
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

THIRD SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 4th May, 1971.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Sir J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. K.N.R. HUSBANDS, J.P., (*Minister of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs*); Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P., (*Acting Minister of Health and Social Welfare*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, C.M.G., M.A., (*Leader of the House*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P.; Mr. YEARWOOD, J.P. (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. C.A.E. HOPPIN, J.P.; Mr. L. S. CRAIG.

Prayers were read.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter dated 23rd April, 1971, from the Auditor General. It reads as follows:-

"Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of section 26(3) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964, as amended by the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 1967, I have the honour to submit my report on the results of the examination of the Accounts of the Island for the year ended 31st March, 1968.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Auditor General."

LETTER FROM Mr. LISLE WHITTINGTON

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Mr. Lisle Whittington, Senior Official Reporter, thanking the House for their special sympathy on the occasion of the death of the late Mr. S. L. Whittington.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Financial Rules, 1971.

The Financial (Supplies) Rules, 1971.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve months ended 31st March, 1971.

Statement showing an Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1971.

Statement of Monies paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police for the Quarter ended 30th September, 1969.

Statement of Monies paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police for the Quarter ended 31st December, 1969.

Statement of Monies paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1970.

Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statements of Accounts of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1967-1968.

Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statements of Accounts of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1968-1969.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I beg to give Notice of a Bill to amend the Estate and Succession Duties Act, 1941.

On behalf of the Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Post Office Act, 1911.

On my own behalf I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 158 asked by the junior member for Bridgetown is ready.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 150 asked by the senior member for St. Joseph is ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

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

Whereas the standard of behaviour and the conduct of the affairs of the People in the House of Assembly have been deteriorating over the years;

And Whereas the standard of conduct and behaviour has reached its lowest mark during the past five years;

And Whereas the main cause for this deterioration is the fact that a person or persons with a criminal record involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude is not altogether prevented by the Constitution from standing as a candidate for election to the Barbados House of Assembly;

And Whereas the time is ripe for steps to be taken to improve the standard of behaviour and conduct in the said House of Assembly;

Be it Resolved that this House takes immediate action to have the Constitution amended to prevent persons with any criminal record involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude from offering themselves as candidates for election to the House of Assembly.

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

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Labour:-

Is the Minister aware that sugar workers in the parish of saint John are unable to complete application Forms for benefits under the Sugar Workers Provident Fund because of the difficulty experienced by them in getting accurate records of their service with sugar plantations in the said parish?

2. Is the Minister aware that some managers in the said parish have bluntly refused to furnish records of service to several workers where such service extended beyond the terms of office of the said managers, but could easily be ascertained through reference to the record or account books of the said plantations?

3. Will the Minister take such steps as may be necessary for the appointment of Inspectors or equi-

valent personnel under the aegis of the Labour Department, with power to enter and inspect such books of record or accounts so as to make the required information available to the said workers?
12.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I have a number of questions and I do not know if I can read them out once and for all, rather than getting up every time you call them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will call them in the order in which they appear here.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the questions read as follows:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister state what is the final cost of the Barbados Hilton Hotel?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister state

- (1) how much oil has been found in Barbados,
- (2) by which Company the oil has been found and
- (3) if the oil is in commercial quantities?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware of the fact that the Prospect New Road, in the parish of St. James is in a bad state of repair?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister carry out the necessary repairs to the abovementioned road immediately?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware of the fact that persons, who are entitled to payments from the Provident Fund, experience great difficulty in collecting their payments?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take all the necessary steps to remove the difficulty at present experienced by the persons entitled to payments from the said Provident Fund?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is the Government aware that the bus service that services the route between Bridgetown and Holder's Green in the parish of St. James is inadequate?

2. Will the Government take steps to improve the above-mentioned bus service?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Government aware of the fact that passengers who travel in Government-owned buses have to

use umbrellas and rain coats to protect them from the rain when they are travelling in the above-mentioned buses?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take steps to rectify the matter at the earliest possible opportunity?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that a bus driver had to bring to a halt a Government-owned bus and seek shelter from the rain in a nearby shop?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take appropriate steps to rectify the situation immediately?

Is Government aware of the bad state of roads existing at Thorpes Housing Area in the parish of St. James?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take all the necessary steps to have the said roads repaired immediately?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware that there is need for a National Auditorium?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take all the necessary steps, to have a National Auditorium built?

Is Government aware that due to the constant rising of the cost of living in Barbados that old age pensioners should be given a substantial increase on the \$5 which they now receive?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware of the fact that there is no proper road nor playing field at Good Shepherd Boys' School in the Parish of St. James?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative will the Minister take all the necessary steps to rectify the situation?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister treat as an urgent priority the installation of street lights at

- (a) Morgans; and
- (b) Sea View

in the parish of Saint James?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Clerk has very kindly said that he would make a check in respect of certain questions which were delivered by my employee to Mr. Best, an employee of this Chamber, and the signature received therefor within the appropriate time. I would be glad to have

a check made and would like my position to ask the questions today preserved. It is disgraceful that questions should be lodged by hon. members and they are not properly processed in time. We got a new Clerk in the interest of efficiency, and we expect efficiency and respect for honourable members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member rose on a point of order and he made his point. I cannot let him make a speech, but if it is established that the matter was handed within the appropriate time, I assure the hon. member that he will have permission at a later stage today to give notice of his questions.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. St.C. WEEKES, a Bill to amend the Estate and succession Duties Act, 1941, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. St.C. WEEKES, a Bill to amend the Post Office Act, 1911, was read a first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at River Bay, St. Lucy, for the provision of a Beach Facility.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we are ready to proceed with that one.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1971.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of this Order, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1971.

THE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1971

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution which we do almost every year when in the course of the previous financial year new posts have been created in the Civil Establishment which are by their nature pensionable, and the purpose of this Resolution is to approve the Order which brings the Schedule up to date embodying all the whole time pensionable posts which were created last year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

12.35 p.m.

**A BILL TO GIVE EFFECT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE
RADIATION PROTECTION CONVENTION 1960,
CONVENTION NO. 115 OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 8 be taken as the next Order of the day.

Hon. R. St. C. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: That Item stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Labour, National Insurance and Housing, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to give effect to Article 10 of the Radiation Protection Convention 1960, Convention No. 115 of the International Labour Conference.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of this Bill would give effect to the provisions of the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960, Convention No. 115 of the International Labour Conference relating to the protection of workers from exposure to ionising radiations in the course of their work. The Bill would require the proprietor of an undertaking -

- (a) in which work involving the possible exposure of workers to ionising radiations is for the first time proposed to give the Minister responsible for health prior notice of the commencement of that work and, if so required, to furnish the Minister with particulars of the proposed work;
- (b) in which it is proposed to install or cause to be installed any machine or apparatus capable of producing or emitting ionising radiations to give the Minister prior notice of the date of the installation and, if so required to furnish the Minister with particulars of the proposed installation.

Provision is included for notice and particulars of such existing work and machines or apparatus to be given to the Minister. Upon receiving a notice, the Minister would be empowered to issue directions to be carried out for the protection of the workers concerned in the undertaking to which the notice relates from exposure to ionising radiations.

This, Mr. Speaker is one of the regular Convention Clauses that takes place at ILO, and it came about as a result of harnessing the atom and from such things as X-Ray machines and other equipment

that use isotopes that gives off a form of radiation, and as a result of this, the ILO decided to protect the workers against this. I do not think this will affect us in the near future, but this is one of the things we have to do because one never knows when we might get into this field; Barbados is progressing very rapidly, and we might even get this coming out of our electronic equipment, so as a result of this we, as members of the ILO, have been asked to rectify this Convention No. 115.

There is not much I can say on this, but if hon. members wish to ask anything on it I will have to look at the file and tell them because I am not a specialist in this field. One thing I do know is that when you detonate an atom bomb or you happen to harness any material such as uranium 235, it does give off a form of radiation known as strontium 90 which is a bone killer. It is one of the things that are responsible for cancer, leukaemia and so on, so in order to protect people from being exposed to these things this Bill has been brought here. I think that even here at our hospital the people who work in the X-Ray Department have to shield themselves, but when more gamma ray than is necessary is given off, people have to use some sort of protection to protect themselves from radiation, so as a result of this, we have to comply with what is requested of us by ILO, and I see no harm in this, it is a matter of putting it on the Statute Book so that it will be there for future generations. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. St. C. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. N. W. BOXILL, seconded by Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed.

12.45 p.m.

Clauses 5 to 7 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: 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 Item No. 7 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 7 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950.

NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1971.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, I can only inform the House that this is merely a typographical correction - (Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: "I cannot hear the hon. member.") I am addressing Mr. Speaker. Now, Section 10A of the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950 is hereby amended by deleting subsection (2) thereof and substituting the following:-

"(2) Where the Corporation manufactures manufactured gas and supplies such gas or a mixture of natural gas and manufactured gas to consumers pursuant to subsection (1) This Act shall have effect, with such adaptations and modifications as may be necessary as if for references to natural gas there were substituted references to manufactured gas or such mixture or natural gas, as the case may be."

In short, this means that, if the supply of Natural Gas goes down, any mixture of Natural Gas with any other element may be distributed in the present pipelines of the Natural Gas Corporation. I do not think I should tire the House by repeating and explaining things in relation to such a simple matter.

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this matter has also been canvassed in the House, especially when the hon. junior member for St. Michael was the Minister concerned, and he gave us a very full and ample explanation of the issues involved. The Opposition will support this Bill because we appreciate that the present Natural Gas reserves are, undoubtedly, running out, as the difficulties experienced by consumers especially in southern districts of the Island have all too, unfortunately, revealed.

Nonetheless, it is still our contention that efforts to explore additional sources of Natural Gas should

not be abandoned. It may well be that the Natural Gas which exists in St. George and in parts of St. Philip is, at the moment, more expensive to produce than it will be to import manufactured gas but, undoubtedly, with the general trends towards a rise in oil prices, it may well be that the price of imported gas is going to go up. I anticipate, Sir, that in 20 years' time the oil wells in Barbados will be producing more as the oil wells in the other parts of the world begin to run down to the point where natural petroleum becomes more and more expensive. I very much hope that further exploration, especially now that crude oil exploration is continuing in Barbados, will be undertaken by the Natural Gas Corporation.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, with regard to this Natural Gas Bill, I wonder whether the Minister can tell us what plans the Natural Gas Corporation have for extending Natural Gas to people in the country areas. Several years ago, we were getting Natural Gas at Turner's Hall, and it was piped into Bridgetown through St. James, St. Thomas and other parishes. I feel that the people in those areas where the pipes were laid should be given an opportunity to make use of the Natural Gas. I do not think the people in St. James are using Natural Gas. There is Natural Gas in St. Andrew and in some parts of St. Joseph, and I feel that the people at Bathsheba where you have all of those hotels and so on should be in a position to make use of the Natural Gas.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to know whether the Natural Gas Corporation are thinking along these lines, or whether they are merely thinking of providing the people in Christ Church and in St. Michael with Natural Gas. I should like to cook with Natural Gas, too. I am cooking with gas at the moment, but it is not Natural Gas. I think that several years ago the hon. senior member for St. Peter tabled a question here asking the Corporation or the Government to consider providing the people in Speightstown with Natural Gas.
12.55 p.m.

I do not know what is happening now. I do not know if the hon. member has moved from Speightstown or the people there do not want natural gas, but I am sure that other people like myself would like to cook with it. I hope he will be in a position to say something or ask the Corporation to consider giving all these people the service, and not those in Christ Church only, because it finds its way from St. Andrew to Christ Church and St. Michael, and I am sure that the people in St. Andrew, and in Porey Spring, Rock Hall, Welchman Hall which are all in St. Thomas would be only too glad to have the service in their homes. I do not think it is fair to the people of this country that one set of people can cook with natural gas and the others have to use progas or no gas at all when we are supplying it. I feel that at least St. Andrew should have the service since that parish is nearer to the source than St. Thomas. I do not know if the people in Hillaby or Gregg Farm are using natural gas. I would like to know whether the Corporation is not thinking in terms of expanding the

service so that the people near to the source can get it without any trouble, or whether they are only thinking in terms of Christ Church.

Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the hon. member who has just sat down reminded the House that many years ago I asked a question concerning the distribution of natural gas to the outlying parishes of the Island. I can assure the hon. member that I am in that same frame of mind today and that my policy in that direction has not changed or waned. I am informed that if the present proposed process of mixing natural gas with other elements goes through, there is a probability of the extension of natural gas to all parts of the Island. I am not a technical man and in fairness to hon. members, I cannot give the House any more assurances at this stage, but I do feel that any mineral product such as gas or oil should not be for any particular section of the population but for all the inhabitants of Barbados. I can assure this House that I will do all that lies in my power as the particular Minister concerned to see that such a product is distributed as widely as possible and I will again repeat that my latest information is that if the proposed mixture of natural gas with other elements goes through, such a product can be distributed further afield.

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

On the motion of Hon. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, on the Bill, Mr. YEARWOOD in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. K. N. R. Husbands, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION RE LEASE OF LAND TO MOBIL OIL (BARBADOS) LIMITED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the next Order of the day.

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

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

Mr. Speaker; order No 3 is the instant Order of the day, and it stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Seawell Airport to Mobil Oil (Barbados) Ltd.
1.05 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks the approval of the House for the lease of land at Seawell Airport for the construction and operation of a Motor Vehicle Service Station at Seawell. According to the Addendum the lessee will be required to construct the Service Station in accordance with approved plans and provide all the decorations, furnishings, fixtures and appliances necessary for the provision and upkeep of the Service Station at his own expense. I will pass the plan around, and I think hon. members may wish to be refreshed of the details of the tender.

The area available is 30,000 sq. ft., the tenderer will be required to pay a concession fee in the first instance of a rental calculated at 4% of the gross annual sales or a fixed annual rental of \$6,000 whichever is the greater. The tenderer will be required to submit detailed plans and contracts of the proposed station, and in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Executive Committee (Vesting of Property and Transfer of Functions) Act, 1964, to give details of the conditions under which he proposes to carry out the business. All of this, Mr. Speaker, has been complied with and the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: What is the rental of the land?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: This was calculated on the basis of 4% of the gross annual sales or a fixed annual rental of \$6,000 a year, whichever is the greater.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Will this be used only for high grade gasoline for cars or for fuelling planes also?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Not for planes.

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

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: The Standing Orders will have to be suspended.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be

suspended so that we can do Private Members' Business.

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, while hon. members and the Leader of the House are considering this matter, speaking on the motion to suspend the standing Orders, which was moved by the Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the junior member for the City, what is the delay for not doing Item No. 4 under Government Business? Information was sent away for, so it was said, because it seemed very doubtful that the information which had been given to the then Minister of Communications could be true as to the rise Motor vehicle insurance premiums which would have been occasioned by the passage of this Bill. It is a matter of knowledge that motor vehicle insurance premiums have all been raised to accommodate this Bill up to about \$80 a year, but the Bill has not yet been passed. My view is that this is one of the Items which should be dealt with today.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: On a point of order, the premiums were not raised to accommodate this Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that motor vehicle insurance premiums have been raised very substantially this year, and the Minister says it was not to accommodate the Bill. The Minister is being ingenuous if he thinks so, the Insurance Companies are already discounting the effects of this Bill, they have raised their third party premiums to a level above which the full third party premiums were, before this Bill appeared on the Order Paper of the House. The Minister should go and check those facts.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am acting Minister of Communications and Works, and the hon. member will appreciate the fact that I have not dealt with this file and the Ministry has not sent it down. This is the reason why it is not being done today.
1.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the file is not here. The amendment is already approved by the Cabinet, but it is not something which I have dealt with in the Ministry. I know very little about the matter. If it were a file from the Ministry of Agriculture, I would have been able to deal with the matter without a file. I am not sufficiently *au fait* with this matter to deal with it without a file.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to the Minister for his explanation, subject to an assurance that the matter will be dealt with early.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet has already agreed with the amendment but, as I have already said, I am not sufficiently *au fait* with the matter to deal with it without the file. If I proceeded with the matter and hon. members asked me questions on it, then I would be unable to reply to them.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am always amused.....

Mr. ADAMS: I hope the hon. senior member for St. James does not mind my speaking at this stage. I thank the Minister very much for his explanation and hope that the Bill will not only be passed with the amendments approved by the Cabinet, but that it will be put into force at an early date. The people are already paying premiums.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member not to proceed to deal with the matter now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, we will deal with the Bill at the next sitting of the House.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I do not subscribe to the views of my colleagues when they agree to bow to Government's desire not to continue with the Resolution which they have on the Order Paper. If you are an Acting Minister you must be prepared to deal with things on the Order Paper. There is a Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Works in this House, and he should be in a position to assist the Acting Minister. We on this side of the House are willing to assist the Government in getting on with this business. The Government has a Resolution on the Order Paper, and they are telling the Opposition that they are not in a position to deal with it today because the Acting Minister is not *au fait* with the matter.

I believe that the Parliamentary Secretary should be in the place of the Acting Minister, and he would be in a position to deal with the Resolution. I would prefer my hon. Colleagues on this side to ask the Minister to prepare himself to deal with this Resolution today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In the first place, Mr. Speaker, it is not a Resolution; it is a Bill.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it is a simple error; there is no technicality in the matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Opposition can tell the Government what they must do under Government Business. I have said that the file is not here. Even if the Minister were here and he did not have the file, he would be stupid to deal with the Bill in the absence of the file. It is not my fault that the file is not here. I cannot deal with two Ministries at the same time. I had a meeting in my Ministry this morning and I even reached the House late. I was at a meeting from 10 a.m. until almost 1 p.m., and then I came here. I could not be there and here at the same time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Why do we not take lunch now?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Motion has been seconded and you can put the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that certain Standing Orders be now suspended.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, it is only necessary to suspend Standing Order 19. I am speaking on a point of Order.

The question that the relevant Standing Orders be suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:

NOES: Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. LOWE; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. HOPPIN and Mr. YEARWOOD - 7.

AYES: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. St. JOHN; Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. HINDS; Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. SMITH, and Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY - 8.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. This would seem to be an appropriate moment for me to raise the question about my Questions. I have made investigations, Sir. It appears that the Questions were delivered to Mr. Best, who telephoned my Secretary shortly after one o'clock on Friday to say that he had received them. They were placed on the Clerk's Desk, Mr. Best has so informed me, on Friday. I would ask that the Clerk be directed to check my Questions and, if they are in order, present them to be asked.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already assured the hon. member that I have directed an investigation and, if everything is in order, his Questions may be put today. I am awaiting a report from Mr. Clerk, and no doubt I will have it not later than immediately after the break.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, that was an hour ago. During that period I have been able to discover who handed the document to Mr. Best and that Mr. Best telephoned my office.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot do anymore at this stage. Will the hon. member just bide his time? I regret if everything is in order to have this delay.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, this seems to be a departure from things which took place in this Chamber. When I came to this Chamber in 1961 I was told that my questions would have to be submitted before 10 o'clock on Friday morning. The hon. member said that his questions arrived around 1 o'clock. How is it now that questions can come after 10 o'clock and can be submitted and a big noise is being made that they cannot be asked? That is why I will always challenge the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, what happened after 1 o'clock is that Mr. Best rang my Secretary to say that he had the questions. I did not say one word about the questions getting here at 1 o'clock. That was the time that my office was telephoned from the House. The House initiated the telephone conversation to my office after 1 o'clock; I do not know what time the questions got here.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Admitting that the questions arrived at 12.55 p.m. and he got the telephone message at 1 o'clock, what I am trying to draw to the attention of this Chamber is that you cannot have certain rules for some people and different rules for others. When I became a member of this House, on more than one occasion when I brought questions here permission was refused for me to ask them because they were submitted too late. Here it is the hon. member is saying that questions should be asked and you have given him the assurance that they will be asked.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given the assurance subject to my being satisfied, as I have said in here twice already, that everything in connection with the asking of these questions and, time of delivery is in order, and I am awaiting a report from the Clerk.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: We all know what subject to that means. I have said to the Chair already that I am not going to allow this to happen in here. I heard the hon. senior member for Bridgetown say that the Chair must protect the Opposition.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: On a point of order....

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am not giving way. I am on a point of order.

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

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I am already on a point of order. How could there be a point of order on a point of order? I have said already that I am not going to continue to sit here and allow the Chair to take any advantage of me. It was deliberately said in 1961 that questions must arrive here before 10 o'clock on Friday mornings.

Mr. SPEAKER: From the record at the Table the hon. junior member for St. Thomas rose and spoke. A point of order was risen to, but the hon. junior member for St. Thomas resumed his speech; so it is not a question of a point of order.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: It must be a point of order because there is something before the House. I must get up on a point of order unless I get up to second it. After twenty-six years, are the rules not know yet?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Thomas was speaking and the hon. senior member for Bridgetown rose on a point of order and said "on a point of order". Will the hon. junior member for St. Thomas give way?

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I give way.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Rather than have you humiliated and disrespected, I give way.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, as you have just assured me of the Standing Orders, both hon. members are out of order because the time for submitting questions is 12 o'clock, and my question was sent to the House at 11.25 a.m. to Miss Banfield and the messenger could not find Miss Banfield.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think all this is completely unnecessary. Let the hon. junior member for St. Thomas continue his speech.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I have finished.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 158 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for Bridgetown.

QUESTION *re* IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Mr. ELLIOTT MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware of the fact that as a result of the floods in October, 1970, a number of persons lost their Identity Cards?

Will the Minister state whether duplicate Identity Cards can be obtained and if so, what procedure must be adopted, to obtain the duplicate Identity Cards?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"There has been no report that Identification Cards have been lost as a result of the floods, but I am aware that cards have been lost and some may have resulted from the floods in October.

Section 13A(3), Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1969-17 provides for Identification Cards that are lost. Any elector who has lost his Identification Card can attend at the office of the Chief Registering Officer and make this report. The elector will only be required to sign a new card. There is no need to be rephotographed as the extra print can be made from the records in that office. The replaced card is then sent out by registered mail or collected in person at the request of the elector."

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: I wonder if the hon. member can tell me how long it takes to send out an identification card.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I really do not know, Mr. Speaker, but I am aware that there have been numerous complaints about the length of time it

takes between the photographing and the actual arrival or collection of the card. In another few weeks we have to bring the new consolidated Representation of the People Bill before Parliament and there will be an opportunity then to have a further look into these matters and to see whether new procedures can be established to speed these up.

QUESTION *re* DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 150 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. 1.35 p.m.

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

Is the Minister aware of the fact that due to the abolition of some of the Almshouses, that the remaining District Hospitals are overcrowded, causing the matrons great concern to find beds and spaces for incoming patients?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state at the next Meeting of this Honourable House what steps will be taken to relieve such conditions?

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

"I am aware of the overcrowding at the five District Hospitals.

To improve these conditions, action along the following lines is being taken:-

(a) the establishment of two new Homes at Barrows in St. Lucy and Sterling in St. Philip;

(b) the separation of medical and essentially welfare cases, and housing them in different institutions and providing more Homes for children and elderly people;

(c) obtaining the assistance of the Welfare Department and the Housing Authority in the rehabilitation of purely welfare cases;

(d) returning mental patients to the Mental Hospital in due course when the rehabilitation centre is established there."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us when Barrows and Sterling will be ready for receiving patients?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Shortly.

Mr. HINDS: What does shortly mean? In a month's time?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It depends on how soon the Public Works Department can do the renovations and extensions that are necessary.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it a fact that Sterling and Barrows are going to be used only for children?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Yes.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Therefore that does not answer the question put by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It does, because some of the Institutions, due to the fact that there are children there, are overcrowded.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it a fact that there are no children in any of the institutions except the Bridgetown District Hospital?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Yes, but as far as I am aware the only institution other than the St. Michael District Hospital that has children is the St. Philip District Hospital, and there is a small home there also.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Are they in a separate home in this institution?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Yes, but the point I am making is that the removal of the children from the St. Michael District Hospital to a home occupied by the children available for adults.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: But are the children not in a separate and distinct home?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Yes, but this space which they are using, although it is separate and distinct, will be used for the elderly people.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: The one in St. Philip too?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: This is questionable because the one at St. Philip has been donated to some extent specifically for a Children's Home and you would be breaking the terms of reference if you use it for anything else. You will have to have permission from the donors to use it for something other than a Children's Home, and I personally feel that it would be better for the children if they were removed from that site, and this is what we will try to do with the permission of the donors.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Is it a fact that the children in the St. Michael District Hospital are imbeciles?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Not all of those children, as I understand it there are children in the St. Michael District Hospital that can be carried to

proper Homes, Homes that are established for Children as such, but not all of them are the type of children who could not be removed.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Would the Minister say that all the presently established Children's Homes are overcrowded?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We agree that there is little room in the present Homes, and this is why we are pressing on to have these other two established as soon as possible.

Mr. ERNEST MOTTLEY: Although that is not an answer I accept it, it is a nice way of getting around it.

Mr. HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I understood the Minister to say that the servicing by the Public Works Department is holding up operations somewhat or delaying it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I did not say that the Public Works Department is holding up the opening of this Home, I was asked how soon this could be done and I said as soon as the Ministry of Works can complete the renovations and alterations.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us if the services of the U.S. Naval Facility at St. Lucy have been made available to the Government for the conversion of Barrows?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am not aware of this, I can investigate the matter however.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.
The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
1.45 p.m.

On resumption

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not now observe 8 hon. members plus myself present; therefore, there being no quorum, automatically this House stands adjourned until twelve o'clock noon on Tuesday of next week. 2.32 p.m.