear. When I talk

about impugning the integrity of the Public Service it has nothing at all to do with the appointment of the school meals staff, all I am trying to say is this, that if I am advised definitively and truthfully as I believe, and I have given an answer which I have got and the hon. member says it is not so, he is saying that the people who advised me are misleading me and causing me to mislead the House.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister recall that some time last year when we had the attack when children were affected by the minced rat in meat that the Minister had been advised by all his Education Officers and everybody else in the Public Service, and he came here and trotted out some figures to us and I sat here and when I rose I asked the Minister "would you please check your figures and find out if you did not make a mistake here" and I then gave him the figures, and in many cases the Minister confirmed that my figures were correct?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That was then.

Mr. HINDS: So all of his Public Officers were dead in those days or they are dead now or something of the sort; a new type of Public Officer now comes to hand.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That was on that occasion, but on this occasion what the hon. member says contradicts the information which I have given to the House, and I have made it my business to check and double check, I have spoken myself and I have sent messages to people advising me asking them where there is any possibility that I may be mistaken, and I have been advised that there is no possibility whereby I can be mistaken, because all the preparations for the souse were made on the day on which it was served.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is trying to throw the hon. member off his feet by talking about impugning the integrity of the Public Service. We know the information you get is from the Public Service; what we are saying is that that information can still in fact be incorrect because the source of that information must come from a person who was appointed by political patronage, because the Public Servants who gave you the information and prepared the information were not the people who were present when it was prepared. That is the point.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No, no, no, unless you are saying that the people who provided the information, as well as the people who brought it to me, have a special reason for concealing the truth.

Mr. St. JOHN: I am not saying anything about the people who brought it to you, because the primary information can only come from people who actually saw it, who were present, the rest must be secondary, and I am not casting any aspersions on them, but in a situation like this, it is obvious that it is embarrassing. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: To whom?) Mr. Chairman, the hon. member welcomes the situation if he does not think it is embarrassing, he is pleased with it. What the Hon. Minister must never forget is that more than one person was present, and just as you have one source, obviously the hon. member has another source.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Leader of the House if his Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education did not pay a visit to the Gun Hill Centre.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Let him tell me if his Parliamentary Secretary was not accompanied by other officers. On that occasion, let him tell me if the Parliamentary Secretary herself did not express surprise at what she had seen.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Surprise at what?

Mr. HINDS: At what she had seen. In other words, when it was thought at the Centre that the Parliamentary Secretary was not herself or, apparently, had forgotten that she herself had been trained in nutrition and had some experience in the field, an attempt was made there and then to hide the facts from her. They tried to hide the facts from the Investigating Team. *(Asides)* You must kill the people who told me that is all. You can kill the people who brought out the news.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I do not know them. How can you say that?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are saying that an attempt was made to withhold certain information from the Investigating Team.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On what grounds?

Mr. HINDS: On the grounds that at the St. George Girls's School the 268 children, 11 teachers and 3 members of the staff who ate the food had all taken sick. In other words, everybody could have died.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: What about the 5 out of 119 at Cherry Grove?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is trying to be clever. I am maintaining that at Cherry Grove 61 children were affected.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the figure is 6 out of 119 and not 61 as the hon. member has stated.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the "1" may have dropped off the "6".

Mr. St. JOHN: That is your information.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: What must I go by? Must I go by his?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is asking why should anybody at Gun Hill try to cover up what has happened. The Minister has all of the facts before him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I have given them to the Committee.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at South District Girl's School 100 ate the food and 88 were sick. Are you making fun?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: How about the other people at Society Mixed?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Society Mixed 209 people ate the meals. I am saying that at Society Mixed 209 people were served, but I cannot say how many ate it. Only 7 school children, 4 teachers and 3 members of the staff were affected. Mr. Chairman, we are sorry for all of this, but you cannot prevent us from taking these figures throughout the length and breadth of Barbados.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would not wish you not to.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member has forgotten that he made the ex-Minister of Health cry in here over a rat at the Hospital.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat surprised at the callous indifference of the Leader of the House. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The junior member for the City must withdraw that remark.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I withdraw that remark. I will say the apparent callous indifference that he has for the children. He comes in here and says that this is his information. It makes it more imperative that an independent public Enquiry should be held in this matter. We are not trying to put any blame on any civil servant or to attack the creditability of any civil servant. The civil servants gave the Minister information, but they could only give what information that was supplied to them. In the circumstances, the only way to arrive at the truth is by having a public Enquiry into the matter.

Mr. Chairman, the Government may well feel that holding an Enquiry would be an embarrassment to them, but the Government must weigh two things in the scale in this matter: on the one hand they must weigh the public embarrassment to them, and on the other hand they must weigh the likelihood of a repetition of this sort of thing as well as the health of the school children who take these meals daily. It is necessary to weigh these things. It is quite clear that it is imperative in these circumstances that a proper public Enquiry should be carried out.

This idea of having a Departmental Enquiry is not good enough. Somebody will go and ask somebody at the Centre what happened and the information will be passed on to the Permanent Secretary and then to the Minister. That is not good enough, and we cannot accept that sort of thing where the health of children are involved. That will not be a proper Enquiry. We want to have this matter properly investigated.

As the senior member for Christ Church has said, it was the Leader of the House who got in here and took the former Minister of Health to task some time ago. I remember reading in the newspaper that he spoke about a rat biting a patient in the old Hospital and the patient died. He was the then Leader of the Opposition when he pointed out that the rat not only bit the child, but that the child died. He said that the rat ate the child. The Hansard will show the speech made by the present Leader of the House when he was in the Opposition. I would hate to think that the 10 years that have intervened would make the Leader of the House to appear so indifferent to the suffering of school children.

6.30 p.m.

I think it was last night that the hon. member said that when you are in Opposition you say one thing, but when you are in Government you say something else. It appears that you feel for people when you are in the Opposition, but at any rate when you do like the Democratic Labour Party and become the Government you no longer feel for them. You feed them minced rat and bad souse. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order No. 29 (6) is being contravened.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I would like to find out from the Minister if any enquiries were carried out at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. We have heard about enquiries being carried out as regards the cooking of the meat. Are you in a position to say if any enquiries have been carried out at the Barbados Marketing Corporation? (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will answer your questions when you are finished speaking.)

Mr. St. JOHN: Would the Minister give us the assurance that in view of the occurence of this outbreak which now appear to be annual and around Estimates time, that he will institute as elaborate measures as possible to prevent these things in the form of checks?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I will give the hon. member the assurance that we will do all that we can to prevent this thing, not that we can give the assurance to prevent it. Hon. Members must remember this, and I would like to be able to address the Committee without being interrupted because I have not only the views of the Government to prevent, but my own personal views on a matter like this. First of all my own personal views, because when I say what I personally think, I will indicate when I am speaking for the Government.

First of all as to this incident, it would no more occur to me to fix a menu which included souse and a coconut preparation and milk in a child's diet than I

would jump into the sea. I am of the opinion that even if the pork was the best possible pork and the freshest, and cooked in the most sterilised conditions and in the quickest possible time, and even if no time had elapsed between its being treated in its frozen state and in its thawed state, given all these ideal conditions, a combination of pork and a bun made with coconut and skim milk is likely to lead to a stomach upset, and therefore I personnally feel that the preparation of the menu is at fault, although it is perfectly possible that all the other conditions may have obtained, but that something may have been wrong with the pork itself or with the equipment or in the handling. I give the Committee that.

Mr. Chairman, when I was Minister of Education, my view has always been and still is that the meals for the children in the school meals service should always be a simple meal consisting of a combination of one starch, two vegetables, meat or fish, or one starch, a vegetable and a fruit preparation or a salad with something to drink. I have noticed as the years have gone on all sorts of variations and expert interference, if I may say so, has been given and what was designed in my opinion to be a simple nourishing meal and well balanced, is now an exercise, in my opinion, of nonsense. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I would like to hear from the Leader of the House what he considers an exercise in nonsense.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I said and I will repeat that my conception has always been to prepare and serve a meal consisting of a starch with meat or fish with either two vegetables or with a single vegetable and a salad and a fruit drink; but I said that as the years have gone on we have taken what was a simple conception and made it an exercise in nonsense, and that is why I say that for me the menu planned on that particular day was nonsense, and I would not devise this kind of menu because anything could happen with it.

Mr. St. JOHN: I have heard of pudding and souse, but I have never heard of souse and coconut bread.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That's it. So that we must get this clear and you have to be fair minded when you are discussing these things, because if even in the most ideal conditions you can get a stomach upset from that combination, it is obviously more than likely that you would get a stomach upset if in addition to that combination there is no slip up either in preparation or in the length of time frozen meat has been lying around or in the equipment you used.

Now I go on now to the next point. Let me answer the hon. junior member for Bridgetown first. If you are going to quote something against me, you have not only to quote what I said, but also time and circumstances and also attitude. At no time when I have been addressing this Chamber whether in Opposition or in Government have I ever given the impression of callousness or indifference, because I do not feel that way about things; so I could not say anything which would make anybody believe that I am callous or indifferent, and what on that occasion made me fly at the Minister of Health was when we drew to his attention that the child had died because it had been bitten by a rat, he said the child would have died anyway.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, and as a result of the Minister saying so you attacked him! (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes.) This is why I felt from listening to you today that you appeared to be callous and indifferent to the children in the school meals programme.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Neither by word or gesture has anything come from this side of the Table which would lead the hon. member to think that there has been callousness or indifference. Now I want to move on from the particular to the general, and I am here speaking for the Government.

Now everybody knows that the school meals service is a Democratic Labour Party concept and programme. We know this and the other side knows it, and the facts are that when we said that we would introduce this programme, the otherside said they would not and that it could not be done. We are therefore well aware of the fact that the inclusion of this programme and its administration would be most carefully watched, scrutinised and criticised on occasions by the other side, because it is one of the things that is recognisably ours and not theirs, and we would not look for sympathy from the other side in the carrying out of this programme, and we would always feel that if the slightest thing goes wrong, more is going to be made of it because it is ours and nobody else's. It was on this basis that in 1962 I personally advised the Cabinet that the appointments to this service for the unestablished staff should rest on the recommendation of the Minister to the Governor-General, and it is so today.

6.40 p.m.

A Cabinet decision of I believe the 27th November, 1962 records my advice and the acceptance of my advice by the Cabinet, so there is no mystery about this, the Minister appoints but not out of his head or any whim or any caprice, he has established an elaborate machinery for interviewing, for screening, for all the processes needed for recommendations to come to him for him to make his mind up. (Mr. HINDS: I know differently, you know). If the hon. member knows differently, this is how it is, there will be no burking the issue on this, school meals appointments are by any description political appointments. I know that when I say this a lot of the people opposite or even outside this House think that when you say something is a political appointment it is necessarily a bad appointment or an inferior appointment; I do not take this view, and I want to say this, and I want to be believed, because if a Government other than mine own were in power and they chose to carry on this system this would be all right with me, do you know why? I have confidence that other politicians outside my own Party exercise the same kind of judgement as politicians in my Party can, I do not feel that politicians are inferior to Public Servants, I do not feel the Public Service Commission is necessarily a better judge or more scrupulously inclined than any politician can be. The highest office that you can hold in any country is to be elected to political office in its Parliament or in any elected

office, and once you have been elected in a free and fair election and are vested with authority of governing, I see no reason why some of that authority cannot be exercised in the selection of persons for public employment. This is how I feel about it.

In this particular area we have exercised this authority, and if they had the Government and they chose after due deliberation to maintain the system we have set up, I personally would publicly defend them, not on the ground that we had done it before, but on the ground that it is the right of elected persons vested with authority to run the country in the way they see fit, and they ought not to be harassed and cursed because they exercised their own proper judgement on the affairs which are brought before them; that is how I feel about it, so I have never been of the school which shouted political interference, because I genuinely believe that politicians because they have been elected share higher office and higher prestige than almost anybody else in the country, and in the days when more power rested with appointed officials than with elected officials, elected members of this Assembly, there was all the justification on the world for asking for the power to be shifted from them there, and therefore it is all right now in Opposition to talk about politicial interference, undue political this, victimisation; those are good rallying cries in Opposition, but a Government must know how to govern, and I would not be in this Party if ever it came to the point of having to make an excuse for appointing the school meals people politically.

I wish to say this in going to another most important point, a lot of people believe that the mere fact of being elected in this Chamber or anywhere else robs politicians of all the qualities which other non-elected people have. Mr. Chairman, I do not accept that, every one of the 24 of us in here is a different kind of person from the two hundred and whatever there are outside, do you know why? They have chosen us, and a lot of the people who criticise us and say we have no right occupying the positions we occupy or that we cannot be trusted because we are politicians and we are getting too much of the taxpayers' money and all of this, a lot of those people could not stand anywhere and persuade the rest of us to vote for them, and therefore those who have been elected in here are in some special sense the true representatives of the people because we have been chosen by the others outside who cannot get in, and to my view, I do not accept the fact that because my Government is in power and we have to do certain things and to set out certain policies, that we are necessarily more wicked than the average run of person or that we have ulterior motives. As long as the Democratic Labour Party is in power the school meals appointments will be made that way; it is open to another political party to change the method of appointment, and if they in their judgement they do this they have a right to be obeyed as any Government should be obeyed when it is acting constitutionally and nobody in this country, even our supporters, ought even to be so mad as to say our Government did it one way, look how they now come and change it. They have a right to change it if they wish to change it, and to impress their own authority and their own way of doing things on the community. The idea that when a Government makes a decision this decision is not to be accepted merely because a political party made it is a dangerous innovation and a still more dangerous doctrine, because once you accept that a part with a majority elected to govern has the right within the Constitution to do what it sees fit, once you accept this, it is open for a different party having different views, if it gets the confidence of the electorate, to do differently without being challenged.

I cannot hold out any hope that so long as we remain in power we will make any change, because this is how we see it. The assurance I would like to be able to give is this, because I feel just as strongly as the hon. members opposite about it, that more than extraordinary care ought to be taken in this service by the people who work in it to give the children the most nourishing and the best prepared meals because it is there for the children. I want hon. members also to have a sense of proportion and fair-mindedness in another respect. Obviously you can only hear about these things when something happens, but think of it, if you serve 18,000 meals a day on 195 days a year - I do not know how much that is, but it must certainly be more than three million meals in a school year which are being consumed - and sometimes for a period of 11 months or so we do not have any incidents reported, and if they are reported they do not assume the seriousness of this proportion. Why is it that at Estimates time when attention is focused on the business which the House has to do in Committee of Supply, a business I may say, Mr. Chairman, which we have been doing very deliberately in these last few days, why is it that we hear this kind of thing at this time? It has only happened twice so far at Estimates time, so I cannot say that the long arm of coincidence has stretched this distance, but I shall watch next year very carefully to see what happens. I want hon. members to understand this, nobody on this side could be happy about this kind of incident, this is painful to me, to all of us just as much as it is to hon. members opposite.

6.50 p.m.

It has happened during the Estimates. How many times did it happen outside of the Estimates?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that is a natural concomitant of bulk cooking. As a matter of fact, there is not a single one of us who at some time at least once during the year in our own households that does not have this kind of problem. It is a peculiar kind of problem. You can have it in your own household that everybody partakes of a meal and all but two people get sick. You can have it in an hotel. Some people are sensitive to concoctions and combinations of food.

Now, in the School Lunch Programme, I would feel as much disturbed if only one child in 18,000 was ill as I would be disturbed with 4,000 or whatever the number is. I do not want to hear of any one child being ill. I want hon. members to understand that the School Meals Service has come to stay in this Island. The very nature of criticisms makes me think that it has come to stay. Nobody is seriously going to come out and ask for its abolition. Even the Barbados Labour Party they have had a little re-thinking.

The same one that said that the child would die anyway, said in this House that whenever they came back to power they would take all the pots and pans, bore holes in them and send them to.....

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Will the Minister state the date on which an hon. member said that?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: At Estimates time around March 14, 1964 or 1965. Freddie Millar said that he would bore holes in the pots and pans and sent them to.....

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Are you sure that the hon. member did not say that he would bore holes in the pots and pans you had provided because he knew they were unsafe?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it would be strange to bore holes in pots which were being used to make them more safe. He would be boring holes in pots that were being used.

Mr. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of what the hon. member was saying is that just as this hon. member is saying that they must have the right to appoint the cooks, because they felt that if the Public Service Commission appointed them some of the D. L. P's would sabotage the Scheme, he wanted to be sure that when we returned to power we could be sure of the cooks, pots and pans that they have provided.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: If that is your interpretation of what he meant, than I will have to accept it, but it is not my recollection of what he said. It means that, in boring holes in the pots and pans we have provided, some time would elapse before you got your new pots and during that time the children would not be fed; so you would be against feeding them.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the only distinction is that the hon. member is not correct. The D.L.P. preached that it would be free, but what the B.L.P. preached was that you could not afford to do it free in the context of the economy of Barbados. We were right, because you are charging them 10¢ for the meals.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You want to draw me out. When the time comes you will hear what will be free and what will not be free. Let the argument rest there.

Mr. HINDS: Have you received the equipment from Puerto Rico?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister in his long defense said that the method of appointment was an elaborate machinery. I should like to inform the Leader of the House of the true position. In St. Joseph a girl went through all the processes; she was elected; she went to Enmore and took her medical examination; and she was told to work.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member going to be lengthy?

Mr. BOLDEN: No, Sir. I will not be long. I was saying that in St. Joseph a girl went through all the processes and she was put to work. This is why I said earlier that the person feeding the Minister with information anticipated what I would say. After she was employed for a month, she was turned off from working, and the excuse given was that she was too young to be employed in the Government Service. She was about seventeen or eighteen years of age. That is why I have enquired about the method of appointments. Now, after she was turned off, the answer given to the Leader of the House was dealing with her pay. It is said that she will get her pay, but this was since December last year. If there is this elaborate machinery for appointments, how is it that you can put somebody to work, send them to Enmore for a medical examination, and after employing them for one month, you can tell the person that she is too young to work in the Government Service and will have to be sent home? When enquiries were made in the Department, nobody seemed to be conscious that she was put to work by somebody in authority.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Headmaster selects the people to work, and then their names are approved by the Minister of Education. It was said at that point that the Minister of Education did not approve of the name of this girl. The machinery seems to work for people already employed and not before they start to work. I want to get this matter straight. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Cammie in here.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what about the equipment from Puerto Rico?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am advised to say "No". Tenders were invited and we got equipment from the United Kingdom, Canada and from the United States of America, but nothing from Puerto Rico.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the Leader of the House said he would look into this case, I wonder if he would find it possible to have this young lady re-employed somewhere? It is a sad blow for a young person to start to work, and, after working for one month, to be given the excuse that she is too young to be employed in the Government Service.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will discuss it with the hon. member and see what I can do, but I should not like to give any assurance here that I can get her employed. I think it will be a problem, but I am sympathetic, and I should like to see what can be done.

The question that the sum of $2,315,312 under Head 37 – Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department – stand part of the schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7 p.m.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

On Resumption:

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. Thereto it now reverts.

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

HEAD39 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Head 39 – Ministry of Health and Scoial Welfare – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the sum of $6,469,001 stand part of the Schedule, it is incumbent to me not only to give some more information that I have, but also in cases where there are increases to give a break-down, because hon. members are entitled to know how any large increases will be spent. You will observe that I have to deal with the whole Head although it is broken down into various sections. In doing so there are a few large increases and some not particularly large, but I think I should at least give you how these increases are made up. For example, Item 128 - Office Expenses - the amount of $8,900 is for maintenance of duplicators, bicycles, adding machines, typewriters $1,000; maintenance of chairs, desks, tables, presses, fans $500; minor replacements, locks, cushions, punches, flasks, refills etc. $500; office duplicating materials including plates $1,700; stencils, carbons, correctine fluid $1,000; duplicating, typing and graph paper $1,000; envelopes, air forms, diaries, foolscap, note books, blotting paper $740; pins, clips, gloy, stamps, ink, staples, ribbons $460; postage for administration $146. (Mr. HINDS: Move on from that item!)

Item 133 - $600, and it is made up of Public Health prosecutions including cost of copies of proceedings. Item 134 - Contingencies, has been increased by $2,000. As explained the contingency vote is for unforeseen expenses, and that has taken up quite a good deal of our time in explaining how that money is spent. The contingency vote cannot be spent except with the consent and approval of the Cabinet. Under Item 135, we have co-ordinated the applied nutrition programme, $28,860. It is made up of salaries $21,720, office expenses $650, maintenance of vehicle $990, general expenses $5,500. Under Item 138 - Maintenance of Buildings, the note explains that in the Ministry of Health we want this vote for repairing outpatients clinics, and that work is done by the maintenance engineer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Under Item 139 - Medical Aid Scheme, an amount of $20,500 is being sought. Under the scheme assistance is given to needy cases that cannot secure medical aid here and have to be sent on the recommendation of consultants either to Jamaica or Trinidad. It is estimated as far as Jamaica is concerned that passages for 28 patients in the next financial year will amount to $11,000, passages for eight escorts amount to $1,950. As far as sending patients to Trinidad is concerned, passages for five patients amount to $1,250, passages for two escorts $100, hospitalisation $500, special fees $200, other treatment $250. For the United Kingdom, U. S. A. and Canada one patient and one escort, passages, hospitalisation, special fees etc. $4,000, and other expenses, subsistence allowance for escorts $300, travel tax $50; rehabilitation $500, stamp purchases, funeral and other incidental expenses $400. That is the medical aid scheme in which we have quite a number of patients. Last year the amount voted was $16,500 and this year we are increasing it to $20,500, because you will remember that we came for a supplementary.

Under Item 143, the mobile dental unit scheme is being revised and reorganised.

Mr. HINDS: I do not want to stop the Minister, but I would prefer if he would go back to Item 141. It would assist us greatly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The amount of $16,000 is being sought under Welfare $2,500; Public Health Inspectors Course "A" $1,800; Course "B" $1,000; Course "C" $1,500; Dispensers first year $1,200; second year $1,200; third year $1,200; laboratory technicians $1,600; visiting nurses $1,000; equipment and general expenses $1,000, making a total of $16,000.
8.15 p.m.

Under the Special Services, Item 143, the amount of $76,200 was voted in 1970-71; this year the amount is slightly less, it will now be $75,000. There is a slight decrease, and the reason for that is that the whole scheme is being re-organised. The breakdown is as follows: dental sessions $28,200, visual $13,000, uniforms $2,000, retaining fee Senior Dentist $600, dental supplies $4,000, upkeep of dental unit $500, Health Centres $2,000, Queen Elizabeth Hospital $1,000, replacements high and low speed apparatus for filling $1,300, spectacles and repairs $13,000, hearing aids $2,000, uniforms $400, equipment for psychologists $5,000.

Item 146. The amount of $5,000 is being sought for assistance for approved medical projects.

At Item 151 there is an increase and it is caused by the fact that on this occasion we are merely seeking provision for miscellaneous items like brooms, trays, pails, etc., and the breakdown is, at Enmore Health Centre $650, North $220, South $400, that is for the purchase of brooms, trays, pails, etc., and not other more expensive items which were ordered last year like medical and surgical instruments, syringes, sterilizers, etc.

Office Furniture. $1,700 was voted last year and this year the amount has been reduced considerably.

Medical Supplies at Item 152. The amount of $100,000 is being sought, and the breakdown is as follows: drugs $14,750, anti-biotics $24,400, disinfectants and dressings $1,400, anti-diabetic $6,900, vitamin and food supplements $41,400, precriptions $3,950, other medicines eye drops, etc. $5,200, medical and surgical equipment, syringes, sterilizers, beds, sheets, $2,200, and it is made up for the various centres. Enmore $57,000, North $21,000, South $22,000.

Office expenses, Item 153. The amount of $11,000 is being sought, and the breakdown is as follows: Office furniture and equipment $2,000, stencils, duplicating paper, carbon, correcting fluid $2,200, envelopes, typewriting ribbons and paper $1,400, notebooks, diaries, foolscap books $1,300, gloy, stamps, ink, staples, etc. $400, cleaning district clinics $200, rental of subcentres $265. I do not want to tire the Committee and I hope I am not doing this, but to continue with Office expenses, Item 153, Rediffusion $100, toilet paper, tissues, etc. $2,000, cleaning materials, etc. $225, and it is made up for the various health centres, Enmore $4,500, North $3,500, South $3,000.

Item 155 - Films and X-Ray Accessories. $10,000 is being sought, and it is comprised of films $5,000, chemicals $2,000, storage and refrigeration $250, upkeep of X-Ray machine $1,250, X-Ray envelopes $1,500.

Item 156 - Maintenance of Vehicles, $17,500 is being sought. Insurance of 13 vehicles at $100 each, $1,300, fuel, repairs and maintenance, 13 at $930 plus $10 and 13 at $1,000 $14,300. Emergency car hire and truckage $1,880, upkeep of bicycles $20, and for the various centres, Enmore $7,000, North $4,500, South $6,000.

Item 157 - Upkeep of Laboratory. Laboratory equipment $3,000, laboratory chemicals $5,000, eggs, rubber, linens, gloves, detergents and repairs $500.

Item 158 - Health Education. Equipment for reference libraries, posters, leaflets and printed material $4,500.

Item 161 - Control of Infectious Diseases. The amount of $69,500 is being sought and the breakdown is as follows. Superstructure $8,500, Installation costs $3,900, cleaning pits and repairing groundsels $13,600, digging pits $3,500, field equipment, wheelbarrows, rubber boots, spray guns, shovels, etc. $5,600, disinfectants, insecticides, and anti - material, oil, lime, etc. $10,370, rat extermination, bait and equipment $3,300.

Item 164 - Linen, Bedding and Clothing. The amount of $1,775 is being sought and is made up as follows: bedding, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, towelling, mosquito nets and some domestic $1,100, clothing, diapers, overalls, infant gowns, doctors aprons, etc. $675, and it is for the maternity hospitals, Oistin $1,200 and St. Andrew $575.
8.25 p.m.

Now, still under Maternity Hospitals, we come to Item 168 - Provisions - $20,000. Meat, chicken, milk, fish and dairy products $10,000; fruit juices, jam, jello, meat, flour, bread, biscuits, peas, cereals, $5,500; tin meat, fish oil, vegetables, potatoes, spices, split peas, tea, cocoa and ovaltine $4,500.

Item 170 - Maintenance of Buildings - $5,000. This is for the two Maternity Hospitals. Oistin $3,000 and St. Andrew $2,000. I do not think hon. members want me to go on, because it must be rather tedious listening. Probably I should go to one of the real big items which may need clarification.

Mr. Chairman, I will move to Item 183 - Provisions - $700,000 - under District Hospitals. Now this is comprised of groceries, etc., milk, meat, bread, vegetables, ice, fruit and so on. There are 1,100 persons at $2 per day. That is the average.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have not been following the Minister's notes very clearly. He said something about $2 per day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, I am dealing with Item 193 - Provisions. It is comprised of groceries, etc., and it is estimated at 1,100 persons at $2 per day. At the St. Michael District Hospital the amount estimated to be spent is $382,000; Christ Church $75,000; St. Philip $108,000; St. Thomas $63,000; St. Lucy $72,000. This is based on the population, of course.

Item 184 - Clothing and Uniforms - $25,680. Matrons, Ward Sisters, Midwives, Staff Nurses, Nurse Assistants, Ward Maids, Domestics, Porters, and Ambulance Drivers. Those are the various categories for whom uniforms have to be made, and it is broken down as follows:

		$
St. Michael District Hospital	-	12,000
Christ Church " "	-	3,270
St. Philip " "	-	3,400
St. Thomas " "	-	3,000
St. Lucy " "	-	4,010

Linen, clothing and bedding amount to $44,700 being sought. That is at $40 per inmate, making a total of $44,700. The money is allocated as follows:

		$
St. Michael District Hospital	-	24,000
Christ Church " "	-	4,800
St. Philip " "	-	4,800
St. Thomas " "	-	4,000
St. Lucy " "	-	5,100

Now, Item 186 - Office Expenses - $32,300. It is comprised of the following items:

		$
Insecticides	-	4,680
Detergents	-	12,220
Cleaners	-	2,350
Envelopes, pens, notebooks, foolscap paper, Rediffusion, T.V. rentals; newspapers, toilet paper, etc.	-	13,050.

For the various District Hospitals -

		$
St. Michael	-	17,600
Christ Church	-	3,600
St. Philip	-	4,100
St. Thomas	-	3,250
St. Lucy	-	3,750.

Now, Item 187 - Utilities - $35,000. The breakdown is as follows:-

		$
Fuel	-	16,000
Light and Power	-	7,000
Water	-	12,000.

For the various District Hospital-

		$
St. Michael	-	13,000
Christ Church	-	6,000
St. Philip	-	6,500
St. Thomas	-	3,500
St. Lucy	-	6,000.

Item 188 - Furniture and Equipment - $23,000. This amount is for maintenance of furniture and equipment, instruments, utensils, etc. The breakdown is as follows:-

		$
St. Michael	-	8,000
Christ Church	-	4,000
St. Philip	-	4,000
St. Thomas	-	3,000
St. Lucy	-	4,000.

Item 192 - Entertainment - $4,000. This provides for Christmas festivities, the choir, the Police Band, excursions, etc. The amount is allocated to the various District Hospitals as follows:-

		$
St. Michael	-	300
Christ Church	-	1,300
St. Philip	-	800
St. Thomas	-	600
St. Lucy	-	1,000.

Item 193 - Maintenance of Grounds - $3,600. This is for the upkeep of roadways, grounds, gardens and provision for maintenance of lawn mowers. The breakdown is as follows:-

		$
St. Michael	-	1,200
Christ Church	-	600
St. Philip	-	600
St. Thomas	-	600
St. Lucy	-	600.

8.35 p.m.

Item 198 - District Medical Services, Office Expenses $5,000; toilet requisites $2,300; cleaning materials $2,100; paper, pens, pins, ink, etc. and rent for land at St. George $600; travelling $7,500; Chief Dispenser, Senior Dispenser and Dispenser $7,500; Family Planning Association $60,000; Barbados Nurses Association $12,000 as compared with $8,000 last year. I think the note explains that. The position is that the nurses salaries have not been increased and they have applied for a further grant, and we are giving them a subvention in order to assist them in increasing the salaries for the nurses who are in this service.

Under Item 211 - Child Health Committee, the amount of $40,250 is being sought. I think I should give members an idea of this Child Health Committee. The Child Health Committee formerly known as the Child Care Committee was formed in 1943 by a group of voluntary workers who were dedicated to the cause of child health. The aim of the Organisation is to improve the general standard of family living by teaching child care, mother-craft and nutrition thereby assisting parents to understand better the physical, social, emotional and mental needs of young children. The Committee begun its work with one child care in Christ Church. There are now 18 centres in eight parishes administering V. D. R. L. tests and vaccination against small pox, polio, dyptheria, tetanus, typhoid etc. The Population Research Council and the Family Planning Association interview mothers at the Black Rock centre and 81 cervical smears were done in 1969.

Apart from the Government subvention, the source of revenue is obtained as follows: donations, sales of skim milk, whole milk, cereals, tooth brushes, etc., raffles and dances. The value of these donations etc. is calculated at almost $8,000 a year and the Government allows the Committee to import goods duty free. Total expenditure for 1970 was approximately $37,000. Of this amount approximately $30,000 was spent on staff salaries. In 1967 the cost of looking after one child was 11 cents per week, but up to 1970 the cost had risen to 21 cents. The Committee's efforts have saved many a parent expenditure of hospital fees which are considerably higher. The Committee's staff consists of six nurses, one of whom is a volunteer worker; five qualified nurses are paid salaries, on par with similar grades in the Government services. It should be noted that these posts are not pensionable and the work of the Committee would suffer if the nurses resigned in favour of jobs which offer better prospects on retirement. One of the nurses has already served for sixteen years with this Committee, and the Government also employs a nurse to work under the direction of the Committee.

At the centres in St. Michael and St. George two doctors render professional medical services free of cost and during 1970 they attended 458 children. In addition, children also are attended privately by doctors with out charge.

During 1970 the Committee made 7,327 home visits and at times sought assistance for adults and grown children who were discovered to be physically handicapped. In one case a wheel-chair was obtained for an elderly invalid who was the only person available at the house to attend to the children.

The Committee possesses four vans to assist in carrying out its functions. Some of the nurses use their cars for travelling on duty and for this service the Committee pays them $25 a month plus the cost of the gasolene used. The other nurses rely on the vans for travelling on duty. This is a voluntary Committee to which the Government makes a grant.

Item 217 - Sanitation and Cemetries Board - an amount of $2,003,233 is being sought. I have the estimates here of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. Hon. members may want to peruse it. I may mention that provision is being made of six new refuse collectors in these Estimates. We already have nine which we have received, and ten are due to be received any time, and provision was made in this year's Estimates for these ten and they will be paid for from this year's Estimates. Money has been released to pay for the other ten, making a total of nineteen. When I say the money has been released, I mean only within the last day or so to make sure that it does not lapse. 8.45 p.m.

Provision is made for another six in these Estimates. There is provision of course to pay the staff, and I do not think I will tire the hon. members in going through this, but if any hon. member would like to have a look at it it is all right with me.

Item 218 - Child Care Board. The amount is changed here, Sir, and is now $907,402. (Mr. HINDS: My figure is $852,000). I will just check mine again. I am advised that the amount is as suggested by the hon. junior member for St. Peter, $852,000. Again, I have a copy of the estimates of the Child Care Board which I am quite willing to show to hon. members. As you know, there are Children's Homes; there is the Nightengale Home, Grade A, and the number of Children is 80.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I would like to find out from the Minister if by law these Boards are required to make reports by a certain time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am giving you more or less a report.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Has the Cemeteries and Sanitation Board submitted a report as required by law? If so, how soon can we have copies of this report?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, these Boards have only been in operation for just a little more than a year, but I will see that the reports are submitted to the House. These Boards have only been operating since September 1969, and I will see that reports are made and duly submitted, and I will expect the assistance of you, Mr. Chairman, in that regard.

The Nightengale Home, Grade A, the number of children 80; Farrs 50, Glendale 30, St. John's 50, and we hope to have 45 at Sterling in St. Philip, making a total of 255. At present Sterling is being repaired and we hope to have accommodation there for 45 children.

The Day Nurseries. Golden Rock 66, Pleasant Hall 57, Goodwill League 60, Farm 64, Joan Arundell 57, Grazettes 80, making a total of 384. Then you have Grade B, Colleton 12, Six Cross Roads 15, Ellerton 35, Sayes Court 30, Thorpes 30, Bagetelle 23, Nightengale Home 40, Belleplaine 31. - We have had occasion to close St. Leonard's owing to the state of the building - making a total of 216 and a grand total of 855. Again, this is the estimate for the Child Care Board, it is not a report as such. 8.55 p.m.

Now, this is an estimate for the Child Care Board, and it is not a Report as such. Item 231 - Furniture and Equipment - $80,000. The amount is made up as follows:

		$
St. Michael	-	23,000
Christ Church	-	15,000
St. Philip	-	10,000
St. Thomas	-	17,000
St. Lucy	-	15,000.

The items are all set out on separate pages here. There are items like 9 dressing trolleys, dressing trays and a long list with about four or five pages of items. It is really for upgrading the standard of the furniture and equipment and the District Hospitals. The policy of the Government is to upgrade these District Hospitals with proper furniture and equipment so that they will be able to do their work more efficiently. It is comprised of all types of medical and surgical equipment, furniture, beds, and all types of non-recurring articles such as trolleys and other necessary equipment.

Mr. Chairman, I think I could go on a little longer, but I do not want to tire hon. members. I have information regarding the most important items at least. If there is any other information hon. members may require, I will try to do my best to give them the necessary information.

Now, in the Note to Item 155, the word "Emmigration" should be replaced by the word "maintenance".

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,469,001 under Head 39 - Ministry of Health & Social Welfare - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us report progress now. *(Asides)*

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Which idiot is that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are no idiots in here.

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.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am against that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. K.N.R.HUSBANDS; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. LOWE; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS; Mr. St. JOHN; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY - 11.

No: Hon. N. W. BOXILL - 1.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

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

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

9.05 p.m.

On resumption:–

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to lay the annual report of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board for the period September 1969 to March 1970, and I am asking for copies to be made and circulated to hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Permission granted. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; thereunto it shall now revert.

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

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health has brought an approach to his Items of Expenditure under Head 39 that is quite different from that of other Hon. Ministers. There is one thing, Mr. Chairman, with which I want to deal specifically; I want to deal with the Child Care Board, which is at Item 218, but there are numerous other Items related thereto and discussion on it will spread over these various Heads. Perhaps I would like to ask the Minister if he can assist us at this end by telling us who actually runs the Child Care Board. We appreciate that the Board has a Chairman and that it is a Board as such, but we must tell the Minister that there is considerable confusion reigning in the administration of affairs relating to this Board; as a result, you will find that the Matrons at the various Children's Homes, all perhaps with one exception, have very genuine complaints, and I am urging upon the Minister that the grievances of these people be investigated before it is too late.

The subject of the transfer of their Deputies and subordinate staff is a matter of very grave concern in this Department, it creates confusion when a member of staff is attached to the Nightengale Home or Farrs Children's Home as the case may be, and without any other person in the department having the knowledge of what is taking place, merely by way of telephone somebody is transferred to another Children's Home may be 10, 12 or more miles from where the person actually lives. You will find in such a case, Sir, the Accounting Staff would normally carry out the preparation of paysheets and the like, the personnel staff would arrange matters relating thereto, but to find in truth and in fact that the person has been transferred a week or may be two weeks before from the place that his salary has been despatched.

I want to turn, Mr. Chairman, to one or two of the activities of this same Child Care Board. You will observe, Mr. Chairman, that last year the sum of $624 was voted to provide a sort of holiday camp which was formerly carried out at the Alexandra School, I think it is, but you will find this year we are asked for $1,500 but my information is that the $624 was not spent last year because there was no such camp and the excuse was that the Alexandra School was not available to the Child Care Board.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, that is really not the whole truth of the matter, because the parish of St. Peter has quite a number of schools and they are located in places which would lend themselves to the type of activity that is envisaged. Mr. Chairman, you would have it in your Estimates as Item 31. We would certainly like a progress report on this matter, because my information is that the money was not spent. We would also like to hear how many visits of inspection your Senior Welfare Officer, who is the Secretary to your Board, has carried out to the Nightengale Home. It might be of interest to tell us if this officer has not tried to throw her weight around to such an extent that she is now a Building Expert, a Welfare Expert, a Financial Expert, a Purchasing Expert and so on, and is definitely causing confusion in the administration of this Scheme.

Mr. Chairman, I have told you that the $624 was not spent. Since that amount was not spent, we would like to know what is going to be done with this $1,500. What staff will be recruited for conducting these classes?

At Item 199 - Dental Treatment - $500. Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with Dental Services at length. I only have Item 199 underlined at the moment, but that is not the major Item with which I want to deal. Let me, for the moment, deal with Item 146 - Research

$5,000. This is to assist with the cost of medical Research Projects with a local interest. Increase due to participation of Public Health Engineer in Pollution and other projects.

Now, there is much talk everywhere about arresting the incidence of pollution. We have the Bellair's Institute in St. James presently engaged in research in marine pollution along the Coral Reef coastline, and I am wondering if there is any collaboration with the Medical Authorities or the Public Health Authorities, because the Bellair Research Institute is also concerned with the dumping of sewage along the Coral Reef coastline and oil on the water, etc.
11.20 a.m.

I would like to know how far we expect to get in a matter of research when we only plan to spend $5,000. As for our District Hospitals, perhaps the Minister will tell us that everything is going well as far as he knows. Item 188 is provision for feeding staff and inmates, and you also have Item 188 - Furniture and Equipment, and on those two items as in the case of the Christ Church District Hosptial, the Minister might very well look into the situation there where the nurses of which there are about thirty of them have no privacy whatsoever and a room which formerly housed six is now expected to accommodate thirty, and there are no partitions to provide compartments where what would be expected of a female could be supplied. I am going this way because I really do not want to spend much time on this Head at all. I want to assist the Minister as best I can with the passing of it.

Now let us go down to Dental Treatment at Item 199, which is for cost of extractions in districts where no dental officer is retained. I believe, Sir, that the Minister will agree that his whole service has broken down, and it is not merely now a problem where the dental officer is not retained, but it is a case where as we have warned the Minister in here already, there are some officers in his Department who seem to know too much about everything. It would appear after more than six months of no dental care whatsoever for thousands of children that the Government is embarking on a scheme of employing something like three to do the work that was formerly done by five There have been resignation from the service, and I feel that the Minister would like to be given an opportunity to explain what really did happen to enlighten the Committee from the information which is at his disposal, because it is a fact that the Government has made some very severe blunders in recruiting people who are not dentists in themselves, and that is the type of behaviour that the Government is encouraging about here. People who are not qualified dentists are encouraged in Barbados to masquerade as such, but if this man Dr. Bostic perhaps in Tudor Street were to do the same thing, action would be taken against him, because his activity is not sponsored or supported by the Government.

Now you had a case where you had such dentists as Dr. Talma, Dr. Mark Ward and Dr. Peter Ward who left the service. There must be some reason for their leaving the service. On whose advise for instance did the Government recruit a Mrs. Ann Bozie on a two-year contract, and for what purpose? If she had been recruited merely to lecture to schools, show films and for oral prophylaxis, all well and good, but as if to aggravate the situation, they took from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital theatre a lady who could not find enough work to do there. I think her name is Cloisset. She is a Registered Nurse from the United Kingdom, but not a dental technician, and she was transferred to the Dental Department. Now the strange thing about it is that she left the service without telling anybody. What explanation does the Government have to offer when we have exhibitions of the kind?
11.30 a.m.

This, over the heads of people who have public health and medical health backgrounds, a Mrs. Brome was selected for a one year course overseas; she has returned, and the Minister ought to be in a position to tell us if she has returned to be in charge of the Dentists and to give the Senior Dental Officer instructions or if she is to receive instructions from him. One very important thing is this, that both Messrs. Ward and Talma resigned since this lady returned. It means therefore, Mr. Chairman, that we ought to examine the child population and to look at the number of children who are denied the services that these doctors formerly rendered, because each of these officers formerly attended for three sessions per week, an average of 36 sessions per month, and it is said that they carried out about 60 extractions per session from an average of 40 to 50 children. It means therefore that within the vicinity of 500 children, Mr. Chairman, 500 children per month are being denied the dental services of these officers. Who advises the Medical Officer of Health on dental matters? That is one question I would like to hear the Minister answer. What about those clinics that are not now serviced? How many officers are there presently in this service?

You have, Mr. Chairman, a clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The situation is this, that there are a number of clinics that have not been functioning for a period of six months or so, there is a clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, have the services of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's clinic been made available to the thousands of school children who do not have the services of their own clinics, or who have not had such services during the past months? The situation is even made worse; I wonder if the Minister has been around Enmore at any time during the past two years, because if he has he would have seen their locked away and hidden away a dental chair and certain instruments and other equipment evidently purchased by Government. The instruments have become victims of corrosion; they are not being in use, and to a very great extent they are outdated old-fashioned type of things, so it means that the Minister ought to be able to tell us who would have advised the Government in spending this money and what benefit has been derived, if any, since this expenditure was engaged in.

The Minister himself some time last year opened a cottage hospital, I think, at St. George. (Hon. C. E. TALMA: It was an out-patients clinic). Very well, an out-patients clinic at St. George, and I wonder how many people have received dental treatment there since the opening of the clinic, if a dental chair has been provided and what facilities, if any, apart from Dettol and cotton wool. The cotton wool, if the Minister would check that, he would find that that was available four years before the clinic was opened, that the cotton wool had been placed there in 1966 but that the clinic was opened in 1970.
11.40 a.m.

What is most important is that the Minister should be able to tell us if there is a steriliser at this Clinic. What I have said about the St. George Clinic also applies to the Gall Hill/St. John Clinic. Is there a steriliser at either of these Clinics?

Mr. Chairman, yesterday the Minister told us of his Children's Homes being Grade A or Grade B. Is it the number of children that determines the grade in which the Centre is placed? I have before my mind Glendale's Children's Home. It is the Home that is causing most of the confusion in child care. There is nothing now that can be done to remove from the majority of Matrons and Staff generally of the other Homes the feeling that everything is being done to make Glendale the Home of the Children's Homes. It appears that there can be no limit to the amount that must be expended on this Home. I have, on a previous occasion, given the Committee and example as to how things, have been conducted in the purchasing of much of the furniture, equipment and even provisions from time to time for the Glendale Children's Home. This Home is enjoying an atmosphere, privileged though it might be, that must ultimately be regarded as one of right. It is causing considerable uneasiness amongst other things, and what is more it is not a case where the Secretary of the Board pays equal attention to the needs and requirements of the other Homes. In her estimation Glendale is the Home, and after Glendale anybody else can be served.

Mr. Chairman, I have mentioned the Holiday Camp at the Alexandra School and pointed out that there was no Holiday Camp last year. One of the reasons why there was no Holiday Camp in St. Peter last year is that one of the persons for whom this Holiday Camp is really kept had left St. Peter and gone to Glendale. Had that not been the case you would have found Holiday Camping if not at the Alexandra School at some other school where friends would have been getting together, enjoying themselves out of the taxpayers money, and as regards paying attention to children during those hours, that would never arise. It is not all that an hon. member knows that he would like to be pressed into putting before the Committee, but a word of warning, I think, ought to be sufficient.

Now, there is provision for a Training Centre to be set up somewhere. I believe that the Goodwill League is in mind.
11.50 a.m.

I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, what provisions are made for staffing, who is going to be the head of this training centre and who is going to direct its activities and plan its programme. I want to urge upon the Child Care Board to seek as early as possible to appoint a Buildings Inspector. I understand that since the Public Health Officer, has gone that the Secretary of the Child Care Board is the Building Officer, building supervisor and everything else, interfering with everybody's business in building. When the Chief Welfare Officer gives instructions to workers in matters relating to the upkeep of buildings as in the case of the Nightengale Home, the Secretary of the Child Care Board arrogates to herself the right to be superior in the Department even over the Chief Welfare Officer, and she goes and upsets the instructions he has given causing confusion among the workers. If the Minister is prepared to countenance that type of behaviour in his Ministry, I am only telling him that this might be the last chance that is being given to him, because I will expose all that I know is going on. I am merely sounding notes of warning at this stage.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I have had occasion to intervene in this particular matter to which the hon. member refers in connection with the Secretary in relation to the Chief Welfare Officer, and the parties were called in and dealt with appropriately; so steps have been taken in this respect. I do not need to elaborate, but it is an absolute fact that the matter was drawn to my attention and I did intervene immediately, and no such thing obtains today.

Mr. HINDS: I am grateful to the Minister to learn from him that I have made a statement of fact and that the matter is somewhat under control after investigation. I hope he will not allow things to fall back.

Now on the question of fostering after care for which provision is made in these Estimates, fostering after care is indeed an exercise of some magnitude, and I would like to know what arrangements there are, because I want the Minister to know that there is considerable uneasiness in this Department with senior officers who should get up and go out and see what is happening not leaving the office compound and going out and doing any work. They are just sheltering in the cool and drawing the taxpayers money and causing confusion with a lot of yapping going on about the place and minding other people's business. If that is the case, all these high sounding projects are merely introduced into these Estimates to make people feel that the Board really has plans for doing something, but there is no point asking us to vote money to promote after care when there is no corresponding request for a sum of money to pay staff to put this into effect. We are just fooling ourselves. The Board is being given bad advice. After care is something good and something to be encouraged in our community, but it is something that has got to be studied and really and truly put into practice by people who are earnest and who have expressed among other things a love of children.

Mr. Chairman, we are contributing $5,000 at Item 208 to the Barbados Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. I would like to ask the Minister for some sort of progress report on this. Are we succeeding in this respect, and if so, to what extent have we succeeded so far? Here again T.B. patients who have been discharged from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or any other clinic need considerable after care, because one very well knows that there are very many factors which contributed to what had at one time been an alarmingly high rate of incidences of T.B. in Barbados. It is not so high now, but nevertheless if a person is removed from a certain type of condition and taken to a sanitarium, assisted and if fit for discharge, how much have we really and truly helped that person if we discharge him to return to the conditions that in the first instance were somewhat responsible for bringing on the condition that sent him to the sanitarium? Here is a case where we have got to decide to spend much more, and I am saying that if our contribution is $5,000, we must spend more than $5,000 in after care.
12.00 noon.

$5,000 could only maintain or assist five people for one year, because a sick person needs money to keep the system up than a person who is healthy and strong, so exactly what are we doing in this respect? Do not let us fool ourselves, you are either doing something or you are doing nothing, and this is one of the avenues where I feel that any Government should demonstrate its willingness and ability to do something for unfortunate people who are afflicted by this form of illness.

The Child Care Committee. The Minister has been at pains to explain quite a lot about the work of this Committee, but we still feel.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you mean Child Care or the Child Health Committee?

Mr. HINDS: The Child Health Committee at Item 211. The Minister has been at pains to explain quite a bit about the work of this organisation. Here is a case where the voluntary work of people over the years has reached a point where we are contributing to it $40,250 now; we believe that much of what Government is trying to do in child care, what Government is spending considerable sums to do in child care could be better promoted if we would set about to find people with the spirit of altruism which was very much alive in the year 1943 when this Child Care Committee started to function. It is much to the credit of the Child Health Committee that it has kept alive its work, spread itself out, and I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, I wonder what parishes this Committee now covers, because I am a very jealous man in this respect, and I feel that the parish of St. Peter if not yet covered ought to be touched, and I am quite willing to urge upon Government to do anything to assist the Committee to reach the poor people of St. Peter who need this type of care.

We realise that in the absence of Day Nurseries that you find in other parishes where you have the housing estates, the greater the demand for this type of care must be, and I would very much like to know if the Committee's work has yet been established in the parish of St. Peter. The Minister made mention of the closing of the St. Leonard's Children's Home, but it is not the intention of Government to close Six Roads and make it a Reception Centre, whatever that means? What can the Minister tell us about this?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If I may intervene, Sir, are we dealing with Children's Homes or Day Nurseries? A new Children's Home is being constructed at Sterling the building there is being renovated for a Children's Home, so that will take care of children in the southern parishes, we hope, and more especially in St. Philip. The Hon. member asked about Six Roads as far as I am advised, still has 15 children, but there is a proposal to use it as a Reception Centre.

Mr. HINDS: Let us hear how this Reception Centre will really operate and how it is going to function. Is it a case where all the babies from that area will be received at this place? Just give us an idea.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Hon. member is such an expert on these matters he should be telling us, but I will try. You find little children who are in dire need and are picked up by night by the policemen because the mother leaves the child with no one to attend to it, and very often one of the Welfare Officers has been called by the police, and we will have a centre to which you can take such children. At present there is no such place; that is really what the Reception Centre is for.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what are we reducing Barbados to in the eyes of the outsiders? How many children have been abandoned in Barbados during the past 100 years? How many children have been abandoned as such?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: When I say abandoned, I do not mean permanently.
12.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, how many children were lost? Once a year you might hear that some little child followed a Steel Band down the road and was unable to find his way back home. Are you going to tell me that, if a Steel Band goes down My Lord's Hill playing music and a child is unable to find his way back home after following the Steel Band, you are going to carry that child up to Six Cross Roads at the Reception Centre in St. Philip? What nonsense am I hearing? I am saying that the Government are badly advised in these matters. What will the Government be doing with a Reception Centre in St. Philip? Is this an after election stunt that the children in St. Philip will be fatherless and motherless, and it will be necessary to have a Centre up there for them? I just cannot understand this. The Government are definitely getting bad advice in relation to little children in this community.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very interested in hearing about this Reception Centre, and I wonder if the Minister of Health can give us some outline of the plans for this Reception Centre. If this place is only housing about fifteen people, I should like to know something about it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that children are found frequently and there is occasion to take them to the Reception Centre, but there be some place where, if children are found occasionally, they can be taken and given proper accommodation. The position is that they will have to be examined medically, checked, and then sent on to the appropriate Children's Home. It is really a Centre where they are kept and medically examined before they are sent on to the appropriate Children's Home. The children will have to be medically checked and everything will have to be investigated before they are finally sent on to a Children's Home, presumably nearest to where the child came from.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is something that is not yet operating in the Minister's mind. A child must be lost before it can be found. How man children have been lost in Barbados during the past five years? What nonsense is this?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Reception Home, of course deals not only with such cases, but with children generally. All children will go to the Reception Home and then be assigned to various Children's Homes. It will be a sort of Headquarters.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, in other words, if parents have children in St. Peter, according to the Minister, they will have to take the child to St. Philip to this Reception Centre and then have them assigned to another Children's Home. Are you going to set up a Centre in St. Philip and one in the North?

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon.member has risen on a point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think I should clear the air for the hon. Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Make your point please.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, the position is that the Centre will be used for the South and not for St. Philip. You know the number of parishes the South covers. Consequently, the children who will be sent to the Children's Home at Sterling from Christ Church, St. George, St. John and St. Philip must be examined before they are sent on to the Children's Home at Sterling. You cannot allow sick children to go to Sterling where you have healthy children there. The children may have contagious diseases; therefore, the children must be medically examined and given the okay before they are sent on to the Children's Home at Sterling.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the best thing for the Minister to say is that they are creating a Quarantine Station at St. Philip. The hon. Minister has just said thay every child that is picked up will have to go into quarantine for some time before he goes to Sterling. What the Minister is trying to tell us is that any time they find somebody's child - of course, I should like to know the age of the children they propose to deal with. I should like to know what is the incidence of infectious diseases. I should also like to know the number of children who has been picked up with infectious diseases to satisfy the establishment of a Centre in St. Philip. You have Sterling which is going to be a Home. If you are going to put children there, obviously, there must be some sort of Medical Superintendent to look after them. You have the D. M. O. who is next to the same Six Cross Roads, and you now want to put a third Centre.

Mr. Chairman, long ago people in this country have been asking not for a so-called Reception Centre, but an Institution which could deal with children and young persons to prevent them from going to Dodds or Glendairy. When the Hon. Minister talks about people who are found straying or loitering, it is well known that the moment the Police put their hands on any young person he will be sent to Dodds overnight.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I never said anything about loitering. I never used that term. I referred to children who may have been deserted. Probably, in some instances, their parents had only stepped out for a few hours. That has nothing to do with loitering.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if parents step out for a few minutes, would you call that deserting children? If I leave my two children at home for half an hour, would you call that deserting my children? You are making sport with people's children. They are not dogs or cats to be put in a Quarantine Station!

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There have been cases where mothers have left their children for three or four hours, the children have strayed away, the Police take them up and then the Chief Welfare Officer is called in and he has to find somewhere to take these children. There are cases like that.

Mr. BOLDEN: How many cases have there been in the last year? I should also like to know the ages of the children involved during that period. How many cases of infectious diseases have been found among those children?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I should like to add that this office will also be used by the National Assistance Officer who at present performs his duties at the Post Office, and there is no accommodation there for him to investigate claims for old age pensioners and to pay National Assistance and so on.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Does the hon. member really understand what he is saying: They have just said that they are going to use the Centre as a Quarantine Office, and now....

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, nobody said anything about any Quarantine Office. That statement is misleading.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet.

12. 20 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Nobody is using the station as a quarantine office.

Mr. BOLDEN: You are now bringing in old people to investigate cases. You told me you have set up a quarantine office and yet you are bringing in unquarantined persons in there at one and the same time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member chooses in his profession to make out a bad case. Nobody referred to a quarantine station; that is something new the hon. member is trying to introduce. It is a reception centre. If you want to start a quarantine station, that is a different matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as a simple example, if I brought two pigs into Barbados, I have to send them to the reception centre before they can be sent somewhere alse, and the name for that centre is a quarantine station. If you pick up children off the street according to the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary and you have to send them into some place before you send them into Sterling because they may have infectious disease, that is a quarantine centre. When you bring cows from Canada you put that at the Pine and keep them there for some time to make sure they have not got foot and mouth disease; you put them in quarantine. You can call cake by another name, but it is still cake when you are finished. If you create a centre and tell me you are creating some place that when you find children you must send them there to be medically examined before you can send them to Sterling, because they may have infectious diseases, you are creating a quarantine centre for the children of Barbados, and it should go down against you. Imagine the hon. senior member for St. Philip agreeing to the establishment of a quarantine station in the parish which he represents. But I will deal with him.

Mr. WEEKES: How could I agree to having a quarantine centre placed there? The point at issue is this; would you call an out-door clinic a quarantine station. You cannot call it by that name. If you have patients going to St. George where you have an out-door clinic.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I do not want the hon. member to mislead the Committee. He now calls it an out-door clinic. How many names are you applying to this institution?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that it is an out-door clinic; I am just giving a comparison, and I am only pointing out that if people go to get out-door treatment at a clinic you cannot call it a quarantine centre.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us be factual. In the parish of St. Michael including the City of Bridgetown, have you got such a reception centre or do you propose setting up one?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this idea of a reception centre is nothing new. The Ministry tried to secure Gun Hill for that purpose, but we failed to secure it under the Allocations Committee so that it is nothing new. We cannot build a centre for that purpose, and we have to use available space. This other place is not used to full capacity, and that is the reason why we intend using Six Cross Roads as a reception station. On another occasion the hon. member would say that you can travel from one part of Barbados to another in half an hour, but on this occasion, because we are coming to the assistance of children and rescuing them from mothers who are very often unkind to them, you are calling it a quarantine station.

Mr. BOLDEN: I used the term "quarantine station" and I am going to answer the Minister. He said that children who were picked up would be examined before they were put into Sterling because they may have infectious diseases. If they have contagious diseases, it means you are quarantining them. I am told that it is the hon. senior member for St. Philip who used the term; so if the Minister wants to quarrel with somebody, let him quarrel with his own Parliamentary Secretary for telling the Committee that would be establishing a quarantine station..

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, there are 194 children in the Children's Homes and these are either not wanted by their parents, have no parents or the parents are regarded as being incompetent to take care of the children. Formerly in cases of emergency children were sent to the infirmaries until arrangements were made for them to enter a Home. Which is better, to send the children to an infirmary or to a reception home? This system was regarded as unsatisfactory and such children are no longer admitted to infirmaries, that is, District Hospitals. A reception centre is to be established in the interest of the children and to provide proper facilities for their care until arrangements can be made to admit them to one of the homes.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, arising out of what the Hon. Minister has just said to the House, it shows that the Government does not know what it is doing. The Minister referred to the 194 children in the Children's Homes who are practically unwanted, but what are the facilities at this proposed institution in St. Philip? The hon. senior member for St. Philip said that this place was to be used for children who were abandoned or found wandering, and they would be taken there to be examined before they were sent

to Sterling. The answer given by the Hon. Minister is something completely different, and I am saying now that there is no policy by the Government on this. This is just an *ad hoc* answer to a question, because if you have 194 children in Children's Homes you do not need a place like St. Philip that only has fifteen. How many are you going to put in St. Philip?

The situation, Mr. Chairman, is that for the last four or five years people have been crying out, and I know the Courts have been crying out for a proper home, a midway house between Dodds and the Children's Homes and the almshouses about the place, but the Government has resisted time and time again, because the situation is that if a police goes on the wharf and finds a boy between six and ten years there, the first thing he does is to take him to Central Police Station, he is sent to Dodds overnight and charged with wandering or loitering or something of the sort, and I have contended long ago that this was a breeding ground of criminals. If the Minister knows what is going on.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is touching on the Vagrancy Act where a person is deemed a rogue and a vagabond.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I would not advise the Hon. Minister to jump up and use statements I have not used. He cannot read his files and listen to me at the same time with due respect to his ability. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that it is known that Dodds and Glendairy are the teaching institutions for the criminals in Barbados today. If the Minister would enquire from the Probation service, he would know that the day you send a boy to Dodds and he comes back out, he is a different human being, and I am sure that the Probation service is now handicapped and at a loss to know what to do with children in this middle age group. Now the Minister is talking about a reception centre and the Parliamentary Secretary is telling you that it is a place for holding children you find before you can medically examine them and put them somewhere else.
12.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I want to let the Committee know that the Vagrancy Act is being amended in order to prevent children from being sent to Dodds and being branded rogues and vagabonds for the rest of their lives, but that is a different matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: That does not touch the situation, Mr. Chairman. Even if you abolish the Act it does not touch the situation, because there is no doubt about it, you will find a child of seven, eight or nine or a boy of 11 or 12 who has committed no criminal offence, he does not go to school, he decides to go and watch ships sailing in the careenage this morning, but because he might not be dressed as a policeman may like he is taken up, but they will always stick a charge on him, there will always be the charge of loitering or wandering. You will hear he has been found with something and cannot give an explanation and there will still be a charge, he will still be sent to Dodds, and the answer is to tell us exactly what you are going to do in this so-called Reception Centre.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I shall repeat again that children were sent to the various institutions before they were admitted to the Children's Homes. They were sent there in all cases and were examined by the doctor, and in several cases they remained there for several years. Now this Government is.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member saying that they were quarantined in the various almshouses for several years?

Mr. WEEKES: This Government is trying to make improvement and to prevent children from going to the various institutions, and we are having the centre there so that the children will not be sent to the institutions in future. Now you are criticising that, what do you want us to do? Continue to send the children to the various institutions or send them to that centre to be examined before they are sent to the Children's Homes?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, is the senior member for St. Philip saying that it took several years to examine a child which was sent to an institution in this country?

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, I never said anything like that, I have said this, children were domiciled at the various institutions; since we have brought about these Children's Homes they will not have to go there now and consequently we have brought about this centre so that the children can go from this centre to the Children's Homes.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, will the senior member tell me then what is wrong with sending a child to a District Hospital, as it is called, to be examined before sending it into Sterling; what is wrong with that system of sending a child to the District Hospital for examination before sending him into a Home?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this is the difference between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party does not believe that a child has any place in an almshouse; the District Hospital is there for the Sick and the indigent and so on. We have just instited a system of providing homes for elderly citizens, the first of which has just been completed in the Pine Housing Area. We have started a system of bringing up children where they can get the impression that they are wanted and that they are not unwanted children. We have established Children's Homes, and I want to say this, we want our Children's Homes to be properly administered.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir, there is one person in child care that is preventing the proper administration of the Children's Homes, and I told the Minister that this morning.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I was making a point. I want to say that the Children's Homes that are established by us are homes that are properly run and properly administered. They are not run in any haphazard or *ad hoc* manner, these are Homes that are properly planned for, diet sheets properly made out and proper child car given to the children. One cannot expect to build a Home, say like Farrs, to accommodate say 30 or 32 children and expect to go and put 50 children in that Home; if your Children's Home is to have any sort of standard about it, you must administer it in a way that a proper standard is maintained.

A Reception Centre is the holding area for the children when they are, as the hon. member pointed out, found to be unwanted. You cannot just take the children and say well, a child comes here now, you are setting proper standards, you have proper facilities in these Homes, you have a Reception Centre, as soon as a child comes into the Reception Centre.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Minister is saying a child comes here, meaning the Reception Centre, how does the child get there?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, he does not understand what I am trying to say. The point is that a Reception Centre is provided for children; how do they get into the almshouses? Sometimes people carry them and leave them there. The hon. senior member for the City knows that, he has had experiences where women carried their children and left them at the almshouse gate; what we are saying is that the almshouses are no place for the children and we are providing a centre where the children can be taken, or they can go to if they find they are hungry and unwanted and they do not have anybody to take care of them, and we keep there until we can find suitable accommodation for them in the Children's Homes. It is then that they are sent to the Children's Homes, I see nothing wrong with that. Call it a quarantine, call it what you like, the point is it is better than what you have provided for them. 12.40 p.m.

You had them in the Almshouses with the sore-foot people and so on. We are not interested in having them there. Let us have children among children. The children in our Children's Home must be properly taken care of. You cannot do it on an *ad hoc* basis. If there is an *ad hoc* Institution, then let the *ad hoc* Institution be the Reception Centre, but let us have properly run Children's Homes. *(Asides)*

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the basic trouble here is that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before you continue, may I remind hon. members not addressing the Chair that they are contravening Standing Order 29(6), when their voices can be heard. I should like to hear the junior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the basic trouble here is that the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary do not understand the role of the Reception Centre, and that is why we have got into this trouble. If a proper statement had been made, instead of the Minister giving us one reason and his Parliamentary Secretary giving another reason, we would not have found ourselves in this trouble. As the senior member for St. Andrew has said, instead of taking children to the District Hospitals you are going to take them to the Reception Centre. How long do you propose to keep these children at the Reception Centre?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, you are going to keep the children at the Reception Centre until suitable accommodation can be found for them at one of the properly run Children's Homes. The whole point is that if you are going to have confusion in any one of the Homes let it be in one Home. Let us have all of the confusion at the Reception Centre, but do not carry the confusion to your Children's Homes.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is not the role of the Reception Centre. You are now using the Reception Centre as a subsidiary Children's Homes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member probably did not listen to what I had to say. This is the second time I am going to read this. There are 194 children in the Children's Homes who are either not wanted by the parents - *(Asides)* There are 4 existing Homes: Farrs, St. John's Children's Home, the Nightingale Home and Glendale. Sterling will be established now. I was saying that there are 194 children in the Children's Homes, and these are either not wanted by their parents; have no parents, or the parents are regarded as being incompetent to take care of the children.

Formerly, in case of an emergency, children were sent to the Infirmaries until arrangements were made for them to enter a Home. The system was regarded as being unsatisfactory. Such children are no longer admitted to Infirmaries. These Infirmaries are now known as District Hospitals.

The Reception Centre is to be established in the interest of these children, and it will provide proper facilities for their care until proper arrangements can be made to admit them to a Home. The children will not be kept there long.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the trouble is that we were not given the correct answer. I am not against the idea, but members of the Government do not understand the whole idea behind this. What the Minister has just read out and what the senior member for St. Andrew has said is something completely different. He is saying that you are going to keep the children at the Reception Centre until you can find places for them in the Children's Homes In other words, you are going to use the Reception Centre as a subsidiary Home, and this is wrong.

Now, the senior member for St. Philip gave us the impression that the Reception Centre would be used, as the junior member for St. Joseph has said, as a Quarantine Station. That idea is also wrong. If you are going to use the Reception Centre as the Minister of Health has said to take care of children wondering around that is a different matter. The junior member for St. Joseph has pointed out that when the Police arrest children for loitering, they are usually sent to Dodds. If this Reception Centre will be used instead of sending a child to Dodds until such time as the Police can carry out the necessary investigation as to where the parents are living, I think that would be the proper purpose of the Reception Centre.

If you find a child and there is *prima facie* evidence that his parents are dead or incompetent to take care of him, then you can allow that child to remain at the Reception Centre until a means of some proper investigation is carried out in connection with the child. You can then move the child from there to a Children's Home. Do not suggest to this House that you are going to keep children in a Reception Centre until you can find places for them in a Children's Home.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If we cannot find places for them in a Children's Home, must we send them on the streets?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Will you admit that you are going to use the Reception Centre to keep children until you can find places for them in a Children's Home? It boils down to your not having enough Children's Homes in which to put these children.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's argument carries no weight. Let us say that tomorrow we found 40 children who were unwanted. The same way you find one you may find 40 or 100. In which Home can you find 40 places at the same time?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I asked a question earlier which would stop this argument. How many of these children were found last year? If the Minister is going to use the analogy that the same way you find one you can find 40 or 100, then if the answer had been given it would have solved this matter long ago.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Do you get the same accidents today as you got yesterday, or this year as you got last year?

Mr. BOLDEN: You have a comparable number which could be used.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, nobody can prejudge when an an accident will take place.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the senior member for St. Andrew is serious when he says that if you find 1 you can find 40 unwanted children. If you found 40 unwanted children in this country at one time it would mean that something has gone wrong basically. There would have to be a revolution or something like that. It would mean that something has gone wrong basically with the Government's economic policy, and that does not mean that there is nothing wrong with it at the moment. If tomorrow you had 40 unwanted children in this country, there would be something vitally wrong. The Minister is not serious in his argument.

I am not against the idea of a Reception Centre, but I would like to find out from the Government how many children will be accommodated there. Did the Government carry out any survey as to the needs under this Programme? Did the Government carry out any survey to see what would be their requirements over the next 5 or 10 years and to see how many additional places would be required in Children's Homes? That is the only way in which the Government could find the true answer to this.

Mr. Chairman, if you look at the figures over the past 10 or 15 years and see how many children have been taken into the District Hospitals and Children's Homes, you will be able to get some sort of idea of the number of places you would need over the next 10 years.
12.50 p.m.

You only have to look at the figures for the last ten or fifteen years and see how many children you have been taking into the Children's Homes, and you would be able to get some idea of the amount of space you would need over the next ten years. I would like to find out from the Minister whether this has been done. The idea of a reception centre is a good idea, but I do not believe you just get a good idea and leave it like that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I heard a mutter on the other side about a quarantine centre. If the hon. senior member for St. Philip insists on his definition, in my opinion it could be no more than a quarantine station.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: That is quite true, because when we asked what was the purpose for the centre, the hon. senior member for St. Philip described it as a place to which children would be taken to be medically examined because he does not want to take them to a Children's Home with contagious diseases. If that is the sole purpose for establishing the home, that is a lot of nonsense. How long would it take to examine a child? You have District Medical Officers who are being paid by the Government. If a child is picked up at 7 o'clock in the morning, a District Medical Officer has to examine the child; so you do not have to have a centre for that. You have a Casualty Ward at the Hospital, and this idea that you need a centre purely for that purpose is a lot of nonsense.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, he seems to be trying to help us. The reception centre will be used to sort out the behavioural, physical, mental and family problems affecting the case in question. We are trying to establish children's homes on a larger basis. We hope to establish one at Barrows in St. Lucy very soon, and we are trying to improve on the system and move away from the primitive methods of the past. We are trying to keep children far away from the almshouses where they were sent up to 1961. We have changed the name to District Hospitals. We have reduced the number of District Hospitals and providing old people's homes, and we intend establishing homes in all housing areas to separate sick people at the District Hospitals from ones who are old and indigent. While we are trying to improve things gradually for the elderly folk, in like manner we are trying to protect and preserve the interests of little children. All up-to-date and enlightened communities have this system; so we are really doing nothing new, but just following in the path of what has been done in the past and have proved successful. The hon. junior member for Bridgetown said it looks like a good thing, but we are just setting it up and we cannot give all the details yet. At some time before the session ends, if I am attached to the Ministry, I will come back here and make a statement giving full details of this reception centre.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister now saying that the definition or the role which this institution in St. Philip will play is not what was said by the hon. senior member for St. Philip?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am not saying that. In reality I appreciate the assistance given by my Parliamentary Secretary. He gave a part of the explanation and I gave the other part; so both together gave the whole explanation.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I understand the position in which the Minister finds himself, having a non-swimmer jump in at the deep end of the pool and dirty up the water, because what the Hon. Minister said from the time he got up is far different from what his Parliamentary Secretary has been saying. It shows quite clearly that the Government does not know what is going on, because the horse is pulling on one side and the cart is going on the other side - Minister and Parliamentary Secretary. When the Hon. Minister says he is trying to improve the system because he came and found almshouses in 1961, I would like to give this example. There were times when you had institutions called work houses and you changed the name to the Mental Asylum. As time progresses a community progresses as well, but to change the name from almshouses to District Hospitals and do the same thing inside still leaves the same institution. Fancy names may satisfy them, but it is what is done inside that satisfied the people outside the institution. I must ask what has gone on inside these institutions since you have changed the names. I would like to ask if people with sore feet are not in them as well. I would like to ask if you have uplifted the standard of the District Hospitals, and if anybody can go there and get his finger sutured at any time, or get a wart taken off. That is the meaning of a District Hospital. Do not believe that this side of the House does not agree with you on children's homes, because I have said that for five long years we have been fighting for an institution to bridge the gap between Glendairy and Dodds and it has not come.

Mr. Chairman, I never intended getting into this debate, but when I heard about this reception centre and the definition given of it, I was forced in all honesty to get involved, because the hon. senior member for St. Philip does not even begin to understand what a reception centre dealing with children calls for; but because of a policy that everytime you question something they must jump up and give an answer, he jumped in on the wrong side of the pool, and I will use it to choke him. I want it to go on record that by virtue of the definition and the explanation given to this Committee by the hon. senior member for St. Philip, the Government is creating a quarantine centre for children. Nobody doubts the usefulness of such an institution. There is nobody who is involved with children today who will say that there must not be such an institution, but to get up and say that you will have a reception centre without telling us what you intend to do in that centre for us on this side to appreciate whether or not proper use will be made of the institution and the taxpayers money, is certainly not the method of Government.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, there were two hon. members on their feet, but they did not address you. I addressed you first; so they will have to sit.

1.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The senior member for Bridgetown caught my eye first.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think I was reminded today that just 25 years ago that I was brought face to face with conditions affecting the poor people in the municipality. Whilst I cannot speak *ex officio* on the matter which affects the entire island, I speak on behalf of the parishes which have the majority of people. The idea of a Reception Centre is a good thing, and I think the idea of establishing more Children's Homes is a very good one, but I call to mind that during the Jackson investigation evidence was given to the fact that of the 120 children that were in the extra ward, not associated at all with sore foot people, that only 10% of them should be there because they could find their mothers. That has gone down in history.

I have heard a lot of talk in here today, and in fact the hon. senior member for St. Andrew mention-

ed that I could testify to the fact that women carried their children and left them in what was known then as the almshouses but are now known as District Hospitals. This is an absolute fact, not that they carried them and left them there, but what I think the Government could be interested in, in child welfare, would be the fact that you will always have with us the type of people who will have children and will have nowhere to keep them. These are infants when the mothers leave the institutions they have nowhere to keep these children and they are brought up in this way. I say that for this reason, the Reception Centre is a good idea, because during my time I have had three different children picked up or dropped, one at the hospital gate, one at the almshouse and one near Boarded Hall, and I was asked to keep them; these were children who you could not tell who were their parents. These children, to get them into school even you had to get the Ministry of Education to allow you to give them names.

There will always be the type of child which you must keep in the District Hospital, the imbecile, the child with congenital conditions, which you must provide for not in a Children's Home because it will not be proper, and before this Government introduced Children's Homes this was looked upon very carefully and children of this sort were never taken to Children's Homes, but what I am interested in most of all, and I think I would like to draw this to the attention of the Government, you have in this country still a number of people who are willing to do agricultural work, women who work up to about eight months pregnant and then they have to stay home, and Mr. Chairman, you can testify to this, you have had the experience, they have had to be taken into institutions and allowed to rest. This I see has been abandoned now with the modern method of children bearing where five days after childbirth, and in some instances three, women are discharged, and I have had the displeasure of visiting places when called upon to admit or take in some child to find that all that was in the house with the woman who had the child were two rocks, a kerosene oil lamp, a box and bag; what are you going to do with this child? Where are you going to put him? In the Reception Home? Are you going to put him with the congenital children? With the imbecile? Where are you going to put this child?

This is not an isolated case, today at the hospital students practice on this type of woman. The other type of women can afford not to have students practice on them, but there is this type of woman that students must practice on; what are you going to do with these children? They are not old enough to go to the Children's Homes, they cannot be placed in the home with the imbecile and so on.

While I am on my feet, I heard the hon. member say just now there are still 800 children in the home at the Bridgetown District Hospital, and I would like to know how many of these children will be there. Now you are going to have this problem coming up, I do not know anything about the law, but you have found fathers saying they are not having anything to do with the children, they might be divorced, it might be a case of putting a man in Court and the children are put away like sheep, what can be done in these cases? What can you do with them? I want to hear more about the various homes; the whole idea of taking children into the Children's Homes before - the hon. member is right - was that they had to be examined and you could not carry children who were imbeciles or ill to that effect - I do not mean just a cold or whooping cough or anything like that, because if one child gets whooping cough, do like I did, put all the children together and let them have whooping cough together - but there are certain illnesses you do not worry about. What are you going to do with these children? The Government of this country is doing something for the children, but provision should still be made for these women who do agricultural work in this country, and would like to rest the last month while carrying the child, and the senior member for St. Joseph can tell you they used to have the opportunity to rest in the infirmaries for the last month.

I think we all know that the living conditions were such that they could not live at home and be so comfortable. Then above all, we will always have ladies of the night and they will always have children that they do not want. I have had the experience where policemen brought children out of lighters sleeping, and the mother could not care less. They were kept in a Children's Home, there was nothing to prosecute them for. In my opinion, this place which the Government proposes to establish is a good idea, but they should go further than that. I want to know what you propose to do with young children when mothers come out of hospital and have nowhere to take them. I would like to know exactly what you propose to do with such children as I have mentioned, when mothers come out of hospital; I would not have mentioned this if the hon. member did not mention they are not allowed now to carry them back to the District Hospital, therefore these children are now brought up in this way. 1.10 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Item 138.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for an hour and a half.

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

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

On resumption - -

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and thereto it now automatically reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, at this stage it may be convenient to give certain replies to questions raised mainly by the hon, junior member for St. Peter. With reference to Item 31, my information is that the workshop was to be situated in the basement of the Nightengale Home, but the repairs required to the basement were extensive and could not be completed in time. The electrical wiring was condemned and had to be replaced. In view of the failure to complete repairs there was no available space to set up the equipment and, therefore, no money was spent. The funds provided were to pay Tutors and to buy materials. The increase this year is to extend handicrafts to all Homes.

Item 51 - Holiday Camp. The Alexandra School was not available, and it was not possible to make adequate arrangements for accommodation otherwise. However arrangements were made for the children to go to the seaside on picnic excursions. This year plans are being made for the purchase of tents so that open air camping can be planned. As hon. members will realise from some of what I said yesterday, the Children's Homes are now classified as follows:

Grade A 50 children and over:

Grade B under 50.

In connection with Item 143 - Dental School Service. The Dental Service used to have 5 Part-time Dentists who did 3 sessions each weekly at the Health Centres and at Schools through the Mobile Dental Unit. At present there is 1 Dental Officer, an acting appointment under the new order, who does 9 sessions a week, while 2 Dentists do 3 sessions a week each. One of the original 5 Part-time Dentists left the Island, and 1 informed the Ministry last year that he could no longer continue.

The Dental Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been used for school children and is being used again. The Chief Medical Officer meets the Dental Officer whenever there is need. Under the new Order the Senior Dental Officer will advise.

Miss Bosie was a Canadian University student and a C. U. S. O. volunteer who served in the Ministry of Health as a Dental Hygienist. Her period of service has ended, and she is no longer in Barbados. Her service was limited to 2 years. The C. U. S. O. is trying to find a replacement. Those are some of the answers which the hon. junior member for St. Peter wanted.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister would state on what grounds the Dental Surgeons resigned. Were their contracts completed? Did they resign of their own free will? Was there any dispute? The Minister said that there were 5 Dental Surgeons in the Dental Clinic and they now have only 1 Dental Officer and one Acting Officer. What is responsible for that? I think there were 2 Doctor Wards, a Doctor Collins, a Doctor Smith and a Doctor Talma. Can the Minister state the problems that caused 5 of the Dental Surgeons to give up their jobs?

Mr. Chairman, I should also like to find out how many Dental Chairs are at the St. George District Hospital?

2.50 p.m.

Another thing I should like to know from the Minister is how many dental chairs there are at the St. George District Hospital, and what instruments are made available by the Government. There is, I think, a dental chair which was bought from Dr. Nicholls, and I would like to know if that is in use at the present time, what was the cost of the chair and if it was bought out of Government funds. I do not know if the Minister would also be in a position to let us know how many sessions Dr. Hope did during the last six months. The reasons for asking that is that the bulb which should be used by the doctor has not been working for six months, and I want to know if you have been able to replace it. I will have a couple more questions to ask the Minister when he replies.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have heard the replies given so far by the Minister. Now can the Minister tell us if the clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was really closed for six months and the reason for closing it, bearing in mind that the Minister has said that the services of the clinic were available to the children? We have got to be very careful in the use of language, because the service might very well be available to the children, but were the children able to avail themselves of that service? As one knows, the children do not leave their homes or schools and march off to the clinic; there are certain procedural arrangements which have first got to be made before the children can reach the clinic.

Now the Minister has not told us yet if he has discovered anything about the dental chair being tucked away at Enmore for two years. What information does he have on this?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the dental clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the information which I have is as follows:

	New Cases	Old Cases	Total
July, 1970	82	111	193
August	43	87	130
September	57	109	166
October	89	126	215
November	49	89	138
December	105	114	219

You will see that up to December the dental clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been in operation and still is.

Mr. HINDS: But to children?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: With regard to dental operations, the information is as follows:

	Major	Minor	Total
July	–	8	8
August	2	4	6
September	–	6	6
October	1	3	4
November	–	10	10
December	–	12	12

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Were there any children operated on and treated in these numbers? We are concerning ourselves with children.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Minister can tell us the number of sessions at the various clinics between January and June 1971, the attendances and the extractions. I want to say something on the whole policy of Government on this dental care business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the figures which I read just now in connection with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital deal mostly with outpatients. Children were being treated, but I understand the equipment did break down. The children will be treated again as soon as we have the equipment going again.

Mr. HINDS: When did the equipment break down? If the equipment broke down, it must have been reported to somebody immediately, at least to the Chief Dental Officer. Has it been repaired? When were the repairs completed?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have been informed that the equipment broke down around the middle of last year.

Mr. HINDS: If the equipment broke down around the middle of last year, is the Minister admitting then that the clinic has been out of service to children for six months which we are saying?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this dental service for children still continues. It is not that the service is discontinued.
3.00 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this dental service for children still continues, it is not that the service has been discontinued. There were five dentists in all three have resigned and two are still continuing. In the case of Dr. Talma he wrote to say a few months ago that he could not continue; Dr. Greaves left the Island and another doctor, Dr. Ward, was helping by taking some of the sessions. Recently the two Dr. Wards ceased to attend clinics and at the meeting with the Ministry officials they stated that they were being made conveniences until we could bring others, when it was explained to them that the Ministry was trying to increase the number of doctors in Barbados. The position is, Sir, that there is a shortage of Dental Surgeons all over the world, not only in Barbados, so that it is more lucrative to these Dental Surgeons to do private practice; they can hardly get through their, work so it is not that anybody is pushing them out of an occupation, they are sort of rendering a service, doing the Government a good turn, but we are trying to re-organise the dental service for school children, and I have already explained this in some detail in here, the methods and reorganisation which we will employ. By having full time dentists we hope that the service will be improved, and by having Dental Auxiliaries and Dental Hygienists to work along with these three full time Dental Surgeons we are hoping to improve the service, so to suggest that we are doing an injustice to these Dental Surgeons is not quite true. They are more doing the Government a favour than anything else. The services of Dental Practitioners are in great demand not only in Barbados but all over the world, and especially in the West Indies, so nobody is being hurt, they have not lost anything financially, for that reason they probably stand to gain.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I will draw to the attention of the Minister the whole problem. I am told by a very reliable source that the Dental Hygienist is dictating the policy of the dental clinics to the Dental Surgeons, and it is on that premise that they have more or less resigned. I do not believe in bringing a bone, because a man who brings a bone will also carry one, but I have this from a reliable source, and I know that two of the Dental Surgeons are still interested in carrying on their functions but they cannot continue as long as the Dental Hygienist is prepared to dictate to the Dental Surgeons.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member probably might not have been in here when I mentioned before the suspension that Miss Bozie was a Canadian University student who served in the Ministry of Health as a Dental Hygienist; her period of service has ended and she is no longer in Barbados. Her service was limited to two years and CUSO is trying to find a replacement.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I say I do not like calling names, but in as much as the Minister mentioned Miss Bozie, whose contract is out, there is a Miss Broome who did a one year course and is now working in the same dental clinics with the same Dental Surgeons. What the Minister is actually saying is that there is no Dental Hygienist now. If this lady's contract is over, she is no longer in Barbados, am I to understand there is no Dental Hygienist? What about Miss Broome that the Government of Barbados sent on a one year course? What is she doing then? You need a Dental Hygienist.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: At present the Government is trying to have suitable candidates trained as Dental Hygienists.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not interested at this point in what Government is trying to do, what I am interested

in right now if whether we have a Dental Hygienist in Barbados or not, and if there is a Dental Hygienist, was this Dental Hygienist sent on a one year course by the Government of Barbados? What has become of the Dental Hygienist that the Barbados Government sent abroad on a one year course?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This particular lady is still there and is still functioning.

Mr. CRAIG: As a Dental Hygienist?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would say so, but as far as I know the Dental Hygienist course is longer than one year.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think if there is one Minister we can get along with very well is the present Minister of Health, and I do not like the Minister to find himself in the awkward position of saying he does not know. The Minister is in a better position to know than we are on this side, and if we are interested in knowing, it is the Minister's duty, along with the Parliamentary Secretary, to know; what have they got a Parliamentary Secretary for then? I do not think the Minister must carry all the burden, but what is the use of the Parliamentary Secretary then? Here the Minister is saying that Miss Bozie has gone back, she is no longer with the dental clinic, and I drew to the Minister's attention that there is a Dental Hygienist trained at the expense of the Barbados Government, and we know that it should be a two year course, and we know that she did this course in either nine months or one year, but until she reaches the Qualification Bar they are not going to send her abroad to be trained any more. This is the position, Mr. Chairman, I am looking for some notes here because I think I will have the Minister in a very embarrassing position. We cannot say that we do not have a Dental Hygienist.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I did not say we do not have any, I said there is one who has been trained and who is a Hygienist, but in my opinion, from the little knowledge I have of this matter, you cannot train a Hygienist in nine months. I understand it is a two year course, yet there are certain courses done in the U.S.A. in Dietetics, for example, a one year course, and then the understanding is that they are Dietitians, but the Dietitians course is four years.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, we are going to deal with the Dietitians quite soon from now and what you have done quite recently too.

Mr. CRAIG: What I understood the Minister to say was that they were looking for a replacement for Miss Bozie; now on the other hand I am hearing there is a Dental Hygienist in Barbados. We are not concerned on this side with whether she did a one year course, two or three year course, we are going to come up to that particular point; what we are concerned with now is this, have they got a Dental Hygienist in Barbados today as a Dental Hygienist, that is what we would like to have straighten up. Is Miss Broome the Dental Hygienist and the replacement for Miss Bozie?
3.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I will probably be able to help him a little further. Miss Broome completed an approved 12-month Course in Canada, which gave her a certificate in Dental Hygiene. There is also a 2-year Course in Canada. The salary scale contains a Qualification Bar; so that the 2-year Course goes to a higher salary. The intention is to send Miss Broome back to Canada for her to further qualify so that she will be a full-fledged Dental Hygienist.

Mr. CRAIG: Must I understand from the Minister's own statement that Miss Broome is only a half-trained Dental Hygienist doing the job of a Dental Hygienist in Barbados? She is dictating to the Dental Surgeons.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am going to deny categorically that Miss Broome directs the policy of the work of the Dentists. She does not. She does not direct the policy of the work or give orders to Dentists. How could she?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand the Minister. Who is the administrative boss in the Dental Clinic?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows as well as I do that Dr. Smith has been given a retainer, and is supposed to be in charge of the Dental Service. He is the Senior Dentist, and he is in charge of the Scheme.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us take the Minister right back to the Dental Service for Schools. Is the Minister going to admit that this Service provides or caters for children up to 15 years old, but that the Clinic also provides for mother's antenatal cases? Is the Minister willing to admit this? We agree with the Minister that Dr. Smith gets his retainer, and that he is supposed to be the Senior Dental Officer. His functions are attending clinics and conducting lectures. There were 4 Dental Surgeons employed on a month to month basis. Now, the Minister has not told us anything about the Lady who was transferred from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Theatre and superimposed on the Dental Staff. Why was such action taken?

Now, the thing to note about the resignation of Dr. Talma, Dr. Peter Ward and Dr. Mark Ward is that they resigned after Mrs. Broome returned and took up here duties. What the Minister has not yet been informed of is that the Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital specialises in administering fillings and not rendering the type of service that the Minister has been led to believe.

Now, as a result of the absence of a bulb in the Chair at this Clinic, can anyone say what suffering has been caused? What discomfort was occasioned by any section of the community. The Government have advertised for two officers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Hon. members on my left are contravening Standing Order 29(6).

Mr. HINDS: Due to the absence of a bulb in the Chair, this Clinic was closed for six months. To what extent was the suffering occasioned? In other words, how many people had to go unattended during that period? We do not expect the Minister to have any instrument for measuring the degree of pain suffered by children and their mothers. If Government are advertising for 2 Dental Officers, would the Minister make a check to see whether the Legislature did not make provision for employing 3 Dental Officers?

As a result of the resignation of all of these officers and so on, there are a number of Clinics that have not been serviced at all. What does the Minister have to say about this?
3.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, what does the Minister have to say about this? Does such a situation really mean anything to the Minister in terms of suffering occasioned to people? The Minister has already replied as to the number of officers presently in the service, but what we might like to hear is how many extractions Dr. Hope performs in his two sessions per week, because I have before me the number of extractions the other doctors perform in the course of their sessions. The Minister is yet to reply about the dental chair purchased. I have already asked him about the absence of a steriliser at two clinics, St. George and St. John, and having cotton wool placed there since 1966. I am sure that the Minister would have it before him to tell us all there is to be told about the dental service. I am sure there is nothing in it the Minister would have to hide. While we are at Item 143, we would like the Minister to explain to us what has been done about the visual treatment of school children, and how many school children have been found to be deaf apart from those in the Deaf and Blind School. Are there any others besides those for whom treatment is urgently needed, and what is the number? When we discover that there is a decrease in the amount for Special Services, we certainly must have an explanation from the Minister as to what are the proposed changes in the dental service of this Island and all that has happened during the past six months.

Now I would like to deal, Mr. Chairman, with cataract cases under the same Item. I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many cataract cases the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare found themselves having to deal with, and how long have some of these cases been on this list. Mr. Chairman, my information is that there are people, and particularly old people, who have been waiting more than three years to have cataracts removed from their eyes, and I would like to hear what the Minister has to say on this.

On Item 141 - Training, I am sure that I tabled questions in this Honourable House asking Government if there were aware of the shortage of dispensers in this country, and Government gave me a reply as if to suggest that it was none of their business. The questions and the replies are there to be read by anybody, but now Government finds it necessary in less than a year's time to be voting money for the training of dispensers. According to the note you are going to train dispensers, laboratory technicians and visiting nurses. I wonder if these visiting nurses are for after care work or what. What type of training is going to be necessary for these visiting nurses? Is it a case where you are strengthening what was formerly district visiting nurses service, or is it a special branch you are now trying to establish? How many of these visiting nurses do you propose training in the present financial year?

Now since it has been found necessary to train laboratory technicians, I am to wonder if in the national awards to commemorate International Education Year any awards were made for training laboratory technicians. However, the Minister would certainly have before him how many laboratory technicians are going to be trained in the coming financial year.
3.30 p.m.

At Item 155, Mr. Chairman, films for the B.C.G. campaign, we have a confidence that the Minister would be happy to tell us of the progress on this. It has been going on for some time now, and a progress report would be in order. Let us for a moment go back to Item 147; I am not going to worry the Minister on this, I will draw that to his attention and I will leave it to the Minister to tell us exactly what has been done in these very particular fields, because as for the question of maintenance of standards, I believe the Minister would have volumes to say on this, and it is after we have heard his reply that we would be in a better position to let the Minister know what we have at our disposal.

At Item 150 you are providing clothing and uniforms for the staff of Health Centres, including female labourers, maids, nurses, Public Health Inspectors and laboratory staff. Who is going to get the clothing and who is going to get the uniforms, because when when it comes to spending taxpayers' money we want some very accurate definitions in matters of this sort.

Our medical supplies are going to cost us $100,000 as at Item 152. This includes provision for dietary supplements, medicines and medical and surgical treatment. I want the Minister to give us an idea of what has prompted the inclusion of the words "dietary supplements".

At Item 159 where we have Food Sampling, the Minister should be able to tell us when last samples were taken of milk produced by the Pine Hill Dairy. What were the results of any tests carried out on the said milk, and in case the milk was found not up to the required standard, what action if any was taken?

At Item 161 we are going to spend $69,500. I want to know how much money is going to be spent providing toilet facilities for poor and destitute persons. What is the method employed in making these facilities available? In other words, what part your Public Health Officers play in bringing the unfor-

tunate positions of the poor people in their areas to the attention of Government, so that some of these poor people who might not know that we are making provision in the sum of $69,500, they may not know they can benefit from it, are your Public Health Officers instructed to advise these people to make applications, and are they assisting in encouraging these people to do this? As a matter of fact, Sir, there was a time when figures would be available to us as to how many earth toilets, open pits there are still in use in each of the parishes of this island.
3.40 p.m.

I do not know if a record of these things is still kept, because the Public Health Inspector today is not required to do more than to visit each house in his area more than once a month. He must visit the house at least once, and after that his job is finished. He can be a politician for the rest of the month. He can spend two days covering his district, and be a politician for the rest of the month. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy would know what I am talking about. He knows that some of them are trying to be politicians and are seeking nominations against him at the moment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the Environmental Sanitation Programme during 1970 the number of slabs casted was 2,821. The number of rises casted during 1970 was 2,742. The number of Units installed during 1970 was 2,014. The number of pits dug was 194. The number of bath slabs installed was 283. The work of the Department has been severely affected by frequent breakdowns of the vehicles and equipment due to age. The target aimed at can only be reached within the time limit, if these vehicles and equipment undergo extensive repairs or are replaced.

The recent flood has shown up the need for urgency in this particular matter, and we are trying our best with this particular matter. As the Public Health Inspectors go around they explain the Scheme to the people and try to make them fully aware of the benefit of this Scheme.

As far as the Dental Scheme is concerned.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I wonder whether the Minister could get his officers to give him this information? When last was the Mobile Dental Clinic in operation?

Mr. HINDS: With reference to Item 161, you are thinking in terms of buying field equipment for use in the control of infectious diseases. There, undoubtedly, would be heavy concentration on rat extermination. I will say very little on that because I think the hon. junior member for St. George had the opportunity to bring that forcefully to the attention of the Committee earlier. I support what he has said about stepping up the campaign. I think that some good work is being done in the City area, but it requires the support of every householder. It has to be a whole-time job. I believe that, if the moiety system were to be reintroduced whereby you would pay so much a rat head, it would go a long way to help us in eradicating these nuisances which do so much damage to our food crops, our foods in stores and in Bonds as well as to our cane crops.

Mr. Chairman, I want to know how much money has been paid to Doctors for notifying infectious diseases. This is in the light of what appeared in a section of the Press some months ago. It was a sort of confrontation in my view with the Chief Medical Officer. I have already asked about the B. C. G. Campaign. The removal of dead animals have also been discussed by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. Under some other Head he pointed out the difficulty in finding people to remove these dead animals and drew attention to the fact that we will soon have to pay a big sum of money to get them removed. Very often you may pass and see a dog by a bus stop. Some of them wait at bus stops for two and three days in some parishes, but no bus would take them up. The scavengers, apparently, do not remove them.

With regard to Item 163.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hope the hon. member will give way, Mr. Chairman. I will try to help with replies to these numerous questions. Two hon. members raised the question of a Dental Chair which was purchased for Dr. Nicholls. This chair needed a part which was ordered soon after it was acquired, but the part has not yet arrived.

Mr. HINDS: The chair needed a part soon after it was acquired?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: We are submitting that the chair was brought without the part, and that a proper survey had not been carried out. In other words, the basis of our question is that it was foisted upon the Government through the advice of somebody other than the proper channel. It is not true to say that after it was purchased you had to order this part. So I would like the Minister to seek further advice on the question and do not allow himself to be misled like this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have made a note of the point raised. At Item 146 - Research, a number of doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in the Public Health Service engage in research. For instance, Dr. Ramsay in malnutrition; Dr. Dos Santos in Leptospirosis and Dr. Haynes in Diabetes. The vote will enable us to give some assistance where expenditure for secretarial services, transport of patients, processing of results etc. may be necessary.

Special Services: The amount has been decreased for Special Services because there is a separate provision for salaries of dental officers. In reality there has been a big increase.

As far as the dispensers are concerned, there has been an increase in prescriptions to be processed

from 150,162 for the ten months period January to September, 1969 to 159,096 for a similar period in 1970. Figures for the last two months in 1970 are not yet available and an annual comparison could not be made. The dispensary is at present experiencing difficulty in providing a satisfactory service, because of shortage of staff. Of the nine posts of dispensers provided in the Establishment, only seven posts are filled, and some of them by retired druggists who have been good enough to come back and assist us in carrying out the service. Advertisements in the daily newspapers have produced no applications for vacant posts. It is expected that four student dispensers will shortly join the dispensary. They can give immediate help in the pre-packaging of drugs which will be done under the supervision of a dispenser, and they will on qualifying be available for employment in the Government service. Discussions with the Pharmaceutical Society have been held and have led to an agreement on training courses which will soon be initiated.

Visiting nurses will work at the Health Centres, sub-centres in the District Nursing Service and in the schools. The training is described as health visitors certificate.

Dietary supplements: This has been so stated for years. The provision is used to purchase skim milk and vitamins for malnutrition cases more so in children. We have spent some time in discussing the dental service for school children. Hon. members know that we have had five dentists performing part-time services; they each did three sessions weekly at the Health Centres and different schools through the mobile dental unit. I have given this information already. At present there is one dental officer, an acting appointment under the new Order who does nine sessions a week, while two dentists do three sessions a week each. One of the original five dentists left the Island and one informed the Ministry last year that he could no longer continue.

Mr. HINDS: I would prefer to hear the Minister explain about these nurses who are going to visit schools and get a certificate. You said you were having some discussions with the Pharmaceutical Society, that visiting nurses will go to school and get some certificate. I want to know what employment value these certificates will have outside of Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The position is that the Barbados Nurses Association run this district nursing service, but there are certain nurses who are taken over from the Councils that are also engaged by Government; so the service is really performed by two sections, but mainly by the Barbados Nurses Association. The position is now being examined whereby we will make one service of it. The idea is put these nurses who are members of the Barbados Nurses Association and who are not Government employees as such on a better footing, because many of them have rendered very useful service for many long years. They will be members of the established staff and be entitled to pension rights etc., because one or two have put in sixteen years of service with the Barbados Nurses Association. Whether they are ex-nurses of the former Councils or of the Barbados Nurses Association, we want to merge it into one service and establish them on a proper footing, see that their salaries are increased like anybody else, and it is for that reason the grant is being increased and transportation facilities will be given to them and so on. The hon. member need have no fear. We are working on this particular matter and the visiting nurses will be in a better position than they are today.

Mr. HINDS: I understand the position the nurses are going to be in. In what position will all this place the children? What are these nurses going to do at the schools? Are they going to dress the wounds or carry remedies in case of tummy ache, and administer cod liver oil?
4.00 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: While we are waiting on the specific reply from my advisers, the hon. member will pardon me if I will continue. The question of laboratory technicians; you usually get one or two places at the school in Jamaica, and we have been helped by PAHO fellowships; however, the need for greater numbers has been felt, and a course leading to the intermediate qualification has been started locally. At present the number being taken into the first year class is ten, for further training they will have to go abroad but we have adequate facilities here for doing the first part of the necessary training.

The district nursing service. As the hon. member knows, they visit the homes in the various parishes and assist and advise mothers on the care of their children and they have proved to be of great assistance. It is for that reason that the service is being established on a proper footing. The nurses assist in any need that the children may have, any attention they may need, and if they are sick they see after them, so it is a nursing service visiting the homes of children, and we are trying to establish it on a better footing. Of the nurses themselves, we are trying to put them on a better footing as well, and they will be better able and more willing to carry on as they have done in the past.

Mr HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister quite well that he is providing for the nurses; is it a fact that these nurses are going to be visiting these schools?

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, but these nurses who will visit the schools are qualified nurses. In some cases they have the S.R.N., and S.C.N. and the R.S.H.; they are qualified people who will visit the schools and lecture to the children and to the teachers in general on public health.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, this is something entirely different. We are now looking at an educational programme, not a medical programme any longer at all as such; is that the case? I would like to hear what the Minister has to say.

Mr. WEEKES: These nurses are at the various Health Centres but occasionally they will go to the schools and lecture to the children and to the teachers on public health.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want it to be put as clearly as it can be put. What did the Minister mean when he told us these people would be visiting the schools and as a result they will be getting some sort of a certificate after having these discussions with the Pharmaceutical Society and things of the sort?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I think this needs a little clearing up. The district nursing service is a service in which visits are paid to the homes; I think what my colleague referred to is an additional service. This is just the school health service, it is something that we have been working on. Anyhow, there are two services, as far as I understand the matter, one is for the school and the other the district nurses who visit the homes and the other nurses who are being trained will be for the schools, but I know that we had an expert here on school health service, but unfortunately she has recently left us, but she is an expert on that and she is the one who was trying to get this school health service established, and we are working on her recommendations.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are having too many experts coming to Barbados these days confusing the whole situation, the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary; that is what they are doing above everything else. We know the district nursing service is the service to the various homes and has been going on for years. Provision is made elsewhere in these Estimates for placing this service on a proper footing, I do not know what the Minister is now trying to confuse with this school visiting service; what is the position of the pharmaceutical Society or granting of a certificate? What does all that mean in this context? What are these nurses going to the schools to do? Are they going to dress wounds or what? What is it? We do not want to oppose it, we want to support it and we want to be familiar with exactly what they are going to do.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has already explained there are certain nurses who were taken over from the defunct Councils. The nurses will visit schools to screen children and assist teachers in checking on children's health. They will refer cases needing treatment to the appropriate clinic; in other words, they will be finding cases, doing preventive work and giving health education.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hope the hon. member is satisfied now, since the senior member for St. Philip has clarified the position. The amounts paid for notifying diseases on the 20th March, 1971, the paysheet was drawn for some $684.75 to pay approximately 20 doctors for such notification for 1970-71.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few other questions that have been asked, but I must say that for any human being to answer all these thousand and one questions I will have to be given notice of them for at least a week before.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Let the Minister understand that these are the Annual Estimates. In other words, the Minister had a whole year in which to prepare himself for this exercise today. He is now inviting trouble. I have asked the Minister for a report on the B.C.G. Campaign.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments on this Head. I must confess that, after hearing one answer from the Minister to a question which I posed, I can only consider it to be a slipshod affair. If we examine Government's policy and see the conditions under which the Dentists have to work, one can only conclude that the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary are not *au fait* with all that is going on in this Ministry. It has always been the policy of the Government to put up a show window and dress it with artificial dressing. How can you expect things to go on in this manner?

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that you complained about the opening of the St. George Clinic in here. When it was opened you were not invited, and you did not know that the Clinic had been opened. That was an insult to you as the representative of that constituency. Not only was it an insult to you, Mr. Chairman, but it was also an insult to the people in St. George. We are told that you have at the St. George Clinic a Dentist extracting people's teeth on a bench. The Minister tells us that there was a dental chair brought from Dr. Nicholls as well as his instruments. Everybody knows that Dr. Nicholls was a retired Dentist, and I think he is now dead. They purchased old "thrown-offs" to be used in the mouths of those children. Instead of a steriliser, they are using cottonwool and dettol to clean the instruments. This is a sloppy Government.

Mr. Chairman, I thought that when Government decided to open these Dental Clinics they would have decided what places they were going to use, the number of Dentists that would be necessary to staff them, and what instruments would have been needed. We understand that Dentists have to use their own instruments at the St. George Clinic. I challenge the Minister to say what provision is made in the Estimates today for acquiring proper instruments for the 3 Dentists that they have decided to appoint. I have already asked the Minister for the half-yearly Report.

I want to say that between January and June, 1970, there were some 70 sessions; the attendance was 1,843 and there were 1,119 extractions. This work was done by way of the Mobile Clinic. The Mobile Clinic is now out of use. If it is out of use for 6 months, then you can conclude that 1,190 extractions will not be carried out. In the absence of the Mobile Clinic what are those people doing?

At Enmore there were 99 sessions; 2,743 people attended and 3,762 extractions were made. We are told that there is a dental chair here not in use. I can tell the Minister that it is at Enmore pushed aside. The taxpayers' money has gone down the drain. This is where I challenge the Government and the Ministry with sloppy planning. They are all show-window people; they will bluff and try to hoodwink the taxpayers.

Mr. Chairman, I see no money in the Estimates to provide this country with a well qualified Dental Hygienist. As the Minister himself has said: There is, he supposes, a Dental Hygienist. He is not sure.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said that because, in my opinion, she is not fully qualified, and that is the reason I gave that sort of answer.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, we do not expect the Minister to state his opinion. We expect the Minister to state emphatically that she is a qualified Dental Hygienist. We do not want the Minister to tell us that in his opinion she is not fully qualified. I do not care how it can be interpreted. This is an important post, and I am saying that there should be a fully qualified Dental Hygienist filling the post, if we are going to carry out extractions of this nature.

Mr. Chairman, the whole problem lies around the Dental Hygienists and the Dentists because she is dictating Government's policy to the Dentists. That is why we find today that 5 Dentists have resigned and walked out at one time. Dr. Ward and Dr. Collins walked out almost within 6 months. Dr. Smith, who should be directing what should be done, is being told by the Dental Hygienist what should be done.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is now in his fifth year in this House. He has not been ill, and he has not been abroad for any lengthy period, so he must recall that I brought in a Civil Establishment Order Here establishing the posts of 3 Senior Dentists; 2 Dentists; 1 Senior Dental Surgeon, 2 Dental Surgeons, 2 Auxiliaries and 2 Dental Hygienists, etc., for which provision is made and the posts have been established. The hon. member is suggesting that no provision is being made. You do not picked up a Dental Hygienist just like that. Such people have to be trained. We are exploring means and seeking abroad to get some Dental Hygienists to assist us until our people are trained.

4.20 p.m.

It is not that everything is in a muddle as you are trying to make out. Everything is a clear out policy.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, during the period that Miss Bozie was in Barbados one would have thought that if she was on loan to the Barbados Government that the Government in turn would have sent out someone to be trained to take over from that lady on return. You had someone on loan, but you waited until the person was about to leave and then tried to get somebody to scramble through a course in nine months. Then we are told that because of the qualification bar she had to go out. I would like to know from the Minister when Miss Broome gets away to do her finals what provision is there in the Estimates for someone to succeed her.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member can refer to page 110. At Item 43 there is a Senior Dental Officer at $12,000, then two Dental Officers $20,840 and on page 111 provision is made for two Dental Hygienists $8,640, and a Trainee Dental Hygienists to whom I referred, not the lady you are talking about, but others who will be trained in that capacity, and four Auxiliary Dental Officers, and then Trainee Dental Auxiliaries. There are also for Dental Assistants. So provision is made in the Estimates for training dental hygienists and dental auxiliaries. The hon. member will realise that we are making a start.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, that is not the point. The Government knows only too well that too many provisions have been made in the Estimates and they have lapsed over a period of time, therefore, I cannot be satisfied with the policy of Government in not having any dental hygienist in the country when this lady goes abroad. We are not concerned with what provisions are here; we know only two well how often we have seen votes lapsed.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is interrupting me. He reminds me very much of a Santa Claus of that size at this time of the year. Ask him to remove himself or take his seat. He is dressed in Mr. Speaker's wig walking up and down, and that face under that wig is not a very pleasant sight.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, perhaps I may be able to help the hon. member. The hon. member I think is aware that this is the first time that these people will be appointed to the posts and sent for training. There is a training unit and funds for the training of public officers are provided under the Head of Training. Now it is my understanding that approaches have already been made to the Service Agencies like CUSO and Peace Corps to find officers to man the various offices while the locals are sent out for training.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member can answer this and continue to defend the Government on this. How long ago did we have this dental scheme?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is clear that this Civil Establishment Order was agreed to in this Chamber in the present financial year and this is the first time that provision is made for them in these Estimates.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister does not seem to know what is going on. I am asking the Minister how long we had the dental scheme. I want to draw to the Minister's attention that Dr. James Smith was serving the Government of Barbados for sixteen years, Dr. Talma for some six or seven years and Dr. Mark Ward and Dr. Peter Ward for about two years each. What I am concerned about is Government's policy of putting the cart before the horse, because you should have had a dental hygienst long ago and not wait until now to come for one.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, you criticise me, I criticise you. It was the Barbados Labour Party that initiated the scheme. If you talk about putting the cart before the horse, it was the Barbados Labour Party that did that because when they initiated the scheme they should have thought of dental hygienists.

Mr. CRAIG: And that is why the people of the country got rid of them, because they did not know what they were doing; but you were supposed to correct all these errors, but you followed the same pattern, and if I am to criticise the former Government.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: At least we have done something, because we have provision now.

Mr. CRAIG: You have done quite a bit because you still have the hospital running. We built it and handed it to you, but you are still responsible for people going there and waiting from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, hon. members are in the habit of trying to malign and slander the hospital, but little do they know that in the entire British Caribbean.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, the Minister is well aware that I have always treated him with great respect. I do not slander the hospital, Sir; he should be looking in a different direction. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member withdraw the word "slander"?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I will withdraw it especially in view of the fact that I may be speaking to the shadow Minister of Health and Social Welfare; so like that he could not be found guilty or I should never try to impute a statement like that to him. It may be a disservice to him in future years. As I was saying, it is a familiar pattern for certain hon. members of the Opposition to criticise the hospital, but the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the best run hospital in the entire British Caribbean; so put that in your pipe and smoke it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is the best run in the British Caribbean because you did not wake up one morning and find that everybody was dead. I am going to take the Minister pace by pace if he insists on talking this nonsense about the hospital. *(Asides)* Go and kill Olga Dubois.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know Olga Dubois nor do I want to know her.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: The Minister has a right to know Olga Dubois; if Olga Dubois goes and tells the Director she is finished stealing they might get rid of her from the hospital, so they do not want her at the hospital, she admits she was stealing.

Mr. CRAIG: I was under the impression that the junior member for St. Thomas would have been worried about a man called Tom Adams, but I did not know he would be worried about a woman called Olga Dubois.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As long as no member is addressing the Chair I have the right to put the question.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that and I want us to be on very good terms this afternoon, and I would also like to draw to your attention that you should again warn all members of the House to speak in undertones before you put the question. Let us move away for one moment from the dental care of the country, because there is a complete breakdown in that particular department. The Minister himself admits this when the Minister can get up and say that he does not know if a person in such an important post is trained or untrained, then I can only conclude that that department has completely broken down under the Minister of Health.

I would just like to look at the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, and I observe here there is an amount of $2,003,233 at Item 217. Something which I have always been very concerned about; under this Board, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that you are sitting in the Chair at this moment, because as Chairman of the Board you would have a rather useful contribution to make. I cannot be critical of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board because I have not been looking at it as closely as I would like to look at it. The first thing which galls me at this moment is the idea of having the stigma of calling the workers those people who work cleaning the streets, scavengers. I believe they start off on the premise that they are the dirt, and I thought, Mr. Chairman, it would have been a very nice idea if you could use your very important office, along with the Ministry, and set up some proper name for them and assist them, because do not let us fool ourselves, Mr. Chairman, people who do that type of work in some countries are some of the highest paid people, and they are some of the people that Governments must look out to help, because whenever there is a strike in a sanitation department where you have people leaving refuse on the street, you will find it can be a health

hazard, and that is why they play such an important part in the community, and I say this for the Governments of yesteryear and the Governments of today that I do not believe that those people have ever been treated as nicely as they should be treated.

Some time ago I drew to the attention of the Government that these people should be provided with boots, and they should make sure that they are worn. I am told that they are given two suits a year to work in and this is nonsense. You only have to see one of those big trucks go on a dump a morning and stick up when it is wet and the same men have to go under the trucks and dig out some of the mould from around it so that the drivers can get them out. Do you imagine a person having two suits a year, a Monday morning he comes out to work and it is a wet morning and his truck gets stuck and he has to assist in getting it out, can you imagine how dirty he is going to look by the end of the week? I am going to question this because I feel they should have better treatment. What about gloves? I am told they are provided with gloves; I am told by some of them that they cannot get the gloves, and you, Mr. Chairman, have told me that they have on more than one occasion come to you and ask you about getting the gloves.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is perfectly true.

Mr. CRAIG: But I say this, the Supervisors of these particular health men should make sure that whatever clothes they are provided with should be worn because they are protecting the same people, but out of ignorance they do not wear them. I see them riding at the back of the truck, all the refuse is in the truck and they are inhaling what is in the truck, and I feel that there should be more precaution taken against this. More of these people should be directed as to the actual duties they have to perform and the danger of the duties which they perform.

As far as cemeteries are concerned, I remember as a younger boy it was a delight of mine after leaving Sunday School on evenings either to go down to the Pierhead or take a walk in the Westbury Cemetery. As a matter of fact, I used to monkey around the choir at St. Michael's Cathedral many years ago; at that time the late Sir Frank Worrell and Eric Crichlow were the head boys, and I remember very well going into the Cemetery on evenings and seeing how well the people have been keeping the Cemetery. Many of the people who had bought graves in there had always kept them well, but there are people who live in other areas who are not in a position to keep the graves well and they are completely run down. If you go to St. Lucy, I remember stopping in there and looking at some of the names on the headstones and you could hardly walk through the paths between the graves far less read the names on the headstones. As far as St. James Cemetery is concerned, I believe it is the worst possible Cemetery that you could think about, and a very prominent gentleman from St. James called me up a couple of days ago because one of his employees died and he wanted to have him buried, and he said he would have been disrespecting the man now that he had passed away, and his family, to have him buried in St. James Cemetery in the condition in which it is. The little hut they have there for a Church, I know they will say it was kept by Local Government, but I do not know much about that and I do not know if they were responsible for that, but five years is a long time to have this put in order and I would feel that more attention should be paid to these Cemeteries.

There is another Item, Mr. Chairman I wish to say a word or two on and it is Item 214 - Barbados Association in Aid of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and the Mentally Retarded Children.
4.40 p.m.

I would hope to see a vote in here also for the Meals on Wheels Programme. Those people are doing a splendid job assisting very destitute people and others who are too ill to walk to their own kitchens, if they have any. You merely have to go along the St. James coast and you will see some prominent, wealthy people serving the unfortunate ones. I would have hoped that the Government would have made provision in a vote to assist them.

Now, I see that $200 is provided for the Bessie Yearwood Home. What can they do with that? With reference to Item 213, I wonder if the Bessie Yearwood Home is still in existence? I hope the Minister will make a note of what I said about the Meals on Wheels Programme, because those people are doing a wonderful job. It is an organisation for which I have a very deep respect. I think you will recall the Prime Minister and Princess Margaret dancing, and the Prime Minister looked as pleased as "Punch". He looked like a sleeping beauty. That was a dance organised by the Meals on Wheels Organisation at Mrs. Janet King, and I think they raised a very substantial sum of money. I feel that the Government should assist these people since they have tried to help themselves.

Now, I have a criticism to make about this $20,500 for the Medical Aid Scheme. I drew the Minister's attention to a young man who was hospitalised for a number of months. He was discharged from the hospital at a time when he was not feeling any better. He then went to Dr. Greenidge, a Surgeon Specialist, in St. Peter. Dr. Greenidge gave him a letter asking the Hospital to re-admit him because he discovered that the man had a bad back injury. The man was not in a position to pay for any overseas treatment, but the Hospital in this country could not provide the type of treatment that was necessary. When he took the letter to the Hospital the Doctors at the Casualty told him that, according to their records at their disposal, they could not re-admit him.

I am not trying to get in the specialist business. They have their profession, so have I. I respect them in theirs, and I believe they should respect me in mine. I feel that when a man or woman is ill some sort of sympathetic consideration should be given to him or her. It is regrettable to know that a patient can be given a letter by an acknowledged Surgeon Specialist - whether or not he is recognised or acknowledge by other Doctors at the Hospital, he is recognised in Barbados as a Surgeon Specialist. I think the hon. senior member for St. Peter will bear

me out in this. Up to this very day that man has not been able to get in a Hospital Ward in order to get the assistance of this Medical Aid Scheme. Mr. Chairman, you cannot get any assistance from the Medical Aid Scheme unless you are in the Hospital and the Doctors recommend it. I think that this vote of $20,500 is inadequate.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. I just want to set the record straight. I agree with what the hon. senior member for St. James has said in that he has drawn this matter to my attention. I accept what he has said in so far as that particular patient is concerned. I spoke to my Advisers in that connection, and we asked the member to send the patient back to the Specialist at the Hospital. There seems to have been some mistake, but the fact is that if the patient were sent to the Casualty that would be the wrong procedure. He would have to be sent direct to a Specialist.

I took a special interest in this particular matter, and I spoke to one of the Surgeon Specialist at the Hospital who arranged for an appointment and was ready and willing to see the patient. The Hospital Specialist is the person who has to recommend a patient for assistance under the Hospital Medical Aid Scheme. I do not know what went on before I become aware of the matter. If the instructions which I have quite recently given are carried out, and the appointment which I have made for the patient to see a particular Specialist is kept, then the Specialist will recommend him for assistance under the Hospital Medical Aid Scheme. It is a Government Scheme, so only a Specialist at the Hospital can make recommendations for it. The point is that the man was a patient at the Hospital and should not have been discharged until he had fully recovered. He is still suffering as he did before. It is not too late to deal with him. We have increased the vote for Medical Aid, as the hon. member knows. If he goes through the right channel the patient will stand to benefit from the Medical Aid Scheme. This Scheme is for people all over the Island, but there is a regular procedure which must be follow in order to benefit from the Scheme.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, there is only one other point which I should like to draw to the Minister's attention under this Head. I refer to Item 140 - Transport Allowances - $14,000. The Note says that this sum of money is for the monthly vehicle upkeep allowance for Public Health Inspectors. I am actually bringing the message, to put it that way. I believe it is the duty of the citizens of this country when they elect a member to carry their grievances to the representative of their respective constituencies. Many of these officers have been crying out repeatedly that $15 a month for travelling allowance for a car is not enough. This matter is now dealt with under the Central Government. Nowadays the Public Health Inspectors not only have to deal with houses, but with a number of Hotels and it is a specialised job. They have to deal with very rigid health laws. When you take into consideration the fact that a man with a motor cycle is given $10 and a man with a motor car is given $15 a month, you will see that the $10 can almost carry a man from here to Europe on a motor cycle. I am saying that $15 a month is not enough for a motor car.

4.50 p.m.

If a man believes he should have a motor car, you give him $10; if he feels he should have a motor scooter you give him $10; but I do not agree with giving a man with a scooter $10 and a man with a motor car $15. I feel it should be a set figure of say $20 or $25 to save any discrimination. Many of them are crying out that the allowance is not properly graded, and I hope that the Minister will pay some attention to that.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have made my observations and my criticisms, and knowing the Minister as well as I do, I know he will take them in good faith and will probably look into any matters which are drawn to his attention. I still contend that it has always been Government's policy to put the cart before the horse, and if the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said that we did this too, I am saying that it was their duty to correct the errors which we made. From our mistakes the Government should have learned, and I will at all times challenge them on their sloppy planning.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member who has just sat down is a member of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. It is quite true he has only recently been appointed, and I am very pleased to see he has started to take an interest in matters dealing with sanitation and cemeteries, and he is probably in a position to help the Board a great deal. Although at Estimates time in his capacity he is expected to make his contribution, yet on a future occasion I hope he will assist Government in explaining certain things as far as the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board is concerned. You have just been appointed and therefore you probably do not realise that you are a member of the Board yet. The position is that at present we are asking for an increase of $445,259 over the approved Estimates for 1970-71. This is due mainly to the fact that the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board is being reorganised and as the hon. member knows and as Your Honour knows as Chairman of the Board, provision has been made for additional staff as follows: 1 Executive Officer; 1 Accountant; 9 Supervisors; 2 Traxcavator Operators; 16 Driver-Supervisors; 14 Lorry Loaders; the upgrading of two of the posts of part-time caretaker.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, did you say 14 lorries?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said 14 Lorry Loaders. There will also be the upgrading of two of the posts of part-time caretaker at the cemeteries to that of Clerical Officer and to normal incremental increases. This additional staff is necessary for the general efficiency of the Department as well as the standard to refuse collection and disposal which we are all trying to improve. Hon. members have a copy of our Estimates, but I am only drawing to attention that the staff is being increased.

As far as the equipment is concerned, two new traxcavators were received by the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board on 15th June, 1970, and nine refuse collectors were received during October. There are ten additional refuse collectors on order which it is hoped will be received within the next three or four

weeks. Meanwhile there are twelve refuse collectors presently being used which because of their general condition are a source of continual heavy expenditure, and therefore will need to be replaced. New refuse dumps have been set up. During the year dumping operations had to be transferred from the principal dumping site at Hanson, St. George to a site at Jordans Plantation, St. George and to Lowthers at Christ Church. This transfer became necessary because of heavy rains during the month of October, 1970 and to the refuse dumps being set alight. I do not know if hon. members want to hear any more on this.

There is an amendment which I should like to make. Under Item 149 - Public Health Inspectors - I want to delete the whole note to the item because the rates are being revised. The hon. senior member for St. James spoke on the rates of the travelling allowance for Public Health Inspectors, but these will not be the rates in future. The matter is being negotiated now and both the Parliamentary Secretary and myself are dissatisfied with the low rate, and the majority of members of our Party feel that a more realistic rate should be paid. The rate of $15 for a car, $10 for a motor cycle and $8.50 for a scooter is not in proportion to the expenses involved and the number of miles travelled by these public health inspectors who have been doing a very wonderful job.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Item 138 - Dispensaries and District Hospitals. I want the Minister to make a note of my comments. Sir, with regard to the St. Joseph dispensary, from a boy I know that that dispensary was giving good service to the public. It used to cater to parts of St. Andrew, St. John and St. Thomas.

5.00 p.m.

Under the new set up I have been made to understand that the Dispenser has to go to St. Andrew's District Hospital and St. Thomas' District Hospital on certain days of the week and the Dispensary is closed on those days. There is no one there to make up prescriptions, and as you know we have one of the best doctors in St. Joseph at the moment, Dr. Johnson, and people come from all over the Island to see Dr. Johnson and they used to go to this dispensary to have prescriptions made up. If the Dispenser has to go to these places, I believe to prescribe medicine, and the Dispensary is closed down it means that a lot of people will be prevented from getting medicine, and it is also now being prevented from selling certain things like soaps, perfumes, cigarettes and those things, and those are the Items that the people in the parish and all around want.

What is the good of a Dispenser leaving St. Joseph to go to St. Andrew and St. Thomas to prescribe medicine? If you want a centre for this work St. Joseph could be the centre for the prescriptions and they all can be taken there to be made up, because we have an ambulance service and some other forms of transportation. When the Dispenser is away from St. Joseph a lot of people in the parish are in need of his services but the Dispensary is closed down and they are denied them. If it is the intention of Government to do away with the St. Joseph Dispensary by closing it some days of the week, they should rent it out to some person who could carry on the service, and I believe that they would get $100 a month for it. The same Dispenser I believe would be in a position to rent it and put someone there to run it; it used to give yeoman service to the public in general, and people going down to Bathsheba used to stop there to get their necessary items. It is a service we have all enjoyed there for a very long time and I do not believe that this Government would bring it to an end just like this. Why does the Dispenser have to close the Dispensary to go to St. Andrew and St. Thomas to prescribe medicine? I believe you have to pay him a travelling allowance, but if you have the services at your disposal whenever the people need medicine he should be there. There is also an assistant there but the assistant cannot prescribe the medicine so when the Dispenser is off the assistant is blowing a comb, the place is closed and he goes home. I do not think it is wise and I do not think the Minister knows anything about this service at all, because knowing him as I do and he had known anything about it he would have gone into the matter. It is only yesterday that it was brought to my attention because I know that the Dispenser used to be there all the time before and I did not know that he had to go to St. Andrew and St. Thomas. That Dispensary used to operate during the time when I was a member of the Poor Law Board, but under the new regulations we are in more trouble now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I will assure him that this matter will be taken up by me. The service is either not operating satisfactorily or at all; from what I know it is opened twice a week but I will look into that matter.

Mr. SMITH: The Minister has misunderstood me; I did not say it does not open at all, it is closed on the days when the Dispenser has to go to the other parishes. The inconsistent way it is done you could just as well say that it does not open at all. If you go to Dr. Johnson today and he sends you with a prescription to the Dispensary for medicine and you need that medicine in a hurry, it would be a very serious thing that when you go there the Dispensary is closed. I can talk because I was very nearly overboard myself and if the Dispensary was closed at that time I suppose your humble servant would have gone to Heaven, but be that as it may he was on duty that day and I am still alive. I know the Minister will take it up immediately and see that this place is kept open, and if they cannot keep it open on their own, call for tenders and I am sure you will get a Dispenser to rent it but do not have the building there closed nearly the whole week and the people cannot get medicine.

5.10 p.m.

Nothing can be done there now.

As I have said, with this new Drug Act things will be worst for us, and we will be in more trouble.

It means that you cannot go to the Dispensary to repeat medicine, and you will have to come to Town to get the okay from the Doctor. You will have to be going to Bridgetown most of the time. It means that the people will have to find additional bus fares. Do not let it be said that the present Government have no use for the people in St. Joseph.

The question that the sum of $6,469,001 under Head 39 – Ministry of Health & Social Welfare – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 40 - WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Head 40 – WELFARE DEPARTMENT – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,956,049 under Head 40 - Welfare Department - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 42 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 42 – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,767,031 under Head 42 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

Mr. HOPPIN left the Chair and Mr. SMITH took the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the appropriation of the sum of money under this Head, I think it is my duty to give hon. members certain relevant information on certain matters which should be known. As far as the Casualty is concerned, the problem of not being able to give immediate attention to non-emergency cases, also called general practitioner cases, presenting themselves at Casualty continues to plague the Hospital Administration. Although there has been a decrease in the Casualty and general practitioner cases from 41,140 in 1969 to 37,637 in 1970, this problem is still severe. The Casualty is staffed for providing an emergency service only, and these general practitioner cases have to take second place to emergencies. Is is hoped that the Consultant, who is shortly to be appointed in the Casualty, will directly his attention towards a solution of this problem.

At this point I think I should tell the Committee that we have plans for constructing an Out-patient Clinic on the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. When that Out-patient Clinic is constructed it will be a means of dividing the out-patient cases from the emergency cases, and it is only then that the congestion at the Casualty will be able to be controlled, and the hardships experienced by many people who have to wait there for very many hours will dwindle or disappear.

Mr. Chariman, we have other plans for improving the services at our Out-patient Clinics in the rural areas. The details of that plan are being worked out, but when we do conclude our deliberations and discussions on that new plan, we hope that may of the cases that now attend the Casualty or in future the Out-patient Clinic of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be attended to in the rural areas. We intend to increase the means test so that certain middle-income people can take advantage of the service and will be eligible for treatment in those Out-patient Clinics. I do not think I need say more on that, but the matter is being closely examined. Very soon we hope to extend the service to include many more people than those who now attend Out-patient Clinics in the rural areas. In that case, we hope to have fewer people attending the Casualty or the Out-patient Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

With regard to the Dietary Department, there has been considerable improvement in morale in this Department. The loss of Mr. Marshall, the Catering Officer, was severely felt. He was attracted to a more lucrative post in private enterprise, and he has resigned, which we all know. *(Asides)* I have just told you that Mr. Marshall has been attracted to private enterprise because of a better salary and much better prospects than were offered to him in the Civil Service. A short training course for cooks was held late last year, and certificates of attendance at this course are shortly to be awarded to participants. It is hoped to establish a modified type of cafeteria later this year and at the same time to give Graduate Nurses the option of not having subsidised meals. 5.20 p.m.

As far as visitors to the hospital are concerned, the official visiting time for patients in public wards is 4.30 to 6 p.m. from Monday until Saturday and 4.00 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

In so far as special diets are concerned, I will give a breakdown for 1971-72.

	Percentage	Diets served
Children	30	93
Diabetic	23	71
Low Salt	23	71
Light	9	28
Peptic	5	15
Low Fat	5	15
Low Residue	2	6
Reducing	2	6
Low Protein	1	3
		308

Mr. HINDS: Does the Minister mean per day?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I will give the hon. member that answer soon. As far as specialist clinics are concerned, a breakdown for 1970 is as follows:

	Total Attendances	Total Sessions	Private Patients Sessions
Medical	10,363	322	165
Diabetic	2,474	46	-

Mr. HINDS: Are these outpatients?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: These are specialist clinic attendances for 1970.

	Total Attendances	Total Sessions	Private Patients Sessions
Cardio Vascular	147	13	–
Psychiatric	65	13	–
Paediatric	5,818	144	44
Nursery	1,018	51	–
Surgical	9,400	365	124
Fracture	700	46	–
Eye	5,259	146	41
E.N.T.	1,985	131	–
Ulcer - leg	581	52	148
Gynaecology	5,704	301	–
Obstetric	17,801	381	–
Dental	2,170	95	–

In connection with special diets, Mr. Chairman, I am advised that of the daily average of 593 diets, 308 were special diets which I gave a few minutes ago.

Now I have specialist clinics by general practitioners and also patients referred to casualty by general practitioners and I will give that breakdown:

	Specialist Clinics	Casualty
Medical	306	688
Surgical	605	445
Eyes	499	34
Dental	29	12
Fracture	–	23
E.N.T.	293	26
Diabetic	20	103
Gynaecology	310	103
Paediatric	90	94
Obstetric	672	19
Ulcer	–	–
Cardiac	5	7
Dermatology	1	6

If hon. members want to hear about the prescriptions at the Hospital for January to September, they are as follows:

Casualty 69,601; Wards 56,831; Employees 4,120; Government 8,762; Outpatients - private 832; public 18,950, making a grand total of 159,096. 5.30 p.m.

I will just strike a fairly sad note in that I have been informed that chances are we will be losing both of our Dietitians very shortly. I think the therapeutic one will be there just until the end of this month, and the other lady whose contract will end in October, I am not quite sure whether she wants to continue or not, but quite soon the Hospital will be in need of Dietitians and we will have to take all the necessary steps in order to try and secure Dietitians by advertising and seeking through the regular channels abroad, so I am just letting the Committee know that very soon the Dietitian service is going to break down unless we secure the services of other Dietitians, so I am hoping that the hon. junior member for St. Peter will help me try to find some Dietitians.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us deal with the last point first. On the question of the Hospital losing the services of its two Dietitians, I want the Minister to say just as I am saying now, thank God, and the Minister ought to be sorry that they have not left sooner. The Dietitian that is now classified as a therapeutic Dietitian is a lady who came to Barbados not to fulfil any assignment as a Dietitian, she came here as a wife to her husband, that is all, but it so happened that her husband took up the appointment here in Barbados immediately after this lady had left a school of Dietitics in Canada. She came to Barbados and she learnt that they wanted Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Government found it possible for her to serve what amounted to her internship at our Hospital, but now she is going she is known as the therapeutic Dietitian, but for all the years that I have been trying to drill it in the head of the Hon. Minister that our problem at the Hospital was that we needed a therapeutic Dietitian, Civil Servants sat down in the House of Assembly and advised the Minister that there was no such thing as a therapeutic Dietitian.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but as far as I am aware the course for a Ditetitan in the United Kingdom is a four year course, and there are two branches of Dietitians, administrative and therapeutic, but as far as I am aware, Sir, the course of training in the administrative section really covers both, but the ones who want to be specialists in the therapeutic field do an additional three months. All I am trying to say is that there is not this big distinction between Dietitians, all are therapeutic Dietitians, but the ones who really specialise in the therapeutic section do an additional three months, but it does not mean that the ones in the administrative section know nothing about therapeutics. Perhaps you can check on that.

Mr. HINDS: We are now to have, Mr. Chairman, the Minister adding more nonsense to what he has been known to say on previous occasions; he is now saying that all are therapeutic Dietitians. No bigger piece of nonsense, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is being badly advised, but let us get on with the point.

The Government will be losing the services of another Dietitian in October. If we did not have the services of that Dietitian, Mr. Chairman, the present hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown might not have been here today; in other words, the former holder of that office might still have been alive today. They have tortured people in the Public Service of this country because of those few words, do you know why, because they were making the truth known. It only amounts to this, that we still have Public Servants who are willing to condone the commission of murder in some of the departments of this Island. That is exactly what happened in this case.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it cannot be right and proper for an hon. member to stand in this

House and say we still have Public Servants who are willing to condone murder; Mr. Chairman, it cannot be right.

Mr. HINDS: I understand what the Minister means, the Minister is doing his duty.
5.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I want to warn the Hon. Minister further right now that we are dealing with the subject of Dietetics and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I want the Minister to understand that all of the good that could ever be done to him in his office has been done from this side of the House, as far as running the Hospital is concerned. The situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is so bad that on Friday, 12th March, 1971, stew was prepared to be served to Nurses and patients, and after the stew was ready to be served they discovered a flour bag in the stew.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I happened to have visited the Hospital a few days after and made several enquiries, but that was never brought to my attention. *(Asides)* I visited the Hospital on the Monday and the matter was not brought to my attention; so I cannot accept it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want hon. members to understand that in boiling stew at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital you will be boiling stew for hundreds of people, and it is not a case of boiling a pint of stew as we would do in our homes. I gave the Minister the date on which the incident occured, and there is a reason for giving him the date. I am trying to assist him.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it perfectly clear. I spent the greater part of Monday, 15th March, in the Hospital checking on matters and endeavouring to become *au fait* with things at the Hospital in order to be in a position to answer this or other allegations or accusations, and that matter was not brought to my attention. I have every reason to believe that after I had spent an hour in the kitchen and another hour or so with the Dietitians, if a matter like that had occured, our present Hospital Director, knowing that the Estimates were being considered and having a high sense of responsibility, would have brought it to my attention. In the circumstances I cannot accept that statement.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that he cannot accept the statement? He is not abliged to accept what happend at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Does the Minister expect that when he is visiting the Hospital somebody is going to run up to him and tell him that a flour bag was found in the stew unless the person knows that it has already been reported to the Minister? Those are the things that would be hidden away from Ministers. People would try to cover them down. They would try to get the bag off the premises. After the bag was discovered in the stew and people held it up in the kitchen, the Dietitian felt that it was nothing to be viewed by everybody. When it was taken and carried to the swill room.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Let us be realistic. Although there are very big containers in which the cooking is done, can the hon. member convince anyone that a flour bag could slip into a container? How big is this container?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that they were sifting flour in the stew and the flour bag slipped in, but there are bad human relations in the kitchen. You are going to find something worst than a flour bag in the kitchen if you are not careful.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to hon. member. We are now dealing with the Public Hospital. It does not sound good; it does not create a good taste in the mouths of the general public, when people hear such things whether or not it is so. It drives a certain amount of fear in the people who have to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital - people from it and out of the Island. If something like that is going wrong at the Hospital, I would ask any hon. member to take it up with the Minister privately and see whether it can be remedied instead of bringing it on the Floor of this House where the members of the public will hear of it. This sort of thing will drive fear in me or anybody who has to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In other words, some people will become scornful of the Hospital, and they will not want to use anything up there.

I am asking hon. members not to persist in carrying on in this manner, because it is not doing the Nation any good. Hon. members should endeavour to desist from doing things in this manner and do them privately by way of discussion with the Minister. In other words, fix it right.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I sat and I had to listen because you are the Chairman. I cannot say whether you were usurping your functions or otherwise. I cannot say so, but I am sure Mr. Chairman, that if any Chairman of Committees or even Mr. Speaker had ever attempted to do to you what you have done to me today, I can well imagine that you would have tried to cut him down in order to say what you had to say while representing the people in the interest of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to keep to the Head under discussion, and do not use any sarcastic remarks to the Chair. I am warning the hon. member that I am demanding respect from him or any other member whilst I am in this Chair. If he persists in disregarding the Ruling of the Chair, I will deal with him accordingly. Now, the hon. member will keep to the Head and desist from, in other words, trying to conduct himself in a disorderly manner. I will not be saying anything more to the hon. member during this debate.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, you have said that you would not be saying anything more to me during this debate. What is my position in this Honourable

House? If the Chairman is saying that he will not be saying anything more to me in this debate, and he further accuses me of conducting myself in a disorderly manner, is that fair to an hon. member? (An Hon. MEMBER: "Apologise.") I have nothing to apologise for, and I have not committed any of the offences that the Chairman has tried to accuse me of.

What I am saying is that a situation exists at the kitchen at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where the relationship among the people who working there is so bad that, if the Minister does not take very positive action in the matter, we could very well wake up one morning or be awakened one morning to hear that everybody at that Institution is dead - whether it is from a flour bag or something else.
5.50 p.m.

Nobody who knows the facts of this case tells the public. This is a public institution and you cannot prevent the public from hearing. You might as well tell the public not to tell hon. members what is happening there. You, Sir, have been able to come here and put complaints of situations at the hospital. You did not have to go there and lay on a bed and experience these things for yourself. Members of the public had to apprise you of these things, and then you were able in the interest of the public generally to bring these things to the notice of the House. Nobody comes here and says anything about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because he wants something to talk. You say them because you would not like to see a repetition. If you wanted it to recur you would say nothing about it and let it go on forever until there is nothing more of the institution.

One other problem that is affecting the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the high incidence of stealing, and what I am saying is that the dietitian whom the Minister just told us is going to leave in October has contributed to it in every possible manner for the simple reason.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, again I protest. You cannot say of public officers that they are contributing to stealing. Mr. Chairman, how can this be said in Parliament?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if an officer comes here to find that a press is kept locked with 60 glasses, 12 glass cups, 6 pairs of tongs, 40 teaspoons, 12 food covers, 12 dozen tray cloths, 12 hand-towels and so on, and she takes over the administration of this department and does no seek to find out why you keep these under locks and keys, but demands the keys and puts them where every Tom, Dick Harry and Bob has access to the keys, then they will be stolen. These items were kept under lock and key so that when you have special functions whoever is in charge of the kitchen would know where to put his hands on these items and bring them out for special services, but this good administrator who does not know the first thing about anything calls for the keys, the press is thrown open, and when the special occasion comes, the taxpayers' money has to replenish them. Are you going to tell me, Mr. Chairman, that it was not through her mal-administration that she contributed to people taking away these things? If you open up these things which were locked up before, every worker who has an interest in what was locked up and wants an opportunity to carry them away will hail this person who has opened up freedom to them to carry away the taxpayers things, and that is what we are striving to get away from. I am glad that she is leaving Barbados. For the good of this country I hope we wake up tomorrow morning and hear that it is the month of October.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that it is not a case where an officer came here and made an error. Anybody can make a mistake; but it is a case where an officer came here and was installed by false pretense, and I really would not like to say how she has been conducting her business; but a great relief comes to us.

I told the Minister on the question of diets that I was going to tell him something. The Minister said he was appealing to me to render what assistance I could in providing him with a dietitian. All I have to tell the Minister is that the Public Service Commission is there, because the Minister claims that the Public Service Commission put this one on his back.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has had to come here an read replies to questions I tabled about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and his dietetic staff, and when I heard the replies I felt sorry for the Minister I knew he was doing a job, but the information which I had before me told me whether or not the Minister was on the right track. He would not have told me in the House, but I felt that when he went into the banquet hall he would have to tell me that I had been doing him nothing but a good turn in this whole exercise. He had to come here and make believe that there was a dietitian in Barbados qualified to do work of the institution, and that they had been using diet sheets in consultation with doctors. I knew the Minister was not right when he was saying these things. We went on and with the coming of this officer who is now going in October, we saw that as a result of her stating deliberate, wicked, diabolical lies against the officer who had been serving in the Department efficiently and who had the interest of the Department at heart, that officer was quickly transferred. Since then, the same Mr. Marshall whom we now hear has resigned because of a more lucrative job, come to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Minister knows that you pepole like Mr. Marshall come here and I know they are leaving in another month or two, I have to go and see these people for myself to know why they could not stay.
6.00 p.m.

When people like Mr. Marshall come here and I know that they are going in another month or two I have got to go and see these people for myself to know why they could not stay, you let the Minister understand these things, so that when we are told the Mr. Marshall was attracted away from the institute.

stitution we have got to hear what the Minister has to say because we are all in here, but the truth is that this is the same disease, if I should so call it, that this Officer suffered from in Guyana before she came to Barbados, that is, she could not get along with anybody in Guyana and that is why she came over here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to desist from making such accusations about an Officer. That is not here and I am not going to entertain it; please desist from doing so.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is it fair to be asking me to desist from saying that an officer could not get on with people in Guyana and she came to Barbados? One of the Officers with whom she could not get on they quickly got rid of her, and she could not get along with Mr. Marshall; another lady has since left who has been working there for many years. Mr. Chairman, I believe that you would like to stop me from talking in here altogether.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member accusing the Chair of not wanting him to talk?

Mr. HINDS: I apologise, Mr. Chairman, ten times. Now to the point. What we are maintaining is this, the Government has gone further now in this matter of appointing Dietitians and making the best use of the services of those who happen to be around. I have accused this Government already, and the time has come when the Dietitians in Barbados have got to know what they are really worth, and I am urging some of them now to call on the Government to engage them or go on strike. There is a lady now at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital - you have heard the Minister tell us about these various diets, the salt free, the diabetic and so on - and I am willing to bet my last dollar that the Officer who is now going in October was of no assistance to any medical officer or to any Doctor attending to the diabetics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but whenever a demand was made on her she had to turn to people that the Government does not care to call Dietitians, and at the moment there is a lady at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who is doing all this work, doing all the calculations, preparing all the diets and is not engaged as a Dietitian but is doing all the work while these other people are getting the praise. This same lady at the hospital has served as a Dietitian at a joint disease hospital in the United States, but in Barbados she is not a Dietitian she is a supervisor; that is good enough for her. Another Officer who this goodly lady could not get along with and they decided she was a Bajan, and the lesser mortal, and they sent her down to the Mental Hospital; she had no degrees behind her name so she had to go out and make room for their Guyanese girl, and now the same lady has gone from the hospital to the Mental Hospital, and if you go there the Medical Superintendent and the acting Superintendent who died a few months ago will tell you that this lady.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member just referred to an Officer who has died and can still say something.

Mr. HINDS: What I am saying is this, Mr. Chairman, the Medical Superintendent from the Mental Hospital who died not so many months ago, Doctor Murray-Ainsley, he would have told anybody of the number of patients who were actually suffering as if from scurvy, almost had scales on their skins, and this lady who was of no use to the Hospital after a Dietitian was appointed, went down there and has cleaned the skins of those people by prescribing the necessary diets for them without the assistance of a Dietitian. I will tell you this, that the Ministry has been so beastly unfair to some of these people, that just as what the Minister read out about the old diet sheets.....

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, may I draw to your attention that there is no quorum?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I observe that there is no quorum and I am asking that the bell be rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of hon. members, as an old member of this House I know that you only need a quorum when we are going to take a vote, but if a member is speaking and the business is being conducted it is not necessary to have a quorum when the debate is going on. It has been so from the time I was a member of this House, for the last 26 years, and you only need a quorum when you are going to vote, but if the hon. member needs it I will ask the Clerk to ring the bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

6.10 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. HINDS: The same old diet sheets that were being used and that the Minister told us about in use at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, whenever they were having their seminars there and elsewhere, some of the people who are posing and floating about this Island as experts in Dietetics can be seen running around behind a poor creature to get a copy of this and a copy of that, and turn up on these occasions and present these documents as if the documents were their original documents. That is what is going on all over this place. The Government now required the services of a Dietitian.

Let us look at our District Hospitals. I have shown the Government where we could use Dietitians at these Hospitals. I have told the Minister about the Mental Hospital. They have now gone and taken an officer who has only studied nutrition and is not a Dietitian, and appoint that officer to act as a Dietitian at the Mental Hospital and the District Hospitals. That is the thanks that this Government are prepared to mete out to people who do an honest job in this country.

The Minister said that Mr. Marshall saw better avenues open to him. I am telling the Minister right now that some of the hotels in this country are now looking for the services of Dietitians. Some of them

who are not recognised now will soon take up jobs elsewhere. If Mr. Marshall can be attracted elsewhere, others will be attracted elsewhere too. After all, people work are merely for the love of work. They serve because they feel that, when the time for promotion comes, even if they were overlooked in the morning and during the midday, they would not be overlooked in the evening. That is the situation, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member made a statement to the effect that the Caterer at the Mental Hospital has done a lot to improve the diet at not only the Mental Hospital, but also the District Hospitals, I hope I am quoting him correctly.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said that. I said that she scraped the scales off the patients at the Mental Hospital.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am merely drawing to the attention of the Committee that the Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have done a great deal of work to improve the standard of dieting at the District Hospitals, and I have a Report here which sets it out very accurately. It shows the steps which are being taken by the Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to improve the services at the various District Hospitals. St. Philip Hospital has a census of 148; Christ Church 116; St. Lucy 112; St. Michael 617; St. Thomas 72. At the existing kitchen now being renovated, the Mental census is 650. The Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth have done a great measure of work in improving the standards at these District Hospitals. I will quote just one, Sir. In the case of St. Philip, renovations and newly built extensions to the kitchen complete including store room; tiled floors; double and triple sinks; work and preparation tables; fly proof windows and doors, etc. The new equipment and the staffing have been improved, and the diet and diet sheets have also been laid out as well as training courses instituted. That obtains, Sir, at all of the District Hospitals. The Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have been engaging themselves not only in trying to improve the standard at the Q.E.H., but also at the District Hospitals.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are talking about one thing, and the Minister is talking about something else. It is not true to say that the diet at the District Hospital in St. Philip has been improved.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I rise to refute the statement made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. As a representative of the parish, a former Councillor and a former Vestryman, I am saying that the diet there has improved since the Government have taken over the Institution.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, he is a member of the Government. I am saying that just about twelve days ago neither Nurses or the patients could eat the meals. The Minister is saying that he has a Report. If he has a Report there with anything about diet sheets and menus planned, then they are based on the old diet sheets that the Guyanese, who was appointed Dietitian at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, came and found there in the drawers. The Report, if one has been presented to the Minister, was prepared for her by Miss Zephirin from World Health.
6.20 p.m.

She has not been able to prepare any report or do anything like this for Barbados, and we are just being misled on all this. The Minister has not denied an improvement in the condition of the people at the Mental Hospital. From the feeding system that has been employed there, the Government will find that the patients are better catered to at less cost, because the rough and tumble system that was employed because people felt they were mad people has been removed. They are now regarded as sick people and are being dieted and catered to as sick people and treated better than sick people in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What justification can there be, Mr. Chairman, when the Ministry finds itself.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I just want to make this clear, because I thought I had succeeded just now. The Mental Hospital diets were reorganised by the Ministry's staff, Miss Bourne, the nutrition officer, and Miss Jackman, the dietitian who supervises the diets at the District Hospitals and the Mental Hospital, and not by the catering officer at the Mental Hospital as alleged by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. That does not mean that the catering officer is not doing a good job, but the whole thing was reorganised by the Ministry's staff and not by the lady who is the caterer as such.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have got to employ parliamentary language at all times in this Chamber. What the Minister will eventually admit is that the same Miss Jackman went to the same catering officer at the Mental Hospital, took the diet sheets that she had prepared and was using at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for years, and presented them at a seminar here. That is the culprit who did it to the same person. She presented this lady's diet sheets at a seminar as her own original work, and she is the person that the Minister is being fooled into having appointed as Acting Dietitian over the same institution. These things have to be known. This is exactly what happened in this case and these things must grieve people. One good thing is that the Minister cannot now say he did not know of the situation, for I have done all I possibly could to bring it to his attention. The remedy to my mind lies in his hands. If I were in the Minister's place, I would dismiss the catering officer at the Mental Hospital and the officer at the Queen Elizabeth who is preparing all these special diets.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member seems to think I have the power to hire and fire. All these officers are appointed by the Public Service Commission, and for that reason files dealing with the appointments, dismissals, promotions etc. do not come to me. I hear more of it from the hon. member than I hear in the Ministry unless I make

special enquiry when I hear these things; but it is the Public Service Commission that employs people at the Hospital. I did go out of my way to see that the ones who were working on a temporary basis for a long number of years were appointed on the established staff, because it was wrong in principle to have people working on a temporary basis for so long; but as far as dismissals go, I have no say in that. The Medical Superintendent in the case of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would make recommendations to the Ministry through the Permanent Secretary who is like a Chief Personnel Officer and whose advice is needed at times, but I as Minister have no say in these matters, and unless I am satisfied that somebody is not performing his duty, I am not here to put anybody out of work. I am only out to try and improve the service as best I can and see that the patients in particular benefit in every way possible.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, when the Minister sees something wrong in principle, what is his function? He just told us how he acted on an occasion when he saw something was wrong in principle. If the Minister is now told enough to cause him to see, understand and appreciate that something is more than wrong in principle, what are the functions of the Minister? I know the Minister cannot hire or fire, but how can the Minister best set about to create the kind of relationship in his Ministry that everybody can work feeling comfortable and at ease? He has got to study ways and means of doing this, and the only way he can do this successfully is to know exactly where the grievances exist.

Mr. Chairman, I want to turn to some of the items under this Head. Now at Item 94 there is provision of $900,000 for buying provisions, and what I notice is that there is an increase of $155,000 and all the note says is that this is due to rising prices. Mr. Chairman, if the Chairman, if the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is to be run on a sensible budget there has got to be sensible spending of the money voted for the running of that institution.

6.30 p.m.

One sensible way of going about it is this, you have got to buy wherever possible in the cheapest market, you do not have limited finance and go and buy in the dearest market, and the Minister cannot say that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been buying in the cheapest market at all times, very often when one of the chief suppliers, the Barbados Marketing Corporation, has been charging the Queen Elizabeth Hospital much more than can be considered a reasonable profit plus, much more than this. At the same time, it was not a case where the items could only have been obtained from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, they could have been purchased on the open market for far less than what the Marketing Corporation charged, but because it is the taxpayers' money, because nobody has got to be concerned, Government has its numbers, a supplementary can be asked for at any time for any amount, the crippling finances of the B. M. C. have got to be propped up, so this $900,000 here, the greater portion thereof is merely for the propping up of the B.M.C. and helping to put it back on its feet, not in truth and in fact taking to the store rooms of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the value of $900,000 in supplies, that is not the case.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in budgeting and money spending one must look at the source of supply from where the money is to come; at the other end, the source of supply from where you are going to get the commodity and you must, if you have sense about what you are doing and not under any Government strictures or submitting yourself to directives from Government that you must buy from the Barbados Marketing Corporation irrespective of the quality of the goods and services you are getting, the lateness of the supply of these things, because very often what happens at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is this, an order is placed with the B.M.C. for supplies, the B. M. C. takes the order but they know in truth and in fact they do not have the goods in stock, and they do not even begin to know where they can get them from, but from the time the B.M.C., with absolutely no credit rating in Bridgetown, is dodged and shunned away from by any supplier, much time is lost and very often when the supplies arrive from the B.M.C. the catering officer at the Hospital would have had to place a substitute on the table so as to keep things going. This a case, Mr. Chairman, of merely patronising your friends, so to speak, if we took it in that light, but if the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were to set about its business in a business-like manner, purchasing its commodities where it can get quantities at discount therefore affecting a saving for the Government and the taxpayers of this country, and not only that, spend the money by buying where they can choose what they want, things would be a lot better.

At the B.M.C. if an order is placed there you have to take what the B.M.C. is sending for you, because it goes as if from one Government Department to another and there is not that sense of urgency to embarrass one another, but the B.M.C. as the suppliers do not care who get embarrassed at the Hospital if they know that vouchers will eventually be passed whether the Hospital recieves the supplies today and they have to be dumped tomorrow, the B.M.C. will draw. We are trying to save the Queen Elizabeth Hospital like any other institution from this type of situation, and we are urging upon the authorities, upon the Government, to give the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a free hand to purchase in the open market. We are told here from the very note that the increase of $155,000 is asked for because of the rise in prices, and that is sufficient advice to us that we have got to try and trim our sails to suit the wind that is blowing. If prices are rising you have got to control the finance, control what money is in your hand to see how much you can possibly get into your barn from the limited amount at your disposal, and that is what we are urging on the Government. Leave out the B.M.C. and place your orders with anybody on Tudor Street, James Street, Roebuck Street and wherever you can get your commodities and have your deliveries promptly. That is very important for dieting.

Another thing, Sir, with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that there is not marketing expertise that

we can say is available to this institution apart from, let us say, an officer who might have been with the institution from ten to fifteen years, but there ought to be an officer charged with the responsibility for purchasing supplies for this institution. It is a big institution, so they are certain items that the officer should be in touch with and with the marketing conditions, so that when certain items are in full supply and prices are down, provided that these goods can be stored and made to last if they are not very perishable, but if we purchase at the right time, so to speak, you can effect a saving.
6.40 p.m.

If you go on with the old B.M.C. way in which you place your orders through the B.M.C.; the B.M.C. cannot get much credit from A.S. Bryden and other places.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I must say that the hon. member is making a good point, and that this matter is now engaging the attention of the Ministry. Although we have a Cabinet directive to purchase from B.M.C., yet there are many ways in which great savings could be affected and prompt deliveries of supplies be made, if the Director could exclude certain commodities, for instance, like fish and so on. If we can purchase flying fish in large quantities and have storage facilities for them at the Cold Storage Section of the B.M.C., then the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the District Hospitals and the Mental Hospital as well as all Government Institutions would have a good supply of flying fish, perhaps, all through the year.

At present, having to purchase from the B.M.C., although flying fish may be in good supply at this time of the year, there are times when flying fish cannot be had quite readily and it causes some disruption as stated by the hon. junior member for St. Peter as far as the provision of certain diets are concerned. He has made a very good point at long last. The matter is being very closely examined, and I am very grateful to the hon. member.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we like the at long last portion. What we are concerning ourselves with, Mr. Chairman, is that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will have to apply itself to the task of proving that it can be entrusted with the spending of taxpayer's money, and that it can do so to the best advantage of the sick patients who happen to be in there. Some of those patients are taxpayers, so things must be done in the interest of everybody in this country. As the Minister has said, certain discussions are likely to take place, but when a decision will be arrived at Heaven knows! That is what is worrying us.

Nevertheless, I want to turn to Item 95 - Medical Supplies - $1,100,000. This is a large sum of money in any man's language. This Note, in my view, requires some sort of explanation from the Minister. Will this amount be spent in accordance with what is set out in the Note, or is it for providing drugs for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well? The Head says Medical Supplies, and we take it that it should mean Medical Supplies for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Note says that it includes provisions for supply of drugs to other departments. Now, the increase is due to the increased cost of drugs and freight charges, and the increase is $200,000. Mr. Chairman, we have to give careful thought to this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the hon. member will give way, I will give him a breakdown of the figure. The sum of $1,100,000 merits a breakdown, and it is as follows:

Antibiotics and therapeutic substances	70,000
Dangerous Drugs	3,000
Hermones, etc.,	50,000
Anesthetics	20,000
Intravenous fluids	90,000
Medical cases	105,000
Miscellaneous Drugs	175,000
Tranquilisers and sedatives	60,000
Vitamins and nutritional substances	50,000
Dressings	80,000
Sutures	30,000
Instruments and appliances (inclucing replacements and repairs)	200,000
Sundries and disposables	62,000
X-Ray films and accessories	75,000
Radiotherapy supplies	25,000
Pharmacist	5,000
Making a total of	1,100,000.

I may mention, too, that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital supplies drugs to the District Hospitals. When they refer to other departments, I take it that the Note is not quite clear there. Drugs are supplied to other District Hospitals. This large amount covers not only the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but some drugs are sold to the District Hospitals.

Mr. HINDS: Are the drugs supplied to the District Hospitals supplied at cost plus the cost of handling, or are they supplied at a profit?
6.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member finished speaking?

Mr. HINDS: No, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to elicit from the Minister one point on which I might be able to base any further argument. I enquired from him if these drugs that are supplied to other departments are supplied at cost or at cost plus a small charge for handling, or if they are supplied at a profit. My view is that they should be supplied with at least a handling charge affixed thereto, but it ought to be something that is almost negligible. The question might then be asked, what is the point of affixing a handling charge that would not bear some sort of weight, but here we have the Queen Elizabeth Hospital estimating for its own expenditure, and as in the case of drugs it involves accounting, it involves the knowledge of a dispenser, and in this case almost a salesman-dispenser, and even a Clerk; but while these officers are engaged in

the despatching of supplies to these other departments, they cannot be considered as performing a duty for the Hospital proper. That aspect of it ought to be considered.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Item 96, $80,000 which includes upkeep of domestic equipment, crockery and cutlery. This brings me back to the point which I tried to make at an earlier stage. There is no point our voting $X or $X+X for the purchase of crockery, cutlery and the like when faulty, stupid, silly administration is going to give access to the disappearance thereof. We are not opposed to voting the money, but we have got to bear in mind that the functions of the hospital have got to be performed, and if we provide the wherewithal and in the twinkling of an eye through a careless officer who is an excellent administrator but knows nothing about administration it is allowed to disappear, we have done nothing. We would like to see and know that there is proper supervision instead of the request for an increase of $5,000. If the dietitian had consulted the staff on why these cupboards were kept locked, we might have been saving $5,000 rather than having an increase by this amount. That is the basis of my argument. Nobody wants to refuse to give the hospital money, but we want to be sure above everything else that when we provide something for the upkeep of the hospital it is not allowed to dissipate carelessly under administrative pretense.

Under Item 101 - Travelling, $8,000, this amount is to supply taxi fares for officers who are on call for duty.
7.00 p.m.

You know, Mr. Chairman, this could really mean a thriving business for a small fellow, because knowing where $8,000 in care hire is, all that is necessary is to see that it is got and have the necessary cars ready for hire. We feel that hospital administration such as Queen Elizabeth Hospital requires ought to carry out an assessment of its requirement in this respect over a period of years; after all, Sir, we could look back to see what was required of the hospital over the past three years, see how much was spent and then we could come up with something concrete by deciding whether or not it would not be in Government's interest to be able to provide this transport, because it might be possible to provide it cheaper than hiring taxis, and at the same time might be able to do it much more efficiently, because it is not every time that a taxi is called for that one can be had, and I would certainly like to see the scheme examined to see if we can do something about this $8,000 being spent in taxi hire for carrying staff required for duty on call. We do not think that it is an expenditure that has been examined carefully enough.

Item 102 - Advertising for the recruitment of staff. Apparently the hospital does not seem to want much staff under its advertising programme for the year, and I wonder if this includes advertising overseas as well. It must be general advertising, and if you are going to place an advertisement in some of the overseas newspapers or journals and you are only asking for $3,000, what staff will the hospital really want in the coming year? What plans do they have for increasing the staff?

Mr. Chairman, let us go to Item 107 which includes the provision for miscellaneous work such as repairs to gas and electrical installations and built-in furniture and equipment. The item in itself tells us that Government has been going about putting new built-in furniture and equipment in old buildings and plants. We need here building inspection in the first place; this is a dangerous exercise, because we might one day find ourselves having a lot of money to pay somebody for some injury that might occur as a result of all of this nonsense here.

At Item 108 - Debt Collection, there is an amount of $4,000, which is to pay Commissions at the rate of 20% and Court Charges for collection of overdue accounts. I wonder what type of people really owe these accounts.
7.10 p.m.

Will this help the poor class of people who want to go into the Pay Ward? I heard the Prime Minister at the time when he introduced the measure for increasing the charges in the various Wards, state that if persons want to go into the Pay Wards they must know that they can pay, or words to that effect, and they should pay something with a view to helping to bear the cost of those people who are awarded free.

Mr. Chairman, here we find that we have these overdue accounts, and we have to pay $4,000 commission for collecting them. How long were these accounts overdue? Are these accounts last year's accounts? How many years were these accounts outstanding? How many years do you keep these accounts before you decide to hand them over to the debt collector?

Now, Item 111 - Training School (Nurses) - $4,700. Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister can explain why boys and girls who hold the School Leaving Certificates issued in Barbados are not accepted on the basis of that Certificate for entry into the Tercentenary School of Nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

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 and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and thereto automatically it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on adjournment I think I was speaking about admission to the Queen Elizabeth Tercentenary School of Nursing. Whenever advertisements are sent out one sees that applicants must possess 2 G.C.E's or the equivalent. Since the equivalent must of necessity make provision for English Language and Arithmetic for entering into the School, I think that this in itself lays the foundation for acceptance of our local School Leaving Certificate as sufficient qualification for entering that School. One has to relate to this fact the lowering of the qualifications for entering the Public Service of this Island. People are accepted into the Teaching Service with one G.C.E., and some have been accepted with no G.C.E. at all.If it can be established that no pupil is awarded the Barbados School Leaving Certificate who has not satisfied the examiners in English Language and Arithmetic amongst other subjects, I think it is discrimination against the certificate by our own people who have issued the certificate, and it is not fair to the holders of the School Leaving Certificate.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look at this matter for ourselves. Our Tercentenary School of Nursing has turned away many girls as hopeless and those same girls leave here; their parents have to make sacrifices to send them to the United Kingdom, and they qualify as Nurses. Some of those same girls are willing, even under such circumstances, to make their services available to the same Island that once rejected them as trainees.

Mr. Chairman, we need a better and broader understanding of the basic requirements for training in the Nursing profession. After all, Nursing is not studying for medicine as such. It does not require the intensive study that an aspirant to an M. D. Degree has to apply. When we look around us, when we look in our own Ministry of Education, as I have already pointed out in another debate, when we look at some of the Heads of our Departments of Government, we know that their only qualification for entering into the Service of this Country at this time was the School Leaving Certificate issued to them in Barbados.

8.20 p.m.

I see the hon. senior member for St. Peter taxing his brains. One of our Education Officers who resigned not so long ago entered the service with a school leaving certificate. If you go to our National Insurance Department, entry into the service is by school leaving certificate; but I am not saying that they entered the service with a school leaving certificate and remained there. They furthered their studies and qualified as the years went by. If they had been rejected in the first instance, Heaven knows what might have become of them. They might have become despondent, and as to their future lives only God alone knows.

I think I am right in saying that the training of our nurses has reached international standards. If that is the case, we have it in our hands to provide the outside world particularly the United States of America with 500 to 1,000 nurses. There are hospitals in places like Massachusetts that would receive from 50 to 100 nurses. I feel that if the Government had 100 trained nurses to place in hospitals in Massachusetts, satisfactory arrangements could be made to have it effected in less than a month from today if the qualifications could be registered in Massachusetts and be accepted by the Massachusetts Board. That is only to point out that we are not robbing ourselves and the young men and women, because there are requirements for male nurses as well in hospital in Massachusetts as well as in Brooklyn. There are hospital in Brooklyn that I am satisfied are willing and ready to accept Barbadian nurses if they have been trained to international standards; so this presents a challenge to our nursing shcool here to do something to help these young women.

You will find again, Mr. Chairman, that we train nurses here. Some who did not qualify for entry into the school here are helped by Government through the Labour Department to go to hospitals in the United Kingdom. They are given what we call refresher courses at St. Leonard's and sent out to the United Kingdom for training as nurses. I do not want to deny any girl an opportunity to go abroad and study, but if we can do the training here, why have we got to send them abroad? It costs us something to send them abroad, but what we find - and many who return tell us - is that the approach to nursing in the United Kingdom is far different from what it is at our Tercentenary School of Nursing, and that is something that Government must of necessity look into. Do not let us just pat ourselves on the shoulder and say we have acquired this standard and in truth and in fact are not making use of what we have acquired.

Furthermore, we find that we are training them and then have to send them to the District Hospitals to do the tasks which really do not always become them as nurses. This is something which I feel the Minister has got to wake up and try to remedy. It might be a case where too much is left in the hands of those who are now responsible for the selection of candidates.

I know that training is carried on at the Mental Hospital in mental nursing. There are many young women who could be called in tomorrow, given six weeks training if necessary at St. Leonard's school

to equip them for passing the necessary entrance examination, and we could keep our training school filled with young recruits.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I think the hon. member is now treading on dangerous ground. The nursing schools as at present administered are always full. We do not suffer from lack of any recruits. The hon. member is suggesting that we lower the standard as far as admission is concerned and that a school leaving certificate be regarded as standard for accepting all and sundry. As far as the nursing assistants are concerned, the majority of them have school leaving certificates; but then the Ministry of Education sets an examination in English and Arithmetic and the best are selected. So we have training courses going on and have been going on for months both at the Mental Hospital and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there are three grades of nurses who are trained: Wardl Administrators, regular nurses and Ward Assistants. We have turned out any number of Ward Assistants, and it is heartening to know that at the last regular nursing examination for qualified nurses, we had very few failures; almost 95 percent succeeded in passing the examination and they passes well.

As far as the District Hospitals are concerned, the policy has been to train even the older staff in short coursess so as to upgrade the standard of nursing; so that training courses have been instituted for members of the staff of the District Hospitals who are willing to undertake a short course in order to upgrade their standards.

8.30 p.m.

At the District Hospitals we are also placing some of our trained nurses and some of our Ward assisstants, so that the general standard has been improved, and in fact we have been turning out so many nurses that we have been exporting nurses. Some time last year there were 36 nurses qualified and there were no posts for them. It is a good thing we had that temporary vote that we could see that the nurses could be kept on under this temporary vote, because if would be very bad reflection not only on the Ministry of Health but on the Government as a whole to institute a training course for nurses and then not to have anywhere to put them. Our training courses are filled to capacity and we do not suffer from any shortage because these training course have been going on steadily, hundred of girls apply and we must have this test because the very best are selected. It does not mean that if they come again or the young ones will never get a chance because some will sit and will not secure admission on the first sitting, but on the second sitting they are selected, so that we are not really hampering anybody, it is just that we are selecting the best and I do not think there is anything wrong with that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister has said is that our Training School apparently has been specialising in turning out ward assistants.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have not said that, I tried to explain that there are two different courses, that ward administrators have been trained but our regular training courses are for the regular nurses in the service and ward assistants. I am not suggesting that only ward assistants are trained, the regular nursing course is a three year course; the ward assistants course is a short course which takes about six months or a year and the standard has been improved because the ward assistants have been very helpful in taking some of the strain off the regular nurses, but I have not suggested that only ward assistants are are being trained. Some of our nurses have been turned out and they have been coming up to a very high standard with very few failures.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will go back to the point of the training of these nursing assistants. It is evident that the persons charged with the responsibility of the administration of the school are the people out of touch somewhat with the requirements not only of Barbados but of other countries. The Minister has have said that we exported some of our nurses; I would like to hear where Government has exported any, and as for ward assistants or these nursing assistants, the United States Department of Labour, Immigration and Naturalisation will not certify an application for employment in the United States for a nursing aide because they can be got about the streets of the United States, so if you are concentrating your efforts at turning them out here you are not turning them out for the export market, but if you have been training nurses for the export market, I would like to hear from the Minister how many have been exported during the past year and exactly where these nurses have been sent.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is probably interpreting in very precise terms. He must not take me too literally in every respect. I do not mean we are exporting them in the manner the hon. member suggested, but I mean qualified nurses of their own free will have been leaving here and finding employment overseas. At one time, about three or four years ago, there was a great shortage of nurses at the hospital, but we at present have more nurses than we have established posts for, but we are now engaged in operating this Hospital and we have been able to place some of the qualified nurses at the District Hospitals, and in this way we hope to improve the standards of these District Hospitals.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would tell the Committee the number of nurses who would like to leave the hospital to go to America but have not been able to do so because the necessary documents have been held up in an office at the hospital and not signed so that they are unable to obtain the necessary visas, The position is this, that nurses from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have made application to the Embassy to go to work in hospitals in the United States, and before they can get the visas they have got to get certain documents signed in an office at the hospitals; those documents have been held up and therefore the number of nurses who would like to leave the hospital were not able to leave

so do not tell us that you have more nurses than you have vacancies, I know.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, you have been accustomed to hearing me on this Head, Ministry of Health, for many years but I am not going to be long. On my last occasion I enquired why certain people had been acting for as many as seven or eight years in jobs and have not been appointed, and I want to know from the Minister what the position is today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I must say that I am indebted to the hon. member who raised this question on more than one occasion and I have acted on his advice and also by way of investigation, and I have discovered that the case which he stated in here is absolutely correct as far as acting appointments are concerned, and appropriate steps have been taken to see that this state of affairs is brought to an end.
8.40 p.m.

I must say that I have received that co-operation of my Permanent Secretary and the people in the Ministry in this respect as well as the Hospital Director. The position is that these numerous acting appointments have now been permanently employed and placed on the Established Staff. At present that complaint no longer exists, and everybody at the Hospital feels very satisfied - at least the ones who have been acting for so many years. The long acting period came about through the fact that the Hospital Board was to be set up.

Mr. Chairman, the delay was caused, to some extent, through the fact that the decision to set up the Hospital Board or to integrate the Service and work under the present trained and qualified Director was under consideration. The matter has now been settled. If we had set up a Hospital Board the question of compensation and so on would have arisen, and it is for that reason that the matter was delayed for quite a long while. I must say that the matter has been resolved, and I am very grateful for the assistance and advice from the hon. senior member for the City who has been a stalward for very many long years in this country, so far as health matters are concerned.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it could never be said of me in here that I have been attempted in all of my years in here to reduce a vote or to suggest that a vote should be less when it came to the health of the people. I have always maintained that health cannot be measured by dollars and cents. Lest it be thought that the hon. junior member for St. Peter has been singing any solo in relation to accommodation, etc., at the kitchen, I must here join him.

Mr. Chairman, I am making a suggestion and not a criticism. Here is a Hospital with 650 beds, I believe, and with roughly 300 Nurses and so on. Let us compare it with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which caters to 1,000 people. You have a Chef, you pay him, he is healthy and can eat anything. In the United Kingdom and in the United States today just as you have Hospital Administrators you have Hospital Chefs. I would have liked to see the Hon. Minister coming in here today and telling us that he had acquired the services of a Hospital Chef at $1,00 a month. I am not talking about a man who can cook potatoes or scold rice. I would be happy to support any such regulations under Head 42.

Mr. Chairman, I must pay tribute to the Minister for his kindness which he meted out to me on one occasion at the hospital. I have proved and seen certain things. I am not speaking as someone who wants to follow what somebody else says, merely to say that something should be done. I am glad the Hospital Director is in here today, because he was not there at the time, Something is wrong between the kitchen, the Dietitians and when Doctors order things. Let us get that right, because this is not a criticism. If it calls for money we will have to get money to do certain things.

I believe at one time it was said that, as far as the nurses were concerned, they did not co-operate. I am not in a position to say whether or not that is so. I think the Nursing Staff in my experience, and I had nearly 5 1/2 months' experience in there with my wife as a patient, have been co-operating very good. It is a difficult thing to understand. Where Doctors order things for patients from the kitchen, something goes wrong between the time the food leaves the kitchen and reaches the patients. I know that shares are wrong; wrong meals come up and so on. I say that from experience. I do not know what the position is since the new Director has been appointed, but something goes wrong between the food leaving the kitchen and the time it reaches the patient. I would suggest to the Minister that the Opposition would back him 100% if a proper Chef were appointed. I do not want to put anybody out of work. A Chef has to look after nearly 1,000 sick people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and he should not be asked to wash pots!

Mr. Chairman, I know that this is the opinion of the senior Doctors who know what they are talking about. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: They did not want one before.) Do you hear that convulsed idiot, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you addressing the Chair?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I was addressing the convulsed idiot who was talking. You were not talking at all, Sir. I am sure the Hon. Minister will give consideration to what I have said today. You have a lovely Hospital; you have a Training Hospital and a lovely building; you have an efficient staff, I understand, but something goes wrong somewhere with the meals and the service. Nurses have to complain that they have ordered so many shares, or that something was ordered for a patient which was not sent up.

Mr. Chairman, of course, I am a Conservative and I do not deny it. It is absolute stupidity for the Cabinet to tell the Minister to tell his Permanent Secretary to tell the Hospital Director that everything must be bought from the Barbados Marketing

Corporation. I have heard complaints in the Hospital that on several occasions they sent to the B.M.C. for things and could not get them. If the B.M.C. do not have the items, then let the Hospital buy them from other people. This is a Hospital and not a place where you can tell people that if they cannot eat biscuits today they can eat bread.

Mr. Chairman, I will stand corrected if I am wrong, but I understand that instructions are given that everything must come from the Barbados Marketing Corporation. That is wrong. The instructions should be that the people should buy what they can get at the B.M.C.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's point is well taken. It has already been raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter who has gone into it in great detail, and I have already agreed with him.
8.50 p.m.

I agree with the suggestions made and the advice given; so the point is well taken. At a time like this when fish is plentiful, it should be possible for the hospital itself to buy large quantities of fish and store at the Cold Storage plant so that fish would be available all through the year, whereas if you leave it to the Marketing Corporation you may find that next week when fish may be available, it may not be possible to get fish, and fish is a diet which should be easily available. The hon. member's point is well taken and I will take it to the Cabinet and see if certain items like fish and a few others can be exempt from the general rule.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I appreciate what the Hon. Minister has said, I will give you one instance. When the now Bridgetown City District Hospital was under my supervision, we had a man who had five or six boats and he supplied fish to us all the time. Although fish is plentiful today you do not see any there. The Marketing Corporation closes at 4 o'clock and they could not care less because they are drawing salaries. Your Parliamentary Secretary can tell you what used to happen. The same man I believe used to supply the Hospital with fresh fish. They got hundreds of fish which they filleted at night and sometimes the next morning. This is not anything you can stick people down to. The hon. member appreciates the points I have made and I will note what has been said. There are one or two other things I could talk on, but I do not want to prolong the debate. Let the youngsters take over and do their job.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that the Hospital at this stage should employ the services of a chef. As one who has recently had to spend some time at the hospital, I failed to appreciate the cooking such as it was. In passing, from the remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, I can only say thank God he is not Minister of Health, because from his attitude we can see what would happen to the people at the hospital. As far as I am aware, during the time I was at the hospital, no fault can be found with the nursing services provided. I am not dealing now with the cooking or the medical aspect of it; I am dealing purely and simply with the nursing aspect, and I have found this to be of a very high standard, and I think the nurses at the hospital should be complimented on this.

Sir, under Item 94 which deals with provisions for feeding patients, nurses, etc., I would like to find out from the Minister why it is that money is deducted from nurses monthly whether or not they eat at the hospital. This applies to the ordinary nurses. When you get the Departmental Sisters or certain people in the higher brackets, money is not deducted from them unless they eat in the hospital. I know that representation has been made to the Government about this and nothing has been done about it, and I would like the Minister to look into the matter. I know that nurses do not receive a very big salary compared with salaries paid to other people, and I know that a lot of nurses are not satisfied with the standard of food at the hospital, and as a result they do not eat at the hospital; they choose to go home or eat out, but nonetheless money is deducted from their salaries every month to pay for food they did not take. I would ask the Minister to look into this and have the matter rectified. Also on the question of meals, I would like to find out from the Minister what price is paid by the doctors for their lunches at the hospital, and whether within the last two years an attempt was made to raise the price of lunch or whatever it is and the doctors opposed this.

There is one point which distresses me to have to raise it in the House of Assembly, but I think it is time it is brought to the attention of the Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Hospital Director, and that is the switch board at the hospital. I find that the people at the switch board at the hospital have absolutely no manners. They believe that when you phone the hospital they are doing you a favour by answering. I have heard doctors and nurses complain, and I have heard members of the public at large complain about the attitude of the operators on the switch board. This is a Government institution and I would ask the Minister through the Hospital Director to enquire into this matter and have it rectified. Let these people know that they are not doing anybody a favour, they are doing a job for which they are paid and they should not adopt what I consider a highly unmannerly attitude to members of the public. Sometimes when you tell them who is speaking, they apologise and adopt a completely different attitude. This is wrong. Why must they apologise or adopt a particular attitude because you are so-and-so or somebody of consequence, and when they are speaking to Mr. Nobody they adopt this indifferent unmannerly attitude? I would ask the Minister to look into this aspect.

I would also like to make another suggestion to the Minister. I understand that on weekends when there is a Bank Holiday involved the laundry is closed. I wonder if the Minister or the Hospital Administration would consider whether it is feasible to have the laundry closed on weekends, because when I was in hospital one weekend involved a Bank Holiday and the

laundry was closed. On the Tuesday morning when the nurse came to make up the bed at what I considered a bit early, I told her to come back later in the day. It was unfortunate that she did not come back and when I asked the reason, she said they had no linen, and the reason for that was that the laundry was closed because of the long weekend. I do not know if you can continue to run the hospital under these circumstances. The Government may well feel that as regards week-ends and particularly week-ends with a Bank Holiday that some arrangement should be made to have the laundry opened part of the time under the usual consideration of overtime or double time. I would certainly suggest that to the Minister. 9.00 p.m.

I would certainly suggest that to the Minister. On the question of medical reports, some difficulty is appreciated in obtaining medical reports from the hospital; the difficulty is that there is too long a delay in obtaining these reports, and as the Minister may well know, for the purpose of settling insurance claims these are required by the Insurance Companies and also by the person who has been injured in order to see the nature and extent of the injury and any disability that the person may have suffered, and any delay in obtaining these usually creates some hardship to the person who has been injured, and again I will ask the Minister to investigate this aspect of it.

One last thing, and this is not by way of criticism of this particular Head, but unfortunately I was not in the House when another Head was done. Under Item 109 I see this sum is required to provide text books and periodicals for reference library for Medical Offieers. When you compare this vote with the vote under the registration office for the amount of money voted for books in the law library it is less than half this amount. The Medical Officers at the hospital are Government Officers, and as such they are exempted from paying the registration fee, but when you consider the number of Solicitors and Barristers practising in this Island who are paying $120 annually in addition to a library fee of $5.00 annually, I would ask the Government in future to consider the necessity for granting, in a thing like law, a far greater sum of money than was voted in these Estimates.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn back to Item 18 - Apprentice Engineer - and the sum we are required to vote is $1,716. I would like to find out to whom this person is apprenticed because under a previous Head you had a sum which provided for apprenticeships and bursaries, and I would like to find out if this person is attached to what they call in another section the Resident Engineer, because I believe if you are going to use an apprentice the Head should know what he is doing. This is obviously a young man, and I do not believe in putting him under a Resident Engineer who does not enjoy the confidence of the other persons working in such categories at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would like to find out who is in charge of this young gentleman because I have worked out the salary to be roughly $143 a month and I would like to know who is teaching him because when we were doing the Supplementary Estimates I spoke about the number of pieces of equipment which were at the Hospital not being used because they were not being serviced, and you have got a great sum set aside for a Resident Engineer who it is known that everybody at the Hospital tells you that he is a glorified plumber, and I would like the Minister to tell me tonight the qualifications of the person who is holding the post of Resident Engineer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, as far as I am aware the Resident Engineer is an Electrical Engineer duly qualified.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like to know his qualifications. I do not mind your saying he is an electrical engineer, but I would like to know his qualifications and I would like to know if this person is being placed under the same man, because when we were doing the Supplementary Estimates, I spoke about these things at the Hospital that were not working, and my information is now that HARP has been called in within the last month and is now servicing most of the equipment that was lying down at the Hospital not being used because the Resident Engineer could not service it, and now I hear he is a qualified electrical engineer. I would like to know what arrangement Government has with HARP for servicing this equipment, and I would also like to know if there are not a number of air conditioners at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital not being used, and the same Resident Engineer is refusing to send them out to be serviced, but they are coming back in here under Item 113 for $110,228 for air conditioners, refrigerators, sterilizers, etc. There are certain departments in the Hospital that have got to operate under a certain controlled environment, and the air conditioning units in those sections are not working. I would like to find out how you are going to use an apprenticed Engineer and put him under somebody who cannot do the job he should be doing and holding the post of Resident Engineer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA. I would like to give some information on this; I will give you the precise answer very shortly I hope, but so far as the maintenance Engineer is concerned, the gentleman in question as far as I know is a duly qualified Electrical Engineer and has performed useful and valuable services in the construction and erection of the same Hospital and then he was kept on on a contractual basis.
9.10 p.m.

He was kept on on a contractual basis. His contract has been renewed, and I must say that he has rendered very useful and valuable services to the Government, because in the conversion of the houses at Lady Meade Gardens and making accommodation for junior medical staff, etc., he has done a lot of work in that respect along with Mr. Clarke who is his deputy.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Hon. Minister say whether the duties of the Resident Engineer include maintenance of the residences at Lady Meade Gardens and so on?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am referring to Mr. Etheridge, a duly qualified Electrical Engineer,and he has done very useful service in this country.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have been hearing these words "duly qualified", but nobody has told me what his qualifications are. He is duly qualified to play golf. In the X-ray Department water was dropping from the roof and the matter was complained to him before he went off on Friday, and on Monday the staff had to look for somewhere else to develop the films.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, he is an Associate of the Institute of Hospital Engineers, and he has done very valuable services around here. Apart from the engineering skill which he has, he does a lot of maintenance work and has been responsible for a lot of the maintenance and conversion work at Lady Meade Gardens. His services have been utilised in every respect, and he affects great savings for the Hospital.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is it part of his duties to carry out maintenance on the flats in which the Doctors reside? I am not talking about converting flats. I am talking about after the flats have been converted and people are living in them. Is it part of his duties to carry out maintenance on these projects?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Certain portions of work, such as the hon. member has referred to, say, at Enmore, will be done by the Public Works Department, but I am referring to special assignments which have been given to Mr. Etheridge at Lady Meade Gardens and so on. He has been responsible for converting, repairing and renovating buildings at Lady Meade Gardens. As far as Enmore is concerned, that will be done by the Public Works Department.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what staff did the Engineer use when he converted the flats at Lady Meade Gardens? Is it not a fact that he used the Maintenance Staff to do construction work, and the staff had been complaining that they were not being compensated for such work?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Apprentice Engineer does not work immediately under the Resident Engineer. He is in a Department under a Foreman. The Resident Engineer is not expected to service equipment personally.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister tell me whether it is right or wrong that, before anything in the Hospital can be dealt with, it must be referred to that very gentleman? Is it not true that you have air condition throughout the Hospital which has not been working for a long period of time, and he has refused to send the equipment to the agents for repairs? Here it is you are telling me that you are going to put an Apprentice Engineer under a Foreman. A Foreman of what? I would like to find out.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, my instructions are that the Apprentice Engineer does not work immediately under the Resident Engineer, but he works directly under the Foreman. The Resident Engineer is not expected to service equipment personally. At present we are negotiating with HARP to get assistance in servicing electronic equipment.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: We are back in the hands of Carlton Brathwaite, but I will deal with that another time. I should like to find out from the Minister what are the terms and conditions of appointment of the Resident Engineer. If he is not supposed to service equipment, what must he do? Is he mainly to maintain the plumbing at the Hospital? Must he maintain the lifts and the various medical and surgical equipment, etc? What exactly are the duties of the Resident Engineer?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Resident Engineer is like a maintenance man, and he is in charge of the general maintenance work at the Hospital.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be a little more specific? Let us deal with Item 113 - Furniture and Equipment - $110,228. The Note says that it is to provide for refrigerators, air-conditioning units, ovens, sterilizers, vacuum press, etc. Is he responsible for the maintenance of those articles?

Item 114 - Medical and Surgical Equipment - $289,620. This provides for audiometric suite, drill, electro-acoustic ear, gas mixing apparatus, etc. Is he responsible for servicing any medical equipment?

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister can find out whether the negotiations going on now are really with HARP or Computer Devises? *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! I am nothing to do with Carlton Brathwaite. I have seen no HARP or Carlton Brathwaite in these Estimates.
9.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member raised certain questions in connection with the switch board at the hospital and the manner in which the people answer the telephone. I could not explain that, but I will tell you that a PABX system is to be installed in place of the present PBX system which has become very defective. Calls to the hospital are always put through to the persons required. However calls coming after 10 p.m. which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph complained of for persons on the wards are screened, because the buzzer of the telephone is likely to disturb the very sick patients.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, when I spoke about this during the Supplementary Estimates, I reminded the Hon. Minister that practically all the telephones in Barbados now have

got a ringing control button somewhere in the bottom that you can tone it down or turn it up. There have been a lot of excuses about why the operators have refused to put through calls after 10 o' clock at night. The answer is simply that the switchboard operators go off to sleep and they have been resisting every effort to accommodate the nurses. The hon. junior Minister for St. Thomas got in here a few days ago and talked about if the policemen go on strike, but if the nurses go on strike.....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, how can you allow the hon. member to say the hon. junior Minister for St. Thomas?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am sorry. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas. If you are going to find fancy excuses about not putting through telephone calls at night, this in my opinion shows a lack of co-operation. Who is going to screen any message coming through and go upstairs to a nurse on the ward? Suppose I am calling for somebody I want to speak to personally, then I would not get through because they will tell me that the telephone would ring too loudly and wake a very sick person. What about those wards in which the television is on until the station closes? Some nights the television goes off at 12.15. What happens then? What is the excuse under these circumstances?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I think the Minister has misunderstood me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: To speak, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was speaking.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has misunderstood the point I was making. It does not make much difference to me whether you put in a PBX or PABX, it boils down simply to the fact that the people working on the switch board are unmannerly and no matter what sort of switch board you put in, that would not stop it. It has to be changed by the attitude of the people there. When I was in the hospital and I phoned out, if the operator recognised my voice she was decent, but if she did not recognise my voice she got on like a hog. This is not right if you are drawing the taxpayers money. If you phone the hospital they leave you holding on and nobody comes back to you. It is this attitude that has to be changed.

While I am on my feet, I would like to know the terms and conditions of Mr. Etheridge's appointment. I would like to know if he is supposed to maintain medical and surgical equipment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, Mr. Etheridge has been employed on contract. I am afraid I would not be able to give you the terms and conditions of his contract off-hand, but if the hon. member can put the question to me tomorrow or next day when the Capital Estimates are being done, I could probably give him the answer then.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, with all due respect to the Minister, what is the Minister really answering when he says that Mr. Etheridge is responsible for maintenance at the hospital? Maintenance of what? What is he supposed to maintain monthly?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, he is electrical engineer and has been doing regular maintenance work at the hospital of all types, and has effected big savings for us in getting work done quickly and in converting old buildings at Lady Meade Gardens and other work that has to be done.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order, maybe I can help you here. This man is not responsible for the maintenance of all the equipment at the hospital. He could not be responsible for maintenance of X-ray equipment. Isn't there somebody on contract to maintain the X-ray equipment? It would have to be so. I do not know what happens now, but this used to be done by contract.

While I am on my feet I will just say this. If he is responsible for all the equipment, he could not be responsible for the elevators. He may be a good engineer, but he might not know anything about elevators, otherwise why are they out of order for two weeks as I have seen?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, the Resident Engineer is responsible for maintenance of buildings and equipment including residences. If the department lacks staff to do any particular job, he seeks the agency which has a servicing department which can deal with the matter, for example U.S.I. His staff comprises one superintendent of works, one works supervisor.....

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has risen on a point of order. You cannot rise on a point of order. too.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: His staff comprises one superintendent of works.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr, Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has risen on a point of order already. If you get up again, I am not going to stand for it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: His staff comprises one superintendent of works, one works supervisor, one buildings supervisor, three electricians, three electricians mates, three fitters, three fitters mates, one senior stoker, three stokers, seven carpenters, one mason, four painters, two plumbers, one sewer attendant, one plant attendant and one truck driver.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not surprised to hear that Mr. Etheridge is responsible for the maintenance of buildings including residences.
9.30 p.m.

I know for a fact that Mr. Etheridge refused to go and repair or to look after complaints made by Doctors living in the flats at Enmore. More than one Doctor made complaints about Mr. Etheridge's conduct in relation to complaints made about the maintenance of their flats. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: To whom did they make these complaints?) Ask the Hospital Director, he would know. Certain members of the staff asked me to make complaints to Dr. Bluitt that the room was too hot, they said they had complained all the time and Mr. Etheridge refused to come and fix the air conditioning unit. That cannot be right.

Before I sit down, Sir, on this question of negotiations with HARP, are they being carried out with HARP or with Computer Devices of Canada? I would like some statement from the Minister about these negotiations; do not be advised by the Leader of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, we are now negotiating with HARP to get assistance in servicing electronic equipment.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, who is negotiating on behalf of HARP then?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, when you say HARP will you tell us exactly what you mean by HARP? What is this HARP, I do not know, I heard this term being used; exactly what association is meant by HARP?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Everybody in Barbados knows that HARP is the High Altitude Research Project. Do I have to tell the hon. member that? A practising Barrister who is much better informed than I am in matters like this?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, what I want to find out is whether the negotiations are being carried out with Computer Devices of Canada or whether they are being carried out with HARP; I do not want any guessing on this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is putting the question to me and I am giving him a precise and definite answer. I know nothing of these negotiations, I am being advised by my advisers that that is the case, I cannot be under any cross examination to say something different.

The hon. member asked other questions; he asked about nurses who do not take the regular meal but the money is deducted out of their monthly salary. I understand that that is a fact but it has been going on since 1956 and has not been changed, but those same nuress very often take a sandwich or a snack and the rate is 60¢ a day. It is heavily subsidised and it has been in existence since 1956, so I think that is reasonable, and if they do not eat the actual meal and they have a sandwich or snack I do not think there is much complaint there. As far as the doctors are concerned it is a $1.00 a meal and you will probably say it should be $2.00; the doctors probably can pay a little more. The suggestion about the long weekend is a very good one, and I have taken all the notes from the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is already speaking on a point of order.

Mr. HINDS: Now that the Minister has spoken am I not entitled to speak?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If he is finished, by all means.

Mr. HINDS: His days are numbered. Mr. Chairman, what I am enquiring from the Minister is if Mr. Etheridge took maintenance staff and did construction work with it at the Hospital and as a consequence such staff as he used are dissatisfied. Is it right for Mr. Etheridge to have done this?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is getting that answer I would like to carry on where I left off, because if we look at Item 77 you will note that there is provision for a Resident Engineer in the amount of $12,000, and thereafter there is a Superintendent of Works, Works Supervisor, etc, and there is no other engineer at the Hospital according to the Estimates, but you are going to put in a sum for an apprenticed engineer and yet still you are not putting him under the Resident Engineer but you are putting him under a foreman, so how can you have an apprenticed engineer under some other kind of foreman? The long and short of the matter is this, that the two Officers who are under Mr. Etheridge are more than dissatisfied because he does not do what he should do in his capacity as Resident Engineer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, it does not seem as though certain hon. members of the Opposition agree on having this Head passed at this stage. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. BOLDEN: If the Hon. Minister asks me to give way I will give way for him to make the motion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am asking the hon. member to give way.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Mr. CHAIRMAN, reported progress and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

9.40 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before I move the suspension, I just want to remind hon. members

that I gave notice earlier in the week of a Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act, and I would like some time tomorrow to do that Bill so that the Senate might have it in order that Regulations might be put into effect on the 1st April, even if we do not have the Appropriation Bill ready.

I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 11 a.m. tomorrow;

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

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

9.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and thereto it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. HOPPIN in the Chair.

HEAD 42 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL (contd.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the sitting was suspended yesterday evening the junior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair. If he has not concluded, he may proceed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us for a single moment take a look at Item 180 - Student Nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It comes under the Heading of Nursing and Nursing Education. I think this is a matter which is entitled to some sort of detailed examination.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is Item 44, but I think you said Item 180.

Mr. HINDS: It is Item 44, and I am sorry that I said Item 180. It is really 180 Student Nurses and the amount asked for is $288,000. Who should really be in charge of Nursing Education? Should it be put under Administration? Should it form part of Nursing Administration? With the Establishment as it is at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I think I am right in saying that the senior Tutor or your Principal Tutor, whatever one may care to call such an officer is, qualification-wise, next in line to be appointed Matron of that Institution. In other words, the post ranks senior to the Deputy Matron.

Mr. Chairman, in here is very hot.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fans should have been put on since morning.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if an officer is receiving more salary than the Deputy Matron and is expected to be better qualified than the Deputy Matron, evidently, if there is a vacancy for filling that post of Matron, the ideal person for consideration ought to be that person, provided she had the necessary experience and qualifications. In the same way, a situation arises where we must ask what provisions are made for..... *(Interruption)*

Mr. Chairman, in the case of the Acting Senior Tutor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, let us have a look at the situation as it presents itself before us. The Acting Senior Tutor holds the S.R.N., in England, the R.N. from Barbados, S.C.N. from England, the British Tuberculosis Certificate, the R.S.H., the Tutor's Midwifery Diploma, and a Hospital Ward Administrative Certificate. Those are the qualifications of the Acting Senior Tutor. We must cast our minds back, Mr. Chairman, to the time when there was a Miss Graham who was the Tutor.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I might be able to assist him. I appreciate the point the hon. member is making. The position is that the Principal Tutor or the Chief Nursing Education Officer is in charge of the Nursing School. The Matron attends weekly meetings of the School Staff either in person or through an Assistant Matron in order to maintain co-ordination between the School and the Service. The Principal Tutor has been trained in education techniques and not in administration. She would have to be trained and experienced in administration, if she is to succeed the Matron; so she is not in line.

Mr. HINDS: To what does her Hospital Ward Administration Certificate entitle her? I should like the Minister to explain this matter, because I am a layman.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, what does hospital ward administration certificate convey? That she has been trained in what? Mr. Chairman, the day will surely come when some people will have to take things into their own hands. Where the Minister will be is another matter.

Mr. Chairman, there are some people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who are State Registered Nurses. They also have a certificate in Midwifery. There are some people therefore who are holding double qualifications and others with triple qualifications above what is normally required for their respective posts. How does Establishment provide for them when promotion comes along, and in the interim what provisions are made for them to receive extra remuneration for their added qualifications? Are all these things being examined in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital staffing structure? It is not right, Mr. Chairman, for a person who holds one qualification applicable to nursing and another who holds two or three or four to be paid at the same rate. I would like to hear from the Minister what consideration is being given to these people. I must carry the Minister's mind back to the days of 1948-49 when a tutor by the name of Miss Graham succeeded a former Matron Miss Fishlock, and I am wondering if there

is any possibility of such a situation ever occurring, taking into consideration the relevant qualifications plus experience. No doubt we will learn from the Minister, as we learned last night, that the qualifications of certain people will be taken into account when the Government wants to take them into account, but the qualifications of others mean absolutely nothing to the Government when it suits them. Our only regret for all this mismanagement on the part of Government is that we happen to be dealing with sick people in each and every case; but if we find that there are sick minds in the Government, what better administration can we expect? How can any member of Government expect that members of staff in an institution go on adding and adding and preparing themselves more and more to function better in their respective posts, and when the time for due consideration comes in respect of promotion, nothing is done? Is the Minister going to tell me that the Acting Senior Tutor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is not qualified to become Matron when at the same time the officer has better qualifications than the present Matron at the institution? I have nothing against the Matron at the Hospital.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, just let us clear this point. The hon. member stressed the point that she is qualified in administration. She has her qualifications in ward administration, but administration of a ward does not necessarily mean that she has administration in running all the departments of the Hospital. She is qualified to run a ward. Every ward sister is given training in supervisory techniques, but the Matron requires an advanced administration course in which the present Matron is qualified.

In connection with the other question about extra qualifications, the Ministry recommended at the time of the last salaries revision that nurses holding a double qualification should be placed on a higher salary scale than persons with a single qualification, and a double qualification is taken into account for promotion to the grade of ward sister. What I want the hon. member to realise is that the Ministry through the Permanent Secretary will make certain recommendations after consultation with the hospital authorities, the Chief Medical Officer and all in a position to advise and assist to the Public Service Commission. These are some of our recommendations; we are not trying to block anybody.

Mr. HINDS: You are not there to block anybody, but how far have your recommendations reached? They are merely on paper. We are now discussing the Estimates. Have you included any sum whatsoever in the Estimates to pay these people for their double qualifications?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, how can we possibly include a separate and distinct amount earmarked for a particular purpose for which we have not got final approval? As soon as approval is given, what is wrong with bringing down a Resolution to that effect? We cannot include money for a matter which is still under consideration.

11.20 a.m.

We cannot include money for a matter which is still under consideratinn, we have not got the authority to do it. If it is a personnel matter it is a matter which the Public Service Commission deals with. The hon. members of the Opposition with few exceptions have attacked the Minister as if the Minister has any control over personnel matters; I know very little about personnel matters because the files do not come to us, and whether you believe it or not you will find yourselves in a similar position if and when you run the Government. If you happen to come into office you will find that personnel matters and personnel files do not come to the Minister, but you are so anxious to attack personalities that everything is more or less centred on that than on the basic principles and the big money votes for which we are accountable.

Mr. HINDS: I have heard the Minister, Sir, I appreciate his plight in dealing with these personnel matters, but let the Minister bear this well in mind that when we come to deal with similar situations we are prepared to bring an entirely different approach to the problem; that is all that is necessary.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has told us that qualifications, looking at the qualifications of the acting senior tutor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, particularly at her Hospital Ward Administration certificate does not mean that she can do more than administer a ward. If the Minister is really serious when he says this, he cannot do it, but I would have to ask him either to employ as many Matrons for as many wards as he has at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and go back and dismiss the one Matron that he now has, but he cannot do it. I have nothing against the lady, I hate even to be discussing it but I have got to make comparisons arising out of what the Minister has said. The Matron at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital holds the same certificate, Hospital Ward Administration Certificate, and if that tells somebody that you are entitled to administer only one ward, what are we doing with the other wards at the Hospital? The Minister is being badly advised in these matters, it could only be that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I made it clear that the Matron has advanced administration qualifications; in other words, she has additional qualifications at the advanced level.

Mr. HINDS: The Matron has her S.R.N., the State certificate in Midwifery and the Hospital Ward Administration certificate; she has no more but she is doing a good job. I do not want to discuss her because I have nothing against her and the way she is performing her duties, but what I am saying is this, here is a case where sooner or later if anything happens to the Matron and an advertisement is published in the Press you are going to find people who have served the institution, who know themselves to be qualified to fill the office are going to make application. As

soon as you overlook those people and go and appoint other people over their heads, do you expect them to give other people their co-operation? You are running the institution down every time you attempt to do this sort of thing, and that is why we are trying to ask the Minister to provide ways and means to avoid this situation. If the post of Senior Tutor or Principal or whatever it is of the Nursing School is senior by way of salary and qualifications to that of Deputy Matron, if the Matron goes you are then going to put the Deputy Matron to act, and all this over more qualified people on the fence? They are her seniors. I have nothing against the Deputy Matron, but I am just putting the position before the Minister as it really is; it needs a re-examination, nobody can deny this. What the Minister is going to find is this, that if he were to look back at his same training school, the Tercentenary School of Nursing - and at this point I would like to be advised by the Minister - I understand that at establishment level the post is that of Principal Tutor but some people prefer to be called Nursing Education Officer. The records have got to be put straight at some point, and I would like to learn from the Minister at this stage exactly how the officer who is performing the duties of Principal Tutor should be addressed; throughout the department people are worrying because they want to know how this officer must be addressed. At establishment level it is known as Principal Tutor but, I do not know if I must say it, the person who is acting Principal Tutor has given reasons to feel that she prefers to be known as Nursing Education Officer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, as far as I know the right appellation is Principal Tutor; the first two or three Nursing Education Officers we had were sort of seconded to us and they used the term "Nursing Education Officer" - I am speaking of PAHO experts who came to assist us in putting this on a proper footing - one has gone to the Virgin Islands and the other lady is still here, but the particular lady to whom the hon. member is referring is the Principal Tutor.

Mr. HINDS: Acting Principal Tutor? (Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes.) Here you find further trouble brewing because you have an acting Principal Tutor who has absolutely no experience whatsoever.
11.30 a.m.

Your Acting Principal Tutor has no experience.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: No experience in what?

Mr. HINDS: We are discussing Nursing and Nursing Education.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, how can the hon. member get up in this Committee and say that? How can he say that we have an Acting Tutor with no experience whatsoever, when she turns out about 95% passes? What further experience do you want? Almost all of her students are successful in the examinations, and the hon. member is standing here and trying to build up a case against her. She is skilled in the art of teaching the subjects which the Nurses must learn, and she does that very efficiently. What kind of case are you trying to build up against her?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's argument would hold very good if you had one class with one teacher. Tell the Minister that is not so. The Nursing School is not run like that. When 95% passes are scored, it means that no one teacher is responsible for that. What is fooling the Minister is that the officer who is acting has a B.Sc. in Nursing Education; she also has her S.R.N. in Midwifery and no experience whatsoever. Let the Minister deny this. You are going to find again that you will be up against a third and possibly a fourth problem in case anything happens to the Matron at your Institution. As I have said I have absolutely nothing against any of these people. I do not even know some of them.

Mr. Chairman, I want to discuss very briefly a note I have here on Item 62. I am not going to discuss anything that has already been discussed on this Item, although it deals with Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital except to say that anybody who might be recruited to fill the office of Dietitian at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has to carry out spring cleaning in that Department at the Hospital. You can well imagine a situation like this occurring, Mr. Chairman.

Now, on the 24th December the baking of turkeys was completed. Three of these turkeys without wings, without feet, found themselves back in the main store room. All of the Christmas festivities and the New Year festivities went by and they remained there on the ice. The first notice that Miss Hettie Deane, the Dietitian, or one of them got that these turkeys had been there since the 24th December, was when a member of the kitchen staff was flying out from Seawell Airport to Trinidad. In other words, these 3 turkeys were to have been used as gifts. The opportunity did not present itself for them to fly through by way of the Trolley men. *(Asides)* It is the taxpayers' money, so it does not mean anything to him. *(Asides)* It is the taxpayers' money, so it does not mean anything to the hon. junior member for St. Lucy. The taxpayers can put their hands in their pockets and buy turkeys. After the turkeys could not be taken out - that is why you will have all of this trouble at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, many people who flounce up from their seats in this place and get annoyed when they hear these things are the very people - I am not saying the hon. junior member for St. Lucy - who receive Bruce Spencer's big loaves of bread. That is the trouble. They receive gifts from this man. The impression was to be given that the turkeys were there for somebody else to carry out.
11.40 p.m.

In other words, she is now being given a wild goose chase to stand by and wait when in truth and in fact the person who was really to have got them out was leaving the Island for Trinidad. That is the new low to which things have got in the kitchen department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We must

appreciate the fact, Mr. Chairman, that it is not easy to administer the affairs of such an institution, but what we are finding is that whenever an attempt is to be made to brighten things, the Government by its own action is doing all that is to be done to worsen the situation. Mr. Chairman, you cannot deny people promotion. There are cooks at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital some of whom entered the institution as maids to do mopping, scrubbing and the like. Eventually they found themselves washing pots and doing other things until they became cooks. Every day of your life you have reasons to complain against the actions of cooks, maids and the like, and when you want to stamp out their ill behaviour, what do you do? Are you going to take one of the same cooks without any training whatsoever and instal her as a supervisor to be amongst those who have been trained? When you have done that, can this newly installed supervisor be expected to discipline those people with whom she had been wallowing all her life? She can only see what they are doing and make sure she does not cause either one to lose her job. That is the standard that is now being set. It is not a case as with the catering officer, Mr. Marshall, who was brought in to inject new blood. When the Minister told us about Mr. Marshall leaving and giving his reason and said it was a sad loss to the institution, what effort did Government exert to see if they could retain his services? They did nothing because their feeling is that it is the taxpayers' kitchen and whatever is gone belongs to the taxpayers, and we can come to Parliament and get money to buy back whatever is missing.

You can well imagine, Mr. Chairman, that a bunch of keys belonging to the kitchen department of the hospital could not be found for days. They had not been misplaced. Why do you think all these things are happening? One reason why Mr. Marshall had to go is that he was made uncomfortable because he was too strict for certain people. They could not manoeuvre as freely as they wanted, and now Mr. Marshall has gone, let us be told who is prepared to drag down the very roof of the building if he is not installed in Mr. Marshall's position whether or not he is qualified for the position so that he will be holding the keys, and you will wake up one morning to find the storeroom gone and perhaps one of the patients gone as well. That is the true position att the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as far as the kitchen department is concerned.

I heard the hon. junior member for Bridgetown make mention that nurses did not eat but that deductions were still made from their pay. Mr. Chairman, many of the nurses would be glad to eat, but very often when they go to eat there is no meat to be served, because it has been stolen. What do you expect the nurses to do? Do you expect them to eat rice and gravy while somebody has got the meat and gone with it? They prefer not to be fed at the institution under these circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, there are lots of reasons why we have got to be so careful in examining these Estimates. Some of the things that we bring before the Committee certain members would not like to have brought at all, but that does not mean that they do not exist. We want to stamp them out. We are confident that the hospital can be administered with less than half of the present staff difficulties. It would be easier for the doctors, and it would be easier and better for the patients who have got to go there, because no hungry nurse or nurse with a dieting problem can go on a ward and do justice to a sick patient, and we are asking the Minister not to be led away by people who might not care what happens in their Ministry, but to take note of what has been said and try as best he can in the limited time now at his disposal to correct these wrongs that still exist.

11.50 a.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think at this stage I have a few replies which I should like to give. The hon. and learned junior member for St. Joseph made certain queries in connection with completion of forms for nurses overseas. My information is as follows:

Forms are completed for the employing hospitals before nurses leave Barbados; it is on these grounds that the nurses are admitted to these countries for immediate employment. The forms consequently requested by nurses are forms which are required by the registering agencies to assess the eligibility of nurses for registration in these countries. These forms vary with regard to the type of information required by the Province or State from which they come; some forms have many sections and a number of persons are required to complete the same. For example, the tutorial staff, the nursing staff, the general nursing council and in some cases other affiliated institutions like the Mental Hospital and Public Health Department. The completing of forms is a continuing process, since whenever a nurse leaves one State or Province to go to another the procedure has to tbe completed as required because registration varies in each State and in each case. Every effort is made to deal with these as expeditiously as possible, and forms are usually returned within one to six weeks after they have been received depending on the type of forms. The tutorial staff as well as the nursing staff of the hospital regard this as a vital part of their responsibility and always co-operate fully.

In addition, each State in the United States has a different method of registration, so that whenever a nurse abroad trained in Barbados moves to a different State forms are received in Barbados in the Matron's office to be filled out, but whenever we hear these things we know there are cases in point. Without attempting to be offensive, one Maureen Coward has been complaining that her forms were being filled out but she was not registered locally since her fee had not been paid. This has now been corrected and her forms have been sent on. I hope the hon. member is satisfied about that one.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the debate on this particular Head, but the

only thing I would refer to at this stage is the fact that there are numerous hospitals in the United States where patients are assistant patients, and in these particular States they would take as many trained nurses from Barbados as Barbados can produce, but what I am particularly speaking about now is the six weeks' time that elapses between the presentation of the forms for completion and the time when they are ready at the end of the processing line, because it means after that there is then another six to eight weeks' wait to obtain a visa from the American Embassy here. I would hope that in view of this those in Authority would speed up the processing of these forms, if as the Minister states they are producing more qualified nurses than there are vacancies available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, because there is no doubt about it, the salary paid to nurses in the United States far exceeds any that can be paid today in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I arrived late this morning and I would not like to hold up the discussion but I wonder if there was any explanation in respect of Item 18 - Apprentice Engineer in relation to the Engineer under Item 77. In the meantime I will go on to another point. There is the sum of $288,000 under Item 44 in respect of student nurses.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I should like to get these two replies out of the way, and I am referring to the misnomer referred to in the Estimates as an Apprentice Engineer which in truth and in fact is just an apprentice, so we want to get the word "Engineer" deleted. I beg to move that the word "Engineer" be deleted because it was never intended to be an Engineer at all but merely an apprentice. The word "Engineer" should be deleted because the post is not viewed as an Engineering post at all but he is only an apprentice in the department.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On the question of the Engineer, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph stated that there was dissatisfaction two years ago when the workers in the engineering department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were put to work on repairs and alterations to houses in Lady Meade Gardens.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, there is some mistake in respect of the person who made that statement; I believe the statement was made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the senior member for St. Joseph stated that there was dissatisfaction two years ago.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, there is some misunderstanding here. The senior member for St. Joseph acted as Chairman last night when this Head was being discussed; unless he spoke at some other time.
12.00 (noon)

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, certain hon. members raised this question as to the people who worked with the Resident Engineer. There was dissatisfaction two years ago when the workers in the Engineers Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were put to work on repairs and alterations to houses in Lady Meade Gardens. Hon. members should note that these workers are paid at key-scale rates which apply in the same way for new construction, repairs, or alterations. There is no difference in the rates. These rates are fixed by negotiations with the Union.

A question was asked quite recently and it has been referred to during the discussions on the Estimates. I think it was referred to after the Head of Social Welfare Department was started. I think the question was asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. It is in connection with the fruit-cake incident. There was an allegation that a fruit-cake which was exposed for three days to ants, flies, cockroaches and dust, and that allegation is denied. It would seem that the incident to which the hon. member junior for St. Peter refers is one in which the doors of a cupboard had to be broken open because the keys had been taken out of the Hospital and no duplicates were available. Instructions to open the cupboard were given by the Head of the Dietary Department. The fruit-cake which was found in the cupboard was covered with foil paper and left in the cupboard with its doors closed. I just thought I would mention it for the benefit of the hon. member. He will get a full reply very soon. I merely read this because I heard another allegation just now.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is obviously some error or some difficulty in the administration of the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I did not object to the Motion to delete the word "Engineer" from the Draft Estimates because, in my view, it now presents the Government with a problem. Earlier in these discussions when the senior member for Christ Church and myself queried the sum which Government were providing this year for Apprenticeships and Bursary Schemes, we heard that these persons were paid the measly sum of $3 a month. Since deleting the term "Engineer" at the Hospital, you now have an apprentice who is being paid $143 a month. Where is the relationship between an apprentice at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and an apprentice in any other work? This is the main reason why I did not object. It shows that there is no policy for training in the Government today. I am not reflecting on any vote which was taken in this House today, but if the Hon. Minister would refer to what took place under the Ministry of Education, he would see that there is a measly sum of $11,052 which has been allocated this year for apprenticeships and bursaries. If you are saying that last year there were 48 of these bursaries awarded, then you cannot make up that amount. You are paying one apprentice at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital $143 a month.

Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the man drawing $143 a month. I am glad to see that an apprentice can draw this amount, but I should like the Hon. Minister in his reply to tell me the qualifications of this particular gentleman. As an apprentice he can draw $143 a month as compared with the qualifications of the other persons. Now, last year 48 apprentices were only entitled to $3 a month. I want to know why the others have not been getting $143 a month, too.

With regard to Item 44 - Student Nurse/Ward Nurse - $288,000. I am told, maybe I am wrong, that it is the current opinion of several persons employed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that the number of persons absent on night shift has been running particularly high. It is also stated that several Wards can be found at night with first-year or second-year Nurses in charge. Now, I consider this to be a very dangerous situation.

I think the current practice is that Nurses do a 4-week tour of night duty. I ask the Administrative Body to look into the system which is employed in the United Kingdom and America whereby three shifts are operated with a special differential being paid to Nurses doing night shift. That night shift could begin about 11 p.m. and finish about 7.30 a.m. On this basis the Hospital can build up a volunteer force of night Nurses who would obviate the number of persons absent when they are doing the night shift. There is no doubt about it that from 9.30 p.m. to 7.30 a.m. are considered long hours.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, only four or five weeks ago I gave this house the working hours and the reasons why they were fixed that way. The hon. member is now suggesting that they start at 11 p.m. How could the ones going off duty at 11 p.m. get transportation?

Mr. BOLDEN: Why do not the Government improve their transportation system? It is as simple as that. I think there are some 600 odd Nurses at the Hospital. Is that correct, Mr. Minister? If you divide that number into three shifts, then you will have a 7.30 - 3; a 3 to 11, and 11 - 7.30. You are only going to find problems with a few Nurses coming off at 11 p.m. who do not live in areas where you have late buses running. The Hospital should have an up-to-date Nurses Home, but because of the quality of the Nurses Home some of the Nurses refuse to go into it. This may reflect on the administration there, but the Government will have to do something in order to stop the waste of money by people phoning at the last moment to say that they are sick and cannot come to work. If you have a differential for people working 3 - 11, and another differential for those working from 11 to 7.30 in the morning, I am sure that there will be a saving in the whole Nursing Administration.
12.10 p.m.

Because it might present a problem does not mean we have to shy away from it, and the differential in itself.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I would like to assure the hon. member that we will look into this matter very carefully and report back to the House whether any improvement can be made, or whether any valid suggestions which are made can be adopted, because this is all in the interest of the smooth working of the hospital and the interest of the staff.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would also like the Minister to look into the same problem existing in the District Hospitals, because they have an even greater problem. The night staff work from 7.30 p.m. until 7.30 a.m. and they are told that they are not supposed to sleep at night when on duty. I would like to see something done because it improves the quality of care which is given to the patients.

The next point I would like to deal with is Item 52 which deals with laboratory technicians. Mr. Chairman, there has been - and I mentioned it during a Supplementary Estimate - some decision made somewhere along the line to set up a training system. I would like to call it a school for training laboratory technicians. It has never been published in the newspaper that they are looking for a tutor for this School, and I understand that arrangements are being made on a very strange basis. The senior technicians in the various departments are being called upon to lecture for two hours or a day to these trainees. There is no established head of this school, and the technicians are particularly worried. I understand that the classes are being conducted between 9,00 and 11.00 a.m. on some days and 3.00 and 5 p.m. on others, but at the same time these senior technicians find themselves on call. I would like to say that I am one person who would not object to a vote when it comes to the question of improving the educational qualifications of people in this country, but I do not want to see any hodge podge arrangements being made. If the Queen Elizabeth Hospital intends to set up a school for training technicians, let it be done on a proper basis. Do not ask the senior laboratory technologists to hold the post of senior technologist and at the same time principal-tutor of the school. I want to know if it is right to pay one man two salaries; and there is no laid down scale for the technologists who are called upon to train these trainees. If you are going to set up a school, do it on a correct basis. If you are going to make a man a senior tutor or tutor in charge of a school, pay him as tutor in charge so that there can be no dispute or criticism of the quality of students coming out of this school, because I am sure that after money has been expended and there are no satisfactory qualifications, you are going to hear somebody say that he could not prepare proper lectures because he was on call, he had to do his job in the laboratory and at the same time he was required to teach. Tutors at the hospital to teach nurses are not called upon to do work on the wards; so why should you set up a training institute in which you are taking people off their work and put them to teach trainees? These people have got to prepare their lectures at night or some other time if they want to justify their position at night or some other time if they want to justify their position before any

bunch of students, and if I were a student and a lecturer came before me and presented a bad lecture, I would get up and walk out or tell him straight that I do not see how he enjoys his position as head of any section because he cannot teach me what I want to know. I am objecting to this method of going about it.

Mr. Chairman, during a Supplementary Estimate I asked about the pay for these very laboratory technicians. You have got those persons working in the X-ray room, you have the dispensers, and you have the same technicians who are paid a measly sum of $2.00 an hour when they are called out at night when they are not on duty. When you calculate the $2.00 an hour, it works out to less than the basic salary, and I have never heard of any system of employment in which a man works for less on overtime than he gets in his normal day's pay. It is time that these people be treated like anybody else, because these three sections of people are the life-blood of the hospital. It is on these that the doctors depend, and human life can be lost if these people are not carrying out their jobs in the best spirit. I have known of a case recently at the hospital in which one technician worked continuously around the clock doing test after test to try to save the life of a particular individual, and I do not see why technicians should be paid something less than what they get in their normal day's pay. There is another point I would like to touch on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, on the question of overtime, I am advised that overtime rates are at present under negotiation by the Whitley Council.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, these negotiations were going on since November or December last year, and there is a difference between what the people are asking and what the Government is prepared to offer. It is no good saying negotiations are going on because it may lead to a strike or something. It is about time that these people are met somewhere along the line and let them know what is going to happen. I would also like to know about the school which is being set up and how these people are going to be paid.

As I was saying about the orderlies who were recently appointed, some of them have acted for quite a number of years. I would like to know if these orderlies are going to be credited with the number of years they have been acting, because they are all asking questions.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, all the years' service whether on a temporary or acting basis will be computed; they do not stand to lose in any way so far as pension rights are concerned.

Mr. BOLDEN: Does this include the people who have been working in the mortuary on a day to day basis for some thirty years?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This includes everybody. We do not draw the line anywhere.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you. I am pleased to hear this, Mr. Chairman, under Item 112, again we look at laboratory and see provision *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order No. 29(6) is being contravened.

Mr. BOLDEN: I keep hearing voices coming out of.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have called for order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I see provision for the upkeep of laboratory animals. I would like to know what animals they are keeping and how many there are.
12.20 p.m.

Looking back to the three grades I spoke about, the Technologists, the laboratory X-Ray room and the dispensers, I asked during the Supplementary Estimates that Government consider paying the telephone rates of these persons. So far as I understand nothing has been done in this respect, and I am saying here and now, and I would like these three categories of persons to hear this, they should do what two Magistrates in the profession did, refuse to take any messages concerning their employment on their telephones until Government decides to pay for them, or to transfer the telephone listings to their wives' names, and make the Government send out by van or something else if they want them, because if you are going to utilise people's services all hours of the night I do not see in all honesty why you should pay a Permanent Secretary entertainment allowance, housing allowance, etc. and you cannot pay $10.00 a month for these people's telephones. The nurses are being robbed out of $20.00 a month, these people have got to pay for their own telephones and if they are on call they have to leave telephone numbers with the Hospital where they can be reached, but it is time enough that this arrangement could have been made. I know one particular Magistrate who lived very far away from his district and he insisted that no calls in respect of his duties as a Magistrate must come through on his telephone which he is paying for; if it is to be used by the Government for their duties the Government must pay the expense. There was another Magistrate who put the telephone in his wife's name and kept it ex-directory and said that they should not use it unless they paid for it and I agree with him 100%. I would hope that the Minister does something as soon as possible to pay the telephone expenses of these people who are doing a worthwhile job at the Hospital.

Last night I asked, Mr. Chairman, how many air conditioning units there were at the Hospital not working - I would not say irreparable - because my information is that there are quite a few, and I think the hon. junior member for the City spoke about the one in the X-ray room, but there are other parts of the Hospital where the units have just stopped working and nothing has been done. As I said before, I understand the instructions are that before any servicing of equipment can be done at the Hospital it must go through the Resident Engineer, and I understand that

time and time again no action has been taken; action has been taken when he has not been in residence, like when he is out playing golf. I would like to know in view of the $110,228 which is now being asked for how many of these various units are not working and whether there has been any check to see if they are repairable rather than having them replaced.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member will realise that we are making notes of his suggestions. There have been two or three very valid suggestions which he has made, and I have made notes relative to the telephone, overtime and the hours of work etc. I have done that in every case when a valid or useful suggestion is made in order to see that we can get something done. The hon. member asked about the school for Technicians; that has not really got underway yet.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would not like the Hon. Minister to be misinformed on this, it has got underway already and technicians have been called off their normal duties to give lectures between 9 and 11 four days a week and 3 to 5 one day a week, and the Senior Laboratory Technician is styling himself as Principal Tutor or Tutor in charge of the school, or something like this, and I know the technicians are dissatisfied because they have not been told what their positions are in respect of the school. They have been called upon to do this extra duty with no discussion of extra pay or anything of the sort.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I was referring to the paramedical school, this is not a school, this is a course, In answer to the hon. member, a number of qualified Laboratory Technologists have been invited to assist in the training of recruits and the fee is based on $10.00 per hour., All the Tutors are part time and the subject is divided into sections.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, nobody has yet been told, there were no advertisements and there have been no appointments. If the Hon. Minister allows wrong information to be put into his hand I may have to talk the whole story but I do not want to. If the Senior Laboratory Technician goes around and tells people that because they are heads of the various sections he can call them out to give lectures, and if they persist in saying that it has not been set up I am going to tell them to refuse to do it and let us have an enquiry.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is misquoting me. I said all the tutors are part time, the subject is divided into sections and each student is assigned to a section. At present it is impossible to justify full time tutors; the Senior Technologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who last year attended a training course for Tutors has agreed to co-ordinate the programme.
12.30 p.m.

An evaluation will be made of the present Course. It is not a regular school that is set up for ever. It is a special Course being conducted. I was saying that an evaluation will be made of the present Course in June in order to see what permanent arrangements should be made. The Course is being undertaken because it is impossible to get enough places in Jamaica. We have been advised that it is possible for us to prepare students for the Intermediate Examination here in this way, and then send them to the School in Jamaica for further training. We got that advice from the head of the School in Jamaica. We will train these people to a point, and then they will go to the School in Jamaica for further training after they have passed their Intermediate Examination.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister will tell me if there has ever been any Committee set up to determine the course of training and the level of arrangement for lectures, etc.? Since he says it is part-time, then I would like to know if any Committee had ever been set up to go into the matter. I would also like to know whether those persons who are called upon to give the lectures have ever consented or chosen the time when they would like to give the lectures, or when are they required to give the lectures.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Whenever these Courses are set up, such matters are not done harum-scarum. They are always gone into and organised thoroughly before any Course starts.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Would the Hon. Minister deny that this came out of a cocktail party? I should like to know how much the Senior Tutor is being paid, and when is he conducting his class in the very school?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Go and ask him.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am asking the Minister who is responsible for Health. This comes under Health and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If I am going to get bogus answers, I will give you answers from this side and let them go down in Hansard. Mr. Chairman, I heard a statement in here yesterday that a dying mule does not care who he kicks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the discussion. You have asked the Minister some questions, and I think he is trying to get certain information for you. *(Asides)*

Mr. BOLDEN: I am awaiting some answers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Hon. Minister replying to the questions raised by the junior member for St. Joseph?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think I have already answered most of the pertinent questions. In order for me to answer all of the questions that have been asked, it would be necessary for me to have the Public Service Commission, the Chief Personnel Officer, Permanent Secretary as well as the people in the Ministry and in the Hospital here. I have done as much as I can and, at this stage, unless it is a very pertinent question where I will extend myself

in trying to answer, I do not intend to exert myself or fall down dead around here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, must I take this to mean that the Minister is no longer going to answer the questions about the animals, and the qualifications of the person who is the apprentice at the Hospital; the number of air conditioned units or other equipment which is not working at the Hospital and so on?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member knows very well that he can ask substantive questions and get all the answers he wants. Why wait until Estimates time and come in here with a thousand questions? He should use his power from day to day and from week to week to ask these questions.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this, in my view, is a subtle way of disposing with the Opposition and the rights of the Opposition. If you look back at the Order Paper you will see questions which have been asked as long as two or three years ago, and they have not yet been answered. I remember very well that a member of the Other Chamber said in St. Joseph that the only thing that Bolden could do is to come in here and ask questions which Government are not obliged to answer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is not Bolden in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: The Minister is now telling us on this side to ask questions. What are you doing with the Opposition? I have asked a simple question about the School. I know that the technicians are dissatisfied over the way in which the School was set up. I know that this was the result of what took place at a cocktail party.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, planning for the Course of Laboratory Technician Trainees was done in the Ministry of Health and the following persons participated:

The Chief Medical Officer,
The Permanent Secretary,
The appropriate Consultant Officer, Dr. Dossantos
Dr. Richardson, Pan American Human Research Programme,
The Hospital Director,
The Senior Technologist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and
The Senior Technologist at Enmore.

Also at times the Head of the School in Jamaica and the Principal Tutor of the School of Nursing have one meeting concerning accommodation. All of the people who could assist in the planning and setting up of this Course locally and even the Head of the School in Jamaica, who attended two meetings, came to assist us.

12.40 p.m.

If the laboratory technicians have a grievance they know how to make representation. Why don't they come and tell me something?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, do you hear that answer?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Do you think this is a Court?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order No. 29(6).

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, all I want to comment on is the last statement made by the Hon. Minister which obviously came from some Civil Servant's hand. He said that if the laboratory technicians have a grievance, they know where to complain. Take care when the shoe is on the other foot. I hold no brief for anybody in this community, and I am going to say now that if that is the answer which has been handed to the Hon. Minister by somebody who should be responsible, I am going to tell them that since they do not know the terms under which they are working in this school to bluntly refuse to work one day and let us have an open trial, because I am sure that if that person had been asking for his own rights, he would not have liked to have heard that if he had a grievance to go somewhere else. That is why you have representation in this Parliament. That shows the respect certain people have for people under them, and that is what is wrong in this community. When you get up there you look out for those up there and forget you came from the bottom. I would like those in high positions to know that they were not always enjoying those positions.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member is trying to represent that unless an employee high or low at the hospital or wherever he is goes to a representative of the people or somebody like that, he cannot have his grievance redressed. That is the ultimate and final analysis, but they have the Whitley Council and all sorts of Trade Unions and the Civil Service Association. You try all these first and if nothing can be done, you bring it on the floor of the House. You do not come on the floor of the House first. That has been the procedure for long and I do not know if they are trying to change that up. Everything that happens comes on the floor of the House. It is a ridiculous state of affairs if you are going to argue and talk the whole day like that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think almost every conceivable point so far has been challenged, information extracted and I believe.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: You cannot move that today. Let us get this straight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am hearing the hon. senior member for St. James. He has not yet spoken as far as I know. Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to see the type of ruling you have made.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, if the hon. member was speaking, I would like to withdraw that motion. I saw the hon. member sitting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. senior member for St. James continue.

Mr. CRAIG: I respect your ruling, and I must say it has enhanced this Committee quite a bit. I am very grateful for the way you acted on this, because it would not have ended the way I anticipate it is going to end now.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have heard quite a bit on this hospital from both sides. From our side we have pressed for the necessary information which we required, and I believe that the Minister might have tried his best to answer to suit himself, not necessarily to suit the other side.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, that is offensive language no matter how it is couched. With an ignoramus yes, not necessarily people in Petit Martinique or Carriacou, but it is offensive. I have given the facts as they are. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Please do not let this get out of hand.

Mr. CRAIG: I mean no offence. I withdraw it, Mr. Chairman, I said the Minister might have answered as well as he could, but not necessarily to satisfy this side. However, Mr. Chairman, there are one or two criticisms which I have to make on Government policy as far as the hospital is concerned, and I am going to deal first with their own document which aroused the interest of the entire society to return them to the seat of power. It states in their own manifesto "one of the major tasks of Government is to ensure that citizens are provided with adequate health services. This obligation has been accepted and discharged by the Democratic Labour Party." I agree it has been accepted, but not discharged because we provided the country, as the Minister said, with a fine hospital and from his own mouth the Minister said it was the best administered hospital in the Caribbean. That I am not prepared to challenge, but what I would challenge without any offence to the actual administration of the hospital as carried on by the hospital, is the policy of Government as directed to the hospital. I am not one of those people who go around castigating Civil Servants; I castigate them when they become activists. When they are directly involved in politics they must take what they get in politics, but as Civil Servants of the country it is their duty to serve the Government of the land. While the hospital might be administered as one of the finest in the Caribbean, Government's policy does not enhance their own reputation. For the past five years we have been pressing on this side that rather than making the casualty an outpatients' department, Government should have taken it upon themselves with the grounds at their disposal to provide a central outpatients' department, and that is the reason why you hear the cries of the people day after day and week after week.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member has certainly not read the Estimates, otherwise he would see that in the Capital Estimates provision has been made for an outpatients' clinic adjacent to the hospital.

Mr. CRAIG: I believe that if the Minister would listen to me rather than jump up, he would be much better off. I did not say whether or not Government made provision. I am developing the point that Government policy is such that the people of the country have been crying out repeatedly for the long hours they have to wait in the casualty, and we have been drawing this to the Government's attention. They have made provision in the Estimates now, but what I am saying is that this should have been done long ago, and we would not have had this problem. It shows clearly where the Government has been putting the cart before the horse.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member who has just spoken to know that there is a shortage of doctors and consequently you cannot get that service functioning well.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is a point of order, I think that is a point of ignorance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the senior member for St. James continue without any remarks.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that hon. member withdraw those remarks. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear two members speaking across the floor, will they please stop? Will the junior member for St. Thomas please stop and will the senior member for St. Philip please sit when I am standing?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think when I mentioned about the outpatients' department the Parliamentary Secretary gave a reply but he does not know what is going on.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like the hon. member to know that the statement which I have just made is authentic; if he can make doctors out of flour let him do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: I would like also to draw to the attention of Government that I believe in calling a spade a spade and I can get very unpopular in the manner in which I express myself. This can be used on a public platform against me, but I believe I am justified in saying that the time has come when Government should have a fee placed on medicines you get from the Hospital for this reason. Too many people I know go and buy medicine, they take two or three doses as prescribed by the physician and if they do not get immediate results in the time they believe they should get it, they throw the medicine away and say the medicine makes you feel ill. What do you think then they would do with the medicine they get free from the Hospital? I think a small fee of at least 50 cents should be placed on all the medicine at the Hospital, and I feel also it is time that Government should have a control on medicines brought in here and sold by the drug stores; there are mark-ups as high as 75% and 80%. I feel that the time has come when the Government should take a very positive step towards this, it is pathetic to see poor people working day after day when they go to a doctor and are examined, some of the doctors have on their premises a drug store - you can call it a drug store - and medicines are sold to them by some of the same doctors and at some of the drug stores at a price as high as $23.00. I know a woman who had to come to me and ask for assistance to buy medicine, and it is shocking to know what very high-mark-ups are placed on some of these medicines, and I am calling on the Government to take a very positive step to make sure that there is control in that department.

I would also like to say a word about some nurses that I am told have served for a period of years with the Local Government; they are now attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I think they work about four hours a day. I am told by one of them who has been working for almost ten years on this half day shift that when it is time for her to retire there is no provision made for taking all her years into consideration. I am aware of the fact that when this job was undertaken by them they knew very well what they were taking and that there was no pension, gratuity or anything provided for them, and I am sincerely hoping that the Government would make provision for these local Florence Nightengales to receive some form of gratuity when they retire. They are serving the country and serving it very well, and we are aware of the shortage of nurses and doctors all over the world, and this is why I say if you have these people who are in a position to come and assist.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member said there is a shortage of nurses all over the world, but the Minister pointed out today that we are over producing nurses right now and there is no shortage of nurses in Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG: I was not in my seat but I am happy to hear that the Government of Barbados is over producing nurses; you wait until they get into the American Embassy and see how many will be employed in the United States.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the Government that for many years there seemed to have been a problem in some quarters of the Hospital - I am not concerned with the kitchen or the casualty I am concerned with the Hospital - but I believe, Mr. Chairman, that unless there is a Board set up to run the Hospital you are going to have this problem all the time because there is too much politics in the Hospital, and you cannot have politics in a department where the lives of people are entrusted in the the hands of those people employed in that department, and I feel that the sooner the Government set about to have a National Hospital Board set up the better it will be. I am told you have a trained Director, but I think it is but fair that Government shou'd carry out this policy which I am told they had long ago, so as to cut away the Ministers and the politicians once for all from the Hospital.

1.00 p.m.

I believe that this would be doing the country a good. I am told that there are no problems at the St. Joseph Hospital. At the Diagnostic Clinic you have no problems. Do you know why, Mr. Chairman? The matter is in the hands of a few who are doing a fine job, but as soon as you have the politicians in it there will be trouble. I hope that the Minister will pay some attention to the comments I have made. Do not let them go on deaf ears, as silly as some things may sound. I also hope that he will make some kind of provision for those people who have served for a period of years working on this 4-hour shift. There is no provision for them at the moment. There is provision in the Estimates under Capital Works in connection with the Out-patient Clinics. Of course, I do not believe the present Government will have the opportunity to do this. I believe that we built it and we are going to provide this service again.

I sincerely hope that there will be stricter control over medicines, and I look forward, with anxious eyes, to see a Hospital Board set up in this country whereby the country as a whole will benefit. I look forward to the day when we will be in the Government looking after the needs of the people and the Minister will be sitting on the Opposition bench.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is not normally a subject upon which I address the Committee, but I hope that hon. members will bear with me in Committee for a few moments while I advert to the question of medical supplies and drugs. Item 95, I believe, is the Item under which this matter can be found. We have had in the House discussions about the fact that it now costs more, generally speaking and overall, for patients to get drugs, because of the fact that so many drugs can only be got by way of a prescription. You have to pay the doctor's fee as well as the charge for the drug itself. I would like to endorse everything that the hon. member who has just sat down has said about the cost of drugs. The mark up on drugs in Barbados today is exceptional, and this is a well known and accepted fact.

It may be that this suggested remedy of charging people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the drugs

at present is one that will have to be adopted in the short term for one reason and in the long term for another. On that I cannot offer any opinion either to support or to go against it, but what I would ask the Government to consider is that by adopting stricter rules for prescriptions - rules which are derived from countries where medical attention is free, the Government have unwittingly placed a greater burden on the sick and the ill part of the public in Barbados.

It is all very well to say that in England you must have the strictest control because you do not pay to go to a doctor. If you must have a prescription all you have to do is to go to your doctor, he gives you a prescription and you walk out because he cannot charge you for it. The State pays him - I do not know what the capitation tax is. It may be $5 a year for every patient. However, in Barbados you have to pay for each visit these days or something in the region of that.

I would suggest to the Government that since the National Insurance Scheme is making so much money; as far as one can judge, is taking in in subscriptions more than it pays in benefits, not to speak of any accrued benefits from the investments made, that the provision of free drugs ought to be one of the benefits from the National Insurance. It may be that you get your sickness benefit which is fundamentally merely some proportion of your income, but the National Insurance Scheme, I would suggest, is well able to provide the cost, as part of its sickness benefits, of medical aid and drugs as well. Anybody who has dealings with insurance can tell you that for 10¢ a week you can buy an Insurance Policy which would put you in an expensive room in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; pay the Doctor and pay for some of the drugs as well. But the National Insurance Scheme where you pay $150 a week or whatever the amount is you can get no benefit comparable to what you can get with ordinary industrial insurance Sickness Insurance Policies.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the National Insurance Scheme even as at present constituted with the present scale of payments can afford a much more generous approach to the entire financial problems that people face when they are sick. Every civilised country ought to aim at having free medical attention and free drugs for all. Every civilised country ought to aim at this. Every civilised country has it; every single one in this world that is ruled by a Communist Government has it. Every country in Western Europe has it, and the United States of America is the great exception. We should all aim at the Government making it possible for the sick in this society not to suffer any financial burden thereby, and the benefits from the National Assistance Scheme should be the first step towards this aim.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps like many other members in this House, I lived for many years where I had to pay every week about $4 to stamp my National Insurance Card, and I can still go back to England today and get the services of the best Specialists, as long as I am nominated to them by my doctor. I am still on a doctor's panel in England, Sir. A couple of years ago in London I availed myself of those opportunities.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hope the hon. member will give way, Mr. Chairman. I must thank the hon. member for his proposal on the question of including free drugs and free medicine under the National Insurance Scheme. The Government have been considering this aspect of the matter, and only yesterday I explained the question of extending the services given at the Out-patients Clinics more especially in the rural areas where people in the middle-income groups will be included in the Scheme. Under this Scheme there will be free medical attention and free drugs. We are considering this aspect of the matter, but this is probably a better way of approaching it by just including it in the National Insurance Scheme.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Government are taking note of these things. In Barbados you cannot say that research into drugs will benefit from a free prescription Scheme. In many cases, I believe, the Drugs firms justify the high mark up that they charge on certain drugs by the fact that the drugs are expensive anyway and, therefore, the demand for them is small. When the drugs are all free or even if they cost the standard amount I think the hon. member suggested 50¢ - and if all prescriptions cost the same, then the Drugs firms do not have to worry about the demand. If a doctor feels that such a drug is necessary it will be prescribed; therefore the cost of bringing the more expensive drugs to Barbados will go down. This is an ordinary straightforward fact of economic life.

Sir, it was discernible within a year of the introduction of the National Health Scheme into Britain that better quality drugs were coming out of the Research Laboratories. Why? Because the Laboratories no longer had to worry themselves about too limited a demand for an expensive new form of antibiotic.
1.10 p.m.

They knew that if the drug would work that it could be put into large scale operation without any thought that only the rich would be able to afford to use it. Similarly in Barbados the importing firms will be able to bring in a greater quantity of drugs. It should benefit them all around; it should benefit them as well as the general public and I hope that the Minister will urge upon Government when next it gives its consideration to these matters the points made by the hon. senior member for St. James as well as the point which I think I have now made.

The question that the sum of $4,767,031 under Head 42 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.45 p.m.

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

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

On resumption--

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum and ask that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. Thereto automatically it now reverts.

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

HEAD 43- MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 43 - Mental Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $922,056 under Head 43 - Mental Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

There are very few items where the expenditure has been increased, but if there are any specific points or any breakdown which hon. members would like, I am willing to give any further explanation as far as I can.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under Item 22 there is no note. I gathered from the Minister today that we have been turning out quite a number of nurses. I would like to know what is the position with nurses at the mental hospital and if there is a full complement of trained nurses there too in relation to the number of patients. I am sure that as we go on there will be one or two other things I would like to draw to the attention of this Committee. I think the Minister might be able to answer that question offhand.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there is a regular training programme which is in force at the mental hospital for the training of mental nurses. I will just give a run down. There is a total establishment of 149 on the nursing side, 44 students in training, six male staff nurses, and 17 female staff nurses who are not yet qualified. Most of these young staff nurses have passed the intermediate examination and are being prepared for the final RMN. The balance of the staff is fully qualified and 18 doubly qualified with SRN and RMN.

Mr. CRAIG: The reason why I asked that question is because many nurses do shy away from mental nursing, and I would like to find out from the Minister what is required. In as much as several nurses who do their general nursing tend to shy away from mental nursing, I am trying to find out if you have a full complement of them. You have given me those who are in training. Let us assume that you should have 250, but you only have 149. I suggest to the Minister that it would be a wise idea since we are overproducing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to let the nurses there direct part of their training to mental nursing so as to fill any vacancies he may have at the mental hospital. I am only asking for this information; this is not a criticism of Government policy or of the Ministry.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I might try to answer the hon. senior member for St. James and I hope it does not offend him. What the Minister has not told the Committee is that the training school at the Mental Hospital is only allowed to take in ten students per year, but at the same time there are others seeking admission to the same school. What is Government's policy towards those people who cannot get into the training school? Why does Government not see the wisdom in training more mental health nurses?

What the hon. senior member for St. James has asked has brought us to the point where it can be established that at the Mental Hospital, much of what was said by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph obtains at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, obtains there, and I am sure that the Principal Nursing Officer definitely needs more nurses particularly for night duty, juniors for the most part. There are only eight untrained people in charge of wards and they do the bulk of work by night. You find two people on a ward with 36 to 44 persons at night, and Government's policy of confining itself to admitting merely ten persons into the school is not in our view a wise policy under the present circumstances. It cannot be said that there is no staff because the school is assisted by a lady from Trinidad. I understand that she renders a service to the school. I do not want to decry what service she is rendering, not that I would not suggest that she has been there long enough for Government to have decided to train some of our local people to take over as soon as reasonably possible and let the tutor from Trinidad return to Trinidad, and perhaps see if she would become sane on returning there. That remark is just by the way.

Mr. Chairman, under Item 44, much of the observations made with respect to the purchasing of provisions for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are applic-

able to the situation at the Mental Hospital. It brings back for discussion even somewhat remotely the supplying of commodities by the Barbados Marketing Corporation.
2.55 p.m.

The one point that I want to stress in the B.M.C. or any private individual making deliveries to these institutions is that of the time element; that is very important, but from what we have seen there are times when the B.M.C. might have gone out of its way to try to accommodate the Mental Hospital with a view to establishing a name for itself perhaps with the Mental Hospital because it is trying more or less to build up itself at that end having lost much perhaps with other institutions from being unpunctual, so it brings us to the point that we have got to be very careful in trying to restructure this organisation at the expense of these other institutions's votes, and we urge upon the Government the necessity to review the whole situation with regard to the purchasing of these commodities for the Mental Hospital, like all other institutions, and allow a freer hand, but we must insist on having, in any one institution to place the authority for the purchasing of these commodities in the hands of not two, three or four persons but in somebody who should have such an authority and none other, because it can bring about very unpleasant and embarrassing situations in such a case.

Mr. Chairman, we have Item 55 - Handicrafts. At the institution I think handicraft is engaged in - I hope I do not get myself entangled in these terms that are more fitting perhaps for the insane - but it is an occupational therapy. At the institution much of the work was done in the past by a lady who is now a Sister and had been trained in the United States, but the training is now augmented, if that is the way I should put it, by another officer who has been trained in the United Kingdom and who has been given overall control and is responsible for administration. It therefore places the former work of the Sister, I would not say altogether to be of no account, but when we relate what is now being done or attempting to be done to what the Sister was doing in the past and seek to evaluate it production wise, we find that the United Kingdom Officer who is on contract, I understand, has brought no new ideas, no new expertise, no greater variety of skills, but nevertheless what we ought to do immediately is to send our local Sister who has been performing satisfactorily in the past and has shown herself ready and willing to learn further, we should send her abroad to let her get a certificate in occupational therapy and come back by the time the contract officer has come to the end of her contract to take over. You see, Mr. Chairman, there can be very many reasons why certain actions are taken from time to time with respect to certain officers, and we would like to urge upon the Government the necessity for appreciating the good work of the humblest of us, of the highest placed officer as well as of the lowest placed in the establishment, because if the lowest placed officer is aggrieved it can make it difficult for the best administrator.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I will probably set his mind at rest. PAHO has arranged a course for Sister Browne and she has been informed; she leaves for New York on 14th April.
3.05 p.m.

Pan American Health Organisation has arranged a Course for Sister Browne. She has been informed and she leaves for New York on the 14th April. The U.K. Officer has agreed to serve for about six months on a month to month basis. She has been there for two months.

While I am on my feet, I will just give a further reply to a question raised by the senior member for St. James. We have Training Courses going on for Nurses. Although I did say that there are 149 on the Nursing side, there is room for further training and for more Nurses to be trained. We are going ahead with our Training Programme. There are 44 now in training. The hon. member mentioned something about an intake of 10. That is being reviewed and looked into. Very often we are anxious to send some of these students further on, but certain qualifications create a bar and we are hampered that way.

In so far as the handicraft section is concerned, the present Medical Superintendent is doing his utmost in having that old matter re-organised. Plans have been submitted and are going ahead for rehabilitation of psychiatric patients along the lines of a sheltered workshop for crafts, cottage industries and contract work in animal husbandry and in plant, fruit and vegetable fields as well as in the rearing of poultry, sheep, etc.

Mr. Chairman, a building has been renovated and is now being used as an Occupational Therapy Assessment Unit for the Rehabilitation Programme. Another building has been renovated and is now being used as a first-class store for kitchen and other supplies; so that steps are being taken, as far as rehabilitation work is concerned. The hon. Member's point is very well taken, and it is precisely along those lines that our present Superintendent is working. He needs supporting staff. There are only two members of the Medical Staff: the Medical Superintendent and his Deputy, whereas there are 5 posts for Medical Staff. Apart from the fact that more trained Nurses are needed, he also needs supporting Medical Staff in order to accomplish his Programme, to set his plans in line and to give maximum efficiency.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister can tell us if the Medical Superintendent is embarking on a Scheme to make use of the services of these Psychiatric Social Workers and the Mental Health Workers to make up for the deficiency, even temporarily, in his Medical Staff, or to what extent is he relying on these people? As soon as I hear what the Minister says on that, I think I will better be able to give of my knowledge of what actually goes on at the Institution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Medical Superintendent has reported that it is vital to bring the Medical Staff up to the establishment of 5 in order to maintain basic psychiatric services, and then to plan on future increases with the development of special units. For example, for a Child Guidance Centre more Nurses are needed, but particularly Social Workers in the Community. The hon. member, again, is on fairly good ground.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear all of this. Let us turn to Item 49 - Medicine and Medical Apparatus. I want to deal with medicine. We must realise that we are dealing with an Institution with about eight hundred beds. It means therefore that, looking at the day to day population over the past three to five years, it has been increasing, but at the same time the number of out-patients has shown a very steady rise; so that if we did not build up such an out-patient population so rapidly the obvious would be that we would have to make provision for more room to accommodate them inside the Institution.

In the circumstances, the drugs must now be ordered in greater supply and at greater cost. There are several reasons for the increase of cost. Let anyone go down to that 800-bed Institution and see what one has to call a Dispensary. The first thing this Institution needs is a Dispensary as quickly as possible, because in order to make things easy drugs are taken from the Dispensary in fairly large quantities and these Psychiatric Social Workers have been dispensing these drugs. Now, I do not want to criticise them. As far as I know, no patient is worse off, but is it the right thing to do?
3.15 p.m.

There is one dispenser whom I understand is a whole time officer, but with the population growing, it does not mean that more hands grow out on the body of the dispenser. He still has the same two hands and he can only do so much in the course of one day, and when too much is thrown upon him by the various officers, each one requesting this for his section of the institution, it can cause confusion. You might eventually find the patients are mad and the dispenser is not altogether sane if you are not careful. When he is working in such unsavoury conditions, you have to take these things into consideration.

This brings me, Mr. Chairman, to a very vital point which affects not only the Mental Hospital but the community generally. We are going to be told that there is a shortage at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of four dispensers, and that we cannot get them. All this is true, but there is a reason why you cannot get dispensers and unless Government is prepared to accept suggestions that are made from time time, we will not get dispensers and we will eventually find ourselves in the same position as now obtains with the getting of a carpenter or mason. Dispensing medicine is a specialised field.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I will give him some replies which will clear the air further. The day to day in-patient population has decreased from 800 to approximately 650 due to improve medication and improved drugs and medicines. As a result of that increase, out-patient attendances have been extended to out-laying areas which have not received services in the past. The hon. member has spoken of psychiatric social workers. They are in great demand owing to this vast number of out-patients, and they are used to seeing after older patients on routine visits, and to refer for psychiatric treatment any new patients or any old patients whom they suspect are not doing well. The same psychiatric social workers also assist for routine old patients in writing up drugs, but these are then counter-signed by the doctor before the drugs are actually issued. So there is need for a great number of psychiatric social workers owing to the shortage of staff.

Mr. HINDS: Now the psychiatric social workers prescribe for patients. We are not objecting to that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I have not really said that. For routine old patients the psychiatric social workers write up the drugs. These are then counter-signed by the doctor before they are actually issued. They assist, but they do not prescribe.

Mr. HINDS: If they write up drugs as the Minister chooses to put it, what they write up and get counter-signed by the doctor is passed on to the dispenser. That is why the Minister says it has got to be counter-signed by the doctor before the drugs are issued. In other words, they prescribe for the patients. I am not arguing about that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, they do not prescribe in the first instance. These are old routine chronic cases who have been receiving their drugs for many years and want repeat drugs and medicines. They are merely carrying out the routine of re-issuing old drugs which have been prescribed in the first instance by a fully trained psychiatric doctor who knows his job.

Mr. HINDS: The Minister is not going to attempt to say that they copy prescriptions that were formerly written by the doctor, because that could not be true. If a doctor had written a prescription fifty years, weeks or days ago, you do not have to copy it to get a repeat. All the psychiatric social worker would have to do is to write "repeat" or have a rubber stamp with the work "repeat" and have the doctor initial it and pass it to the dispenser. If on the face of the prescription there is no room for that, you would use the back of it and it would take some time before it is all written up. But that is not what is going on. What I am saying is that they write up the medicine, and the medicine is dispensed. Now to about all this, Government must at this time summon the Pharmaceutical Society to a round table conference with the University of the West Indies or whatever

other teaching body can be found available, either the University of Puerto Rico or Columbia, and a decision has got to be taken for the training of pharmacists, but these pharmacists must go on to acquire a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. As soon as it is made known to the young men in our University with four certificates in the General Certificate of Education, they will be encouraged to study pharmacy. As it is now, a boy has to go behind somebody's counter for three or more years taking all sorts of insults from some of the people who go there. In other words he is just a counter assistant for the greater part of his training, but when is a qualified druggist he is still nobody in truth and in fact. He can only practise in Barbados.
3.25 p.m.

When he is a qualified Druggist he is still nobody in truth and in fact, he can only practise in Barbados but if he were going on to acquire a Bachelor's Degree he would know that the day he decides to leave Barbados he can go with his degree and practise in any of the English speaking countries, and if this is embarked upon we are confident that the shying away from the three year or four year study of drugs would be overcome with greater ease than we can see at the present moment. We admit that a suitable number of candidates can be found in our midst right now because all they would require would be the O Level or its equivalent in Latin, English, Mathematics and a Science subject and they go on from there, but as long as we continue with our present wishy washy, half baked system that somebody is a Druggist - and I have cause to criticise some Druggist, I have heard the Prime Minister in this House criticise the charges that Druggists make for the drugs they sell to the public, but when we really cast our thoughts back and see for ourselves what they have got to undergo, we would agree that a measure of control would have to be exercised to prevent some of them from doing it, but still some little leeway I feel is due to them. There is the Patients Reward Scheme at Item 56.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The senior member for St. James is contravening the rules of this House.

Mr. HINDS: The Patients Reward Scheme is for the payment of gratuities to patients for work done. I would like to know, Mr. Chairman that the pittances that are paid to these people for the work they do bear some relation to what should be expected in the 70s. I think what is presently paid is based on what had been agreed on for quite some time and I feel there is time for a revision of the scale of payments.

Item 59 - Maintenance of Buildings. There is a building in the Hospital compound which is quite near to the Black Rock main road, and I see renovations are presently being carried out. I think it was built some years ago as quarters for nurses, but it was so badly constructed that the water from the bathroom was left to run through the main rooms or something like that, but it was not a good job and it was never occupied. I see now that some wrought iron work has been applied giving it a sort of face lift, and I wonder if that is one of the projects in this Maintenance and Building Programme for $67,340. I do not think that there are any other matters under this Head which I need query, but I would like to warn the Minister that much of what I said earlier today about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Matron in the event of her leaving or anything occurring that she cannot carry on with her duties, the possibilities of the eligible successor from amongst your present staff including your Tutor, and as at the Mental Hospital where we do not have the title of Matron, we have Principal Nursing Officer, but if your Principal Nursing Officer were to be promoted or were to leave or whatever happens and you had to appoint another Principal Nursing Officer tomorrow or any other day, the question must arise as to who is really and who is best qualified for consideration, who is the eligible person for succeeding to that office, the Deputy Prinicpal or the Tutor or Principal Tutor or Senior Tutor or any Officer who receives a higher pay than the Deputy receives.
3.35 p.m.
I should like the Minister to address those things to his mind, and see what solution can be found before the day of difficulty ultimately steps in.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, my colleague, I daresay, may have covered almost every conceivable Item, and he is quite capable of doing that. I should just like to ask a question or two on the Mental Hospital. With regard to the vote for Maintenance of Buildings, I am not a specialist in this field. As a matter of fact, I have actually no knowledge of it. This is just my personal observation, Mr. Chairman, and I believe that people who are mentally ill need to look at bright things and to have their surroundings happy and pleasant. I believe that is what the Administration at the Mental Hospital has been doing maybe under very trying circumstances because of the Government's slipshod policy.

Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that I will always recall to mind and it is that I enjoyed playing cricket at the Mental Hospital with some of the inmates. I have also attended several concerts at the Mental Hospital. *(interruption)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is too much noise in the back room. Mr. Marshal, please look after that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I see no provision in the Estimates for facilities of this nature. I should like to hear from the Minister whether activities to which I have referred are still carried on at the Mental Hospital. I remember some years ago there was a man who was a very fine pianist at the Mental Hospital, and he used to entertain several of the inmates down there with his very beautiful music. There were also a number of functions organised there. I have said these things because of the fact that one day I heard over Rediffusion that the Troubadours were playing at Glendairy Prison. There is a hive of activity going on at the Prison, and I

cannot understand why activities of a similar nature, or the activities which go on at the Prison by way of social events should not take place at the Mental Hospital.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the hon. member will give way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member given way?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Mental Hospital has a steel band which is comprised of inmates. I have already explained the steps which have been taken and the plans which are being made as well as the buildings which have been renovated for handicrafts, etc. There are sports taking place at the Mental Hospital every year, and the activities have been stepped up.

Mr. CRAIG: Activities like what?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: You have the steel band, and they organise shows and so on. The whole matter has been resuscitated since we have had a new Medical Superintendant, and he is taking a keen interest in all of these matters.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is a man that you cannot get annoyed with. The point I want to make is that I feel the activities should be carried on at the Mental Hospital or the Lazaretto. I should like to see these activities withdrawn from Her Majesty's Prison. I am very serious about this, because I cannot understand how someone can walk into a home, rape a daughter and a wife and be sent to Her Majesty's Prison as punishment and be then afforded such activities, whereas citizens who have tried to make a contribution to the society cannot afford to hear such music unless they pay for it.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the Minister say that these activities have been stepped up at the Mental Hospital, because I was told that many of these activities no longer exist. I might have been misled, but the Minister merely mentioned steelband music. I am glad to hear that the Medical Superintendent has found it necessary to bring back to these unfortunate people a way of life to let them feel that there is still some ray of hope for them. I hope that if the Minister has to come back in his position and I have to come back in my position, or *vice versa* I will not hear that there is a breakdown at the Mental Hospital because of Government's policy.

Mr. Chairman, I am not here to attack any Nurses or Medical Superintendents. I am not going in for that nonsense. I am dealing with the Government, because the Government are responsible for these things. I am concerned with that, and I want to pay an interest to the entire society by way of whatever suggestion or contribution I can make in the hope of making myself a worthwhile citizen.

The Minister said that would be cleaning up the buildings. If you were to go along Black Rock and look at the walls you will realise that the walls and the lawns are in bad shape and need cleaning. It looks more like a Prison than a Home where many unfortunate people live. I should like to see the Government do something that would bring about that feeling that there is a ray of hope for those people at the Mental Asylum. I hope the Minister would take what I have said in very good faith. Those are the points which I wanted to raise, but the Minister knocked the steam out of me by meeting me in midstream.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the points raised by the junior member for St. Peter in respect of the purchasing of provisions, etc., are well taken. I have already given an undertaking with regard to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the same thing holds good as far as the Mental Hospital is concerned. Attention will be paid to the Dispensary and staffing. I will see that provision is made relative to the reward paid to patients - the Patients Reward Scheme. That matter is being examined at the moment.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like the Minister to tell this Committee what are the activities of the patients of the Mental Hospital, or what activities do they partake in.
3.45 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member could not have been here a few minutes ago, but I did explain something further. I said that plans have been submitted and are going ahead for the rehabilitation of psychiatric patients along the lines of a sheltered work-shop for crafts, cottage industries and contract work, animal husbandry and plant fruit and vegetable fruit etc. Two buildings have been renovated in order to go ahead with this programme. We have the regular sports every year, and I am suggesting that we should have it twice a year. There are dances held as before, and they have their own steel band to provide music which they never had before, and they stage plays. There are more indoor activities of late than there were before. I am not saying that there are more now than in the hon. member's time when he used to visit there. The whole thing is being resuscitated and brought to life again. (Mr. CRAIG: Sir, not as a patient!) I want to get this in, Mr. Chairman, though with no intention of prolonging the debate. In the SRN training at Tercentenary School there is a component three months at the Mental Hospital. The hon. junior member for St. Peter said that we were only admitting ten students a year to the three year course. There are only two tutors and they have to manage these students as well as the persons who have been taken on the staff as untrained personnel. I may mention that it took the recruiting staff of the Ministry four years to find the tutor from Trinidad. So far no nurse at the Mental Hospital has the basic requirements for acceptance into the course on Mental Tutor in the United Kingdom or the U.W.I. We are trying to see whether we can

recruit some Barbadian working overseas who has qualified and who would be willing to be trained. Persons who do not have the basic qualifications to enter the training school for the three year course are admitted provided they pass the examination to the nurses assistants course.

The hon. senior member for St. James said he is not satisfied with the steel band and the handicraft activities, and wanted to know precisely what they do. When the hon. member goes back there as a visitor as he used to do in the past, he will see that there are cricket activities, dances choir singing, athletics, table tennis, film show, excursions to various sites, seabathing and routine activities such as gardening and keeping rooms tidy and other activities similar to the activities which are normally performed in one's home. The emphasis is on occupational therapy, and we fully recognise the benefits which occupational therapy can give, and the idea is to bring them back into their normal way of life with some ray of hope and make them feel they are worthwhile and have a contribution to make to society.

Mr. CRAIG: Some time ago there was a nice pavilion with beautiful grounds. From what I gather from the Minister, there are two very important games which I know Barbadians indulge in, cricket and football, which he did not mention. (Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said cricket.) I apologise.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I notice under Item 2 that there were two Consultant Psychiatrists, and under Item 22 there is no specific number of student nurses, but there is a sum of $64,450 to be voted. Within the last two or three years those of us who practise in the courts of this Island have come face to face with problems in which we meet people who in my opinion can only be referred to as lingering in that uncertain state between sanity and complete mental illness. We have had a situation where these people have been sent from the courts to the Mental Hospital for observation and reports clearly state that while they are not 100 per cent sane, they are also not 100 per cent mad, but they are not there, is the best way I can put it. I wonder whether the Ministry as a whole would look into this particular aspect of mental health and most probably set up a Department with specialised training to deal with these people. As a matter of fact, about three or four years ago I defended a man charged with murder and he was one of those persons and he was eventually convicted of manslaughter. These people suffer from what they call "persecution complexes", and I would like very much to know that the Ministry will look into this and set up a specialised Department of psychiatrists and the number of nurses and probably a special holding area at the hospital, because it creates a problem whereby these people go into court daily and they do not seem to understand what is going on. They are referred to the Mental Hospital, come back two weeks later, and the courts have limited powers in committing them to the Mental Hospital, and eventually they have got to be let loose on the society. In a most recent case the report read: "Incidentally the patient was referred to the hospital some three years ago complaining about being persecuted by the same person." I dealt with the case in which these were the findings and the man eventually committed what the courts found as manslaughter. Somebody died as a result of this person's mental state, and I would like the Minister to have a careful look at this situation. I do not know if you would set up a special institution, but I believe the number is so small that something can be done to accommodate them at the present Mental Hospital, but in an atmosphere completely cut away from those who are in truth and in fact really mental.

The question that the sum of $922,036 under Head 43 - Mental Hospital, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

3.55 p.m.

HEAD 44 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Head 44 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs - was called.

Hon. K.N.R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,751,367 under Head 44 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is most unusual that we have a Minister just only moving a Head, it seems to confirm the observations of the Opposition that the Minister is at sea, but I am shocked that the Government has not taken a warning which we have been giving them for years in respect of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Community Development to increase the establishment to provide Government with experts in the field of tourism at the Ministry level itself. Had they taken the advice of the Opposition which was given as long ago as March, 1970 - and I have the debates here - all of the discoveries of the Prime Minister would not have taken place, up to now in 1971 in the last financial year that the Government will control the Estimates in the unforeseeable future, they have not yet recognised this mistake. This is very serious matter, and I hope that even at this eleventh hour that if the only thing that the Minister does as Minister is to be associated with a Civil Establishment Order and a Resolution to finance the same increase in the Establishment of the Ministry of Trade to provide for Specialists within the department, so that the Government of Barbados will have experts at its disposal in this Ministry similar to the experts you have in the Ministry of Agriculture to advise on Agricultural matters.

The debate I have in my hand is found on page 1096 of the *Official Gazette* and it is dated 17th February, 1970, so they had full opportunity to do something about it but they are satisfied to allow tour-

ism to be run in this country only with the Tourist Board whose interest is the interest of the individual members of the Tourist Board with one or two exceptions, but who are not in a position to give the Government the expert guidance that they need.

We now come to the question of prices. I have reason to believe that the Hon. Minister is fully aware of the grave dissatisfaction that exists in Speightstown and other fishing areas with the out of date machinery for the pricing of fish. This complaint is a very grave one, and I understand that throughout the Island, in St. John, Christ Church, St. Peter, St. Michael and all around, the reality of the cost of the upkeep of boats, the increased cost of gear, the increased cost of insurance and the increased cost of parts have caught up with the fishing industry and they are pegged to a price structure which was fixed some eight or nine years ago, Chairman, and to date there have been at least three salary increases for the Civil Servants. We ourselves have had salary increases, and other sectors of the wage earning public have had salary increases; the only people who Government feel should not have salary increases are fishermen because they have tied them and are hounding them down now because they want to have their own salaries increased. It could not be fair nor just, and it is hypocritical of Government to continue this price structure under the guise of saying that they are afraid politically to increase the cost of living. What kind of hypocrisy could this be when in respect of many items in our price control structure you cannot prove one item that has remained the same price for the last nine years, and if the Hon. Minister can do that.....(Hon. K.N.R. HUSBANDS: He will not.) You cannot do it, there is no item, and I ask the Government immediately to look at this matter because what has happened is this, people do not realise it, the Labour Party Government created a system of loans whereby the boats could be mechanised in this country; that was 15 years ago and this is the time now when boats are being re-equipped and there are no more loans.

4.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, 15 years ago the working life of most of the original engines went, and in any event larger engines are being installed, but now with the loans. Higher interest charges, higher parts charges and so on have to be faced. We are told about a $300 subsidy. It will cost about $650 a year to put a boat in the sea. A Ship Carpenter's wage 9 years ago was $4 or $5, but today it is $12 or $15 a day comparable with other wages. Eggs, 9 years ago, were sold at 6¢ or 7¢ each behind fish. Today an egg, under the Minister's Price Control Schedule, is 15¢, and the Minister still has flying fish tied at 7¢. There is absolutely no point in being hypocritical in this. Pork was 60¢ a pound and today it is $1.10.. Corned Beef was 54¢ a tin and today it is $1.04. *(Asides)* There are different grades of Corned Beef. Now, 3 flying fish will weigh a pound. Although the hon. member represents St. Peter and Speightstown he does not know that 3 flying fish will weigh a pound!

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. Who said that? I think it is grossly and beastly unfair for the hon. senior member for Christ Church to make such an imputation.

Mr. St. JOHN: I cannot hear you.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: You must see a medical specialist.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I thought I heard the hon. Minister say "Who said so?"

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: From what book are you reading?

Mr. St. JOHN: About 5 1/2 flying fish to 6 flying fish will weigh a pound depending on the size. Even a village idiot could see that you cannot keep this price at this level. It is true that temporary relief was given because there was an official black market recognised by the Tourist Board at least. I have a document here which is distributed and it is called Barbados Free Guide To Shopping And Entertainment. It has Dolphin 75¢; Flying Fish 17¢. It is true that there was an official black market. Why should you make criminals out of a particular type of people, and give relief to others? I feel that this is pure hypocrisy. I also feel that, unless relief is given immediately, the fishermen and boat owners are going to take the matter into their hands. They plan to strike. They plan to stop going to sea. I had to tell the fishermen in Oistin to leave it to me and when the Estimates came up for discussion I would defy the Government, and in the meantime they should go out and catch fish. These people are looking for relief.

Mr. Chairman, if these people are not given the relief to which I have referred, there will be great danger that there will be a complete wastage of the $283,000 which we are going to deal with later on. Spending $300 on the boats that you have with old engines in them is no use, because you cannot rehabilitate some of these boats. They need a larger amount of money spending on them because most of them want a new bottom and a new engine.

Now, I know that this Government are against the policy that the Barbados Labour Party had introduced of giving loans to fishermen for equipment. They were also against the pig subsidy and things of that sort, but this being election year they reintroduced it. Anyway, everybody knows that that is surrounded by pure hypocricy, because next year you will cut it out. Anyway, you will not have the opportunity to cut it out next year. That is pure political gimmicking. It could not take you 10 years to be convinced of the utility of the former Scheme. If you did not believe in it for 10 years, then you cannot change overnight.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know whether the Government are prepared to make available to the public, and at least to Legislators, copies of the Report. I refer to the Smith Report. We want to know about these things. I should like to know what is the

Government's trade policy in relation to the importation of goods from Japan and Eastern Europe. You will not be able to do anything seriously in the cost of living of this country until you try and exhaust many of the alternative suppliers by whom we are now supplied. Whether you like it or not, whenever you buy something from the United States or Canada and it cost 60¢ a pound it is $1.20 to us, because our currency is one-half of theirs. I also want to know what is the Government's policy in relation to trading with Guyana in respect of beef and matters of that kind. I want to know whether the time has not yet come for the Ministry of Trade to take up with the Ministry of Agriculture the question of whether Guyana's beef would not be safe in Barbados. It is allowed in Martinique and Gaudeloupe. I want to hear the Governments views on these matters.

With reference to community development, I see that the Minister has now assumed the obligation for community development. I remember that as far back as 1961 there was a large cottage industry in the form of smockings, handicraft and things of that kind in existence.
4.15 p.m.

This was started by the Barbados Labour Party. What has happened since then? We have not had an explanation of that. After ten years they have moved this part of the Government service from Ministry to Ministry, and we feel there should be a further explanation to this. Many of these people.....

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, will the hon. member just repeat that point? I did not catch it so well.

Mr. St. JOHN: I said that it used to be a great source of employment for people throughout the country. They used to do it under contract through the department. Some of these people for whom they used to do it originally have factories established here now. We feel that this is an area with proper and active Government policy greater opportunities can be given to Barbadians particularly young women to express themselves in providing special services on clothes and things of that kind.

If I may summarise, I want to warn the Government to do something about this question of fishing, because the fishermen are planning to take their own action. I told them that the Estimates were coming up and I would draw to the Government's attention the seriousness of their plight and do my best to persuade the Government to do something to help them out of the immediate plight they find themselves in, and I hope that Government will give them relief quickly.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I also would like to support the hon. senior member for Chirst Church in his plea for the increase of prices in respect of fresh fish coming into the country by local fishermen. It is strange indeed that a Government would, year after year, keep the price of fresh fish at one rate and an organisation which supposedly have got the backing of Government can publish in a magazine "Barbados - Free Guide to Shopping and Entertainment" - beef at $1.20 per pound, leg of lamb $1.50 a pound. Now the Minister of Agriculture has fixed the price of live pig at 55 cents a pound, which is $55 per hundred pounds, and yet you allow a retailer to sell pork.....

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, the price fixing machinery is under the Ministry of Trade, not Agriculture.

Mr. BOLDEN: If it is the Ministry of Trade, live pig is now fixed at 55 cents a pound.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I observe that there is no quorum.

Mr. HOPPIN: There is a quorum.

Mr. CRAIG: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not mislead this Honourable House.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would not mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well you mislead me.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the price of pig on foot is set at 55 cents a pound, but it is retailed at $1.50 per pound. The price of dolphin is quoted at 75 cents a pound as against the controlled price of 44 cents a pound, and this is where the situation becomes no more than a joke, because the controlled price is on fresh fish. It means that a fisherman who risked his life out to sea to catch fish and bring it in has a controlled price, but somebody can take it, put it in a deep freeze for half and hour and take it out and it is no longer fresh fish and there is no control price. The man who does not risk his life enjoys the greater benefit from that commodity than the man who goes out and brings it in. That is why I say that Government is not paying attention to the fishing industry in this country, and as a result people are going out of fishing, because it is no longer profitable to them to remain in the fishing industry.

Mr. Chairman, you would know that several fisherman in Bathsheba have gone out of fishing within the last two or three years, and since the Act was passed to prevent them mooring in the Careenage, it is making it even more difficult for the fishermen in St. John, St. Philip and St. Joseph to enjoy a full year of fishing. In St. Joseph there is a bar over which fisherman are not prepared to risk their lives from the month of November to January or early February, and they used to enjoy some sort of fishing when they could moor in Bridgetown. I would like the Minister to look carefully into this situation because when these people cannot fish in these months and with a control price like this makes it unprofitable, the only way they can make a profit is by risking themselves against the law, and the Minister

knows what happens. If a policeman turns up and asks for fish he does not get an answer because the fish vendor does not know whether he is seeking to apply the law in respect of controlled prices or if he genuinely wants fish for himself.

I move from that point, Mr. Chairman, to Item 54 - Tourist Board, for which there is a colossal sum of $1,317,524 as a grant to the Tourist Board. Once again I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the Tourist Board has been utilising this money and we are not seeing the true benefits and effects of what they are doing. My belief is that the Tourist Board has concentrated its efforts too much in the areas where it believes the rich people can come to Barbados.
4.25 p.m.

My belief is that the Tourist Board is concentrating its efforts too much in the areas where it believes the rich people can come to Barbados. There is practically no advertisement in respect of Barbados which can be found locally in New York. I raised this point, I believe, earlier in this debate; I was in New York recently and I saw Jamaica being advertised, the Bahamas, Mexico, and there are also several free shows, gift shows on practically every channel of the American Television in which tours are offered to the successful participants. I wonder if those in authority at the Tourist Board have ever thought of investigating the possibilities of offering such facilities in Barbados so that Barbados could be advertised in a wider market; in certain areas of New York if you say you come from Barbados people are still wondering where Barbados is, and I believe today that the days of the rich tourists are fast coming to an end and we have now got to look at the person.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member the New York Times of March 21st in which reference is made to Barbados as a tourist resort.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is laughing, but I would refer him to the New York Times of February 7th, 1971.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you are going to read from that you will have to make it a document of the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: I have no objections; the Hon. Minister referred to another newspaper and I wonder if the Chairman would care to have that made a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not see him with anything in his hands, but you still have yours in your hand.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I did not quote from a document, I asked the hon. member to tell me where the New York Times is published, and I asked him to look on page 19 of that for March 21st and he will see Barbados advertised in the New York Times on that date. I was not quoting from anything that I would have to make a document of the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: On page 19 it does not refer to that, Sir, it refers to something else.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I went to school but I did not go in August, all the schools were closed then. The whole point is that publicity is given to it in New York; there is no question about it.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member should know that publicity was given to this in New York at that particular time, because if the hon. member would refer to the series of articles which ended up trying to forecast who will be the next Leader of the Democratic Labour Party when the Hon. Prime Minister is no longer operating.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: That is your problem, not, ours, we do not have a problem.

Mr. BOLDEN: On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that I believe that more publicity should be given to Barbados in a form which goes into the homes of people who would be interested in coming to Barbados rather than, as the Hon. Minister tries to point out, to be published in the New York Times, because any of us who have read the New York papers know that a Sunday Newspaper weighs about 10 lbs. and it is littered with advertisement in respect of sales, holidays, etc., so one can easily miss a long documentary which is written for a particular purpose. In this respect it started off with the activation of black power in the West Indies and how it affected the Caribbean islands, but what I want to say is this, besides the question of bringing tourists to Barbados, the Tourist Board must remember that when tourism started in Barbados it was said that Barbados had the three S's, the sun, the sea and the sand. There is another "s" which I would not care to explain in this august Assembly, but persons are now beginning to say besides those three we need something else today.

Some years ago the Jaycees took the initiative and they had a Carnival in Barbados; I was not here then, but I am told that the Government did not co-operate and they did not have the necessary days and permission to hold their 'Ole Mass' along the streets of Barbados. I have been approached in the last month by a number of interested persons who believe that such a thing like Carnival can create attraction in Barbados. I believe that it is now the duty of the Tourist Board to stop part of these promotional tours, because I am of the opinion that promotional tours would be all right, but when you bring tourists into Barbados and you have nothing to occupy them they are not going to come back the next year, and I believe the Tourist Board must at this point start to create the necessary attractions in Barbados which would cause tourists to come here and return year after year. There is no doubt about it, we cannot compete with Trinidad in Carnival, but when it comes to climate, facilities, the people, everything else we can top them over and over. Comes Carnival time in Trinidad when December and January arrive you cannot find any available place in that country no matter what you

intend to pay for it, unless it had been booked probably a year in advance. It is about time that we decide not to compete but to create a similar type at some time, so that we can create the attraction which is necessary to bring tourists into this country. We are now in a position where local people, Barbadians, are building their own hotels, they are opening their houses as guest houses, and we should be able to fill them throughout the year to the benefit of the community at large. I am sure if the Tourist Board decides to do something about this several people in the community would throw in their hands so that we can have something to act on, so I would hope that the Hon. Minister in his last days in office would at least leave a mark that those of us who are interested in our little country can say thanks to the Hon. Minister who, despite his age, as Minister of Youth has brought back a youthful exercise to the community which has also brought some finance. 4.35 p.m.

I wonder whether Mr. Chairman really wants to have this document made a document of the House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thank you.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, let me begin by expressing the dissatisfaction of the Opposition at the fact that we have not had any Report from the Tourist Board for quite some time. It has become the practice in this country, despite the fact that the law requires that the Accounts and Reports should be published as soon as possible after the 31st March in any one year, that this portion of the law is observed more in the breach than in any other way. Therefore we find it is unsatisfactory that from year to year we are going to be asked to vote money for the Tourist Board, when we are not treated with the respect of having a Report on their operations.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the last Report that was made was in 1966 or 1967. This is a grossly unsatisfactory state of affairs. If the Government are prepared to tolerate it, then we in the Opposition are not prepared to tolerate this sort of nonsense that is going on. If the Government appoint people on Boards and the people have no more respect for the Government than to treat them in this manner, then that is the Government's business. As long as the Government come to this Chamber for money it is the taxpayers' money - we are going to demand these Reports. I want to find out from the Minister why is it that we have not had any Report from the Tourist Board for quite some time.

Mr. Chairman, there is no financial statement, and we are just giving subventions from year to year. We see no Report or anything on the operations of the Tourist Board. Before I go any further, I should like to hear the Minister's views on this matter.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the last Report of the Tourist Board laid in Parliament was in 1967-68. The 1968-69 Report has been submitted to the Government, and is now being printed for laying in the Legislature. The 1969-70 Report is now ready.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is exactly what I mean. The Government have the Report for 1968-69 in their hands. The Estimates are being discussed here, but the Government do not care about giving the Opposition these Reports. We are not going to sit down in here and vote money for people to spend without knowing how the money is spent. Government must realise that this is the taxpayers money and we are not going to allow it to be spent unless we know how it is being spent.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a correction. I said that the 1967-68 Report was laid in Parliament. If it were laid in Parliament, then it should be available. Whether members have had it I do not know, but that Report is available. The 1968-69 Report is in the process of now being printed, and the 1969-70, which is last year's Report, is now ready.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: How do you mean ready?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: As a former school master, let me see how I can explain the word "ready". At hand, may be had, may be obtainable.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, if it is at hand and may be had, can we have it now?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Not instantly, but as soon as possible.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Can we have it today? I am not prepared to sit down in here and vote money on this basis. You come in here from year to year without getting these Reports. The Report for 1968-69 is printed. How long does it take the Government to print a Report and have it circulated to the Opposition? We are discussing the Estimates, and we are asked to sit and vote money without hearing anything more about it. Mr. Chairman, I find this very unsatisfactory, and we are not prepared to vote any money unless we get the Report. There is a lot of nonsense going on in all of these Statutory Boards. If the Chairman of these Boards care to treat the Government like this that is their business, but we in the Opposition will not be treated like this.

Mr. Chairman, they have come here with Estimates and they are asking us to vote a subvention of $1.3 million, and we do not even know if the accounts have been audited for the last three or four years. If this Minister can condone this sort of behaviour that is his business, but we have come to realise that this is the sort of behaviour you can expect from this Government. This is the sort of conduct and behaviour that has become part and parcel of the Democratic Labour Party, and even the hon. Gentleman in his old age has fallen into this type of thing. laughter. To the Minister it may be a laughing matter when you take up the taxpayers' money and you do not know how it is being spent. You do not have any more interest in it, because you do not intend to contest the election again. The hon. member must realise that we in the Opposition have an interest in seeing

that the taxpayers' money is properly spent. If the hon. Minister has no more interest in it that is his business. Let us have these Reports circulated to members of the Opposition. The Minister must have known that he was coming here to ask us to vote money for the Tourist Board. Look at Item 54, Sir.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is telling the Committee that the Government may be quite satisfied with such behaviour, as he has described, at the hands of the Tourist Board. I would assure the hon. member that the Government are as keen at protecting the interest of the taxpayer as he thinks he is, and that I myself have been a taxpayer before he was born and may be one after he has died - not that I hope he will die before me.

4.45 p.m.

I myself have been a taxpayer before the hon. member was born and may remain one after he has died, not that I hope he will die before me. I hope the hon. member will contain himself while I continue. When the 1968-69 Report was first received at the Ministry, the Ministry examined it and an error was found, and that necessitated a reprinting of the report.

Mr. HINDS: This is printing you are talking about. Did you discover an error in each page of the report?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I will have to get that information for the hon. member.

Mr. HINDS: This is the only way you would have to reprint the whole report.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I have a little imagination. I do not think an error would have to come on every page only that would cause the reprinting of the report in my view. I am not an expert on this matter as the hon. member is, but I have a measure of commonsense and experience.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I can give him the benefit of my experience. The way that the printing is done, if they had printed four pages at one time, they would have to reprint these four pages, but in any case the plate would still be standing and would not necessitate going over the whole report. In such a case you do not print and throw away your plate.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: The hon. member of course is highly technical in these matters. My note may not have been written in the best technical phraseology; so when it says "The nature of which error necessitated the reprinting of the report", that does not necessarily mean that the pages that were all right were reprinted, but at least it might mean a rebinding of the report, but the word here is "reprint". It may be the wrong word to be used in a technical sense.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I want to be more specific about this because I do not like these nebulous statements from the Minister about an error being made. What sort of error was it; was it a printing error or an error in the auditing? This is why the Opposition is calling for these things because you will tell us that there was an error, and it was taken over two years to get out a report in which there was an error. This must be some sort of substantial error.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: The hon. member would do well to interrogate an ignorant witness in court, but unfortunately in this instance he is at a decided disadvantage. I may continue. My latest note is that the report was sent to the Printery, but the error resulted when part of the statement of accounts for the previous year was erroneously inserted in the report.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will give the Committee the benefit of my experience. That to my mind unfolds one of the most dangerous of practices that can be engaged in by the Government Printery, and the Government printers could not engage in this on their own; they would have to be instructed in this, because from what the Minister has just said, it would only mean that when last year's report was set up, photographed, plates made and printed, they did not discard the section with the accounts. What justification could they have for keeping this back for one year? So they now find themselves mixed up in making a new plate and it is quite possible that in going to press you picked up the wrong plate. It is a very dangerous practice because one could hardly expect that in a matter of this sort the same figures that applied in one year are going to be the figures to apply in the following year.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: In this instance I cannot slug it out with the hon. junior member for St. Peter who can claim rightfully to be an expert, but I suppose mistakes are made in the best regulated printeries, and I do not think the Government Printery is in itself any exception. I regret it very much. As I said, I cannot argue a measure of this sort with the hon. member who is himself a printer and has had many years' experience, but such a mistake is quite liable to happen, and if a mistake has been made it has been made, not maliciously I hope, but in the ordinary course of errors.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is the same thing we are complaining about. For two years there was no report whatsoever. The Sanitation Board was not in existence for two years and yet they sent in a report and a draft of their estimates, but the Tourist Board does not do this. They are higher and better off than this, and the Minister comes in here with some excuse about an error being made in it.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, the Minister came with no excuse whatsoever. The Minister is giving factual and official information from his administration handed to him. The hon. member is here at a decided disadvantage when he can twist evidence to suit him.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I object to the remarks about twisting.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: "Can" is a possibility, a potentiality. If you are a lawyer you should not object to the word "can". If you went to school you should not object to the word "can" unless you are a feather-bedded lawyer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the words complained of.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The hon. member said I can twist evidence to suit myself. It is an imputation on my character and I object to the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is objecting to being accused of twisting evidence.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I do not think I will exercise any ingenuity in changing the word, and to save time I withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear the hon. member.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I withdraw.

4.55 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, that is a classic example; if you push anything in the hands of the Minister he will come in here and say it, but that may suit the Minister but it does not suit me.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, I object to that, Sir, he will have to withdraw that. "Push anything in the Minister's hands and he will have to say it", Mr. Chairman, I draw it to your attention it is offensive to me, and they are words that can be construed as being against my character as a Minister and even as a citizen of this community. I will ask the member to withdraw those words, that I can come here and anybody push anything in my hand and I will say it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is objecting to those remarks, will the hon. member withdraw?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Yes, I withdraw it, but tell the Hon. Minister anything and he will come in here and repeat it. What I am saying is this, that some Civil Servant pushed something in the Minister's hand about the Reports of the Tourist Board for 1968-69 and 1969-70 giving him some information which abviously satisfies him and he expects the Opposition to be satisfied with this sort of nonsense. A mistake has been made in it and it is not in here; how can a mistake be made, you are coming to discuss Estimates, you have reports for two years that have not been published, but yet you do not treat the House with that respect to bring the reports in here. You have Xerox machines in here, and if you wanted to treat the House of Assembly with any sort of respect you would have got the copies made of the reports and brought them in here. You believe this is a laughing matter, you do not care what happens.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister does not care what happens with the taxpayers' money. If that is the way the people at the Tourist Board can treat him that is his business, if they have no respect for him that is his business, if the Civil Servants have no respect for him that is his business. Before we finish this debate today, I would like to get the reports, if not we are not voting on this issue. *(Asides)* If the Minister wishes to speak I will give way and let him speak, but let him have some manners, Sir. When the senior member for Christ Church criticised the Government and said that there was no Department of Government responsible for tourism, this is a classic example of the reason for having a Department of Government responsible for tourism; if there was any department of Government responsible for it this sort of thing would not go on, but they just grant money to the Tourist Board and they do not know how it is spent. I want to find out what the money is being spent in, since I have no record as to how the money was spent last year, and I would like to get a copy of the Estimates of the Tourist Board for the year, I am not going to sit back and vote for money just because the Government has asked us to vote money, you must have proper documents before the House if you want to get money. I hope that by the time later on in this debate we have the information I have requested from the Minister.

I want to go on to one or two other points on tourism. It is obvious that the majority of advertising is left to be done by the Tourist Board itself and that the hotels do not make any sort of contribution towards advertising of this country. This is wrong, it is the hotels that are benefiting from overseas advertisement by the Tourist Board and I think the time has come when the hotels in this country must make a concerted effort on their own part, not joining the Bonanza team that goes up to Canada, they must make a concerted effort to attract tourists to this country and they are not doing this at the moment. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Some of them are doing this). A negligible number of them. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: No, Sir.) You get up and say so, you get up and defend the hotels, I challenge the Minister to get up and say that the majority of the hotels of this country are advertising overseas. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Do you understand the Queen's English?) Some does not mean the majority). Thank you. I go further, an attempt should be made at further advertisement; you advertise in the New York Times and this is good, but for a number of years you have attracted the white American tourist to Barbados, but there is still in the United States a great market for tourism among the black Americans, a source this country has not yet decided to tap. The Bahamas and Jamaica have made attempts, and when you look at magazines like "Ebony" and you see the advertisements of the Bahamas and the Jamaica Tourist Board, you do not find one single advertisement of any Barbados hotel or from the Barbados Tourist Board, so we are so good at tourism we do not need to attract the black American into Barbados.

These traditional approaches to tourism are primarily to attract the white North American should change immediately, a further attempt should be made on the part of the Government to attract the black American tourist into this country, but do you know the reason why the hotels do not want to do it, because they know in their minds that they cannot fleece the black American tourists in the same manner as they fleece the white American, because they know no black American is going to come here and pay between U.S. $80 and $100 a day, and therefore neither the Tourist Board nor any hotel is making any effort to get these people to come to Barbados.

On another aspects of tourism, I want to say this, one of the biggest rackets going on in this country is carried on by the hotels and all these different duty free shops, boutiques and the hair dressing salons in them.
5.05 p.m.

I should like to find out if the Minister has carried out a survey to see how many Barbadians own any of the Beauty Salons in any of the Hotels in Barbados. Look at the Hilton, Sandy Lane, Paradise, Coconut Court, Coral Reef, Colony Club, and tell me how many Barbadians own the Beauty Salons in any of these Hotels. These people are making money. I am not saying that they do not employ Barbadian girls to wash hair. I am talking about where the profit is going. The profit is going to expatriates who rent the shops from the Hotels. Most of the money even in that sphere of tourism is going back out of the country.

Mr. Chairman, this is where I agree with the senior member for Christ Church that you must have a Department of Government dealing with tourism. A Department of Government would be able to look after all of these things. If the Minister carries out an investigation, he will see that what I am saying is true. Let us be realistic. The tourists stay in luxury Hotels; they go in the sea; they get their hair wet, and it has to be set. They have to pay $15 or $20 each time they go to the Beauty Salon. I know for a fact that they are making money. Some Salons collect as much as $300 a day and others collect as much as $300 to $400 a day, but that money is not going to any Barbadian; it is going to a lot of expatriates and it finds its way backout of this country. You get the samething happening in the Boutiques. The Boutiques in this country are robbing people blind, and all they are doing is giving Barbados a bad name.

Mr. Chairman, look at our Hotel Managers in this country. The Government should be condemned for failing to educate sufficient Barbadian Managers. The average Manager who comes to Barbados is a professional Manager. He comes here at whatever fantastic sum he is getting, and his interest here is to see that the Hotel makes as big a profit as possible. As soon as the tourist trade drops in Barbados and it is developed in some other part of the world, then that professional Manager is going to leave here and go to that part of the world where the tourist trade is being developed and exploit the people in that area gain. If you have a Barbadian Manager he is interested in Barbados, because he cannot leave to go and get a job anywhere else. This sort of thing would never have happened if the Government had trained more people. This has been the shortcoming of the Government.

How many Barbadian Chefs are there in Hotels in Barbados? How many Barbadian Chefs are drawing $1,500 (US) a month in Barbados as the Chefs draw in this country? The Chefs at some of the luxury Hotels in this country draw $1,500 (U.S.); they are given houses or apartments, but this Government never thought of sending Barbadians to be trained as Chefs. How many people have been sent away for training in this field?

I recall that some time last year a question was asked in this House in relation to how many people there were with Work Permits in the tourists industry in this country. Members of the Opposition were shocked when the Government revealed that there were 76 people with Work Permits in tourist trade in this country. If any analysis is made of those 76 people, you will find that they are the top paid people in the tourist industry in this country. They are not in the lower rounds of the tourist trade. They are the best paid people at the top.

Now the Government say that their policy is that when you come in, you apply for permission to bring in some expatriate for work, and you must satisfy the Government, first of all, that there is no Barbadian trained to do the job. When you come to a Chef at a Hotel; Hotel Management and Hotel Administration, it would not be difficult to satisfy the Government on that, because of the failure of the Government to grant proper scholarships from the time the tourist trade was developed in this country. After you have satisfied the Government that Barbadians are not available for the job, the Government will then grant you Work Permits on conditions that you train Barbadians to take over the jobs. One thing is quite clear, and it is that having granted these Permits, the Government do not look back to see whether the Hotels are in fact training anybody to take over when the contract of the man for whom the Work Permit is granted expires. No attention is paid to see that the Hotels train people after the Work Permits have been granted.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate all that the hon. member has said in respect of Hotel Training. I have paid strict attention to it, and I will promise the hon. member that I will bring it to the attention of the appropriate Minister. Hotel Training, as I understand it, does not fall directly under my administration, but I am thankful for what has been said. *(Asides)* I am Minister of Trade and not the Minister of Education. I know what I am saying. I will bring it to the notice of the Minister responsible for Training in this respect. I do not think the hon. member can want more. I appreciate, I do not depreciate, and I will bring it to the attention at the appropriate time of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Sir, the higher a monkey climbs, the more you see his tail. This is a classic example of what the senior member for Christ Church has said. You want a Department of Government responsible for Tourism. The Minister is now telling us that he is going to tell another Minister who is responsible for Hotel Training. If you had a Department of Tourism one of the subjects in that Department must be on Hotel Training.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, we do not want to waste time. I have said that, as Minister of Trade, I am not responsible for the training of hotel workers, and I will bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate Minister. What more can I offer the hon. gentleman? When a Minister in all good faith says that he appreciate what an hon. member has said - I do not depreciate it; I am not annoyed with it; I respect it. Does he understand in his capacity - Sir, you will notice that the gentlemen in the long robes are called learned. It is a serious mistake. They should say learned in the law but unlearned in so many other things it is not funny. 5.15 p.m.

While I am on my feet, let me say this. If the hon. member persists when he resumed his stance in laying any blame to me because a Department of Tourism has not yet been set up, he is wasting the time of the House. This is a matter we have to look forward to.

Mr. ELLOITT MOTTLEY: I will let the hon. member know one thing.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I will not give way.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: You rose on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: There is a lack of understanding, but it is on the part of the Minister. I do not think he understands what he is saying or doing.

As I was saying before I was interrupted in dealing with the question of Government's failure to have any sort of check made after work permits are granted, as an example of what I mean, you had two luxury hotels on the West Coast, Coral Reef and Colony Club, both of which opened subsidiary hotels. Both were aware that they were going to open these hotels, both had work permits for people working at the main hotels, and yet the hotels did nothing to see that they trained people to take over those jobs in the subsidiary hotels, and yet when they went to the Government and requested work permits for the subsidiary hotels Discovery Bay, Cobblers Cove and Settlers Beach, work permits were granted. You make nonsense of your own policies. You say that in order to get a work permit you must train people, and yet you fail to see that the hotels carry out proper training and grant them more work permits. That shows that there is something vitally wrong with the Tourist Board or the Government's policy in relation to tourism.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, speaking under this Head, there are a number of items which I would ask the Minister and his advisors to give consideration to beginning with Item 36, the question of natural gas. Now, Sir,, we have had occasions especially when the hon. junior member for St. Michael was the incumbent in this Ministry to talk about natural gas in here before. Many years ago persons were encouraged to instal natural gas because of its cheapness, because it was a Barbadian industry and contributed nothing to our import bill. Many persons in residential districts going as far south as Worthing have installed natural gas to deal with this. Senator King recently has been making us all wonder what kind of administration the Natural Gas Board has been giving this vital industry when he is forced to apologise over and over again for the unavailability of gas at points to the south of Bridgetown and running into Christ Church generally. I think, Sir, it was when I first came into this House that I suggested that instead of just giving up the ghost altogether with natutal gas and projecting the importation of gas from Trinidad which I gathered is the last agreed policy, that some effort should be made to tap existing gas which is known to be findable in Barbados. It is an open secret that gas was struck at the Mount, St. George, but no effort has been made to develop it. I heard the Minister saying in an aside that it is not true. Is the Minister denying that natural gas was struck at the Mount St. George?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, in the experiments carried out for petroleum products and gas, no gas in commercial quantities has been found in any wells. That is one of the main things we have been looking for, otherwise we would never have gone to the extent of importing gas to substitute what we have at present. Absoutely none has been found in commercial quanitites and I would like to assure the hon. member of that because we would have preferred to put capital in that type of investment for exploring and developing that type of gas rather than importing from Trinidad, but a large amount of the capital investment in the Natural Gas Corporation is in its pipes and services running through the Island. This has been going on year after year and when there was only five years' supply of gas left. Now even at my home you can see the differences. At certain times of the day the pressure is a little more than what would be on a match stick. It is very low and this is why the new plant is being put in at Spring Garden to substitute the wells that we have in the Island. Through the low pressure that they had to put a booster a couple of weeks ago at one of the wells to be able to get any supply at all in parts of Christ Church. In future with the conversion plant at Spring Garden, we will be able to step up the quantity by importing gas and distributing it through the same lines that we have already and be able to extend the services far greater. It would be cheaper than the capital investment you

would have with gas in bottles, because the bottles are very expensive.
5.25 p.m.

It will be far cheaper than the capital investment you will have in natural gas actually in the bottles because you will save that capital investment in the bottles because bottles are very expensive, and if we have got the pipelines already run we can continue the service still at a cheaper rate than bottled gas would be, and this is the main reason for installing the plant in Brighton.

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Sir, when we get to the Capital Estimates no doubt that will be canvassed in greater detail, but the former Minister's explanation, I suggest, fails to take account of modern methods of petroleum winning, and this is a decision taken some years ago, it fails to take account of what has to be done in many parts of the United States in the way of injections at the gas wells centres, and anybody who knows the wells at Turner's Hall will know that the gas comes out of the earth of its own accord. When I last saw the distribution system up there there was nobody tending it, it just came up out of the ground and it comes through a pipeline with some barbed wire around it and nobody is even there interested in what was going on. There are methods of forcing in materials to increase the gas pressure in the ground itself; I would like to be satisfied that the Natural Gas Corporation has not taken a hasty decision to add to Barbados' import bill when there are pockets of gas in Barbados. Suppose Barbados is isolated, nobody would say they would not tap the gas at the Mount, you would get something and pump it out, but that is the first point I am going to raise, and it is interesting to hear that we will have an opportunity to discuss this at length during the Capital Estimates.

Item 39 - Travelling. It is not normal to question these travelling expenses, but $27,000 for travelling $19,000 increase, the old vote was $7,500, the new vote is $27,000, I would be glad to ask the Minister what increase in travelling in his Ministry necessitates such an increase in the vote.

Items 43 and 44. There is a playing field at Bagatelle, St. Thomas which used to have a pavilion, whose caretaker in the days when it was controlled by the Housing Authority was a Mr. Milton Wiles. Sports Clubs play at that playing field, cricket is played there, I have played a little cricket on the field myself, I think that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph once even came and found me flying a kite up there with one of my little children; it is a playing field used in other words by persons not even only in St. Thomas, some from Christ Church like me, but be that as it may, Sir, how can cricket clubs carry on cricket without a pavilion? Why was the pavilion at Bagatelle taken down and nothing put back?

Let us look at these Items, Sir, 43, 44 and 65, because all of them are concerned with the problems which these playing fields in the country regularly meet with. Not only in the country, Sir, I am still not satisfied with the condition of the playing field in the Pine Housing Area, a beautiful pavilion was built up there, the playing field was made level but no effort ever seems to go in to keeping that playing field clean and in a proper condition. The hon. senior member for St. James and I have made a tour of that field upon occasions and were surprised at what we found in the way of lack of upkeep, but to get back to Bagatelle, the former Minister of Community Development, the junior member for Christ Church, had promised in this House that some new equipment coming down could be utilised to help level the playing field at Bagatelle, and no effort has ever been made to level it. That Minister was also very helpful some time ago when the old pavilion had fallen into disrepair in finding a small amount of money to carry out some repairs and put back sanitary facilities in it; a couple of months after that was done we saw an advertisement suddenly appear in the press for tenders for taking away the pavilion off Bagatelle Playing Field How can cricket clubs carry on without a pavilion? Do you not want the boys in St. Thomas to play cricket? Is it thought that the fact that you have a good team there - I will not say it is because the junior member does not take any interest in the cricket club - is it the fact that because they have a championship side there, but perhaps its politics are such as to worry certain hon. members that they now have to have the roof taken from off their heads?

Sir, you have the Welches Old Scholars Association team that plays there; I was present at a meeting of the Welches Old Scholars when the junior member for St. Thomas wrote a letter to them saying he was refusing to come to the meeting because the Secretary was Mr. Milton Wiles, a member of the Barbados Labour Party. The letter was on Ministry note paper; is that the reason why the pavilion has gone? Because a club which the junior member for St. Thomas in St. Thomas refused to attend is carrying on cricket on this field.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, is the junior member for St. Thomas in this Resolution?

Mr. ADAMS: Anyhow, I will appeal to the present Minister to get the playing field levelled; Bagatelle is a growing area, Redman's Village is now one of the largest villages in the whole of the country of Barbados.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows as well as I do that the old Bagatelle pavilion was a fire hazard, plus it was a human trap, and anybody who went there and got hurt the Government would have been responsible for them. I think I told him this myself that we intend to build a proper pavilion and money is in the Estimates to build a proper pavilion at Bagatelle. Let us leave out politics, I know he is a politician in the House and I can take my lashes if they are coming my way, but he should not make these statements, because he knows this is not true. He knows where he got all these votes and I did not get any and still I am in here

with him; something is wrong then and perhaps the votes will have to be counted again, but the hon. member must not say that we took away the pavilion, I agree that the playing field wants levelling, but he knows too that if you were to take the measurements of it you will be surprised to see how far down on the east you would have to go in order to get it really level, and he knows that we are doing all we can and provision is in the Estimates, if you look in the Estimates you will see. I thank the hon. member for giving way.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the hon. junior member has taken the slight reproof in the spirit of humour in which it was offered. The old pavilion really was a fire hazard; the hon. member says it was he that told me, I had a feeling it was I who told him that if somebody had broken a leg at Bagatelle Playing Field Pavilion that Government would be responsible. If I remember correctly, I think it was I that drew his attention to the bad condition of the steps, but the point is I do not in fact see anything in the Estimates. There is nothing the Capital Estimates under this Head that suggests that any playing field at Bagatelle is contemplated, Sir.
5.35 p.m.

The only thing I can see under Community Development is to finance training at the handicraft centre. *(Asides)* I have been told that it will be done by the Housing Authority. I think that is a retrograde step. I think that all of the Playing Fields being put under a Ministry, the work of developing the Playing Fields should be done as uniform work by the Ministry as a whole. I have not in these Estimates been able to find anything about a new Pavilion at Bagatelle, and that is why I am dealing with it here. Redmans Village and Bagatelle are not just Redmans Village and Bagatelle, the Minister knows it is a big area. You have Welches, Redmans Village, Kew Land, Bagatelle and one or two other small names up there. In St. James you have Hoytes Village and the people there resort to Welches. You have Melrose, Chancery Village, Padmore Village and so on. The people from that area resort to that Playing Field. The whole catchment area of the Welches Mixed School in fact is the area that uses that Bagatelle Playing Field. It is a big substantial district now rehousing flood victims from St. Andrew, and it deserves better treatment than it has been getting, I would respectfully submit.

Now, Item 50 - Entertainment - Community Centres. This provides for T.V. and Rediffusion rates, repairs and T.V. Licence. I am not satisfied that these T.V. sets at the Community Centres are being made available to people who want to watch television in the evening. The one at Speightstown is much used, properly maintained and well looked after. I very much hope that the rumour that one hears that the custodian of the one in Bridgetown makes people pay him to unlock the set and switch it on is not true. I will have to leave that for the hon. junior member for the City to deal with.

Mr. Chairman, I go to the one at St. Thomas quite regularly, and I have not seen T.V. switched on there for I cannot tell you how many years. I do not even know if the set is still in the box. I think the box is still there. I understand that the Community Centre at Bathsheba is still theoretically a Community Centre, although a yard fowl of the Democratic Labour Party plies his tailoring trade in it now. I do now know whether it is possible to have the T.V. switched on, if it is still there. I should like to know where all of these T. V. sets are. The vote is for $1,732, and it only cost $150 or so for rent for one T.V. set per annum. The one in Speightstown is the only one operating, and I want to know where are the other T.V. sets.

I should like the Hon. Minister to give some elucidation on Item 53 - Prices Commission - $15,000. This amount is sought for the initial expenses of running the Commission as provided by the Miscellaneous Controls Act. I know that some time ago an invitation was tendered to the then Leader of the Opposition inviting him to become Chairman of the Prices Control Commission, and I also know that a Resolution was passed in the Barbados Labour Party Annual Conference stating that the Party's Leader should not take any part in the Price Commissions activities. I do not know what the state of play is at present, but I do not see how you can use $15,000 to set up that Commission. I do not see why we should vote it unless we have some idea of what is actually going on.

Now, the senior member for Christ Church and the junior member for St. Joseph who have spoken adverted to the difficulties which Barbadians generally are going through at the moment. With some prices controlled at too low a level, I must say that while I have the greatest respect for keeping the cost of living down, yet I must go along with the argument which says that in many cases fishermen are not getting a proper return due to the control of landed fish at too low a level. I must agree with that argument. All of these are matters with which the Prices Commission are supposed to deal. Is it that the Government are incapable of starting a Prices Commission without the participation of the Opposition? What are the Government afraid of? Do the Government want the Leader of the Opposition to come and run the Prices Commission for them? I am forced to that conclusion because of the lack of action.

It is, presumably, since May last year that the Government have been aware that the then Leader of the Opposition was not going to take any part in the Prices Control Commission. I am forced to believe that the association of the Opposition with the Prices Commission is a preliminary tactic designed to answer the dissatisfaction which the housewives and consumers in Barbados feel with the continual rises in the cost of living. The Government are trying to associate the Opposition with the operators of price control in the belief that it will prevent us from saying that the Government have not done enough to control prices, if the Government can then turn and say that the Leader of the Opposition is in charge and it

is up to him. Until some clearing of the whole price control nest is brought about, I certainly endorse any stand by my Party that we are taking no part in this activity. This being so, then the Government ought to give us a new declaration of policy on the Prices Commission. Are you going to set it up, and how?

Mr. Chairman, the opportunity is being taken of voting $15,000 for the Prices Commission, and the opportunity should be taken of telling the Committee how this $15,000 is going to be spent and who is going to administer the machinery of the Commission. I will hope that I can return to the House in time to hear the Minister's replies. Should I not be here, I very much hope that my absence would not cause the points that I have raised to be glossed over.

Mr. HOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, with reference to grants for the improvement of Playing Fields, as you know Ellerton Social Centre situation in the Parish of St. George falls under this Head. Ever since there has been a great problem in getting the ground level up there. I am glad to see that money has been provided in the Estimates so that those Clubs who play on that ground will have a suitable ground. At present there are many chances of people getting broken legs due to the uneven situation of the ground.

Under Item 53A which deals with coaching for Schools and Clubs for football, I want to say that at Ellerton there are still the relic of goal posts. For months now the boys have been asking to have these goal posts repaired, and I feel that they should have them repaired. It is known that in the country areas boys play the whole day and they never seem to complain of pulling a muscle. Why is it that these youngsters cannot get the assistance of these coaches that come down here in order that their standard of football may be improved? I feel that there exist in the country areas boys who can become members of the National Football Team, if the coaching facilities were extended to them.

In the circumstances, I should like the Minister to give consideration to the matter, and have a coach sent to Ellerton when the boysare playing to give them instructions and to have the goal posts repaired. I know that the Government have been doing as much as they can for sports,and I am sure that the Sports Officers should look around and help those poor boys who are trying to obtain an improved standard of play not only in football, but in many other games.
5.45 p.m.

Now, Sir, St. George has a social centre at Ellerton, but I do feel that the parish is big enough to have another erected so that the people of St. Augustine's area and the clubs there can participate in sports. We have at our disposal many opportunities of improving our standard of play, and I feel that it is time that more recreational centres should be built in the country areas so as to prevent the youngsters from standing under the street lights at night, and can play indoor games such as table tennis and many other games. This is something which this Government must do to improve the youth of this country.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if I may ask a few questions moving away from tourism. I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell me what activities take place in the social centre at Bathsheba, and how much money out of the $1,732 does the Government envisage will be spent on that particular centre. I know the Minister needs some time to get these answers, and that is why I am asking them now. I would also like to find out how much of the $10,000 does the Minister envisage will be spent on the playing fields at St. Elizabeth School and at the new St. Bernard's School where the grounds have been left unfinished for quite a long time.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I want to know what is the position in respect of playing fields. One of the first speeches I made in here was about a playing field for Silver Hill/Gall Hill. The land has been acquired for years by Government. It was bought from a man called Mr. Noel. The money has been paid in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act into the mortgagee's account because on the face of the title they had a mortagage. In any event, after the second notice Government can move in and do anything they want to do with the land, and the person's rights are converted into a claim against money. Why is the lack of action? You will soon hear that this person and that person got a playing field up there, but the records will prove it. What is the position now with the playing field at St. Patricks? I believe that land must also have been acquired. Five or seven acres of land were agreed to be bought from Lowthers Plantation next to the road. What about that? That has been agreed to, surveyed and everything. I want to hear a progress report on that.

Hon. C.E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in so far as the playing field at Gall Hill Housing area, Christ Church, is concerned, that was bought compulsorily under the Land Acquisition Act and we have had possession for about two years . The sale is complete but we need machines for levelling. Again the hon. junior member for St. George touched on an Item which will provide for a levelling machine which has been the holdup in levelling, because the Sports Department did not have such a tractor or whatever is necessary. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Agriculture for the use of a tractor from Graeme Hall for levelling purposes. As far as I know, that is the position. In so far as the acquisition of the land at St. Patricks and part of Lowthers Plantation is concerned, although there was money voted quite recently under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the acquisition of that playing field, that purchase has not yot been completed. That too needs some levelling, but it is a question of the Sports Officer having the necessary equipment for levelling purposes. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Agriculture to assist in that programme.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I can be allowed to reply at this stage. I do not remember which hon. member made enquiries about expertise that was necessary in tourism at a

national level, but I can inform the hon. member that presently there is no expertise properly so called at a national level, but there is expertise provided at a regional level. If I can pass on from that, I notice that in the Ministry of Trade there is no expert, but I have been promised by the Government that some time during this financial year they hope to have an economist, and I know this is very necessary and helpful in the planning that the Ministry of Trade has to undergo.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church is very annoyed that the Ministry of Trade or other responsible agency has resisted an increase in the price of fish to fishermen.
5.55 p.m.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church, apart from being a citizen of Barbados and a representative of Christ Church, is particularly interested in this matter, and I am, I am a consumer of fish. Government policy is to see to it that prices do not rise unfairly; in other words, the people who sell to the consumer do not make more than a reasonable profit, that is broad Government policy. *(Asides)*.. I may not be interrupted at this stage, hold your fire. At one and the same time Government has an expressed policy that it is very concerned with maintaining what would be a fair return to the investor, and so much so that the price is controlled that the price to the retailer is not unreasonable. At one and the same time I think it could be interpreted if Government were to consent too quickly to an increase in the price of a commodity such as fish, when presently we know the facts which are these, to quote one item dolphin, the schedule price is 40¢ per pound, and we know nobody can get a pound of dolphin for 40¢ or has got a pound of dolphin for 40¢ since I do not know for how many years ago, yet dolphin is sold now.

I remember some years ago when I was in the Opposition and I queried this matter, because I know this, it is not just the fisherman that sends up the price to the consumer, it is the middle man. The hon. member for Christ Church, learned and clever, learned in the law and clever as a politician, was particularly harping on the situation as it obtains in Speightstown; Speightstown, like Oistins, is another finshing village. I got on the floor of this House and I once called the name of a man, a bus driver, a well known man who is a follower of the Barbados Labour Party. Oliver Rowe is the name of the gentleman, I can call his name again, no offence meant to the gentleman, but whenever that man put his appearance in the fish market at Speightstown he never got a fish, and if you went for a policeman the policeman did not come, because Rowe was determined not to pay more than the scheduled price for fish. I do not want anybody to believe that a Minister of Government I condone racketeering in the fishmongering business, I do not want any member of this House to get that false impression, but here we are at one and the same time saying it is quite necessary in order that the consumer be not fleeced that you control prices, and at the same time saying let us increase. Which of us believe sincerely, deep down in his heart that if you were to give the fishermen an increase say from 40¢ to 70¢ per pound for dolphin; figures change overnight, you do not see 40¢ any more, you see 70¢, do you think you will get it for less than $1.00?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Now what can be the point of order? You have to cite standing order.

Mr. Chairman; Two members are on their feet.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Yes, but he must cite the standing order.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get into any quarrel, I am new in this Chamber and I am not prepared to break any of the rules of this Chamber, I just want to find out if any member who rises on a point of order must cite the standing order. (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: He must). I just want a ruling, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Peter must set an example.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Most respectfully, I will set an example.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not acting as if he understands the Standing Orders; do not give me cause to make you understand them.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would only like to find out from the Hon. Minister why it is that a fisherman must be controlled to sell his fresh fish, dolphin, at 40¢ per pound, but he is entitled to dip it in iced water and then offer it at whatever price he may care and there is no control on that.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I would have come to that whether or not the hon. member had risen from his seat, but he is such an impetuous young man that he could not wait for the reply.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I am asking the hon. member to withdraw that, because it means that I have no control over my senses, I just jump up like a yo-yo. I am entitled to ask a question if I believe a question should be forthcoming at a particular time. He is a schoolmaster, he should know, I am not.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, Sir,

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, am I correct in asking him to withdraw? Just rule, Mr. Chairman, I do not mind how you rule.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the point raised by the hon. member regarding.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one moment, the hon. member has asked for a ruling, but I do not think there is anything unparliamentary in that, the Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point about the frozen fish is a point very well taken, and I have that reply in my notes, the hon. member need not have got up with that outburst when he did, but he is young, brim full of energy and has some difficulty in knowing how to contain himself here and elsewhere.
6.05 p.m.

Sir, I am giving to the hon. member the assurance that my Ministry, knowing that frozen fish is not controlled, will go into that matter. It is an obvious point and well taken. Hon. members will understand that when we do something and make it right - something which they have complained of - we are still wrong. What can we do? I am hoping to come down the line.

With respect to the price of fish, the question of materials for boat-building, for bait, for nets and for everything connected with the fishing industry has gone up, as the hon. member has said. As a Government, seeing to it that we have to busy ourselves continually from day to day with the officials of the Ministry of Trade getting invoices, examining them and being extraordinarily vigilant to see certain things done..... *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, let me tell hon. members of this Committee that a few weeks ago the members of the Barbados public read that the Ministry of Trade in Guyana had slashed, as I heard, certain prices, I was in Guyana about a fortnight ago, and I made it my business to have private talks apart from what was my special business with the Hon. Minister of Trade in Guyana in this particular connection. I would not begin to think I have any privilege to lecture the Committee. One of the Orders of this House is precisely against doing so.... *(Asides)* I do not know whether that has been cut out, but in my day it was. A member may not presume to lecture the House. The youngsters are laughing!

Mr. Chairman, I have made it my business to get every single bit of information, to bring it back to Barbados, and to put it at the disposal of my administration in order that we can see how far we can go in furthering the decrease in the price of the commodities in Barbados. I could proceed and go into matters that are technical, but I would be abusing this Committee if I do so. I will still say that everybody knows that in Barbados we have what is known as the three-tier system, and in Guyana on some commodities they have abolished one. I will go no further in that matter now, but I am busying myself with it. I am actively engaged in the matter.

Hon. members may rest assured that I am going to deal with this matter. Hon. members have spoken about people breaking the law. We know what the facts are in Barbados. I can remember a single instance of a Magistrate imposing a fine of $150 on a fishmonger last week, but I know that some of them will never be prosecuted. I do not want to cast blame on any member of the constabulary or on anybody else, but hard facts are stubborn things.

I think that it was unfortunate that the senior member for Christ Church said that we were against fishermen. He said that we were against the loans to fishermen. It is not fair to say that the Government are against fishermen. Hard facts are stubborn things, again. Now, $3/4 million (E.C.) is not a little bit of money, and we cannot ever recover over one halfpenny. You can believe that. Whenever the hon. members on the other side have the reins of the Government of this country they will understand that, too.

On the matter of trading in Guyana in beef, for some long time Guyana used to suffer, not particularly around the Coastland but in the other parts of Guyana, with foot and mouth disease. The Health laws are very strict, and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is knowledgeable in this respect.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister tell us when was the last outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Guyana since it was declared?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot supply that information offhand. I can tell the hon. member that the matter is presently - not next week - being examined with a view to seeing what we can do in the matter. We clash with Guyana in this business, because Guyana is in the CARIFTA area. We clash with Guyana in this respect in that we have banned the importation of beef from that country because they have been cleared only in certain parts of the coastlands. The Health laws pertaining to cattle have to be observed very strictly, but that matter is presently being gone into. A measure of relief is expected in that trade.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Did the Minister say that he was an expert in foot and mouth disease, Sir? I notice that every time he opens his mouth he is putting his own foot into it. I withdraw that remark, Sir.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, experienced as I am, there are some people you do not notice in certain places, and you never see them. Now, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was criticising our lack of advertisement of the tourist attractions of this Island in New York. I think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture explained that.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The senior member for St. Andrew referred to an article in the *New York Times* at page 19 but as I have said, that was an article written for a particular purpose. I am dealing with advertisement by way of a holiday resort in the various media; the newspaper showing the name of the hotels and the rates, etc. I am not talking of an article which included extracts showing that the Prime Minister's wife was born in New York; the Attorney-General's wife to

show who she entertains, the Bowrings and so on. As far as I am concerned, that is a social round up of the cliques of the Barbadian society. I am dealing with advertising the tourist potentials of the Island in such a manner that the average man or woman in New York or in any part of America can know that Barbados is a tourist resort, and we have facilities and entertainment for them.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph regretted how little was done to promote tourism in New York. I can tell him that the sum of $1,317,524 is provided in the Estimates.
6.15 p.m.

I will tell the hon. member that the sum of $1,317,524 is to be voted and for special promotion the sum of $127,500 is to be voted, quite apart from a sum almost as big for promotional literature. If I turn to the breakdown page, I see.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is going to tell me about a sum which is voted for promotion. I do not want that. What I believe the Committee would like to know is what sort of promotion is done.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Subscribing and advertising in newspapers and travel magazines.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am going to save the Minister. Let him answer the question on playing fields and so on and let us move off to something else, because obviously we are not going to get a satisfactory answer out of that. We will have to deal with it under Capital Expenditure and if he is responsible for the Ministry, let him hold his back because licks are coming left, right and centre.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: The hon. member asked a question and he cannot tell me how to answer it. I can only answer from the information I have. In the Caribbean alone as far as the Caribbean Travel Association is concerned, we hope to spend this year $60,000 which is the total of last years amount. In the United States of America a sum of $363,353 is being spent this year in tourist promotion. I told the hon. member that a lot of that is spent in advertising in newspapers and magazines.

Mr. BOLDEN: Which newspapers and which magazines?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: That is a detail that I do not have at hand.

Mr. BOLDEN: I asked some specific questions. What use is the Bathsheba social centre being put to now, and how much out of the sum allocated of $10,000 would be allocated to the St. Elizabeth School and St. Bernard's school for levelling?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: The Bathsheba community centre is now the subject of a Parliamentary Question by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. It has already been decided to rebuild the centre. Very limited activities are carried on at this centre since the Ministry of Works has advised against its structural weakness.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I asked what is the current activity being carried on in the centre to the exclusion of the people of Bathsheba. Is it being used as a tailor shop?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: That is what you should report to the Government, not ask us. The Minister does not live in Bathsheba. You are nearer to Bathsheba than the Minister and you should report to the Minister and let me make matters right. Why don't you try to assist me? You will ask questions and keep me here all night and day and yet you have information which I would be glad to receive.

Mr. BOLDEN: If I were receiving the Minister's salary I would do the job. If the Minister would sift through his numerous notes and tell us how much of the $10,000 for levelling playing fields is allocated for the St. Elizabeth School and the new St. Bernard's School, I would be glad.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: The hon. member has to be well informed on this. When it comes to these two schools, their playing fields are being administered and provision of funds for their maintenance is provided under the Ministry of Education vote and not under Community Development.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: The Minister promised to give us some information about the report from the Tourist Board.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I have in my hand a cyclostyled copy of the 1968-69 Annual Report of the Barbados Tourist Board. I have again the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March, 1969, of the Barbados Tourist Board.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If the hon. Minister would give the undertaking to have these things cyclostyled and presented within the next month, that would be acceptable.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I will promise the hon. member to accommodate him as far as is within my power.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I will deal with something else now. I want to go on to deal with playing fields. For the longest possible time the residents of Chapman Lane have been begging the Government to give them some sort of assistance with levelling the playing field down there, and providing some sort of mould and various things. I know for a fact that the Minister of Home Affairs wanted some mould and levelling equipment at Grazettes and in a short space of time, because he is going to run up there, he had it done. The Sports Officer, Foffie Williams went with him. I have all my facts. Do I have the undertaking from the Minister that he will attend to this out of this money?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: I give the hon. member that undertaking.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Secondly, I want to go on to the playing field at Queens Park. I recognise that there is a shortage of playing fields in Bridgetown. In the same way that a hard court for tennis has been built at Gall Hill, St. John - and I do not be-

grudge anybody for having this - there are parts of Queen's Park at the moment which can be used for providing a hard court and other things like this. I do not know if the land between Queen's Park and Halls Road is owned by the Government, but it certainly is land that the Government should buy, because this is one of the areas that was designated a flood area under the 1949 Act. I have said to the Minister already when he was Minister responsible for Community Development that all the land running from the Hospital, allowing for the portion on which they are going to build the out-patients' clinic, on the other side of the road from Halls Road back to Queen's Park and up to Weymouth and to the round-about should be developed into a botanical garden and a park so that the people in the entire area can have some sort of park space within the city of Bridgetown.

6.25 p.m.

I believe I am right in saying that Barbados is perhaps the only Caribbean territory without a botanical garden; Trinidad has one with a zoo, Dominica has one, I believe St. Vincent has one, and I would seriously urge this upon the Government. We have a lot of children in this Island, and all this land can be taken in, take away the part you are going to use for the Out-patients' Clinic, and use the rest, develop it. I do not believe Queen's Park at the moment is being used for the maximum benefit of the community at all, I grant you efforts are being made to make better use of it, but the entire area should be taken into consideration.

There is one other point I want to deal with, and that is the question of the Football Coach. I know that the Government is going to come for money some time to assist the Barbados Football Association to take part in the preliminary rounds of the Olympic Competition. I am very much in favour of football in this country, but I am not going to sit down and vote money for nonsense unless attempts are made now to have a Football Coach appointed. It is useless to send these people anywhere to play football. I understand that the Football Association has recommended to the Government to get Mr. Reggie Haynes as a Football Coach; he is now employed by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and the Football Association would like his services for six months. The Manager of the Corporation has said he is not going to release Mr. Haynes for any six months period. Money was voted earlier this year which was supposed to be paid to Mr. Graham Adams but I would suggest to the Government to appoint Mr. Reggie Haynes, who has made a tremendous contribution to football in this country, as a Coach even if you have to do it by a Civil Establishment Order to have another Sports Officer, but you still have money which was voted for Mr. Graham Adams which was given to the National Stadium and will be used by the National Stadium under the control of the Stadium Corporation. I would suggest to the Government to start negotiations, have Mr. Haynes appointed as Coach, and I recognise that he must be sent away for training, although he is one of the most outstanding footballers produced in Barbados. I would like to call upon the Government to have negotiations started right away to have Mr. Haynes sent away for training, not for six months or one year, I think the minimum training he will have to do to be any use as a Football Coach will be one year. I know the Minister of Health when he was also Minister of Community Development saw the work Mr. Adams was doing, and even if our standard of football at the International level has only slightly improved, one cannot help but notice a tremendous improvement among the young players in this country.

If at this stage the interest of these youngsters cannot be maintained and they have fallen off we are going to be in serious trouble again having to start it over, therefore I will ask the Ministry to act quickly in this matter, the money has already been voted, have Mr. Haynes sent away and in the meantime - I do not think this is something in the interest of the young people of this country, I am not against voting money for it - but in the meantime while you send Mr. Haynes away for two years you will have to bring down a Coach to fill that gap, but just do not bring down a Coach for two years and do not send away one to train, let the two things happen together; bring a Coach here to coach and let us send away Mr. Haynes.

I know the other gentlemen in the Sports Department dealing with football, and I think from the personal relationship point of view that Mr. Haynes would be most acceptable to the Football Association.

One last point. There is one thing which the Minister must do and do immediately - I am not even sure whether it is his Ministry - but whoever is responsible for the Stadium Corporation must have regulations brought into effect immediately, if not the money spent in the Stadium will be wasted unless you have people at the National Stadium who have statutory authority to put people out for bad behaviour and the taxpayers' money will be wasted at that Stadium. I go there from time to time, and I would like to compliment the Government; we attacked the Government on the wastage of money, but I am glad to say this, that I believe that this Stadium is the only stadium in the Caribbean that has been used so often since it has been opened. Jamaica has got a very elabotate stadium, but it is a stadium that is too costly to use for ordinary athletic meetings, it can be used for International games. Our stadium is being used, and I would like to congratulate the Government on this, but I would like to go further.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir, I think the junior member for the City must also compliment the Jaycees who provided the bulk of the money to build the Stadium.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I accept that and I also compliment the Jaycees for their efforts and for providing the money, but the point is this - I will not say this by way of criticism of the Government anyhow - I like to give the Government its due sometimes, but I will say this by way of criticism now that you have got to call in your Engineers to have a look at the walls of the Stadium, because the walls are far too low; anybody standing on the Codrington side of the Stadium, the gradient is such that you can stand away from the Stadium and look into the Stadium, and there is only a very small part of the field you cannot see, and the Stadium will never make money under those circumstances. It has got to make money to pay

for itself, and I do not believe we should subsidise it unless it is going to be paid for, and I felt somewhat hurt to see in the Trinidad Express this week an article probably taken up by Reuters where the Committee responsible for the Girls' Inter-School Sports restricted it only for school girls, and I felt hurt to read in the Express about a ban due to hooliganism at the Stadium. I call upon the Government to have regulations made now.
6.35 p.m.

You place the Police in a very bad position. If a man goes to the Stadium, he pays to go in, and unless he makes himself a nuisance a Policeman will not put him out. The Policeman will not interfere with him unless he abuses or uses insulting language. You need Regulations empowering Special Constables with powers of arrest limited to the compound of the Stadium in an effort to ensure that the money spent on the Stadium is not wasted, and to prevent any sort of hooliganism at the Stadium.

One other matter by way of criticism of the Stadium. One night I watched two football matches at the Stadium. The Stadium is constructed in such a manner that anybody in the pavilion can run straight on to the playing field. That is wrong. People run around kicking about the ball between the games. This sort of thing would be all right for the Garrison or Queen's Park, but you have spent money at the Stadium for special turf and a special track, and we do not want to have these things damaged. That same night a portion of the foam that is used at the Stadium to assist the people who do high jumping was taken away. When I was driving down Bush Hall Road I could see several youngsters with the foam material in their hands, and something will have to be done to stop this sort of thing. If we do not stop these boys from doing these things we will be just wasting the taxpayers' money. I say that by way of constructive criticism in the hope that the Minister will take the necessary action.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must apologise for rising again. Under Item 63 - Subsidisation of foodstuff - $57,750, there appears to be a current empasse between the Government and the food retailers particularly in the commodity of Corned beef. There is no doubt about it that there are.....

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Corned beef has now been released.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister would tell us what is the new arrangement in respect of Corned beef? Is the Government now subsidising this article?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: We are not subsidising it, but a new Schedule is out. It will be published in tomorrow's newspaper I believe.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief indeed. I want to enquire from the Minister exactly what has been done as a result of a Resolution that was passed in this House about the 10th March, 1970, authorising the purchasing of land from Spring Hall Co., Ltd. for providing a Playing Field at Boscobelle, St. Peter?

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I were in the House when the Resolution was passed. If the Resolution were passed, I can tell the hon. member that as his colleague in representation in the parish of St. Peter and as a Minister of the Government that the Government are very concerned about the Playing Field situation in St. Peter. There are literally none. There are some that are being planned in Speightstown development, but St. Peter has areas in Boscobelle, Mile and a Quarter and Indian Ground, because at the back of Four Hill there is very inaccessible for playing games.

Now, Boscobelle, Indian Ground, and Mile and a Quarter are separate and apart from Speightstown. The Government are going to see to it that an investigation will be made into the possibility of providing one or more of these areas with a Playing Field. Very unfortunately, as the hon. member knows, the Labour Welfare Fund proved inadequate for the provision of such amenities, and unless we tap the Consolidation Vote we will not be able to provide these amenities. The Government are committed to make an investigation into the provision of Playing Fields, apart from all the other parishes, for St. Peter this time as well. The hon. member knows that I have told him in this House that I have been struggling with two different Governments for Playing Fields for the parish of St. Peter, and I was in one for over 20 years.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have heard the Minister. All that he has said amounts to the fact that it takes one year for a Resolution to be passed and nothing done. I asked the Minister what has been done since the Resolution was passed. All the Minister is telling me now is what the Government intends doing. The Government intended doing exactly what the Minister has just done. The Government intended to talk. The purpose of the Resoultion was to get the Government to go beyond the talking stage.

Mr. Chairman, we have had instances here where there was no money in the Labour Welfare Fund, and the hon. junior member for Christ Church came here with a Resolution drawing on the Consolidated Fund. Why is it that a Resolution having been passed by this Honourable House more than a year ago cannot be dealt with? Why cannot a decision be taken to draw on the same Consolidated Fund? Whenever you draw on this Consolidated Fund you are using the taxpayers' money. You can draw on the taxpayers' money this time for the parish of St. Peter.

Mr. Chairman, when you establish a Playing field in St. Peter, you are establishing it for everybody in Barbados, because people from all parts of the Island will eventually go there as the people in St. Peter would enjoy the benefits of a Playing Field any other part of the Island. We have to rid ourselves of this nonsensical chat that Government intend to do this and that. We do not want to hear all of this. The land is there now.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. As a former Minister of Community Development, I would suggest to the hon. member that now a Resolution has been passed, it would now have to be dealt with by way of a Cabinet Paper. He

should ask the owner of the land to submit an offer to the Government.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I can allay the hon. member's fears. I am sure that the hon. member will not have to wait for Playing Fields in St. Peter as I have had to wait. I am giving that as almost a certainty that he will not have to wait as long as I have had to wait.
6.45 p.m.

I have already spoken to the owner and the attorney, and right now Cabinet has decided what to do already. Investigations will be made within a week and a report will be made to Cabinet by me. It is as near as that. As a matter of fact, if we had not remained in here on these Estimates for so long, these investigations would have been carried out already.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot afford to adopt the same attitude to a matter of this sort as it might suit the Minister to adopt at this stage for very good reasons. I have got to be serious in a matter like this. Why is it that when the Minister got up to give his first reply he did not bring to our knowledge the information which he had about the consultation with the attorney? (Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: That was done months ago.) My question was what was done since passing of the Resolution, and if the Minister had done anything since the passing of the Resolution, he ought to be the proudest man to jump to his feet and give a statement as to the progress that had really been made.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, I have been the Minister responsible for this since New Year's Day and long before that I had these arrangements and undertakings from the Manager and the attorney. When I was in the Ministry of Agriculture and even before the hon. member was in this House, I had made contacts and arrangements for a similar piece of land in and around Mile-and-a Quarter. You must remember that if I live to retire I will be living in St. Peter. I am not living in Timbucktu or Colon or along the Essiquibo; I will be in Speightstown where I was born, live and have my being still, not in Derricks or Paynes Bay; so all matters that relate to St. Peter will always be of immediate and sincere interest to me, because I am a man of St. Peter first and foremost and always, and I hope to be buried even in St. Peter. So do not talk nonsense that it suits me at this time to do this or do that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell the Committee exactly what arrangements he has made with the attorney and the manager as regards the sale of this land? I feel it my duty, after hearing the hon. junior member for Christ Church, to make the next step. I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has done already so that I would not find myself retracing his steps. *(Asides)* I am not suggesting that I can go and buy land for Government, but what I must concern myself with is that the crop that was on the land has now been reaped. If it is Government's intention to buy a plot of land, is it not in our best interest to buy the land at a time when it does not have a crop on it that you will have to pay people for and have to dispose of? *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Peter must keep quiet when another hon. member is on his feet.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am being tormented by the young boys and girls of St. Peter particularly for somewhere to play. They are playing cricket on the street and most of their games in gullies, and if something can be done for them at Boscobelle, I feel a measure of satisfaction will begin to come over them because they would see that the Government intends doing something for them, and I intend to act on this matter to see if I can get something done at least before election day.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is a small playing field in Chapman Lane. It is land of the Housing Authority. There is a small building on it and a bath there. People are being charged to take a bath there. I am not prepared to make a statement of fact that it concerns the Housing Authority, but will you tell me if the Housing Authority has a building on some land there? This is the most densely populated area in the Island and if it is not the Housing Authority's, it certainly should be. Bishop Morgan is in charge of it. It is a small area where people play netball. I want to tell you here and now that as long as the name "Mottley" appears on anything for sports in here, Foffie Williams is not going to see it done, and he has expressed that already. He has actually told people in the office that anything having to do with the name "Mottley" cannot get done. *(Asides)* The Leader of the House tells me he will see that it is done, and I will take his word. Will you see that this is done in Chapman Lane for me? If it belongs to the Housing Authority, you should level it and put some mould on it, because we have been asking for this for two or three years.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I readily give the hon. member the assurance because I personally know that a decision has already been taken.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I understand, Mr. Chairman, that a decision has already been taken to put something down there and have this levelled.

The question that the sum of $1,751,367 under Head 44 Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development & Youth Affairs - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

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

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; thereunto it automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 45 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, NATIONAL INSURANCE AND HOUSING

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, before I ask that this Head be passed, there is an amendment under Head 45. Page 137, Item 28 - National Insurance Contributions, delete the figure "$1,700" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "$13,700" and make consequential amendments. Amend the note to the Item to read as follows: "Provides for the purchase of National Insurance stamps for the Ministry and the National Insurance Department'. Apparently they did not remember that they had to pay National Insurance too. With that consequential amendment, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $569,817 under Head 45 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 46 - NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 46 - National Insurance - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, there is not much I can say on this unless hon. members want to ask any questions. The last time I dealt with National Insurance the hon. senior member for Christ Church and the hon. junior member for the City raised two pertinent points. In reply first to the senior member for Christ Church on the question of the gentleman who worked with his brother, I have drawn it to the attention of the Board and we will have to make an amendment. The junior member for the City asked about a slight amendment to allow a widow to get back refunds without taking out Letters of Administration. This is not necessary, I went into it, in the Savings Bank the Minister of Finance has the authority to waive it up to $1,000, but with the National Insurance it is not necessary at all.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: What I am dealing with is this, where a person has made contributions and the person does not qualify for widows' fund, the person surviving, the widow, cannot recover money unless she gets Letters of Administration.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am positive, I went and looked at the law - as a matter of fact I had it on my desk to call the hon. member, I called his office and left my number but he did not ring me back - the National Insurance Board has the authority to do this.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: If the Minister would just give instructions to the Ministry that this can be done it would help a great deal, because I had a case where a man did go to the Ministry for money and he was told he could not get the money unless he had Letters of Administration.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is one point I would like to raise, there is at present a system whereby persons who apply or make claims for sickness benefits, apparently if from the records in the office they do not qualify, a letter automatically is sent to them saying that they do not qualify and if they disagree with the findings of the Board they can appeal. I would like the Minister to cause to be instituted a step before this, that is, a letter should go out saying that according to the records you have not the necessary number of stamps to qualify for payment, and if you have been working between period "X" and "Y" would you please communicate with the department telling them the name of your employer and the necessary facts. The reason for that is that persons who do not understand what is going on may appeal because the letter gives a specific time to appeal; they may appeal on grounds which are not favourable to them when in truth and in fact they are entitled to claims.

I have had at least three of these problems brought to me and it was discovered that the employer did not put the stamps on the cards because there was some misunderstanding as to whether the person was self-employed or an independent contractor, and I know this one of the problems under which the Department may have been labouring. I believe this is a question of demarkation of jobs, people working in the quarry business. In some quarries they are job hands and at other quarries they are employed by the quarries, while at still some other places they are employed by the lorry drivers. This creates the situation where stamps have got to be placed on the cards by somebody and nobody puts the stamps on, and in circumstances like these I would like to see this intermediate step put in so as to save the appeal your case. If you put in an appeal and lose the appeal you may not know that it is your employer at fault, and I would like the Department to put in this step, because many people do not know what to do when they receive these letters, and I would like to see this done so as to assist those persons who may

know exactly what to do when they receive a letter like this.

There was also some difference between the law applying to the National Insurance and to the Provident Fund. I understand it has now been rectified; persons who reached 65 and were retired were getting grants from National Insurance, then when they applied for their Provident Fund certain sums were deducted saying they had to pay it back or something like this. I understand from the Labour Officer that this has now been rectified, but payments which have been deducted have not been repaid, and I would like the Minister to enquire into this and see what the true situation is.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member made a fairly valid point, but I will give him an idea of the Provident Fund.
8.10 p.m.

Up to quite recently there were 6,519 applications, and we have paid out a tidy sum of money. I agree with what the hon. member has said, because I have heard of a case where a woman was deducting $6 out of her servant's pay. A few weeks ago a youngster, who is working with a leading firm in Bridgetown, informed me that he was working for $28 a week but National Insurance was not paid for him. I told him that the firm should have been prosecuted. I was shocked to see that a firm like that, which is supposed to be responsible, taking advantage of that youngster.

Mr. Chairman, when these things are brought to my attention, I ask the Officers in the National Insurance Department to send out Inspectors to investigate them. I have not even seen the Reports on some of these matters. I know of a gentleman who is diametrically opposed to people paying National Insurance, and he has openly refused to deduct the money because he feels that it is stupidness. When that same gentleman was living abroad, I am sure he used to pay National Insurance or Social Security. However, when some people come to live in Barbados they want to do as they like.

Mr. Chairman, I should be glad if hon. members on the other side would draw such irregularities to the attention of the appropriate Ministers. When they do this and no action has been taken, they can then get up in the House and say all sorts of things. Do not keep things secret from us and expect us to know everything that is going on. Even God did not know that the devil was plotting against Him, but when he found out he sent him down here to confuse us. We have to admit that he did not know what was happening.

Now, the Government must be run by everybody. The taxes you are paying help to run the Government Do not worry to say that this the taxpayers' money, because we pay taxes, too. We pay a lot more than the people who are outside complaining. If you draw irregularities to my attention, I will work on them expeditiously.

The question that the sum of $40,486 under Head 46 - National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 47 - HOUSING

Head 47 - Housing - was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $70,000 under Head 47 - Housing - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank hon. members on the opposite side for the expeditious manner in which they dealt with the matter.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I hope we would not be accused of favouring this parcular Minister.

RECOMMITTAL OF HEAD 3 - PARLIAMANT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 3 - Parliament - be recommitted.

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, we have some amendments to put in here. Page 4, Item 13 - Secretary. Delete the figure "5040" under the column "Other Expenditure", insert the figure "8640", and make consequential amendments.

Amend the Note to Item 13 to read as follows:

"To meet the salary of a Secretary for the Leader of the Opposition at $3,600 per annum. Appointment to be made by the Leader of the Opposition."

Item 15 - Messenger/Cleaner. Delete the figure "1602" under column "Other Ex-penditure, insert the figure "2902", and make consequential amendments. Amend the Note to Item 15 to read as follows:

"One employed in the House of Assembly and paid at key scale rates. Category 1. The other to be employed in the office of the Leader of the Opposition, and paid at $25 per week."

Item 15A. Insert new Item 15A. Retiring benefits for former Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Insert figure $1 under column "Other Expenditure", and make consequential amendments. Insert new Note to read as follows:

"Token provision for payment of a gratuity and a pension with effect from 1st February, 1971".

Mr. Chairman, I must just pause to explain this. I think hon. members are aware of the reason. On page 5, Item 20 - Office Expenses.

Mr. HINDS: Your Note reads:: "Gratuity and pension", are you right?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: It should read "Gratuity and pension."
8.20 p.m.

Under Item 20 - Office Expenses - delete the figures "4,440" under the column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "8,167" and make consequential amendments. Amend the note to Item 20 to read as follows:

"To meet the cost of stationery, incidentals, maintenance of office equipment and other requirements in respect of the House of Assembly and the office of the Leader of the Opposition".

On page 5 insert new Item 34A - Renovation of Houses of Parliament". Insert figure "45,000" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments. Insert new note to read as follows: "For completion of the renovation and redecoration of the Chambers of both Houses of Parliament and their precincts. $34,000 represent a revote."

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $273,766 under Head 3 - Parliament - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask one question which centres around the amplification of the House. I thought we were promised new equipment, and I would like to find out when it is coming, because the present microphone and equipment are entirely unsatisfactory. Can the Leader of the House indicate when we will get the new equipment?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I am told by the Clerk that a new system is on order, but has not yet arrived.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this is what I was rising to enquire about, because it would appear that the method of wiring the Chamber is the most antiquated. I understand it is only temporary. I hope that the new system will involve what is called the gooseneck microphones which can be screwed to the top of the Table and can turn in any direction to suit two members at a time, and that all this wire will not be shown.

The next point I would like to raise is under Item 32, to purchase air conditioning units. I have been told that the air conditioning of the Chamber was done under contract and that the system was devised by the engineer at the Ministry of Communications and Works. I have always said that experts come to Barbados and do not carry out the professional training to which they were subjected in their days at the University. This is the first time I have ever seen any building as big as this where you are going to seal off the windows, shut the doors and no extractor fans have been provided for either in the plans or the sum of money which was voted, because if you are going to pump cold air into this building and shut the doors, it means that if a person comes to the Chamber and sneezes, the germs would keep circulating in the building because there is no method of removing stale and foul air. I would hope that the Committee which dealt with the renovation of this Chamber would seriously look into this as quickly as possible, because I believe that these extractor fans should have been the first things which were applied in the Chamber even before the units themselves were put in. There are wooded panels here in which holes can be cut and the fans put in, and they work by a time switch. At certain times they pull the air out and at other times they push air in.

The next point I would like to make is that whoever is in charge of these renovations should take a careful look at the carpentry work which has been done, because I am firmly of the opinion that it does not merit the money which has got to be paid for it. If you look at the members' toilets you will see that the doors are fitted with locks which are useless because they cannot be closed. The Committee appoint somebody to do an inspection to make sure that you are getting value for the money, and I would like to see things done.

If you look at the desk behind here, Mr. Chairman, there is arborite put down on a big nail. I broke a nail from under the desk last night which was punching my foot. This is certainly not good work and I do not see how you can subject members to this sort of thing. You can see here where the head of a hammer struck into it. This is bad work, and this is supposed to be the most ancient Chamber in the West Indies. It should be an example to all the other Chambers that can be found. Instead of that, hodge podge carpenters seemed to have worked on these things around here, and I am most surprised to see the money is spent for the type of work that has been produced. I would like the Committee to take a serious look into the renovations of this Chamber.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt now that the work is practically complete that in this year an inspection will take place to see any of the defective work. The Committee has not been discharged and what we have to do is to get that Committee to meet and have an inspection so that we can get the matter finalised. The Committee is representative of all sides.

Speaking under the other Item, I notice that provision is made for the office of the Leader of the Opposition, and I would hope that an inspection is made of that too, because when you go in there now you will find - it has not been occupied by any of the members of the Opposition because it was not completed - that some of the flooring boards are so bad that there are holes in them, and one has a hole probably a foot long by about four inches wide. This has to be done. I want that done early because we have been playing around with it for too many years. There is not much to be done now, but we would like what is to be done done early.

Now, Sir, my annual. The Speaker has not got the letter yet. How come we cannot get that letter in relation to the hospitality vote? The Leader of the House promised it and the Prime Minister promised it, and this is two weeks ago.
8.30 p.m.

That is the whole point, something should have happened that did not happen; if we agreed on it, we should definitely get the letter.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am a member of the Committee, but why it was not necessary at the time to appoint anybody to look after the work - I was the Minister then and I was doing this myself - but this was only the pulling down, and before we started to put it back up I was transferred, as you will remember, so I did not wish to go and appoint myself to come and look after the work for two good reasons, one being that it is the responsibility of the Minister of Communications and Works - not his really because he is not a member of the Committee - and the second reason was I did not want anybody to think that I was interfering in something that did not call to me, but I would be happy if the Committee were to give me that jurisdiction - although I can do it because I am a Minister but I do not wish to abuse my authority - if the Committee wants me to look into the renovation for the office for the Leader of the Opposition as well as in here I am willing to do it, because at least you would know somebody is here to see that the work is carried out.

I agree with the junior member for St. Joseph; there is absolutely no reason why this, the second oldest independent Chamber in the British Commonwealth - but in any case, the whole gist of the thing is it is our fault, let us accept this responsibility. We criticise ourselves too much in here, so the people who come to do anything for us feel that anything would do for us. There is no reason why we should not have mahogany in here; after all, we do a lot of things for other people, why can we not do the same thing for ourselves? This is the highest office in the land that anybody can reach; it takes a lot of courage for everyone of us to face the electorate; no matter what one might say, any person who gets up on a political platform and addresses a gathering and gets elected, it takes a lot of courage and they deserve to be lauded for it, but there is absolutely no reason why we should accept these second-class things when we should have the best.

The point is we all do it, but as a matter of fact I intend to see it is taken up and the top part of it should be mahogany. The top of the other round table was mahogany, the feet were made of pine, but we have to blame ourselves for all this. Whilst we are on this, this is what I would also like to see happen; the rules of the House need to be looked after, and I would be happy to go on that Committee too.

Mr. St. JOHN: If the hon. member would give way, my understanding is that there are about two rules left and that drafts were to be provided. All the rules have been gone through with amendments; one rule dealing with financial procedure, budget debate, whenever the Minister announces it that would be a statement that so much time will be allocated, so that you can terminate a budget debate within three or four days. It was that one, and then the other rule dealing with provision for a Deputy Chairman, so that recommendations as far as the rules are concerned are only waiting on these two rules.

There was also the question of the secretarial difficulty in that one had to cyclostyle all of the draft rules, and it was a very large draft, so that we can put in a report to the House. I see no reason why it could not have been completed during the recess.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would also like to say to the Leader of the Opposition that another rule I feel needs changing is the one dealing with the conduct of Government Business. There is absolutely no reason why when a Minister comes to the House with a Resolution or Bill that it should be printed, why can it not be cyclostyled, and when it becomes law it is printed so that you can save a lot of time and money.

Mr. St. JOHN: All modern definitions of printing includes cyclostyling, Xeroxing, etc.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I would like an undertaking from the Leader of the Opposition that we can bring a Resolution or a Bill in cyclostyled form to the Chamber and deal with it in its cyclostyled form, it goes to the Senate this way and after it becomes law it is printed, and this will be accepted by the Opposition.

Another thing I would like the hon. members on the other side to know is that the time has come when we should be able to deal with two things the people of Britain deal with, the kangaroo and the guillotine; when you have a bill with a lot of clauses, why can you not deal with it in sections rather than clause by clause?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point I should like to draw to the attention of this Committee and it is this, I do not regard the lighting arrangements as being satisfactory, not at night so much but in the daytime when the

Chamber is closed the light is not satisfactory, especially in the back benches. We want fluorescent lights at the back on either side so as to provide proper lighting arrangements. We have a good opportunity of having it properly lit up and having proper lighting provided. I hope the members will take cognizance of that fact.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Item of $45,000 for renovations. When the renovations were being carried out I understand that the Deputy Marshal worked here very late hours at night and then had to return here to open each morning early and he put in quite a number of extra hours. I would like to know that due consideration be given to him for these extra hours.
8.40 p.m.

He had to be here every morning to open the place otherwise the workmen could not get in to work. He had to remain here late hours at night, and he had to be back here early on mornings. I should like to know that he is given reasonable compensation for this overtime work. I understand that he was off for two weeks, and the man who acted for him was paid.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We could probably increase Item 14.

Mr. HINDS: I do not see where you can do that. It must come out of this renovation vote, because it will be a proper charge to that vote. Mr. Chairman, I have just been handed a claim, or what purports to be a copy of a claim, which seems to have been passed to the Speaker already. He has submitted his claim to the Speaker for all the various hours of overtime and the various dates.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter that Best should be compensated. You should not keep back money from a man who is poor. He is an officer of the House, and he should be compensated for working overtime.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us move to Item 35 in the meantime.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I I would insert the sum of $1, so that this matter will be dealt with at the same time as the others. There was a letter sent to Mr. Speaker since December, 1970, and this claim was on the file. Let us endeavour to get this Head passed otherwise we will not be finished tonight.
8.50 p.m.

Mr. St. JOHN: I understand that it is as impractical to put in a dollar as a token vote, and that the proper procedure would be, in the absence of having a specific amount for which a voucher should be drawn, for the House to express its desire and its opinion that the gentleman be paid a reasonable overtime, and that the matter be dealt with expeditiously, and that a Resolution be brought down later. We hope this is not like the letter that should have come to the Speaker. We hope this amount will be brought down with much more speed than that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I just want to add that I hope that this matter will be the first item to be dealt with after the recess.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say under Item 35 that enough evidence has been advanced to prove that the work of Parliament is depriving the Government Printery of from three to four days of its normal work so as to accommodate the work of Parliament, and on the basis of that along the Government should act and not merely year after year be inserting this token vote of $1.00 for establishing a printery for Parliament. We are not doing ourselves any good in this respect. I would like to hear what the Government intends doing.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The point is well taken. I wonder whether at the first meeting of the Debates Committee which is coming up in about two weeks' time if we might instruct the Debates Committee from the House to prepare some sort of definitive suggesting for ordering machinery so that we can start on it, because there is nothing from our side which is preventing us from buying the machines. We have had suggestions from the old Debates Committee, and the hon. member himself was a member of that Committee and was kind enough to advise us on what we should have. While they have made some enquiries, we have not quite frankly got much further, but I think the time has come that the Debates Committee can say they recommend the purchase of this, that and the other, tell us what it would cost and let us get the money and do it. I really would appreciate this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Leader of the House is willing to have it on the agenda for the next meeting of the Debates Committee and that we reach final decision on the matter there and then, I am willing to render what assistance I can.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The Clerk of Parliament who is the Secretary of that Committee can take notice now that it wishes the item "Parliamentary Printing" put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Debates Committee which is on the first Monday of April for the matter to be resolved there.

The question that the sum of $273,766 under Head 3 - Parliament - as amended - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 1 ANNEXED ESTIMATES – POST OFFICE

Head 1 Annexed Estimates - Post Office - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,238,670 under Head 1 - Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point I want to draw to the attention of the Government. I want to know what plans the Government has for the removal of the Post Office in St. Lawrence in Christ Church which is situated in an extremely dangerous position. From this position the danger has become greater because of the fact that the Police Station there is used particularly during the tourist season by a large number of people for getting drivers' licences, and I can tell you that nearly every day there are large queues, and old age pensioners who go there to collect their pensions have to cross the road. Some time ago I suggested that there was a building next door that the Government could have acquired and straightened that bend and reduce some of the problems in that area, or we will have to remove the Post Office and put it somewhere else. The Government owns land in St. Lawrence by the school or a little higher up. It does not matter where it is, but the point is that it is a dangerous bend from the point of view of the people who use that Post Office, and business there is bound to be expending.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I just want to bring one point to the attention of the House. I think the time has come when we must have slot machines for selling stamps in the city of Bridgetown. I do not think you have any at the moment, but you need them badly.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am only answering at this point, not that I am stealing the Minister's thunder. The point raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church is valid, but the best place in my opinion for a Post Office in that area would be where the gasolene station is by the Vista Theatre. It is an ideal place, but Mr. Soudean who owned the area wanted to be a bit difficult. We could not afford to make the deal he wanted us to make, so what we have done is to buy some land in the back of Mr. Williams belonging to Mr. Bourne which is between the Fire Station and Mr. Williams. We plan to put the Post Office there, and the Police Station should also go there, because my idea was to prevent anybody coming to the Police Station from using the front road. Apparently however, if you came through the back you would find yourself in the swamp.

In reply to the hon. junior member for Bridgetown about the stamp machines, I agree that we need those but the hon. member must remember that this is Barbados and there were some vending machines here when he was going to school, but knowing Barbadians as well as I do, they are always out to get something for nothing and they started putting things inside the machine, and as a result when you put your money inside the machines, you lost your money and no stamps came out. However when any responsible person in a district decides to sell stamps, they make representations to the Post Master who in turn makes representation to the Minister and we generally give them a licence to sell stamps. Selling stamps is a serivce because you do not make any thing worthwhile on the sales. If we instal stamp machines, Barbadians will want to get the stamps out for nothing and we will lose the stamps and the machine. 9.00 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the Minister say that Government is willing to consider applications from people who are willing to sell stamps, because in areas like Boscobelle, St. Peter, people have to travel to Speightstown to purchase stamps, and I would certainly like to know that it is made known to people that they can apply for consideration provided that bond or whatever is necessary to be entered into is prohibitive. (Hon. N. W. BOXILL: There is no bond attached to it.) Very well. As to the matter of the Postmen, the non-payment of their travelling allowances, has this been adjusted?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the hon. junior member for St. Peter if he is making reference to allowances which he mentioned a couple of weeks ago. (Mr. HINDS: Yes) This has been straightened up, if what he said was true.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on the question of these machines, I am not suggesting that you place these machines on the highway, what I should suggest is that there is delay in buying stamps, and if your local postage at the moment is five cents and for overseas 25¢ or 35¢ or whatever it is, if you have machines placed in certain of the large department stores in Bridgetown, at the Registry, for instance, where you need stamps all the time, this would ease the situation somewhat. This is the only country where you are not going in for these slot machines, and I think you should look into it. I will just ask the Minister to investigate, not to place them on the highway but within stores like DaCosta's or Harrison's or in supermarkets where people are on the spot all the time. I am not saying that this will rule out completely the risk of people interfering with them, but you would cut down the risk. If I say you want more agencies you are going to say the margin of profit for selling stamps is too low and nobody is prepared to do it. This is quite true.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If the hon. member would give way, the only time you really get held up in getting stamps is during the Christmas season, but when you do not get stamps here you can go over at Knights Ltd. or another one or two places around town, like the Self Help and other places where you can get stamps. Even if you had a slot machine, at Christmas time you would still get a long line, but I will tell the hon. member that when I was a boy there used to be a machine here in the Public Buildings. We must be realistic; it is true that we are supposed to be responsible people, but you get big people pushing things in these machines and destroying them and they are very expensive.

The question that the sum of $1,238,670 under Annexed Estimates - 1. Post Office - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES HEAD 101 - AGRICULTURE

Head 101 - Agriculture - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to the Capital Estimates under Agriculture. At Item 13 on page 158, delete the figure "$191,000" and insert the figure "$1,066,000" and make consequential amendments. Delete the existing note and insert a new note to read as follows: "Provides for the payment of $700,000, part of a loan of $1,350,000 with interest thereon over the period of ten years. Also provides for repayment of loan from harbour funds settlement of overdrafts and commitments to creditors. Provision included for the salary and travelling allowance of expert and for refrigerated trucks and equipment for packing and grading."
9.10 p.m.

"Provision included for the salary and travelling allowance of Expert and for refrigerated trucks and equipment for packing and grading."

Mr. Chairman, in moving that the sum of $3,841,464 - under Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - stand part of the Schedule, I should like to give hon. members a brief breakdown of the provisions in the Estimates. Now, under General Administration there is $61,200 and this provides for the payment of a Senior Agricultural Officer, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Accountant, 1 Clerical Officer, 1 Stenotypist, 1 Cotton Agronomist, 3 Agricultural Assistants, 1 Biologist and other staff. This is for the Capital Works Programme in the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that hon. members want me to go through all of this, and they would prefer something on the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I know that they would like to hear something on the subsidies offered to the farmers. First of all, let me start with subsidies. I think these would be more palatable than the B.M.C. For some time now farmers have been concerned over the fact that they were not given the amount of assistance by the Government to which they thought they were entitled.

With regard to irrigation, the Government have been preaching a programme of diversification, but the figure which was then allowed as a grant for irrigation was unrealistic. There was a maximum of $1,500. In these subsidies which we are now providing for the farmers - $283,000 - we are increasing the maximum grant for irrigation equipment from $1,500 to $6,000 per unit. In respect of co-operatives, there is no limit as to the amount which will be used. For irrigation purposes we will give them a grant of 25% of whatever is the cost and a loan of 75%. We have, therefore, included $75,000 for irrigation, $12,500 for cultivation, transport and other agricultural equipment. This will be a subsidy. The grants for the purchase of spraying equipment amount to $28,000. We have decided to give the farmers assistance with insecticides. As from the 1st April when a farmer buys insecticides to use in his diversification programme, he has to satisfy the Ministry that he has used it for this purpose and he will be given a subsidy of 10% of the cost of the insecticides or pesticide he has purchased.

With regard to pasture development, we have increased the grant from $30 per acre of planting material to $50. The average woman who keeps a pig in her backyard will be given assistance to install water to keep the pig pen clean, and we have provided $10,000 in the Estimates for that purpose.

A farmer who purchases fertiliser for his diversification programme will be refunded or given a subsidy of 2¢ a pound, that is, 25% of the cost of the fertiliser is currently sold at about 8¢ a pound.

As far as fishermen are concerned, we have made provision in the Estimates for a grant of $168,000 to assist them to repair their boats. It was represented to the Ministry that it would cost about $600 to repair the average boat, and we have decided to give a subsidy of half of that amount. I do not think you will need a breakdown on any other Item but the B.M.C.

Now, all of us have agreed that the B.M.C. have been experiencing a certain amount of financial embarrassment. They have reached a stage where they could not pay their creditors. This is understandable, because when we expect the B.M.C. to be the pivot around which agricultural diversification must spin, one could not expect that the B.M.C. would be profit-making concern. You must get it straight that the B.M.C. will never be a profit-making concern if they are to perform the functions for which a Marketing Corporation is established.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Sit down. That sort of statement will only provoke a debate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am giving you the facts. The Jamaica Marketing Corporation loses about $2 million a year, and the Guyana Marketing Corporation loses about the same amount.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Do you want Barbados to lose $2 million a year, too?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We have not yet reached $2 million losses a year.
9.20 p.m.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, the Minister is telling us how much we have not lost. I want to know how much we have lost.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am asking you to meet the losses now of $3/4 million for the Barbados Marketing Corporation which will put it back on its feet. The whole point is that the Barbados Marketing Corporation after several years of operations finds itself in a position where it owes away over $200,000 more than what it should receive; that is the difference between accounts payable and accounts receivable. The differential is $240,000,87. Since there was a salaries revision the Barbados Marketing Corporation could not revise the salaries of its officers because of shortage of funds, and we are making provision of $20,000 to meet arrears.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, what is the annual operational loss of the Barbados Marketing Corporation?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, it is difficult for me to say at this state what the operational losses of the Barbados Marketing Coperation are. I will explain why it is difficult. If you were to deal with what the Barbados Marketing Corporation receives and sells, up to the end of the last financial year it was breaking even, on its receipts and sales, but what has happened is that it was badly capitalised and it was expected to meet capital payments and interest on the capital. It was not given working capital, but it was expected to meet the capital cost of buildings and machinery. It was expected to pay off a debt of almost $2 million and meet the interest on that. The interest to one Bank was sometihing like $9,000 a year: $7,000 on one loan and $2,000 on overdraft. *(Asides)* It is difficult for me to say.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: On a point of order, does the Minister mean it is difficult because it is embarrassing for him to say?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on one side I am told to put the question, on the other side I am being asked what is the operational loss, and another section of another side is asking that the question be put.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,841,464 under Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister what is the operational loss of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I agree that it was under-capitalised, but that is only part of the sloppy planning of the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I understand it is in the region of $100,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: You would say?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I have told you what my understanding is.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Let me make one point about the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The Marketing Corporation will never do any better until the Government decides that it must be run as a business organisation free from any political control whatsoever. This idea of having to go back to the Cabinet for certain appointments and going through certain Civil Service red tape is hampering the operations of the Corporation. If you are going to run boards like these, you have to have people you can trust on them and let them run them as commercial enterprises. They must have the right to hire and fire. They cannot appoint people to jobs over $400 a month. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: No statutory Board can.) If the Board has to appoint some representative at $400 a month, it has to go to Cabinet, and this has to go through the Civil Service Establishments red tape, and meanwhile the Corporation will be losing money because of this, and the only answer is to have it run on a commercial basis. How much control has the Ministry over the U.D.C.?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister will make a note on this. I am not going to be long. With respect to soil conservation, you are well aware that the soil conservation people were operating in St. Andrew for all this time. It would seem that I would die and go to Heaven before it gets to St. Joseph. For the longest time they were operating in St. Andrew and it does not seem as if they will every reach St. Joseph.

Now under the law land owners are deprived of tethering their stock on the prohibited area altogether it is their own land. I can understand that stock should be prohibited from going on the land on which the soil conservation people are working and planting grass, but do not tell me it is fair that I live in St. Joseph and you are proclaiming certain areas prohibited areas and I can be prosecuted for tethering my own stock on my own land where no operations are taking place.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would let me just explain the purpose of this. When I was first Minister of Agriculture and since then we have made tours of the Scotland district and I took the hon. member with me. When you come to Mellowes Hill and the Richmond area you will notice that every time there is a rainfall the land slips and the roads move away, and we have had to take houses from Mellowes Hill and Parks Road and certain other areas and resite them at Lammings.
9.30 p.m.

The reason for this is that when you tie animals on that type of land and they graze they pull the roots and weaken the grass; you have to depend on the grass to keep the soil up, and in order to protect the lives of those who live on these slopes it is absolutely necessary to prohibit grazing. If the hon. member takes a look at the Cattlewash area, since grazing was prohibited in that area there were no serious landslides; when we had the heavy floods last year there was not any serious amount of damage being done to that area, and whilst you and I do not like the hardship brought to bear on the people for grazing - I want

to tell the hon. member this, I lost lots of votes in St. Andrew in 1966 because of the fact that there was this prohibition order over the hilly districts, some of the others who were contesting the seats were preaching that we should release these orders and that we should close down Soil Conservation. I stood up for it because I know it is the only saviour for the area. We must prohibit grazing if the land is to stand up.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. Minister has forgotten that he was born in St. Joseph and that he found me living in St. Joseph. He is trying to tell me now that in the areas of Mellowes and so on the slips were caused by grazing. Houses are on the land that no water can get under to cause the land to slip. In Melvins Hill there is a lot of bush and other things there and when the rain comes whatever you have will move because the land is subject to slides. Grazing cannot cause it to slip, you have large fields of cane which would be more in a position to bind the land when rain falls than grass; the Minister should not try to make me believe that to prohibit an animal from grazing there will prevent the land from slipping, the land in this area will move regardless of what you do, and even when the Soil Conservation people try to conserve it they cannot succeed because the soil up there is a soaked soil and no sooner than the land is soaked it begins to move. If you tie an animal there it cannot stop it, so I only want the Hon. Minister to go into it and amend that Act to allow the people in St. Joseph and wherever the operation is going on to tie their animals to get a little grass. A little grass root cannot save it because if you prevent me from trying my cow to graze the grass I can go and cut the same grass and give to the cow.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, when you cut you do not weaken the root. When we are finished here you can have a word with the Chief Agricultural Officer and he will explain the same thing to you.

Mr. SMITH: You will be representing the area and you will be able to fix it right for us.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order.....

Mr. SMITH: When you come to me again I can say I cannot stop the land because I will be going out, but I am nothing to do with who is representing any praish, I am something to do with the people that have no more land and have their animals there.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is trying to tell the hon. member that the grazing of sheep stabilises the land, but what happened, on the hill slopes the soil is so thin and sheep and goats do not only graze, what you cannot see on the surface a goat will dig at and he will hold a small amount of roots that hold the soil together and pull them out completely.

Mr. HINDS: That is a goat suffering from worms.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: A goat will not only eat grass on the surface, when it cannot find anything else it will did for the roots which really hold the soil together. The main thing that holds the soil together, especially on these slopes, is these roots, and what we are doing is for the salvation of the very people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, since the grass can stabilise that land, there is land in St. Joseph that has nothing on it, why does the Government not plant grass on that land to prevent it from slipping? If the grass is doing such marvellous work by stabilising the land why do you not plant grass in that area where there is no grass at all? If I am to believe the Ministers over there, the Government is encouraging the land to slip because there is land there that needs grass planted on it to stabilise it.

There is another point I wish the Government to consider; it is law now that the fishermen cannot moor their boats in the Careenage and I want the Government now to consider amending the Act.

9.40 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The fishermen who come from St. Philip, St. Joseph, St. John, Christ Church, etc., have all been granted permission.

Mr. St. JOHN: Not all of them.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, my instructions to the Fisheries Officer were that all of them should be granted permission. There is co-operation between the Fisheries Officer and the Port Department. Instructions were given to them about a month ago that permits or licences should be given to the fishing boat owners to moor their boats in the careenage. *(Asides)* The hon. member must appreciate the fact that a Minister gives a directive, and it is for the civil servants to carry out the Minister's directives. I have issued the instructions that all of them should be allowed to remain in the Careenage, so what more can I do?

Mr. HINDS: What about those who have been prosecuted?

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am going back to the B.M.C. I do not want to keep.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the hon. member or any hon. member on that side has any suggestions which will assist me in having the B.M.C. run on a proper basis, I am willing even to go to his office and discuss matters.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I do not have an office now. I have retired, and I hang on at the office of the junior member for the City.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will come to your home.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I do not keep much drink at my home now. To be serious, I think that this is a department which can do well. I must say that the present Chairman was trying to handle things, but I

believe he was pushed in a corner in so far as the shrimp business was concerned. You must give your Chairman a free hand; stop putting merely party hacks on the Board and put businessmen on the Board. There are people in this country, who although they are not of the same political complexion of the Government, have done a tremendous lot for this country. If you would put people who understand business on the Board you would get better results. Nobody in Barbados can make me believe that the Chairman was not pressed into doing what he did so far as the shrimp incident is concerned.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this was not a political Board.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Call the names on the Board.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, these are the members of the Board:-

Mr. Persaud from U. W. I.
Mr. W. Blackman from U. W. I.

(Mr. St. JOHN: "Yard fowls of the D.L.P.")
The Chairman
(Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: "He is a decent man.")

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the Chairman not a Dem?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am a Dem.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You have the Chief Agricultural Officer; Mr. Roy Ward (Mr. St. JOHN: "An original Dem."). He is on the Board as a representative of A.D.C. Neville Edwards. (Mr. St. JOHN: "From where?") I think he has a small plantation.

Mr. St. JOHN: He is a proper man.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Persaud is a man who says that he has now made his name in Barbados, because when he walks into the stores everybody says: "This is Mr. Persaud from U.W.I., the economist."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I will continue with the names. Mr. Hind's cousin from the Fisheries Co-operative. When you look at the composition of the Board the only politicians that you have are the B.L.P. politicians.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the composition of the Board has been changed. When the Board first started you have the people who carried away a lot of money. You how have men with integrity on the Board, but you had people who carried away $14,000 and others who did not know what they were doing. You started off with a bad Board.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, put the question.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief tonight. There can be no doubt whatsoever that this is Election year, because from 1961 when the Barbados Labour Party was no longer the Government the Democratic Labour Party whittled away all of the subsidies which were provided for persons involved in agriculture. In 1971, Election year, we have a Budget which now provides for the very subsidies which the Democratic Labour Party said were not possible through all the years.

Mr. Chairman, I should like one thing to go down in the records, and I am very sorry that the senior member for St. John, the Hon. Prime Minister, is not in this Chamber tonight. There is a sum of $285,000 at Item 4 - Research - and under it there is Sugar Research which would seem to be a vote from the previous year.
9.50 p.m.

Everybody in this Island, in fact in the West Indies, is now familiar with the Prime Minister's famous statement that he would like to see the day when he can drive through this country and not see a blade of sugar cane standing. I would like the Hon. Prime Minister to adopt what I am going to say now and have guts enough to come out in public and say that he was misunderstood when he made that statement. I would like him to say that when he made that statement he was hoping that the persons involved in research would have developed a sugar cane which would grow without cane blades, and which would restrict the number of cane fires which we see, and at the same time provide the economy with the same revenue which came from sugar cane, because there is no doubt that the incidence of cane fires became more intensified after that statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister. People have moved away constantly from the land because they got the idea that agriculture was *infra dig* and therefore they were not going to be involved in the land any more. From the sum of money which is being voted tonight, $3.8 million under Agriculture, it shows that the new Minister of Agriculture is a bold man. I said this when I was in my seat. I think he is very bold indeed. I would like to compliment him for having taken the reins at the last hour and brought back a bit of sanity into the agricultural policies of Government.

I believe that with proper administration and persons who really have an interest of agriculture at heart that we can make another start and provide a substantial revenue from agriculture, thereby cutting down the $40 million which are spent overseas from this country in providing food for the natives and those who come to our shores in respect of tourism.

Turning to the Barbados Marketing Corporation, Mr. Chairman, my view is that there has got to be drastic reorganisation from the top to the botton of the Corporation, and this has got to be done in conjunction with careful planning in the actual Agricultural Department so that the two shall intermesh. There is no question of talking about reorganisation of the Corporation and voting $3/4 million to liquidate

debts outstanding against it and at the same time not doing anything in the Department of Agriculture or not having any plans to interweave all sections of agriculture together. I think it was about two or three years ago when $300,000 were voted for the Barbados Marketing Corporation, and the Hon. Minister agreed with me in this Chamber that there were times when officers sent ahead and ordered goods for the Corporation to find that there was a surplus on hand. I believe these problems can be overcome, but it has got to be done by careful planning and with proper administration. I do not believe that any officer should be allowed on his own, no matter how diligent he might be, to decide at any particular time to place orders before some sort of survey is made to see that at the time when the ordered goods arrive in this country the market would be suitable for them. I do not want to prolong any discussion on this Head.

I am sorry indeed that we should have to come to agriculture at this particularly late hour after we have been here since 11 a.m. because I have various plans and views on what I would do with the Barbados Marketing Corporation in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, but unfortunately time has run out against us and I hope the Minister will not only grant money for subsidies. I hope there will be plans made whereby the subsidies can work effectively, because it is no use giving a subsidy to find that it is not doing what it was intended to do. I drew to attention the question of feed. As soon as the subsidy was announced there was a price rise in the cost. We have got the same problems with the fishing boats, and before I finish I would like the Minister, in view of the decision which has been taken to grant licences to fishermen from St. Philip, St. John, St. Joseph and St. Andrew to moor their boats in the careenage, to fight at Cabinet level and I will back him 100 per cent for those persons who are now in possession of a licence or those who qualify for a licence to moor their boats in the careenage to be refunded the fines which they have had to pay in the Magistrates' court for mooring. I want the Minister to be bold enough to admit that when the law was passed there was not a good enough survey made, and therefore he should make a gesture of goodwill and deal with this so that the fishermen will not feel that having been penalised for mooring in the careenage, they are now permitted to moor again.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I just rise to let the hon. member know that I have listened carefully and patiently to his points which are well taken, and I will act on them.

The question that the sum of $3,841,464 under Head 101 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 102 - COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 102 – Communications and Works – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, before moving this Head, there is an amendment to Item 20 - Transport Board. Delete the figure "156,960" and insert the figure "406,906" and make consequential amendment. Amend the note by inserting the words "and buses" after the word "equipment".

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,740,493 under Head 102 - Communications and Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WEEKES rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the sum of...

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Philip rose to speak. I know you do not want him to attack the party, because if there is one Head on which the Democratic Labour Party will be attacked, it is on this for their failure to carry out a proper programme in relation to tenantry roads in this country. As soon as I looked at the hon. senior member for St. Philip, I saw he was rising for the attack.

10.00 p.m.

The members on this side wanted him not to embarrass the Government, but I want to say this, Parliament is voting this money and we want action; from now on I will be able to say that we voted $6 million and that all the tenantry roads that want improving should be improved, particularly those in Christ Church. There can be no excuse on this at all, every member of this House drew to the attention of the Hon. Minister their specific needs; they were not unreasonable, each of them asked for what they felt should be done, and the position is quite clear. I heard the Prime Minister say already that all the equipment must move into St. John, but we want it to move in the parishes which represent this side. In Christ Church I heard the Minister confess that only 13 street lights were put in for the whole of last year; that is a shocking scandal and we expect that justice will be done to us this year.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to hold you up, but I rise on two small points, one, to remind the senior member for St. Philip that it was said he had 14 lights in Gemswick, but when he counted them they were only 10. On a more serious point, Item 19, for the longest time I heard about building new Post Offices, but I would like to draw attention to the Post Office in St. Joseph which is stuck in a corner of the hill, it is small and there is not enough room for the number of postmen who operate in it. I remember during November and December during the bye-election I had cause to go there and letters were scattered all over the floor. I see there is a sum of $210,000 to be voted, and I would hope that the Ministry of Communications and Works can look into the question of Post Offices, especially the one in St. Joseph, because the postmen are complaining. If you go to post too many letters at one time they tell you to keep some for another day, and I would like to see something done about it.

Mr. SMITH: We are going to put one at Lammings and that would relieve the pressure on the one at Horse Hill.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I would just like an undertaking from the Minister of Communications that Dunlow Lane will be fixed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Yes.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The definition of these roads as privately owned tenantries, and there are also such roads known as private tenantry roads where the lands were sold out and the land belonging to people on both sides. There are still a great number of those roads in St. Michael that must be done because some are in a horrible condition. I have been hearing for a very long time that you will fix them and I hope that you will do this shortly.

The question that the sum of $6,740,493 under Head 102 – Ministry of Communications and Works – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 103 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Head 103 – Ministry of Health and Social Welfare – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,038,900 under Head 103 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that provision is made for improving the facilities and accommodation at some of the District Hospitals. We know that the dieting must be improved in the St. Philip District Hospital; a Civil Servant visited that hospital not so long ago and he had the experience of his life, because while he was in the kitchen a 20 year old girl who had been in the institution all the years of her life came up with a bouncing seven months old belly and bounced the Civil Servant, so I only want to say that the young people in these institutions need motherly care. One thing I must say of all these District Hospitals are filled to capacity and overflowing; as a consequence a waiting list is being built up in the several districts stretching from St. John, St. Joseph, St. Andrew, all round, and it is not good. 10.10 p.m.

Now the old Infirmary in the parish of St. Peter is not put to any use. There is enough room there to provide for some of the old people who have ulcers and that type of illness. I am sure that if you discuss the matter with some of your Nurses and Doctors you may be able to take about 25 of these people and put them there. You would only need a Nurse to dress the sores and so on, and the people could be looked after at little cost. These are people who cannot be associated with their families in their homes again. The people to whom they belong do not want them, but we cannot close our eyes against them. If we were to take those people out of the St. Lucy District Hospital as well as the St. Thomas District Hospital and house them at the old Infirmary in St. Peter until better arrangements can be made for them, I am sure that with half a dozen Nurses there those people could be well looked after. I think that these people should be removed from the District Hospitals where you have the 20-year olds and so on. Why is not Speightstown suited? They would get the good ozone off the sea. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: "Speightstown is not suited.")

When are you going to carry out the extension to St. Lucy? Another thing is the question of transportation. A patient from St. Joseph has been awaiting transportation by an ambulance for more than a month. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, the day the ambulance reached the person's home is the very day the person died. That is no joke. It is a case from St. Andrew, and it can be investigated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, 4 new ambulances have been acquired this year. Two of these were replacements, and plans are being made in order to provide a 24-hour service. We are looking into this matter.

As far as District Hospitals are concerned, we know of the overcrowding, and we are seeing after renovations and extensions as best as we can. We will look into the point raised by the hon. member relative to the St. Peter Infirmary. A portion of that building is now being used as an Out-patient Clinic. The intention is to build a new Out-patient Clinic and to acquire land. There is $10,000 for acquiring land for the new Clinic.

Mr. HINDS: Acquire land where?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I cannot tell you where. As soon as we can do that we will probably be able to use a portion of the Infirmary. I understand that the building is in very bad shape.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if some of the people who really want to lay hands on it were to get it, then in 6 weeks' time you would see one of the finest hotels the Island has seen going up there.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, in spite of the opposition that we had against the purchase of land at Branchbury for the purpose of erecting a Communal Bath and Latrine, I am glad to know that it is a must and it will soon be done. Now, that area is a very large area, and the people want a Postal Box and a Library on the same site. Please make a note of that, Sir. The same thing must be done when we go over the other side.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I know that the senior member for St. Joseph has certain views about this Communal Bath and Latrine in Branchbury, but I have got certain reports that it does not now appear to be the wish of the people at Branchbury by virtue of the fact that there is an application in the Town Planners Department for Castle Grant to subdivide the tenantry and to sell individual lots to the people living thereon. As a result Mr. Yard, whose house is on the very lot where the surveyors went, I think it was on Wednesday, and surveyed the area, complains that if the bath is put there he cannot open his bedroom window. I should like the Ministry to make a further survey in the area to find out whether the people want to have the bath there again. If the area is now going to become a private development, I think it is better for the money to be used for people to install water in their homes rather than to put a Communal Bath and Latrine outside a man's window. I should like the Minister to make a survey of this before any further steps are taken in this matter.

Another point I should like to raise is that I had a complaint about a week ago which I had intended to put in the form of a question. Now that we are dealing with the Capital Estimates, I know that the senior member for the City will deal with it as well. At the St. Michael District Hospital the two kitchens have now been merged: the patients' kitchen and the Nurses' kitchen. It is alleged that the same food is being fed to Nurses and patients. The Nurses are not eating the food and some of them are collecting it and taking it home for their dogs.

In the open dormitory there are 3 beds, and nobody will sleep in them. The beds are all broken down. I should like the Hon. Minister to look into the food question particularly, because the Nurses are very dissatisfied to know that the same food which is being served to the patients is being served to them and is being cooked in the same kitchen. I should like the Minister to look into this matter as soon as possible.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member will realise that under Item 231 of the Current Estimates which were passed here yesterday that we have a vote for $80,000 for furniture and equipment as well as beds. It is a long list of about three or four pages, and I did not worry to read them out. The conditions will be improved at all of the District Hospitals. They will get new beds.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to make this point abundantly clear. If the Minister is going to buy beds for the District Hospitals he is wasting money. I had that idea at one time, but I subsequently found that there were patients who could not be kept in beds if the Institution wanted to keep the place clean. It will be necessary to use cots which can be scrubbed daily in some cases. It must be remembered that in the District Hospitals you will find patients suffering from all sorts of diseases, and some of them cannot keep their water and so on. 10.20 p.m.

Dealing with the district hospitals, I am not surprised that they are now overcrowded because if some are closed and persons are carried to the others, and despite the fact that I got great criticism upon my head for keeping people there who could be other places, you must understand that under the law as it stands today, you relieve the Mental Hospital and overcrowd the district hospitals unless you amend the law, for the simple reason that persons give their names and addresses twenty or thirty years ago as living in St. Michael and as soon as the new method of treating mental patients has been gone into all the patients come out, automatically they are sent to the district hospitals.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, that has been responsible for the great in-take at many of the district hospitals. In effect it amounted to a transfer from the Mental Hospital to the district hospitals, because the new medicines and drugs enable us to get these patients out quicker, they become out-patients and eventually would find themselves in district hospitals. So the hon. member is perfectly correct.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: This has been going on for the past ten years. As a matter of fact even if the last address was not St. Michael, there is some law or regulation that if they had been in St. Michael for the past five years, automatically they are sent to the district hospital. I say also in passing that there are a lot of young people who have been suffering from mental ailments that are being sent there. They are not really sick people to be sent there, but they are not mentally disturbed enough to be at the Mental Hospital, but occasionally during the month they just go off at the district hospital and cause great confusion. This has got to be gone into. You have dozens of young men and women who would not go to sleep at these places.

Secondly I understand that the Government is building a place in the Pine for old people. I would like that explained to me. You already have in this country a home for elderly gentlemen, and you have a home for old people. There is a custom in Barbados that you cannot change overnight, but I would like.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This home at the Pine is for elderly people and was designed in the first instance for elderly couples who may be at the district hospital or common law wives etc. It was primarily designed for them, but a clear-cut policy has not been defined. We are thinking first in terms of the couples, then we will think of the ones who are in the hospitals who pay a small amount, may be $5 or $10, but we have not really made a final decision. The National

Assistance Board will take care of the running of these old peoples' homes, and we have to amend the National Assistance Act, appoint staff and set the whole thing in action and provide the necessary vote in order to maintain it.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The hon. member has now really explained it. You are taking up exactly where I left off. There were $7,000 which was given to the Vestry and which was to form the nucleus for building a home for elderly couples. During my time I have seen the mother of a distinguished doctor in this country and her husband go to the St. Michael's infirmary. On that occasion we had paying rooms, but they could not be kept together because it was against the regulations. You already have a home for elderly people in the district hospitals, but you need a home for elderly couples whether they are common law wives or husbands and wives. It brought tears to my eyes when I saw that the two people of whom I spoke could not meet except on evenings, because I could not let the men go to the women's rooms or the women go to the men's rooms, and we did not get the law amended.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I just want to make one point. About five or six years ago, I visited the St. Michael's Infirmary I think I had the choir there at the time. The hon. senior member for Bridgetown was there and I think it was then that he pointed out to me where he had some of these couples. Perhaps the hon. senior member would want to point out that despite how bad I was as Minister of Housing this was initiated by me, and when there was not even a specific vote in the Estimates for it, we did it out of savings in the Ministry of Housing last year, and it was as a result of the discussions which I held with the hon. member in the district hospital that I felt that one of the first things I would do at the earliest opportunity was to see that a home was provided for these people and it is there in the Pine.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I wonder if the Minister would tell me if they had any information as to the $7,000 which should be about $14,000 now, and if they are using this money for this purpose, because it was specially given by Mr. Green who was the agent for the Canadian National Steamship of Boston for this purpose. I thought your Welfare Officer had told you this already. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This cost $70,000.)

While I am on my feet, I would like to know from the Minister why they have pulled down the private rooms where people used to pay. There are still people who had seen better days when they were younger, whose husbands or possible whose wives passed on and left them and they had to be carried to the institution. During those days the Council provided rooms which they could pay and the maximum we charged at the time was $30 a month. I understand that some of these rooms have been pulled down. I know that quite recently people applied and were told to go in an open ward. Let us face facts in Barbados. It might be all well to tell a person to go in an open ward, but nobody knows what will happen to any of us, and this is something that has been going for years. Quite a number of rooms were there, but people are told that if they can pay they have no right in there, but this is not so. I know of a Minister of the Anglican Church who retired and made application and had to enter. Of course I discussed this with the Lord Bishop and suggested that they should have a fund set aside, because he resigned when his pension was only $40 a month. These institutions serve a purpose. I am not questioning whether you have removed the nurses kitchen. What I am questioning is the accommodation which could be made for people, and I would like the Minister to tell me if it is within his knowledge that these rooms have been pulled down.
10.30 p.m.

I would like the Minister to tell me if it is within his knowledge that these rooms are separate rooms without locks and keys; as a matter of fact some of them were allowed to bring a bedstead and a bureau and so on. Maybe the member for St. Philip, the Parliamentary Secretary, could tell me about it because he is always visiting institutions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Never do that to me, Mr. Chairman, that Minister will answer me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I will answer the hon. senior member for the City. First, the question of having separate and distinct rooms in the St. Michael's District Hospital; as far as I know there are no spare rooms, I have never seen any but what I have seen is a sort of a make shift partition in the wards, but I do not recall ever seeing private rooms. I have seen, in the case of Mr. Wilson, a sort of make shift partition but I do know that some pay from $5.00 to $30.00 varying and in accordance with their means, and it is those same people we have in mind. The National Assistance Board is meeting with us shortly in order to finalise everything. You can let me know the full details of Mr. Greene.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it is not true to say that the people in Branchbury do not want that bath erected there. As far as I can remember the hon. member said that due to the fact that a man did not want it next to his property; that is also not true, and that the same man is a man who wants the latrine and bath and his post box. I opened my remarks by saying "in spite of the opposition" and the Minister and myself would know the opposition, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph only want to be drawn into it.

The question that the sum of $3,088,900 under Head 103 – Ministry of Health and Social Welfare – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 104 - EDUCATION

Head 104 – Education – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there are some very slight typographical amendments to be made to the notes. Note 2, note 4, note 5 and note 6, in each case there is to be a capital "T". For instance, in note 2 after the figure $85,239 put a full stop and put a big "T" instead of a small one, and the same thing in notes 4, 5 and 6. I beg to move that the sum of $2,917,088 under Head 104 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Head of revotes for the most part. We are glad that something is going to be done by way of building a new secondary school at St. George; we are not against that at all, the wisdom is now seen having a grammar school, and the proposed site for that is the conversion of the existing rooms at the St. Lucy's Senior School. I do not suppose they will rename that the old Parry School when it is completed.

Mr. Chairman, as for the Coleridge-Parry School and extensions there, in the same manner the Alexandra School, neither of these institutions seem to offer an invitation as institutions of learning for anyone who seeks to enter upon the portals thereof. From the first instance the Coleridge-Parry was very badly designed, and even until this day during rainfall it is very difficult for the Headmaster to travel the long corridor to go from classroom to classroom, or even the Masters to go from classroom to classroom, and it creates a lot of delay in disrupting the timetable. My view is that a new Coleridge-Parry school should be built; we definitely need a new Coleridge-Parry School, the building that is there leaves very much to be desired.
10.40 p.m.

As I have said, I think it was an Architect or Town Planner who designed it. That site could have contained a very imposing structure looking over Heywood's Bay, but he certainly did not do a proper job. I think the sooner that consideration can be given to putting a new structure on that site the better it will be for all concerned. Sooner or later we will have to decide on the zoning of children, and I would not like to see the zoning system introduced at the present moment if you are going to tell children that they must go to Coleridge-Parry. I would like to see a school that would invite children to learn and become part of an Institution that is worth its name.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to hold up the Committee on the Head, but there is a token provision at Note 4(g). The expansion of the Alleyne School is long overdue, and perhaps, I think this is the most appropriate time, now that the old Headmaster is retiring, to make what addition is necessary to meet the coming of the new Headmaster.

Apart from that, Mr. Chairman, there is the Hotel School. We have to be very careful with this matter. There is token provision for the construction of a new Hotel School. We have to ask ourselves what purpose is the Hotel School serving in its truest and broadest sense. On the question of staffing, I have already given the Government a warning. The situation as it presents itself to us at the moment, is one loaded with dynamite. We have transferred some of our dope addicts and dope pedlars from the hotel belt in Christ Church and St. Lawrence to our Hotel School. I do hope that Government will take prompt action to prevent the spread thereto. I do not merely want to hear Government say "You told me so." I have told you, and I want to hear what action you have taken. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: "None whatsoever.") If nothing will be done by Government, then others who become affected by it will have to take the necessary action.

Now, Item 16 - Text Books and Equipment - $100,000. The book scheme for these various Grammar Schools is some thing that we could well look into this matter as best we can.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it has been brought to my attention that the Eagle Hall Infant School does not have electricity installed in it. I need not elaborate on this matter, and I am asking Government to have the matter rectified as soon as possible.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will go into this.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some time earlier tonight I enquired from the Hon. Minister of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs about the work to be done at the St. Elizabeth and St. Bernard's Schools in St. Joseph, and I was told that these schools are being looked after by the Ministry of Education. I should like to have some assurance that particularly the St. Bernard's School, which has recently been opened, is looked after. The area surrounding the school has been left in a most dangerous condition. It is not finished and children are in the school.

Now, the Prime Minister has said that from the 1st April he is moving everything to St. John, but I should like to see as from the 1st April that the area surrounding the school is completed if not the playing field so that the children may not suffer any injury.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: You mentioned that day before yesterday, and I have already told the Minister about it.

The question that the sum of $2,917,088 under Head 104 – Education – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 105 - HOME AFFAIRS

Head 105 – Home Affairs – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments to the Notes;

Item 8 - Amend note by inserting the words "Also includes provision for works in conservation" after the figure "111,640" appearing in the note.

Item - 10 - Delete the word "Government" appearing in the note and insert the word "public".

Item 11 - Delete existing note, and insert new note to read as follows:

"To meet the 3rd instalment of the equity investment in the Barbados Mortgage Finance Agency."

I beg to move that the sum of $3,756,726 under Head 105 – Home Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 106 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT)

Head 106 – Office of the Prime Minister (Industrial Development) was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $878,984 under Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister (Industrial Development) - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 105 (2) AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Head 106 (2) – Airport Development – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,587,720 under Head 106(2) Airport Development - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. junior member for St. Peter raised a question about Seawell Airport.

Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a political rat running all over the place.

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

HEAD 106 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (3) DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES

Head 106 – Office of the Prime Minister (3) Department of Archives – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $59,250 under Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister (3) Department of Archives - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 106 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (4) - REGIMENT

Head 106 – Office of the Prime Minister (4) – Regiment – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $57,149 under Head 106 - Office of the Prime Minister (4) - Regiment - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 107 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Head 107 – Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs – was called.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $257,500 under Head 107 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development And Youth Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

10.50 p.m.

HEAD 108 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Head 108 – Ministry of Finance – was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,241,301 under Head 108 - Ministry of Finance - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 109 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, NATIONAL INSURANCE AND HOUSING

Head 109 – Ministry of Labour, National Insurance & Housing – was called.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,837,000 under Head 109 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I discussed earlier with the Minister that as regards tenants of the Housing Authority that I think the time has come when they should be given some security of

tenure. I do not want to level any allegations against Government at this stage. This is an election year and from time to time you get some person coming to you and saying he has been living in a house belonging to the Housing Authority, his rents are paid and he has been given notice to move, and he feels they are only doing this because he is a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party. Whether these allegations are justified on not I do not know, but I think they are sufficiently important to merit some comment on them. For this reason I think that the dealings of the Housing Authority or its conduct should be such that it should be above, at least in this sphere, any suggestion of political interference or political victimisation. Therefore I would suggest to the Minister to look into the possibility of having some security of tenure created for the tenants of the Housing Authority. I will ask the Minister to look into this.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, you will remember that a little while ago before we came in to deal with the Estimates, I set out the policy of the new houses we plan to build, but what the hon. member is saying I cannot exactly agree with, because I am of the opinion that the Housing Authority should not have to go through the same rigmarole to get tenants out of the houses as the landlords under the Landlord and Tenants Act. We are subsidising house rents by about 3 percent. We build houses at the rate of $8,000 or $9,000 and rent them at $6 a week, which would be about $300 a year. What time would you amortise these houses? Yet you have people who are living in these houses who are working for an average of $100 a week and they would not pay the rent, and the problem we are faced with is that we have to go to the Court and get an injunction against these persons. I feel the Housing Authority should have the right to repossess their property.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister may have a point, but he has got to look back into his own system. The Housing Authority has a man, I do not remember his name, who does not understand the basic principles of the landlord and Tenants Act, and he is supposed to be an agent of the Housing Authority who deals with all the evictions and repossessions. I have appeared against him and he withdrew the case halfway. If he knew the basic landlord and tenant law, he would have no problem. I do not want to cast any political aspersions on anybody, but if the Housing Authority would set its house in order, you would not have these problems. If you say you want solicitors, you must understand that solicitors are not the people who go in court because I say now boldly that 99 percent of them do not know anything but conveyancing, and I would think that you have first got to look into your own system and see that it is operating correctly before you can come and level these criticisms.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is making a very inacurrate statement to suggest that the solicitors do not know anything about conveyancing. That is what they specialise in.

Mr. BOLDEN: I said that 99 percent of them do not know anything but conveyancing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: They know Company law, they know real property, conveyancing and equity.

Mr. St. JOHN: What I want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister in relation to the Housing Authority is that the whole problem with respect to possession of these houses is a problem that can easily be cured by a simple amendment to your Landlord and Tenantry Act, and the old Assistant Court of Appeal in Barbados had a very simple procedure. You served one notice. If they did not obey the notice, you served a plaint in the Assistant Court of Appeal and they could make an Order, and the Order would tell you that you had seven days to obey the Order, and then the marshals went in. But you now have the old Landlord and Tenants procedure which means that you must serve two notices and then you have to go to the Magistrate and then you have to go back for an Order. All you have to do is to delete that section. If the Hon. Minister would promise me that if I brought back the amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Bill to put in the old Assistant Court of Appeal section he will support it, I will bring it down next week.
11.00 p.m.

All you have to do is to delete that section. If the Hon. Minister will promise me that if I brought down an amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act to put in the old Assistant Court of Appeal section in here he would support it I would bring it down next week.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: If you would bring it now I will support it.

Mr. St. JOHN: There is one other point. The Housing Authority in Silver Hill, by reason of the fact that they have built a road system stretching from Kendal Hill right up to Gall Hill, particularly in the Gall Hill Area and the Silver Hill No. 2, that forms a catchment area where water flows down in the people's land. It was not so before and you have to look at the drainage in that area because you are destroying people's kitchen gardens, so you have to dig some intermediate wells and try and get the people to clear their wells. That is a very important point, and I do hope that something is done about it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Hon. Minister to look into the current situation with the Wardens at these Housing estates; they are the biggest trouble makers in the whole problem of the Housing Authority, they do not pay rent, they are supposed to be Constables and they are the biggest, what Bajans would call, sur-warriors that can be found in the whole of these housing estates and causing all the problems to the Housing Authority. I would like the Hon. Minister (a) to ask whoever is responsible to remove the authority as Island Constable out of their hands, and (b) that they be ordinary tenants and people of calibre who can set an example, and after that bring the amendment to the Act. I will join with the senior member for Christ Church to show the Hon. Minister how easy it is to deal with the problem, but I am not

going to do it as long as you have Wardens who aid and abet certain people to create strife with other people and then come into Court, arrest people and give evidence against them.

The question that the sum of $4,837,000 under Head 109 – Ministry of Labour National Insurance & Housing – stand part of the Schedule was put and re solved in the affirmative without division.

SCHEDULE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule totalling $92,388,288 stand part of this Bill.

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 an amendment to paragraph 2 of the Bill. Line 6, a sum not exceeding the aggregate $92,388,288 and also an amendment in the figure column to the left of clause 2 to put in the figures $92,388,288.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of the Appropriation Bill of 1971 in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 1971.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SECTION 10 OF THE HARBOURS ACT WHICH IS PART OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the time has come when the Government must make a very conscious effort to prevent all the stealing that goes on in the Port. Not so long ago I had a conversation with a businessman who said he imported 20 radios from Japan and he got four of them coming out of the Port. Even a few weeks ago I heard a motor car was stolen from the Port. The time has come when a conscious effort has got to be made by Government, I am not blaming the Government for this, but something has got to be done to prevent this sort of stealing from going on at the Port.

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I think I have drawn to the attention of the Minister the question of the conflict between the Customs and the Police, and I do hope that the relevant Customs Act and the Port regulations are reconciled as quickly as possible, because in my opinion at the present moment there is grave doubt as to whether one does not have two departments in which each has powers but no powers in relation to one another, and the Crown Law Officers should bring in an amendment. In my opinion nobody at the Port should be above search; in other words, the Police should be able to search the Customs and the Customs should be able to search the Police. At the present moment it appears as if neither one of them can search the other, and there is a question of conflict. This matter has come before the Court and the only reason why I am dealing with it is because I was present myself when the President of the Court said that there was only one way of solving this and that is by legislation, so this is a matter of grave urgency and I hope that something is done about it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, what I want to say in respect of the Port is this, that in the earlier operations of the Port an inventory used to be made of all goods coming in from ships and handed to the Customs Authorities so that persons who are importing goods into the country could check to see if their goods have arrived.
11.10 p.m.

In view of the fact that the Bill has just been amended allowing the Port Officer, I think, to sell goods after one month, I would hope that the Minister responsible insists that the inventory be made again. I have had a personal experience about this. I have imported incubators into this country. I have had the experience of going to the Port; the boat on which my items were on had arrived; the office at which you should make enquiries is now at the head of some forty or fifty stairs in a remote part of the Customs Shed. When you go to the office and ask questions, you will be told that they do not know what has come in as yet, but the boat has gone out to sea two days ago.

Mr. Chairman, I know of an incident where goods arrived; the importer asked about them but he could get no information from the people at the Port. On seeing the list published for Unclaimed Goods, two of the packages were found in that section and the others have never been found. I should like the Minister to insist that inventories must be made of goods which come off of every ship, so that importers will know what have arrived and what have not arrived. I am sure that it would stop a lot of the confusion at the Port.

Now, the latest incubator I imported into this country was 17 feet by 9 feet. It came on the deck of a ship; it was taken off and put outside of the Customs Shed No. 1. When I enquired about it I was told it had not arrived, but in walking back from the ship I saw a big crate with the initials "CLB" and I knew it was my crate. Nobody knew that this crate 17' x 9' x 9' had arrived. I should like the Minister to look into this matter, because people are complaining about it.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Sir, I cannot agree with the hon. member. I have been in shipping all the days of my life. If somebody shipped cargo to Barbados to anybody there should be consignee mail. If somebody is shipping cargo fromTrinidad to Barbados, aboard the ship or by airmail the person who is to receive the goods should receive consignee mail.

Mr. St.JOHN: The trouble is that the consignee does not get that document sometimes until after the ship has been in Port for some period of time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: That is neligence on the part of the shipper on the other side.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. I can tell the Hon. Minister that I have had documents sent to me through the Bank which came to me some two weeks before the ship arrived. If I am at the Port as soon as the ship arrives, and I go on aboard the ship I can make enquiries about my package. The person who is tallying the goods off the ship will check and let me know if the package is there. If you go to the Port after the ship has left you have to go to the office at the head of the steps, and the people in the office do not know what are in the sheds.

Mr. HINDS: What about the ship's manifest?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister gave way on a point of order, which I do not deem to be a valid point or order, but he gave way.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, this has happened on several occasions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member risen to a point order?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of elucidation, Sir. If the papers come late, the ship must have a manifest. The agents can look at the manifest and see what goods have arrived and call the importers, but they are not obliged to do that. They will tell you that the goods you have ordered are at the Customs, and you can come down and clear them.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. You have to go to the Bank and get a letter of indemnity as to the value of the goods. That is the way in which you can get the goods released if you do not have a Bill of Lading.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, prior to the establishment of the Deep Water Harbour, it was very easy to go to the Customs and look at the Ship's manifest, but at the Port you now have a prohibited area. I do not know exactly what is the procedure today as far as the Deep Water Harbour is concerned. I know that when things were done on the Wharf, anybody could go to the Customs and ask to see the manifest of any ship. Nowadays it is only a favour if the ship's agent notifies you about goods on a ship. It is for the shippers at the other end to make sure that as soon as the goods are shipped and the Bill of Lading is signed they should foward the consignee mail. The trouble is at the other end. Nowadays we have air transport, and there must be negligence on the other side when consignee mail is not delivered on time.

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

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1971

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of a Bill, which was circulated to hon. members. It is a Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964 (1964-23) to enable the Cabinet to make rules in respect of the purchase and custory of supplied for the use of the Government or statutory bodies and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Rules are to be made when this Act is passed, and these Rules and Regulations will be laid before Parliament to take the place of the old ones. I have consulted with the hon. and learned member opposite, and I have furnished him, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, with a copy of the Draft Rules for his perusal.

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

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964, empowers the Cabinet to make Rules. As I understand it, the object of this Bill is to permit Rules to be made not only in respect of stores, banking accounts and things of that kind, but to make Rules in respect of purchasing by Government. That is to allow the Supply Officer to function. Mr. Erie Ward is a civil servant and he is functioning at the Garrison right now.

The second aspect of the Bill is to allow a system of payments to be made outside the centralised system through the Treasury.
11.20 p.m.

Now regulations have to be made in respect of that, and I understand that the Auditor General is now going through the Regulations and as soon as they are made they will be laid before Parliament. They cannot come into force before Parliament has approved them; so we will have an opportunity of seeing them. This Bill only empowers the Cabinet to make regulations. I want to say that if this is to function effectively, the point that the Auditor General and the Accountant General have constantly been stressing, namely that each Department must have a complete internal audit system, must be brought into operation, and I certainly would not like to see the regulations brought into operation until there is an upgrading in the accountancy and internal audit in the Government Service in Barbados.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The hon. member said that the regulations will be brought in. Regulations are laid and you either agree to all or throw them

out, but you cannot amend Regulations. I heard the hon. member say that this will not be done before this House agrees, but when the Regulations are made and brought here, they are only laid and we have to either agree to them entirely or throw them out, but we would have no chance of amending them. Am I right, Mr. Speaker? (Mr. SPEAKER: That is my understanding.) So you have to be very careful with them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We regard this as so important that we would be prepared to put these regulations formally at the disposal of the Public Accounts Committee so that they can peruse them. (Mr. St. JOHN: The Auditor General has to approve them). We know this.

May I just say this. My reason in letting the Chairman of the Accounts Committee see the copy of the draft rules would be to give him time to make his comments known, if he wishes, before the 1st April to the Auditor General.

Mr. St. JOHN: I will say this. I have spoken to the Auditor General already because these are some of the matters we dealt with, and his opinion is, and I agree with him, that all the problems that you get in the question of payments and things of that kind derive from the fact that accounting is not recognised as an important job in the Ministries. You have to regrade your service and provide for you internal audit so that you can check matters very carefully before the payments are made; and all modern businesses recognise this function. You do not wait until after the end of your financial year for your auditors to come in, because when he comes in he tells you this is what has happened, and this is exactly what we want to do. It would save a lot of trouble. The history in Barbados was that you used to have a pre-audit system. That was a very good system, but a very slow system. You have moved from that to the post audit system, but you did not have an internal accounting checking system, and that is where the system fell down, and that is what they are trying to get back to; but it must operate against a background of proper accounting internally.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think we have concluded what Government Business we had to do in this sitting which has gone on for ten days. I wish to thank hon. members for having expedited the granting of supplies to the crown.

Now I think that most if not all members would wish to rise for the Easter recess as quickly as possible, and I am proposing that we meet on Tuesday and do what Government Business has to be done as well as to leave a sufficiency of time for Private Members' Business to conclude the debate on the shrimps. I wonder if hon. members would feel like coming out at 10 o'clock on that morning. *(Asides)* I wonder if hon. members would like to hear me first. I wonder if hon. members would like to come at 10 o'clock and then have lunch at 1.00 p.m., come back and then spent about two hours or 2 1/2 hours on Private Members' Business and then finish Government Business on that day.

Mr. St. JOHN: I would like to conclude it on Tuesday, but I have to go to St. Lucia and return specially for this debate. You can meet at 2 oclock and start Private Members' Business at 5.00. 11.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us consider the Standing Orders.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: We will have to meet at 2.30 Mr. Speaker, there is just one point, adjourning as we are now for Tuesday there will not be enough time for the Clerks to prepare an Order Paper; will the House agree then that the unfinished Order Paper of this sitting be used? (Mr. St. JOHN: Yes). Will it be proper to suspend this sitting until then? (Mr. St. JOHN: Yes.)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 on Tuesday.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not realise until a few nights ago that if this sitting is suspended a Policeman has to remain here with the Mace. (Hon. J. C. TUDOR: That is why I was prepared to move the adjournment). Very well, adjourn the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to withdraw that motion and substitute the following, that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

11.35 p.m.