
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 14th October, 1971

The 1971-76 Legislative Session was inaugurated at 5 o'clock p.m. today in the Senate Chamber by His Excellency Sir Winston Arleigh Scott, K.C.M.G., Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados and its Dependencies.

Pursuant to the issuing of Writs, the Hon. Members elected to constitute the General Assembly for the Session assembled in the Assembly Chamber as follows:

Messrs. C. E. TALMA, (*Member for Christ Church East*); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., LL.D., (*Member for St. John*); Capt. G. G. FERGUSSON, (*Member for St. Michael South West*); R. STC. WEEKES, J. P., (*Member for St. Philip South*); W. R. LOWE, J. P. (*Member for St. George South*); A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Member for St. Andrew*); W. C. B. HINDS, (*Member for St. Peter*); C. A. E. HOPPIN, (*Member for St. George North*); L. S. CRAIG, (*Member for St. James*); J. B. SPRINGER, (*Member for St. Michael South East*); J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (*Member for St. Thomas*); E. D. MOTTLEY, (*Member for the City of Bridgetown*); C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (*Member for St. Joseph*); F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., (*Member for St. Michael West*); F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (*Member for St. Michael South Central*); P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (*Member for Christ Church North Central*); Mrs. G. EASTMOND, (*Member for St. Michael North East*); Messrs. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (*Member for St. Michael North West*); H. DeB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B., (*Member for Christ Church West*); R. B. CADDLE, M.D., (*Member for St. Michael North Central*); A. MORRISON, (*Member for Christ Church South Central*); L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (*Member for St. Michael South*); N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B. (*Member for St. Philip North*); and E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (*Member for St. Lucy*).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER OF HOUSE

The Sergeant-at-Arms entered the House and informed hon. members that His Excellency the Governor-General desired them to elect a Speaker and present him for his approval.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Clerk, hon. members of the House of Assembly, it is my pleasant duty and privilege here this afternoon in my capacity as Leader of the House of Assembly and acting on the instructions of the Party to nominate our distinguished colleague and friend in the person of Mr. Neville George Anthony Maxwell as our Speaker of this Honourable House of Assembly for the ensuing session 1971-76.

The attainments, attributes and achievements of Mr. Maxwell are very well known to us all and highly and deeply admired, but it may be fitting at this stage and on this particular occasion to repeat some of them even though it may be for purposes of posterity.

Mr. Neville Maxwell as he is popularly known was born on 24th April, 1938, the son of Mr. J. McK. Maxwell, retired headmaster of Shrewsbury Boys' School and Mrs. Maxwell, in the parish of St. Philip. He was educated at Trinity Boys' School, St. Marks Boys' School and Shrewsbury Boys' School, all in the parish of St. Philip, and then at Lodge the School where he won the coveted blue ribbon for Barbados in the field of education; I refer to the coveted Barbados Scholarship, in 1957, in Classics. Mr. Maxwell served with distinction as senior Latin Master of the Modern High School under the late Mr. Louis A. Lynch, of revered memory, for about one year and then he proceeded and entered the University College, London, from 1958 to 1961 where he secured his LL.B. degree (Honours) in Law in 1962 and was called to the Bar at Grays Inn. He served as a lecturer in Law at Holburn College of Law, Languages and Commerce from 1962 to 1968. Later he returned to Barbados and served in numerous capacities including that of Personal Aide to the Prime Minister, and on many Boards including the Barbados Community College, among others. Mr.

Maxwell is married and has two children. In the field of sport he was a very outstanding athlete in his time and has served as Secretary of numerous activities, debating societies and in the field of sport when a youngster at St. Catherine's in the parish of St. Philip where he was brought up.

With those few remarks, I have very great pleasure in moving that Mr. Neville George Anthony Maxwell be nominated as Speaker of this Honourable House for this Session 1971-76.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Clerk, in rising to second the nomination of Mr. Maxwell to be Speaker of the Honourable the House of Assembly for the session 1971-76, I would also like to make it clear as the Minister of State has said that I am acting on the instructions of my party, for we on this side of the House certainly believe that in a matter such as the election of the Speakership some element of unanimity should be present at least to start off our deliberations with that spirit of concord which we would like to believe in the interest of Barbadians members of the House of Assembly should show.

It is, I suppose, unusual for an hon. member to enter this House and become the Speaker at his first attempt. I believe the last occasion when an hon. member had become a Speaker without previously being a member was when Mr. K. N. R. Husbands became Speaker in 1948. Now I can say that recent research suggests that these may be the only two instances, certainly in modern history, but I will have to leave the research to others. In these circumstances, Mr. Clerk, it is obvious that we cannot refer to the incumbent's parliamentary experience and we cannot refer to his previous activity in political life because of necessity he is a political tyro and you have to take him on trust. I perhaps am not in so good a position as the Minister of State to argue that the winning of a Barbados Scholarship is necessarily the key to higher things. I will have to leave that to others. There are some of us on this side as there are on that, and it will come less well from me as it may from others.

The references to Mr. Maxwell's sporting activities led me for one moment to believe that the Minister of State was going to put up an argument in favour perhaps of raising a House of Assembly cricket team; but again I do not think that was his intention. As I see it, Mr. Maxwell's qualifications for the office of Speaker fundamentally should be his ability to interpret the Standing Orders of the House. The Standing Orders of the House may very well be in need of revision, and Mr. Clerk, later on today if I have the opportunity or certainly at the next sitting of the House I will introduce a Resolution to reappoint a Committee to go into the Standing Orders with a view to bringing them more into line with modern conditions in the House. But however that may be, the Standing Orders are there and we on this side are looking forward to Mr. Maxwell bringing to their interpretation the abilities of a newly qualified lawyer who certainly those of us who have been at the Bar for some time must respect, since

we know that newer lawyers are a little more recently from their books than we are, and should have a little greater devotion to such volumes as Maxwell on the Interpretation of Statutes as we who have been practising for some time may have forgotten.

It seems that the question of the Mover and the Seconder having to drag the Speaker unwilling to the Chair has gone through the eddies as they say with many other traditions for this particular election. I seem to recall upon the last occasion of the election of a Speaker in this House that Sir Grantley Adams and the Prime Minister had to drag Sir Theodore unwilling, in form at least, to the Chair which then stood at the other end of this Honourable Chamber. Evidently Mr. Maxwell has decided that forewarned is forearmed and he has come prepared to be dragged perhaps unwillingly but certainly dressed once his unwillingness has been overcome. He, Mr. Clerk, is dressed as the invitation had suggested, for he is dressed in a lounge suit, but I see that the Speaker's Banns indicate that this may very well not altogether be a case of a shot-gun marriage with the Chair. Nonetheless Mr. Clerk, we wish Mr. Maxwell well in his occupancy of the Chair of the House of Assembly.

5.15 p.m.

He must understand one or two things, however. There are those of us on this side who may be able to give him - not good advice, because no one can advise the Speaker except the Clerk, but who may be able in the course of an objection or of an argument to distil a few words of wisdom which the Clerk might well incorporate into his advice to the Chair. There may be some on the other side who can also give such advice, but, certainly in the initial stages, I do not expect to see any of them rocking the boat.

I hope that the whole 5 years, Mr. Clerk, will pass without any hon. members so flagrantly, even if in private and only partly in public, offering to disrespect the authority of the Chair and the person of its occupant as we had in the last few months of the tenure of office of Sir Theodore Brancker.

Mr. Clerk, our party joins with the Government party in supporting Mr. Maxwell as the choice of Speaker. Everything has not been done precisely as we might have wished, but we are prepared in the interest of harmony to paper over the cracks for now. I repeat my seconding of Mr. Neville George Maxwell to be Speaker of this Honourable House.

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: There being no other nomination, I declare Mr. Neville George Anthony Maxwell to be the elected Speaker of this Honourable House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA and Mr. ADAMS conducted Mr. SPEAKER ELECT to the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT: Hon. members my first duty is to thank the hon. Proposer, the hon. Seconder and all hon. members of this Chamber for having unanimously proposed and seconded my nomination to this

very formidable task as the chief servant of this ancient and Honourable Assembly. Indeed, it is with a sense of my own inadequacy for this very high office, with a sense of deep humility, indeed regret and reluctance - reluctance more than regret - that I have accepted this office today. In so far as it is a very high honour for one to hold, I deem it, hon. members, an honour thrust more upon all the constituents of St. Philip North in particular, and all of the inhabitants of the Parish of St. Philip in general to hold this office in their name and on behalf of all of the citizens of Barbados.

I think that I am the fourth in a line of Speakers from the Parish of St. Philip. We now join three other Parishes: St. Lucy, St. Andrew and, I think, St. George, in having four Speakers in the long line of 69 Speakers who have gone before me. I pledge most solemnly, hon. members, to uphold the dignity of this Chair, and to carry out the Standing Orders and the instructions contained therein to the best of my ability. I rely unfailingly upon your good judgment and co-operation to perform my duties. I thank you very much.

I now direct the hon. Proposer and the hon. Seconder to inform His Excellency that a Speaker has been elected.

The hon. Proposer and the hon. Seconder informed his Excellency the Governor-General that a Speaker had been elected.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that His Excellency is ready to receive yourself and Members of the House at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT: I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER and Members of the House of Assembly proceeded to the Senate Chamber.

5.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, and the other hon. members following him according to seniority proceeded to the Senate Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT: May it please Your Excellency; The Members of the House of Assembly have chosen me to be their Speaker and I now present myself for Your Excellency's approval.

His EXCELLENCY: I approve your election as Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your Excellency: In the name and on behalf of the members of the House of Assembly, I lay claim to their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges and especially to freedom from arrest and molestation of their persons, freedom of speech in debate and free access to Your Excellency whenever occasion may require it, and that the most favourable construction may be placed upon all their proceedings.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

His Excellency then delivered a Speech to Parliament, at the conclusion of which he presented a copy to Mr. SPEAKER.

The Speech is as follows:

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE SESSION, 1971-76

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADDRESS

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

On 16th August 1971, Parliament was prorogued and dissolved for the first time under the provisions of section 61 of the Constitution as contained in the Schedule to the Barbados Independence Order 1966. Consequent on this, General Elections were held on 9th September 1971 and twenty-four persons have been duly elected, under a single member constituency system for the first time, to represent the People in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, I extend my congratulations to you all on your election.

Under the provisions of the Constitution, the Senate has been fully constituted, and Mr. President and Members of the Senate, I extend my congratulations to you on your appointments.

The Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, M.P., has been re-appointed by me to be Prime Minister.

Appointment of
Prime Minister

On the advice of the Prime Minister, the following other persons have been appointed to be Ministers and assigned these responsibilities: *Senator The Honourable J. Cameron Tudor, C.M.G.* to be Minister of External Affairs, and Leader of the Senate.

Appointment of
Other Ministers

The Honourable C. Edwy Talma, M.P.

to be Minister of State and Leader of the House of Assembly with responsibility for Parliamentary matters and Printing.

The Honourable Philip Greaves, M.P.

to be Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour, and National Insurance.

The Honourable DaCosta Edwards, M.P.

to be Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology.

The Honourable Erskine Sandiford, M.P.

to be Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport.

The Honourable Frederick Smith, M.P.

to be Minister of Communications and Works.

Senator The Honourable George Moe

to be Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

The Honourable Peter Morgan, C.B.E., M.P.

to be Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations.

The Honourable George Fergusson, M.P.

to be Minister of Health and Welfare.

Senator The Honourable Branford Taitt

to be Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

Dr. The Honourable Rameses Caddle, M.P.

to be Minister of Home Affairs.

The Right Honourable E. W. Barrow will be Minister of Finance.

Leader of
Opposition

Mr. J. M. G. M. Adams, M.P., has been appointed as Leader of
of the Opposition.

Parliamentary
Secretaries

On the advice of the Prime Minister the following persons
have been appointed to be Parliamentary Secretaries:-

Senator LeRoy Brathwaite

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Senator John Yearwood

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing, Lands,
Labour and National Insurance.

Senator Dennis Hunte

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Youth
Affairs, Community Development and Sport.

Mr. Reynold Weekes, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications
and Works.

Mr. Anderson Morrison, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Science
and Technology.

Mrs. Gertrude Eastmond, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Welfare.

Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

in accordance with tradition, I now propose to outline the
programme which my Government intends to implement during
the Session which is now beginning notwithstanding that a
Development Plan for 1972-76 will be presented in a few
months' time.

Financial
position and
prospects

The financial position of the country was reviewed on 27th July 1971
when the Minister of Finance presented the Financial Statement and
Budgetary Proposals for the Year 1971-72. There has been no material
change in the interim and it is not my intention to repeat it on this
occasion.

Actual revenue collections at 30th September 1971 were \$56.4
million with actual recurrent expenditure of \$42 million while capital
expenditure for the same period amounted to \$9 million.

The examination and improvement of expenditure controls, and of systems of Departmental accounting are being kept under constant review in an attempt to promote efficiency and to minimise wastage in Government spending.

Efforts are continuing on the identification of priority areas for external financing of projects relating to agriculture, vocational education, fisheries, airport expansion, harbour improvements, sewage disposal systems, industrial development and tourism.

Efforts to stimulate local investment and to attract foreign investment where this is considered to be in the national interest will be increased. Local companies will be encouraged to broaden their ownership and guidelines for foreign ownership and participation in the economy will be set. My Government's aim is to increase the degree of the country's economic independence by ensuring, as far as practicable, local control over the use and allocation of the country's resources.

Local resources
and invest-
ments

Towards the development of the financial institutions in order to provide stimulation and direction of the national economy –

Financial
institutions

plans are moving forward for the establishment of the Central Bank of which mention has been made before. It is expected that the necessary legislation will be ready for introduction into Parliament before the end of the year and that the Bank will be launched early in the new year:

Central Bank

the physical conditions and facilities of the Barbados Savings Bank will be made more attractive, and is proposed to establish a Branch of the Bank in London. It is hoped that some of the surplus funds of the branch will be channelled for use in the local economy:

Barbados Sav-
ings Bank

the first issue of National Development Bonds is expected to be made by the Barbados Development Bank within the next three months in pursuance of budgetary policy to maximise the mobilisation of local resources and provide a stimulus to the investment of capital in productive enterprises.

Barbados
Development
Bank

The programme of Land Valuation is continuing and it is expected that the new Valuation Roll will be ready for use in the next fiscal period. A modern Land Tax Act will be introduced into Parliament in time for the levy of the General Rate in 1972.

Land Valuation

Steps will continue to be taken to improve the effectiveness of the Inland Revenue Department, and it is proposed to conclude Double Taxation Agreements with certain countries with whom such Agreements are not yet in force.

Inland Revenue
Department

My Government has agreed to adopt a uniform system of customs valuations based on the Brussels Definition of Value, and measures are being taken to introduce it in 1972. Details of the new system will be made available to the private sector by the Ministry of Finance as soon as practicable.

Customs
Administration

It is also proposed to adopt the Brussels system for the classification of goods in Customs Tariffs. The Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat is in the process of preparing a brochure on the Brussels Nomenclature to widen the area of knowledge within the region about this system.

Examination of a proposal to introduce a Common External Tariff for the whole region has begun and should be completed within the session. Such measures as are necessary to give effect to the decisions reached will, of course, be sent down for the attention of Parliament.

It is expected that the construction of a new Customs Warehouse will commence in 1972.

New Customs
Warehouse.

The Insurance Act 1970 No. 36 will be brought into operation shortly and, towards this end, Regulations to give effect to it are being finalised.

Regulation
of Insurance
business

My Government will continue to encourage the production of more goods locally and regionally in substitution for imports from outside the Caribbean. It will intensify efforts to promote exports.

Import and
Export Con-
trol

The Prices Commission and the Control Department responsible for price investigation and control will be strengthened, and my Government welcomes the support and collaboration of consumers and businessmen in efforts to contain the cost of living at manageable levels.

Strengthening
of price
Commission

Industrial
Promotion

My Government will support the Industrial Development Corporation in continuing to promote and encourage investment in the manufacturing sector both at home and abroad to ensure expanding and gainful employment opportunities for the growing labour force. The construction of factories for new enterprises on fully serviced industrial estates will continue to be an important incentive in this programme. Industries which are not at present receiving concessions from the Government will be given encouragement to expand provided that new job opportunities are created.

The Industrial Development Export Industries Legislation which enables "export" industries to sell 50% of their produce locally and which extends eligibility for concessions to export enterprise engaged in production which cannot be strictly classified as manufacturing, will be reviewed with a view to securing, as far as possible, maximum benefits to all concerned.

Industrial
standards

In order to protect the consumer and to assist in the internal organisation and efficiency of individual enterprises, an industrial standards expert, provided by the United Nations Development Programme, is currently examining all aspects of the problem.

Management
and Productivity
Institute

The Institute of Management and Productivity which was established in June 1970 as a joint venture between the public and private sectors will, as its main objectives, provide training in management skills to ensure an adequate supply of local personnel to participate at the highest levels in all business activities, will provide technical assistance at the factory level to raise productivity and will carry out research associated with these functions. Legislation for tax exemption contributions will shortly be placed before Parliament.

Industrial
Co-operatives

The establishment of co-operatives in industry will be encouraged.

Tourist
industry

To ensure the continued orderly development of the tourist industry, my Government will streamline the administrative structure of the industry with a view to increased efficiency. The Hotel Aids Act will be brought up to date, and the importance of training in the hotel industry will be given special attention.

My Government will continue to press other Governments for additional air routes to and from Europe, Africa and the Western Hemisphere in the interest of tourism and commerce. Reasonable air fares will be a key aspect to such negotiations. The development of group and charter business will be emphasized to ensure year-round employment for hotel employees and others dependent on the tourist industry.

Civil
Aviation

The feasibility study on the development of Seawell International Airport now being carried out will shortly be completed by the consultants. The traffic forecast at the airport anticipates the handling of a million passengers in 1974 and a precise programme of expansion of the airport to enable it to cope with the increased traffic will soon be off the ground.

My Government will seek further assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank and from other International Institutions and agencies to finance the airport improvements.

The establishment of an Aviation Training Centre, if possible, in Barbados, to fill the present vacuum in the training of Barbados nationals and nationals of other Caribbean countries in fields of study related to Aviation will be pursued.

Agriculture

My Government's policy in regard to agriculture is -

- (a) to increase current agricultural export earnings and to develop exports of other agricultural commodities; and
- (b) to reduce agricultural imports wherever import substitution is technically and economically feasible.

Britain's possible entry into the European Economic Community appears to pose a threat to the marketing of this country's sugar, but my Government will keep a close eye on the situation and will pursue with the utmost vigour the acceptance of this country's export sugar on the very advantageous terms and conditions now accorded other tropically grown sugars entering the market.

Investigations of the possibility of converting sugar cane into animal feed will continue to be carried out.

A Cotton Agronomist has recently been appointed on the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture to assist farmers with the development of the cotton industry. If trials on mechanical harvesting of the cotton are satisfactory, some measure of financial assistance will be granted by the Government to assist in the development of the industry.

Cotton
development

Research programmes for the production of vegetables of a high quality at competitive prices will be vigorously continued. It is proposed that the country should be self-sufficient within a short time in at least the production of onions, carrots, beets, beans, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, sweet peppers and egg-plant on a year-round basis.

Vegetable
production

My Government proposes to review the objectives, operation and organisational structure of the Barbados Marketing Corporation with a view to making it a more effective instrument of the Government's agricultural marketing policy. Towards this end, the services of a Marketing Adviser have been obtained through Israeli Technical Assistance to advise the Corporation on all aspects of marketing and to train local staff.

Review of the
Barbados
Marketing
Corporation.

Steps are being taken to improve the Government veterinary services to assist in the development of the livestock industry. The establishment of a pork processing plant is being proceeded with.

Livestock
development

A breeding unit is being established on Government-owned lands at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip to carry out a concentrated programme aimed at producing first quality Barbados Black Belly sheep which will be made available to the general public and purchasers overseas.

Special attention will be given to the development of Agricultural Co-operative Societies to enable farmers, and in particular small farmers, to benefit from the incentive schemes now in operation as well as any other activities from which they may be able to benefit by coming together in groups. The development of Fishing Co-operatives amongst fishermen will also be pursued.

Co-operatives

The operation of the Agricultural Credit Scheme will be improved.

Agricultural
Credit

The 4-H Movement will be further developed.

The re-establishment of the shrimp industry is imminent and every effort will be made to develop deep sea fishing.

Fisheries

Housing development, at all levels, will be given high priority. Condominium legislation has already been enacted. Special attention is being given to housing in the 1972-76 Development Plan which will be presented to Parliament in a few months' time. The development of housing co-operatives and building societies will be encouraged. The care and comfort of the elderly citizen will have a special place in planning for housing development.

Housing

As soon as the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry have been submitted, the Physical Development Plan, required by the Town and Country Planning Act, will be duly modified and implemented. That Plan will serve as a guide to land use planning for the general public.

Land
Use

Amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act will be proposed in order to ensure more speedy compliance with it and to bring about more effective development control throughout the island.

Attention will be paid to ensuring that areas of national beauty are preserved for the enjoyment and benefit of citizens as well as visitors by means of Planning restrictions where appropriate and, where considered necessary, by the acquisition of property.

The further development of Farley Hill National Park will be continued, and redevelopment of Queen's will be carried out to include the provision of a National Arts Theatre and the conversion of the existing Steel Shed into a Barn Theatre for the enjoyment of those who like dancing and concerts. Improvements will also be made at King George V Park.

As in other areas, our Youth will be given the opportunity to participate in planning for these developments.

Labour

In the sphere of Labour administration, in-service and oversea training will be intensified. A Statistical Unit will be established with responsibility for the collection, analysis and interpretation of data relating to human resources and the labour force; and there will be a unit for manpower planning and the constant review of industrial relations trends and practices as well as of development in the field of labour administration.

**Administration of
Severance
Payments
Scheme**

After the customary consultations with workers and employers' organisations, Severance Payments legislation was passed by the last Parliament and will soon be operative.

**Minimum
Wage
rates**

A minimum wage rate of general application or a series of minimum rates applicable to various categories of workers, based on the report of the National Minimum Wage Committee, will be prescribed.

**Workers'
College**

In agreement with the appropriate workers' organisations, my Government will assist in the establishment of a Workers' College.

**National
Insurance**

The National Insurance and Social Security Scheme is under review with the assistance of an actuary provided by the International Labour Office. It is hoped to increase the rate of sickness and maternity benefits and to extend these benefits to self-employed persons; and to increase, beyond \$50 a week, the maximum earnings in respect of which insurance coverage is provided.

Education

My Government will introduce into Parliament the new Education Bill which will, among other things make provision for the conduct, management and classification of educational institutions, the establishment of a Secondary Schools' Board, the registration and inspection of private schools, the registration of teachers, and the setting up of a National Advisory Commission on Education.

Nursery departments in primary schools will be developed, and the increase of facilities in secondary education will be accelerated.

**Textbooks
loan
Scheme**

A scheme for the loan of textbooks to needy children will be introduced.

**Review of
Common
Entrance
Exam**

My Government will establish a committee to review the operations and effects of the Common Entrance Examination and to make recommendations on matters concerning the transfer of pupils from the primary to the secondary phase of education.

**Approved
Independent
Schools**

The programme of assistance to approved independent secondary schools will be continued and, where appropriate, expanded.

**Technical
Education**

Technical education facilities will be expanded, and will be carried to the north and south of the island. The Hotel School and the House-Craft Centre will be re-organised and expanded.

U.W.I.

My Government will continue its efforts to maintain the regional character of the University of the West Indies, and will continue to press for the extension of existing faculties as well as the establishment of new faculties.

**School
Meals**

A new Schools Meal Centre will be opened to continue the expansion of the service.

**Youth
Affairs**

A new impetus will be given to the special interests of youth by the establishment of a department specifically to develop and administer youth policies and projects.

Sport

My Government will establish a National Sports Council to advise on all aspects of sport.

Health

Although Barbados is comparatively free from the ill effects of problems of pollution, my Government, through the Ministry of Health, will be vigilant to forestall the problems of pollution. Systems of refuse collection and of sewage and refuse disposal will be re-organised and improved.

The District Nursing Service and the Community Health Programmes will be extended, and a School Health Service will be initiated to screen children at various stages of their school life and to make referrals to specialists wherever necessary.

**Out Patients'
Clinics**

Outpatient clinics will be constructed in St. Michael, St. Lucy, St. Thomas and St. Peter, and the Health Centre at Six Cross Roads will be extended to provide similar services. The operation of these and other clinics will enable the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to concentrate on specialist clinics and emergency work.

Nutrition Centre

A Nutrition Centre and a central laboratory will be built near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to pursue both curative and preventive work.

A new maternity hospital will be built in the Lodge Hill area in St. Michael.

New Maternity Hospital.

The programme of Health legislation will include new provision for the practice of medicine and dentistry including auxiliary dental workers; the registration of nurses, midwives and nursing assistants; the registration and regulation of other paramedical professions; the practice of pharmacy and the control of dangerous drugs. Existing mental health and quarantine legislation will be revised.

New Health legislation.

Recommendations on the control of prices of all drugs and medicines are being examined.

Further measures to ensure that needy persons are granted assistance in the shortest possible time and in as dignified a manner as possible will be implemented.

Assistance for the needy.

The existing system of old age pension will be improved. The means test whereby the pension is reduced according to the financial ability of the pensioner, will be changed to a system whereby more old people will qualify for a full pension.

Review of Old Age Pension.

The provision of adequate roads, bridges, water supply, street lighting and port facilities, will continue.

Communications and Works.

A new General Post Office will be constructed in Bridgetown, and District Post Offices will be provided where most needed.

It is the intention of the Government shortly to set up a Port Authority which will be responsible for the Port of Bridgetown, all harbours, seaports, airports, shipping and lighthouses.

Port Authority.

Civil aviation and maritime law and practice, the law of the sea and the seabed will at that time remain the responsibility of the Minister of External Affairs and of the Prime Minister where appropriate.

My Government will introduce legislation to bring the existing Immigration laws more in line with the responsibilities of a sovereign state, providing for greater control of entry and for speedier action to be taken in breaches of the Immigration laws. It will impose penalties on both employers and immigrants who commit breaches of the law by employing persons or accepting employment respectively without obtaining prior approval.

Immigration laws.

The legislation dealing with the use and sale of firearms and explosives will be consolidated in a new Act which will more clearly set out the definitions of firearms and explosives and more effectively control their handling and use.

Firearms and Explosives.

Legislation will be introduced during this Session to abolish the principle of primo-geniture and for providing a more equitable distribution of property among the issue of a deceased. This legislation will also remove certain distinctions between legitimate and illegitimate children in succession to property where no dispute as to paternity exists.

Succession and Escheat.

The law relating to escheat to the Crown in cases of intestacy without heirs will also be revised.

My Government proposes to place much greater emphasis on the Public Relations aspect of its communication with the people. It wishes to ensure that there is increasing dialogue between those on whose behalf policy is made and those who make the policy of the country. The Information Service must perform a more positive role in the area of human relations, and proposals will be made to develop it to meet these demands.

Information Services.

Because of my Government's concern for some time about the rapid growth of the public service and the increasing complexity of the public administration, arrangements were made for a systematic overhaul of job methods and a planned re-organisation of the entire administrative machinery, as well as for intensive training of supervisors and managers with a view to developing an appreciation of modern management.

The Public Service.

An Organisation and Methods Unit was established, and no effort will be spared to ensure that the improved conditions of service are matched with greater efficiency and increased productivity.

Proposals will be considered, after due consultation with the relevant Unions and Associations representing public officers and employees, for updating the machinery for negotiation especially in relation to Whitley Council.

Staff Relations.

**Superannuation
Review.**

An early review will be undertaken of the pensions legislation. It is proposed to provide for continuity of pensionable service where officers resign from the public service and are subsequently re-employed. Also, consideration will be given to providing some form of retiring benefits in respect of a minimum qualifying period of service only and not, as at present, specifically in relation to the actual age of the officer at the time of retirement.

A comprehensive examination will also be undertaken of the superannuation arrangements applicable to the staff of statutory bodies with a view to providing benefits where they do not now exist having regard to the proposal to establish a national pension plan.

Five-day Week.

It is proposed to implement a five-day week in the very near future. However, in giving effect to this proposal, the need to man the essential services on a 24-hour a day basis or for longer than normal periods of work will be carefully examined.

Training.

Training activity in the public service will be increased in volume, intensity and scope. An Institute of Public Administration will be established, and at the same time every encouragement will be provided for the development of specialised training in departmental "schools".

Foreign Policy.

In its external affairs, my Government will continue to pursue its policy of peaceful and progressive diplomacy. It will re-assert its commitment to the uprooting of vestigial colonialism and to the upholding of human dignity and freedom. It will continue to oppose regimes and governments whose policies and actions promote racial discrimination and the denial of equality.

In order to improve the quality of life for Barbadians, my Government will maintain its membership in the United Nations Organisation and the Organisation of American States, and their technical and economic agencies, from which much assistance has already been gained.

My Government will continue to play an active role in the attainment of economic integration in the Commonwealth Caribbean. In particular no effort will be spared to ensure that satisfactory decisions are reached on such important matters as the harmonisation of fiscal incentives, the rationalisation of agriculture and the location of industries.

My Government will, within its means, continue to develop its relations with other countries where this can be demonstrated to be in the interest of this country and without involvement in sterile ideological wranglings.

Mr. President and Members of the Senate;

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I now declare the Parliamentary session open, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

A. WINSTON SCOTT
Governor-General.

Government House,
BARBADOS.

October 14, 1971.

HOUSE RETURN TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Mr. SPEAKER and the House preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I had the honour of waiting upon His Excellency in the Senate Chamber. His Excellency graciously delivered a speech from the Throne and has furnished me with a copy thereof for ease of reference.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the speech from the Throne be taken as read so that it may become a document of the House. I should like to make it clear that this does not preclude any debate on the Speech from the Throne which will be done on a day which is congenial to the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

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

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

SETTLEMENT OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Standing Orders of the House for the last session be adopted for this session 1971-76 for the time being.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it has been moved and seconded that the printed Standing Orders be once more adopted as the Standing Orders of this House, but later on this afternoon I will be giving notice and I cannot at the point of giving notice, as I understand it, do more than read the Resolution out; but members on this side are as concerned as members on the other side about the various points on which the Standing Orders are silent and fall short about the limits that are sometimes necessary in debate, and certainly on this side we are highly concerned about the rights of private members, and while we adopt these Standing Orders at this point and will vote for them, it is for want of an alternative and not because we think particularly that the rights of private members are adequately protected by them.

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

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. George North be appointed as Deputy Speaker for this session. The hon. member has served for quite a number of years as Chairman of Committees at various sittings in the absence of the substantive holder of the office of Chairman of Committees, and he has had consider-

able experience in that respect, and I think it would be very fitting to have a member of his experience to assist us in the capacity of Deputy Speaker of this House.

I have great pleasure in making this nomination.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN
OF COMMITTEES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Hon. member for St. George South be appointed as Chairman of Committees for this session. Again, Sir, this hon. member has served for many years in the House of Assembly and is conversant with the Rules and Regulations and with matters generally in this Chamber, and is very familiar with the Standing Orders.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as is customary at the beginning session such as this, there are certain Statutory Committees that are appointed in order to carry on the Government's business, and we would like to make certain nominations subject to the approval of hon. members. I refer to the Debates Committee.

In accordance with the Standing Orders, I beg to move that Your Honour who is automatically the Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South-East, the hon. member for St. Lucy, the hon. and learned member for St. Thomas, the hon. and learned member for Christ Church West and myself as Leader of the House be duly appointed from this Chamber to serve on the Debates Committee which is really one of the most important Committees and conducts the business of the House, staffing and other matters arising therefrom. I hardly need to say anymore and I am hoping that this nomination is successful.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to the hon. member for his nomination, but I think that we will get along better in this House if the Opposition is left to conduct its own part of affairs such as this. I say this although I much appreciate the forethought of the hon. member. Let us bear in mind that in the last House the Opposition had three members on this Committee, Mr. Smith, the then and present hon. member for St. Peter and one of the hon. members for St. Thomas who is still an hon. member for St. Thomas. The three of us were

on the Debates Committee during the last House. We have met as a Party and in due course I intend to propose the hon. member for Christ Church West as a member of the Public Accounts Committee. If hon. members on the other side are disposed once more to allow three persons who are not members of their Party to sit upon this Committee, we intend to nominate the hon. members for St. James and St. Peter. I would wish that a more adequate consultation on this particular point had taken place before these nominations were made, because we might have been able to avoid the necessity of speeches such as this; but in the circumstances our Party, as I said, had intended to nominate the hon. members for St. Thomas, St. James and St. Peter. While I appreciate that the Government has the numbers to do, broadly speaking, what it wants, I would urge upon the Government in this particular instance not to embarrass itself or the Opposition by trying to choose the Opposition representation on a particular Committee.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to decline the nomination to serve on the Debates Committee. I am very thankful to the Mover of the motion in this respect.

Mr. ADAMS: In the circumstances I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on this motion I do not quite follow the reasoning. Of course it is within the province of the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw nominations or his own. I think that we felt that he could make a much more useful contribution than some of the other people on his side. If he does not admit the courtesy, it is a matter for him, but what I would like to point out is that the Debates Committee is not properly constituted until members of the Senate have been nominated and it is proposed to put one of the Opposition members of the Senate on the Debates Committee and only two of our members in the Other Place. Whereas we have twelve members in the Senate and they only have two, what they want to do is to insist on 50 per cent representation all the way through. This is not how the electorate decided it because it is not 12:12; it is 12:2 in the Senate plus seven from the Governor-General's nomination in his discretion, and in here it is 18:6; so they want three and we will only have three. I do not know what kind of Government you would run in those circumstances. You might as well ask six of our people to go over and sit with them on the other side, but they would all be reluctant.

(Cheers from Gallery)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!
6.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I want to get this clear right now at the beginning of this Session. This is representation of the people, and the people of Barbados have decided how they are going to be represented. This is not even a case of proportional

representation. (Interruption by occupants of the Public Gallery.) Mr. Speaker, I am being interrupted by the Marshal. In the Canadian House of Commons we have two little page boys about twelve or thirteen years old who just stand up and fold their arms and everybody keeps quiet. He cannot make a speech in here when I am on my feet, Sir.

Let us get our sense of proportion right at the beginning of this Session. Now, the proportion is 3 to 1. If there are 6 people - I do not know how you are going to divide 3 to 1 in that ratio, but it has to be at least 4 to 2. We have only taken 3. If the hon. member wishes to nominate two people from this place to the Debates Committee, we will accept his nomination because, obviously, we are not going to force them to put people on the Debates Committee whom they consider incompetent and *vice versa*. But I would assure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that in the Other Place provision is being made that one of the two nominees of the Opposition should be on the Committee. That is a 50% representation there, and then at least one person nominated by His Excellency and two persons nominated by the Government. I do not think that anything could be fairer than that.

The Debates Committee has very important functions to perform, and we cannot abdicate the confidence which the electorate of Barbados has placed in us by surrendering the power and the decision making to the Opposition on the very first day of Parliament. It will never happen so. I do not want to start any acrimonious debate. I just want to make everybody understand that this Government will play according to the book, and we are not going to deviate or lean over backwards in anybody's favour. They will get their pound of flesh, and, if it is only an ounce which is prescribed, they will get an ounce or 16 drams.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I know this is the opening of Parliament, but certain things must be said. First of all, we talk about numbers. The last time we had three and one in the Senate, and this time two are nominated and one in the Senate. What is the Prime Minister talking about? He has not read the Order Paper and he has not listened to the nominations. He has got up to make cheap remarks about the size of the majority which he got without realising that the only people nominated and standing before the House are Your Honour, *ex officio* the three nominated by the Leader of the House, myself and the hon. member for St. Peter. So what is the purpose of that last five minutes? He has said absolutely nothing in that time. There are two members of the Opposition nominated and one from the Senate. The last time we had three and one from the Senate. You have taken away one. We are sitting down, and there are no other nominations. What is the point of making a pompous speech at this stage, when the business of the people has to be done even in so circumscribed a fashion? There are two members of the Opposition nominated, and we hear we are going to get one from the Senate. That is the end of the matter. The whole of the last 10 minutes has been time wasting.

The question that the hon. member for Christ Church East; the hon. member for St. Michael South-East; the hon. member for St. Lucy; the hon. member for St. Thomas and the hon. member for St. Peter be members of the Debate Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE *re* SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in so far as the appointment of members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank is concerned, I beg to move that the following persons be appointed to serve: the hon. member for St. Philip South; the hon. member for Christ Church South-Central, and the following gentlemen who are not members of this Chamber but who can be duly nominated in accordance with the terms of the Act: Mr. G. C. Turney, Solicitor, and Mr. Edward Pilgrim. I am asking for leave to substitute the hon. member for St. Joseph in place of the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, do I understand that you are substituting the hon. member for St. Joseph for the hon. member for St. Philip or for Mr. Turney?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I understood, Sir, that was the one amendment which the Leader of the Opposition wanted. I should like to explain that there was a Solicitor on the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank in the person of Mr. R. C. Chapman who is now the Barbados Consul in West Palm Beach, Florida, with jurisdiction over the whole of that State and some responsibility for the Bahamas; therefore, it is felt desirable that there should be a Solicitor to replace Mr. Chapman. The only amendment which the Leader of the Opposition asked for was that the hon. member for St. Joseph should be substituted for the member for St. Philip South who is not in his place.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I did not ask that he should be substituted for the member for St. Philip South; I asked that he should be given a place. I would prefer to see the member for St. Philip South there before the member for Christ Church South-Central. Believe that, I would prefer to see him there before Mr. Turney, too, although I accept what the Prime Minister has said about the desirability of having a Solicitor. I am sure that the hon. member for St. Philip South, a long-standing member of this Committee, will give good service, but nonetheless I am very glad that the Prime Minister has accepted the hon. member for St. Joseph.

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

The question that the hon. member for St. Joseph and the hon. member for Christ Church South-Central be appointed to serve as members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS *re* SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in so far as the members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board are concerned, I beg to move that the hon. member for Christ Church South-Central; the hon. member for St. George South - the Union have nominated Mr. Lawrence A. Nurse, and we are nominating Mr. Erskine Ward as the last member - be appointed to serve on the Board.

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

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

6.35 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order No. 54 I should like to nominate the following persons to serve on the Public Accounts Committee for this session:

The hon. member for St. Thomas (Chairman in accordance with the provision of the Standing Order)

The hon. member for St. Joseph

The hon. member for Christ Church West

The hon. member for St. Michael West

His Honour the Deputy Speaker

His Honour the Chairman of Committees

The hon. member for St. Michael South East

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

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

GRANT OF LEAVE TO THE CLERK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. C. R. Boyce, Clerk of Parliament, be granted leave of absence from his duties for the period 19th October, 1971 to 31st January, 1972, inclusive." I understand that the Clerk has been granted a special course and his leave has accumulated normally over a period of two years, so I hardly think that any member would disagree with this. I think that all members will support this; he has been due leave for quite some time when he was a Magistrate, and now he has been granted a special scholarship to attend a special

course. I beg to move that this leave be granted.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that hon. members would like me to express the best wishes of this House to the Clerk in pursuing this course.

APPOINTMENT OF Mr. JOHN CONNELL, LL.B.
TO ACT AS CLERK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there is another Resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. John Connell, LL.B., Deputy Clerk of Parliament, be appointed to act as Clerk of Parliament for the period 18th October, 1971 to 31st January, 1972, inclusive, during the absence of the Clerk on leave." I think hon. members will support this Resolution as Mr. Connell has already acted and served very efficiently.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF Mr. LLOYD SMITH, Jnr.
TO ACT AS DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, "BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Lloyd Smith, Jnr. LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk of Parliament for the period 18th October, 1971 to 31st January, 1972, inclusive, during the period of absence of the substantive holder of the post of Clerk.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg permission to lay the following papers:

The Customs Duties (Semi-finished Hoods for use in the manufacture of Hats) Order, 1971.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for four months ended 31st July, 1971.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for five months ended 31st August, 1971.

The Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise for the year 1970.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by the Cabinet to lay the following papers:

Report of the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Board for the period ended 31st December, 1969.

Report of the National Insurance Board on the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme for the period 1st January, 1970 to 31st December, 1970.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

The Annual Report of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for the year 1st April, 1968 to 31st March, 1969.

The Annual Report of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for the year 1st April 1969 to 31st March, 1970.
6.45 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Warrens, St. Michael, for the purpose of establishing a National Cemetery and Crematorium.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Workman's, St. George, for the purpose of constructing a Communal Bath and Latrine.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Jones Land, Black Rock, St. Michael, for providing a site for the erection of a School, a Children's Home and for a playing field.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$691,840 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1971-72 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 6, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$55,300 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72, No. 7, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve the amendment of the Note to Item 43 of Head 44 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Community Development and Youth Affairs.

Resolution to approve the amendment of the to Item 16 of Head 33 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

"WHEREAS the Standing Orders of this House are in need of revision in the light of modern trends

of debate and of the difficulties sometimes experienced in the expeditious transaction of Private Members' Business;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House re-appoint a Standing Orders Committee to be charged with the duty of recommending such alterations as may be thought necessary in the present Rules and Standing Orders."

NOTICE OF BILLS

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the advance of loans and the payment of travelling allowance to public officers required to travel for the due performance of their functions.

A Bill to consolidate and revise the laws relating to conditions of service of Governors-General and to provide pensions for such persons and their widows and children and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966.

A Bill to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1938 (1938-8).

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the advance of loans and payment of travelling allowance to public officers required to travel for the due performance of their functions, was read a first time.

On motion of Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to consolidate and revise the laws relating to conditions of service of Governors-General and to provide pensions for such persons and their widows and children and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, a Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, a Bill to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1938 (1938-8), was read a first time.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I will take this opportunity to inform hon. members of the contents of a letter from the President of the Senate.

"THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Senate have the honour on the occasion of their first meeting to extend warm greetings to the Honourable the House of Assembly.

The Senate have the honour to inform the Honourable the House that they will deal expeditiously with all measures which are sent to them from the Honourable the House.

The Senate also have the honour to invite the Honourable the House to a joint session of both Houses to be held on a cricket field during the coming Independence celebrations at the end of November.

The Senate further have the honour to inform the Honourable the House that on the occasion of that joint session of the two Houses the Senate will be presided over by Senator Rawle Brancker.

(Sgd) Sir Theodore Brancker
President"

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I hope we do not have to accept that invitation.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the will of the House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I now nominate the Opposition to represent the House in that contest.
6.55 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, before the question is put, it is obvious that the hon. member for St. John is in a frivolous mood. The invitation was extended to this whole House, and I expect that, in the circumstances, the correct thing to do is to accept the felicitations and greetings from the Honourable President of the Senate and to return ours in good grace. In those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I should like to propose a motion that this House accept the greetings from the Honourable President of the Senate and return our greetings to the Senate likewise, and that this House decide at some future time on the composition of any team which may play, if we so wish to play.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there can be two motions on the floor of the House at the same time. If the hon. member who, of course, is new in here would like to move an amendment, then I will consult with my colleagues to see if that amendment can be accepted. It is very strange to me that they who have been craving equality in matters of the Debates Committee now decline to

have all of their members on a cricket team to face the redoubtable opening bowler for the West Indies. We will defer to them. I think we will accept the amendment because, apparently, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is anxious to display his prowess.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Hon. Prime Minister has withdrawn his motion. I am surprised myself that an invitation on the first day of Parliament of that nature should have come from the Other Place. I propose to vote for the motion of accepting their felicitations.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am very much indebted to the Hon. Prime Minister for suggesting that there should be an amendment, and I will move it as an amendment to the motion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Government's Business has been concluded. I beg to move that this

House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th October, 1971, at 2.30 p.m.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR Mr. MOTTLEY

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave of absence from this House from the 22nd October to the 18th November, 1971.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I will not be opposed to that provided the hon. member is back in time for the 30th. I hope he does not call for an extension of leave.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will be back on time.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th October, 1971, at 2.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
7.02 p.m.