

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th April, 1972

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. L. G. CRAIG; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mr. A. MORRISON and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A.; M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO RELATIVES OF THE LATE SIR GREY MASSIAH.

C.B.E., M.B., C.M.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is commenced, it is today my solemn duty and privilege to pay tribute to the passing of the late Sir Grey Massiah, C.B.E., M.B., C.M., one of our distinguished doctors and an illustrious son of the soil.

Sir Grey Massiah was educated at the Lodge School, and then at Codrington College in this Island, where he secured his M.A. Degree (Classics), and then later qualified at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, where he secured his M.B., C.M.

Sir Grey served as a House Surgeon and then as a Visiting Surgeon at the Barbados General Hospital where he did very useful and beneficial

service to the community. He also served as a Parochial Medical Officer for many years in the parish of St. George. I feel that the people in St. George will mourn the loss even more than the people in other parishes.

It was in 1924-25 that Sir Grey first entered the House of Assembly and served as a member for the parish of St. James.

Subsequently, he was a Member of the Legislative Council from 1944, and from 1958-1964 he was elevated to serve as President of the Legislative Council. When the Senate replaced the Legislative Council, Sir Grey became the first President of the Senate.

Of Sir Grey, it can be truly said, he had a long and distinguished career and served his country well in many fields of endeavour.

I am sure that Honourable Members of this Chamber will wish to join me in tendering our sincere condolences to the family of the late Sir Grey Massiah in this hour of their sadness and bereavement.

I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the House places on record its deep sense of sorrow and bereavement on the passing of the late Sir Grey Massiah, C.B.E., M.B., C.M., a former President of the Senate, former President of the defunct Legislative Council and a former Member of this Honourable House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his relatives.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, it is my solemn duty to support a Resolution of this nature. I am sure that very few members on the other side as well as on this side of the House would be able to recall any of the outstanding achievements of Sir Grey. Most of us entered the field of politics a long time after he had served his country at that level. I am

glad to hear that Sir Grey once represented the parish of St. James, the constituency which I now represent. I am sure that my colleagues on this side would, therefore, like to join with me in extending sympathy to the relatives of the late Sir Grey Massiah.

I beg to second the passing of this Resolution.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I would now ask hon. members to stand and observe one minute's silence.

Hon. members stood in silence for one minute.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

- (a) Statement of Money Order transactions through the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations for February, 1972.
- (b) Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the Payment of Money Orders for February, 1972.

2.40 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Medical Registration Act, 1971.

NOTICES OF QUESTION

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member for St. Thomas, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister -

Will the Minister take the appropriate steps to have a public telephone installed at the Public Bath known as Clifton Hill Bath situate at Walkes Spring in the parish of St. Thomas for the use and benefit of local residents?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works -

Is the Minister aware that Port Contractors Limited has recently raised its handling charges for

cargo passing through the Bridgetown Harbour, in some cases by more than 40%; that this step will have an immediate and adverse effect on the cost of living in Barbados; was the Government consulted before this step was taken and has the Government given its approval thereto?

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport.

Now that the new pavilion at Bagatelle Sports Ground in the parish of St. Thomas has been opened, will the Minister take early steps to have the ground properly landscaped and better levelled for the conduct of organised games in the area?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

What plans does the Government now have for the beach area in Dover in the parish of Christ Church adjacent to Maresol Apartments recently exchanged with Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd.?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, a Bill to amend the Medical Registration Act, 1971, was read a first time.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 16 and 17 asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown are ready. I now lay the Replies to Questions Nos. 16 and 17.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, subject to any urgent matter which the Opposition may think fit to raise.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Leader of the House would indicate the reason for suspending the Standing Orders for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The reason is to facilitate Government Business being conducted, having regard to the time. At this time, it is Question Time and then Private Members' Business, but if you agree to let us dispose of the few items we

have on the Order Paper, you can then raise any matters and we will be quite willing to accommodate you, as you are so entitled. You only can have one item on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave for the Hon. Minister to take charge of Item No. 1 standing in the name of the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is asking leave for the Minister of Education to take charge of Item No.1 standing in the name of the Prime Minister, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave will be granted.

Mr. EVELYN GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1972

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Order that is before us is a very simple one and is not controversial. From time to time it becomes necessary to increase the teaching establishment in order to provide for that requisite number of teachers that carry on the business of instruction in our schools, and this is an amendment to the Order so as to make this particular provision.

The first amendment that is being proposed is that the word "assistant" wherever it appears in Paragraph 3 of the Order be deleted, and the purpose of this is to do away with the category of teacher called "senior assistant teacher" and to institute in its stead the category "senior teacher". The reason for this is that we do not have a category styled "assistant teacher" on the establishment, and hence there is no requirement for a "senior assistant teacher". We have a category called "teacher", so what we are proposing by this amendment is that the senior category would be

senior teacher rather than senior assistant teacher in as much as there is no category of assistant teacher.

The second amendment being proposed is to make provision for the term "Nursery" before the "Primary" where it appears in sub-paragraph (1) (a) and (f) and (3) (a), and this is to take cognizance of the fact that there are two Nursery Schools in existence, one at Erdiston and the other at Government Hill.

The third amendment is by way of deleting the figures "126" appearing in sub-paragraph (3)(a) and substituting the figures "132". At present the teaching establishment calls for 126 primary schools and secondary school headteachers and we are proposing that 132 headteachers be provided, and this would take care of the four new secondary comprehensive schools which we are proposing to construct and open over the coming years. These are the St. George Secondary School the Secondary School at the Garrison, the Secondary School at Fernihurst at Deacons Road, St. Michael, and the Secondary School for St. James.
2.50 p.m.

That would give us 130 Head Teachers, and the additional two are meant to take care of the nursery School at Erdiston and the nursery school at Government Hill, giving a total of 132.

We propose also by this Amendment Order, to delete sub-paragraph (3) (b) and substitute the following:-

(b) 1449 deputy head teachers, senior teachers and teachers for Nursery, Primary and Comprehensive Schools;"

The number of students projected for the year 1972 is as follows: 16,250 infants, 23,340 juniors and 2,740 seniors in the comprehensive schools. The present formula being operated calls for one teacher for every forty pupils at this level. This would therefore give requirements of 1,058 teachers on that ratio. In addition, the projection are for some 13,420 pupils in the eight secondary comprehensive schools, and these are provided for on a ratio of one to thirty-five, giving a figure of some 383 teachers so we have 1,058 teachers for the primary and all-age schools, 383 for the secondary comprehensive schools, and in addition two teachers each for the two nursery schools at Government Hill and at Erdiston, giving a total of 1,449 deputy head teachers, senior teachers and teachers for the nursery, primary and comprehensive schools.

In addition the Amendment Order calls for the deletion of the figure "2" appearing in subparagraph (3) and the substitution of the figure "6". This is to make provision for the establishment at the school for the deaf, and this is on the ratio of approximately one teacher for every ten students. There are, I believe, about 64 students now in the school for the deaf.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are the reasons for this Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1972. As I said, this is an amendment in order to make provision to take account of the present position and the projections in our schools, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are ever ready and willing to support any measure brought by Government which is aimed at improving the educational standard of our pupils. We are willing to do all we can, and when we come to this Amendment Order which is before us we have got to first ask ourselves this question. The amendments proposed do they seek in any way to relieve any of the problems with which we are presently faced in the matter of education in this island. I speak, Mr. Speaker, of overcrowding in our primary schools. Deleting the word "Assistant" is no answer in our view to any of the problems, it does not make a teacher experienced, one of our problems in our primary school system is having so many inexperienced teachers to teach our children and deleting the word "Assistant" is not going to make the teachers experienced. All this change of nomenclature may make some teachers feel smart but are we touching the basic problem? Is it going to make a teacher become more interested in teaching the children?

Let us take a look at what the Hon. Minister had to say with respect to our comprehensive schools. We do not know until today exactly what Government means by the term "comprehensive school" and we hardly believe that the Government really knows what they mean when they make use of the term in matters of education. The schools under reference have been given names time and time again, changes have been proposed and accepted, but all this name change does not make a better project being turned out from these schools. Mr. Speaker, there is no evidence of it, and what you find is that the Minister has given us figures here which show that with his new form of establishment we will find one teacher to thirty-five pupils in the comprehensive schools as against one teacher to forty in the primary or all-age schools.
3.00 p.m.

One would think, Mr. Speaker, that the teacher in the Comprehensive School would be better able to impart knowledge to 40 children, but we are not supporting this idea of 40 children to one teacher because the ratio is too wide. When you look at the physical accommodation at these schools and the problems of overcrowding; when you put 40 children in a class with one teacher, we know what problems will be created to the teacher and for the pupil. One would feel that the child in the Comprehensive School would be better able to assist itself as well as the teacher than a child in the Primary School.

In other words, in the Primary Schools you are going to find some very junior teachers as well as inexperienced ones looking after the little children. Can it offer a better benefit in the long run to give a teacher 40 children in the Primary School, than to give a teacher in the Comprehensive School 35 children some of whom do not need the type of attention that one would have to give to children in the Primary School? I think the Minister should re-examine this situation. He should obtain the views of the Barbados Union of Teachers and the Teaching Bodies as a whole, and then arrive at a decision as to how he can sort matters out in relation to placing this number of pupils to a teacher in the Primary and All Age Schools as against the Comprehensive or secondary Schools as the case may be.

Now, the Nursery School is something which should be encouraged in this island. We are glad to see that it is being re-introduced with an official tag at this stage, because there are numerous Institutions in this Island catering to the type of children for which they are intended to cater. We are satisfied that, there were more of these Nursery Schools to which parents could send their children, it would result in removing many of the headaches some parents encounter from time to time. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that our whole system of education from the Nursery School stage to the Secondary stage would be subjected to a thorough examination. A survey should be carried out by people competent and familiar with our local conditions - people who have passed through the ranks and are still with us and can give of their time and energies. I am thinking of people who know what Barbados needs in a society such as we are trying to project. Let them examine our situation, and advise the Government what is best for us.

Mr. Speaker, what we are witnessing is a hotchpotch system and this is not good for education. Education calls for long-term planning, and this must be based on something tangible. It

calls for the specialists to get down to work and lay the foundation upon which any plans are to be made in the future. This brings us back to the point where, if such a survey were carried out, we might find that much of what is now attempted at the Academic level of the Comprehensive Schools could be done elsewhere, resulting in a greater benefit, because we on this side of the House are definitely of the opinion that, upon a thorough examination of the population of our Comprehensive Schools, we must come to the conclusion that these Schools are for the most part catering to the wrong type of children.

We are now seeing that instead of 126 headships, there will be in future 132. We are going to have the St. George Secondary School, the Garrison Secondary School, the Fernihurst Secondary School, and the St. James Secondary School. I hope that I heard the Minister correctly. As I understand it, the children who are going to be taught at these four new schools are going to be 11 plus.
3.10 p.m.

As I understand the system in Barbados, immediately you are 11+ you are entering upon the secondary stage of education in this Island irrespective of what school you are attending. I believe the Minister will bear me out on this. It is only a question of whether we choose to call the school Fernihurst School, the Fernihurst Comprehensive or the St. James Grammar School; it is a question of what the children are going to be taught and at what level. That is our main concern. I would certainly like to see the Minister give very active consideration to being advised by a body competent to do so. I know that the Minister is going to tell us of his five constituent Committees some of which, we on this side will be replying to tell him have not been functioning since this Minister took office, because the present Minister has shown a preference for adhoc Committees. We are not questioning at this stage the legality of such a thing.

However, I feel that the Minister is going to do his best to see that at academic level as much as possible is done for these children who show an inclination to benefit from that type of education, and we are sure that he will take steps to be advised and will follow up the advice given, and seek to make provision for those children who cannot benefit as readily from the academic type of education that we are hearing so much about while neglecting other avenues. We have got to set about educating our children for fitting them into the society in which we are living, and the sooner our educational system is geared to that end, the

better we can hope to have the type of results that each and every one on this side of the House would like to see.

Mr. EVELYN GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a comment on something which was said by the hon. member for St. Peter who has just sat down. Now, I am referring specifically to the point which he made when he said words to the effect that what is now done at the academic level at the Comprehensive Schools can be done elsewhere. Now it seems to me that this displays a thorough lack of understanding of even the use of the term "Comprehensive"

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I never said that what is done at the academic level at the Comprehensive Schools can be done elsewhere.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. EVELYN GREAVES: It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this displays a complete lack of understanding of the use of the term and purpose of "comprehensive School". My understanding, and I am sure that it is the Ministry's idea, of a comprehensive school is that it embraces all facets of education. There is not a concentration on one area of education, but rather the ultimate objective is to cater to people at a number of levels, that is, at the academic level, at the technical level and at the vocational level, and the idea would be to provide trades for as many people as possible in the schools at the varying levels. This is the type of education which we should be attempting to provide in Barbados of the 1970s particularly for people who are going into the world in various capacities. In short, we do not want to have people going into the world who might turn out to be misfits, that is, who might be totally academic and not have a background in other areas. We want to provide educational opportunities for people so that they can fit into the world as easily as possible and this seems to be the idea of a comprehensive school; so for the hon. member to give the impression that the academic aspect of education at the Comprehensive Schools should be transferred somewhere else seems to be a complete lack of understanding of what comprehensive education is.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation, I did not say what the hon. member is saying I said....

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. FORDE: No Sir. I had thought that the hon. member for St. Peter, having raised a point,

there was going to be further debate; so if another hon. member may be disturbed at my position, I should like to clarify it for your benefit.

Sir, speaking on the Civil Establishment Order, in particular I should like to draw the Minister of Education's attention to the amendment which is being proposed to section 3(f), but particularly I believe the Government should become more aware of the need for a fundamental change to section 3(f) of the substantive Order. It seems to me that there is a duty on this country to provide education for all its children regardless of whether or not they may be physically handicapped, mentally handicapped or handicapped simply because of the difficulties of being blind and deaf. I think it is really a sad commentary on our country today that the education of mentally retarded children must still be left in the hands of private individuals and the good work of charitable institutions. I am asking the Minister to consider with his colleagues in Cabinet a change in this part of the Order so that they can provide establishment for assisting at the school for the mentally retarded children and for other physically handicapped children in this Island.

There is no doubt that some provision is at present made at the school for the Deaf, but the number of children who are born with other handicaps has been increasing by tremendous leaps and bounds, and the capacity of the private persons and charitable institutions to cater for the increase is very limited. I am aware that there has been an increase of some \$7,000 in the Estimates being given by the Government during this financial year to the school for the Mentally retarded children, but this is merely a drop in the ocean. It is certainly not enough and more comprehensive assistance is needed. The provision of teachers is needed, the special training of persons in this exercise is also needed; and I trust that the next time we are being asked to amend this Order dealing with the provision of Civil Establishment for teachers in particular, that some thought will be given to this aspect of our education.

I think that people in the past considered children, who were mentally handicapped and physically handicapped, as persons who should be hidden from society. That attitude has changed and with it therefore it is incumbent upon the Government that their attitude to the provision of education for these types of our citizens should also change. It is not enough to congratulate the Rotary Club or the Lions Club of Barbados or other persons on the work they are doing. They are doing good work and we congratulate them, but

they need more than token assistance, and I get the impression that their needs are not being appreciated by the Government.

3.20 p.m.

The other point I would like to make is to emphasise the point that Government should try as much as possible to reduce the ratio of teacher to pupil. There is no doubt that the primary schools are still in the background of this exercise. Most of our citizens, despite the provision of comprehensive schools, are not getting beyond the primary stage, and I believe that the emphasis should be continued for the next few years on improving our primary education to the standard that at that stage for the bulk of our citizens who get no further, at least are being properly looked after and getting their fair share in this country's resources. Only a couple of days ago I think you will have seen comment that a lot of the expertise of our citizens is being wasted because of the fact that we are not being able to educate them properly and the country is the poorer for that. I hope that I will see, for instance, a change to have a greater ratio of senior teachers to pupils in the primary and comprehensive schools.

Since attempt is being made to streamline these schools in allowing people to be in charge of divisions. This is a step along the right line but it is still not enough. Despite the fact that education does not account for a very sizeable proportion of our budget, I would like to think that our citizens appreciate that when we invest in education we are not only carrying out our civic duty but we are hoping to invest in the human personality itself, and this is perhaps in the long run for a country such as ours lacking in other resources, the best and the most productive and rewarding type of investment which we can undertake.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to reply briefly to the points made in this debate. I could not certainly allow some of the comments to pass without some comment. The first one I would like to deal with is the general criticism levelled that what we are witnessing is some hotch-potch in the educational system. We have instituted nursery schools. The hon. member for St. Peter has welcomed this particular move. There is nothing hotch-potch about that. It is recognised that the education of the very young can make a significant contribution towards the opening up of the talents and abilities of our people, and if more attention at this level were available, I am certain that we would see an increase in the levels of talent and ability in our community, so I would like to say at that level there is nothing hotch-potch about that. This is a solid step in the right direction, and I am glad that the hon. member for St. Peter has recognised this.

There is nothing hotch-potch at the primary level. We have pupils in our schools from approximately age five until age fourteen, and it is our policy that those who are in the eleven to fourteen age range in the primary and all-age schools should be removed from those schools and put into secondary schools especially constructed for the purpose of secondary education. What is hotch-potch about that? When such a school is set up in St. Peter, I would like to know if the hon. member would say that it is hotch-potch planning. I was most surprised, and I am certain all hon. members were surprised - and I want him to get up and say he did not say this - when the hon. member for St. Peter said that the secondary comprehensive schools are catering to the wrong type of children. I want to tell him this, that we opened recently a secondary school in St. Lucy, the St. Lucy's Secondary School, and quite a number of children from St. Peter are gaining a secondary education in that school. Is the hon. member saying that those children coming from St. Peter are the wrong type of children? This is what he got up on the floor of this House and said, that the schools are catering to the wrong type of children.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Speaker, I said this, that if a survey were carried out the Hon. Minister would learn and would be satisfied that our comprehensive schools are for the most part catering to the wrong type of children, and I would repeat this anywhere.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, for the most part. I am not prepared, as the hon. member is, to write off the children of this community and say they are the wrong types, I want to underline the point I am making, and that is, that it is the policy of this Government to provide an education for all of the children in this country whether they are sound in mind and body or whether they are handicapped in any way, that they are all entitled to the best education that this country from its resources can provide, and it is not part of our philosophy at all to speak in terms of wrong types of children. These are the children in our community and it is our solemn duty to provide the best education that all of the children are capable of assimilating. It is no part of our philosophy to talk about the wrong types.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Peter in making his contribution went into long discussion about the deletion of the word "Assistant" and stated that this does not contribute to solving the problems of overcrowding or of making teachers

more experienced. I do not want to dwell on this too long, but I certainly did not claim that this would make a contribution towards the solution of any problems of overcrowding or give more experience to teachers. Experience only comes from years on the job and the assimilation of training and learning from methods of trial and error and so on. It cannot come from substituting one word for another. I explained quite clearly. I thought that the words "Senior Assistant Teacher" implied that there was a category of teacher called Assistant Teacher.

3.30 p.m.

There was no category of Senior Assistant Teacher, so it was really a means of improving the style by which we referred to Senior Teachers. I should hope that we do not pursue matters which certainly were not raised by me in introducing this particular Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in the establishment of committees to deal with specialised matters, and I do not make any apologies for that. When the time comes for the carrying out of a survey of the educational system, this will be done. There is no objection on the part of the Government to carry out an examination or a survey of the educational system. This is, at times, salutary. I should like to tell the hon. member that when we consider that the time is appropriate for this, we would certainly carry out surveys of the educational system as we do from time to time. I believe the hon. member is referring to an over-all survey of the educational system. When we deem the time is appropriate for that it will be carried out, but there is no basic fundamental objection to any such survey.

With regard to the matters raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West, I should merely like to emphasise what he has said. There is no question at all of this Government not realising its responsibilities to all of the children in this community. In the Draft Education Bill we have included a provision for the Minister of Education to be responsible for the education of all children including those who may be handicapped either visually, mentally or physically, and within the framework of the resources of the country we will try as we have been trying, to carry out these facilities. It is not that we are unsympathetic to the needs of the handicapped. Maybe if we were there would have been no increase in the provision for the School for the Mentally Retarded, but it was because discussions were held with the representatives of the management of that school that we increased the provision from \$7,000 to \$12,000 this year.

We are planning for an increase in the facilities at the School for the Deaf, so we are very conscious of the requirements for the education of the handicapped. I can give this Honourable Chamber the assurance that we will continue to make provision and to increase the provision for the handicapped in this country, again, subject to the availability of financial resources. I am sorry that we have to qualify these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that this amending Order for providing for the increase in the Establishment should be considered as a temporary measure. The Government is currently considering an increase in the ratio of teachers to pupil. This matter is under active consideration. I cannot follow the hon. member for St. Peter who is indicating that the higher up the ladder maybe the larger number of pupil a teacher should have at his disposal. (*Asides.*) I hope I understood him correctly. I am not really pursuing that. The point is, however, that we are now having discussions within the Government. We have already carried out our analyses in the Ministry of Education, and everything is now being considered by the Establishments Division for an increase in the ratio of teachers to pupils at all levels: At the infant level, at the junior level, and at the secondary level. We have already submitted proposals for an increase in the ratio I do not want to go into the details, because we are currently considering the matter. As soon as we have reached some determination of these matters, we will bring the necessary amending Order to this Honourable House for approval.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there were any other points requiring a reply apart from the point made that there should be improvements at the primary level. That is something which we have been carrying out from time to time. Shortly I hope to announce other measures which would lead to the improvement of education at the primary level.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BAYWOODS ST. JAMES, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNAL BATH AND LATRINE

Hon. C.E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of Order of No. 2 which stands

in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks the approval of this House for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land described in the Schedule hereto as all that certain piece or parcel of land the property of John Moore situate at Baywoods in the parish of Saint James in this Island containing by admeasurement 9,490 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of George Clarke, on lands of the Estate of Julia Walcott, deceased, and on Baywood Public Road or however else the same may abut and bound. We are asking the House to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcel of land for providing a site for constructing a Communal Bath and Latrine.

The Addendum states that in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of land described in the above schedule in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcel of land.

Mr. Speaker, the land, apparently, has no good and marketable title, and there we will secure a good and marketable title by proceeding under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949. The position is that since June, 1970, the Government has been negotiating the acquisition of two small parcels of land both of which form part of this area. Government has been negotiating with the owner since the 4th June, 1970 for 2,860 square feet, in the first instance, part of other lands owned by John Moore and, subsequently, on the advice of the Ministry of Communications and Works, they further negotiated for an additional area of 625 square feet. Both of these parcels of land form part of this larger area of 9,490 square feet. If Government had acquired these two small lots, the balance of the land would have been of no use to Mr. Moore, and he wrote and offered to sell Government the balance of the area.

At the meeting of the 30th July, 1971, the government agreed that the remainder of this land then incorrectly estimated by Mr. Moore at 4,500 square feet should be acquired at a price of between \$900 to \$1,350.

3.40 p.m.

On a survey being made it was found that the area was 6005 square feet and not 4,500 square feet as Mr. Moore thought. Mr. Moore has agreed to sell the 6005 square feet which is the balance for \$1,300. This land is being sold at the rate of 30 cents a square foot. The plan is here if the hon. members want to see it, provided they pass it back.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it would appear that only when certain areas in a constituency are removed from another constituency that the people of the area seem to benefit. It was long ago that I went with the Leader of the House to Baywoods, and looked at this spot because the facilities, which they have in that area, were not good good enough. I amagine we will soon hear.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, that statement is absolutely correct. We did go there many years ago with the hon. member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: It was at my request that this was done when I asked about this bath. I believe in the not too distant future you will hear some joker say how he had to fight for this, but have no fear, I will be around. An area of 9,940 square feet is quite a bit of land just for a communal bath and latrine, and I wonder if Government, having this amount of land at its disposal and now they are about to put down these facilities, would not decide to erect a small community Centre on the land also. It is a densely populated district, and though some people may say it is only a little housespot, you can go up.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member knows quite well that the Government has already decided to put a Community Centre on the Apes Hill which is in the vicinity of Baywoods; so it would be stupid to ask the Government to put one at Baywoods when the one at Apes Hill is going to serve the entire area.

Mr. Speaker: No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member is only trying to get in the game.

I am aware of any decision the Government has made to put up a Community Centre at Apes Hill. I know the Government has been toying with the idea of putting down a housing area in Apes Hill. I have been asking for this for the longest time for the people of that district, and I drew to their attention that they should acquire the piece of land at Lascelles Plantation where the boys at Orange Hill play cricket. Now I hear that they are about to put down something. I do not trust anybody on that side. I see on the other side eighteen honourable gentlemen with two guns in their hands

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, there are not eighteen hon. gentlemen; there are seventeen honourable gentlemen and one honourable lady.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member for St. Thomas is not in his seat today, so the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works seems to think he has a field day. However, Mr. Speaker, 9040 square feet of land is quite a bit if land to use for the particular purpose, and as the Leader of the House said, no one would be able to use the remainder when the communal bath has been erected. Since we have the assurance of the Minister of Agriculture that there is going to be a Community Centre in the Apes Hill/Orange Hill/Endeavour area, I would suggest that you provide a mini park in this Session, not in 1975 or two months before the next elections in 1976, because the Government would not be able to put down street lights again; they have to find another gimmick. You can have it landscaped and have benches where the boys can play dominoes on evenings until the Community Centre has been established. I am going to congratulate the government for this. I am happy to see that after a long period the Government is going to do something of this nature. It is long overdue, and it is overdue longer in the area of Fitts Village and Prospect. I am going to repeat that you got the majority of your votes there and you should give them something too.

The former Leader of the House, the Police chauffeur driven Ambassador we have abroad, gave the assurance to this House that they were going to put a Communal bath and latrine as well as what the Minister described at the time as a miniature esplanade in the Fitts Village/Prospect area, and this is now five long years, I am told that the senior member for St. James in the 1961-66 Session has asked Government to do this, and I cannot understand why the Government is denying the

people in that particular district something of this nature. If you look at the records over the years carefully, you will see that they have always supported you. It is true I have got more support than any other member, and I am sure I am going to increase it because every now and again I am going to cut off a finger. I sincerely hope the Hon. Minister will hear me again pleading in the wilderness asking to give the people in the Fitts Village/Prospect area a communal bath and latrine, Community Centre and a miniature esplanade.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I just want to tell the House very briefly what my policy, as Minister, is on these questions of communal baths and latrines. I think very often in a desire to meet this social need we are apt to run off and ask for baths and latrines as a sort of social amenity which people desire. I want to let the House know that before any bath is put up in the future anywhere, I am going to have a survey done on a number of houses it is likely to serve and the total cost of the Waterworks Department to instal water in each house. I have myself seen in certain areas that baths and latrines are put up at a cost of \$30,000 and \$40,000, and I have the suspicion that had we carried out a proper survey of the number of houses that would be using it, that is, taking into account those that already have, because those that already have would not be using it, we might find that it would be cheaper to instal water in the houses. That will be my policy for the future in erecting these latrines. We are not just doing it because an hon. member asks for it. If I find that it would be cheaper to put water in those houses in the area, that are likely to use the bath, then that will be the policy of the Ministry under my control to be adopted in the future.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. speaker, I really did not want to talk on this Resolution, but it is after hearing the hon. member, who just sat, that I had to make a contribution. I appreciate what he said about carrying out a survey, but I am sure that when such a survey is carried out, the Hon. Minister will learn that some of the people who will have to make use of these communal baths for a very long time are people who live under conditions which are appalling. We appreciate the fact that it would be good if we could instal the water in their homes but we are satisfied that a housing programme will have to be embarked upon to make sure that everybody has a house first before you decide to instal water facilities at these places. In other words, there must be somewhere to provide these facilities and I am sure that is what the Minister is going to encounter. We do not like the idea of these communal baths, but for a very long time we will have to put up with them as best we can.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND SITUATED NEAR THE ST. THOMAS INFIRMARY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution which also stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution seeking the approval of the House for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land which is described in the Schedule to the Resolution as follows:

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land (part of a larger area the property of the Estate of Rose Drayton) situate near the St. Thomas Infirmary in the parish of St. Thomas in this Island containing by admeasurement 7,138 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of the Barbados Government being the lands of the Saint Thomas Infirmary, on the lands of Eurie Alleyne, on other lands of the Estate of Rose Drayton and on the Public Road leading to Saint Thomas Church or however else the same may abut and bound.

The purpose for which this land is required is to extend the St. Thomas District Hospital, and it is made very clear in the Addendum which states:

The owners of the land described in the Schedule cannot give a good and marketable title.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of land described in the Schedule in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcel of land.

At present the District Hospital is very dark, and with this extension there will be more space, ventilation and light for the benefit of the inmates. The plan is here and any member who wants to scrutinise it, provided he returns it, can do so. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE SUGAR FACTORY WORKERS SEVERANCE PAYMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this Bill would amend the Sugar Workers Severance Payments Act, 1965 (Act 1965-7) to provide additional sources from which monies may be paid into the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Payments Fund. Hon. members are aware that there was a tripartite committee set up to advise on all matters relating to the sugar industry, and in this matter we are invited to agree that the sum of \$1,250 would be released from the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund as a grant to the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Payments Fund to meet severance payments to workers displaced by the closing down of four factories after the 1970 crop season who qualified for such payments under the provision of the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Payments Act, 1965.

Section 6(3) of that Act, as amended by Act 1967-29, provides that the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Payments Fund shall consist of such sum as from time to time be paid into its account out of the Labour Welfare Fund in accordance with the regulations made under the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare Act, 1947 for the purpose of the Act. When this matter was referred to the Attorney General for his advice, he advised that the Price Stabilization Fund is not therefore a proper source from which such funds may be paid into the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Payments Fund, and advised further against paying money out of the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund into the Labour Welfare Fund, and that the 1965 Act should be amended in order to increase the sources of revenue for the Fund. The object of this amendment is to increase the sources of the Fund, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that at long last there is some movement: a provision for the payment to our sugar workers who have been severed as a result of the closing down of these four sugar factories in various parts of the island.

4.00 p.m.

It is extremely difficult for me to understand why this action was not taken before now particularly since, as the Hon. Leader of the House has pointed out, this matter had been referred to

the Hon. Attorney General who gave a legal interpretation on the question of the sources from which money for this particular purpose could be drawn. It seems to me that this is something which could have been done a long time ago. As most of us are aware these sugar factories have been closed for in some instances three years. It has taken three years for this to be found out and for some action be taken on a matter as important as this particularly, Mr. Speaker, when one bears in mind that these people who have been displaced as a result of the closure of the factories must have found themselves in some difficulty in order to support their families. It meant a lot to themselves and their families as far as the provision for their welfare was concerned. They no longer had a stable job and, therefore, could not provide for their families in the same way as they had been providing for them in the past. That must bring about some sort of economic hardships.

Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the callous approach which was adopted in this matter. It is nothing short of callousness on the part of the people who were concerned in dealing with this matter. This is a matter which could have been dealt with almost immediately as the factories were closed down. Anyhow, I am glad that some action has been taken. I hope that when this Resolution is approved here this afternoon, as I am sure approval will be given to it, that these workers will not have to wait for another two years, six weeks, or another month before money is released so that they can be paid.

Mr. Speaker, instances have taken place in the past where this Honourable House approved money to be released and used from various Funds to be paid to workers, and it took another six or eight months before the money was paid out. I sincerely hope that the Hon. Leader of the House will see to it that, after this aspect of the matter has been cleared, all efforts will be used to expedite the payment of this money so that the hardships which these families have been experiencing in the past will be overcome.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, may I endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Lucy. Although it may be thought that Christ Church West is not an agricultural centre, may I state that, in my constituency in areas like Rockley, Ventnor and Forde's Road, I have many persons who are affected by this Bill and by the delay in paying out funds under the provisions of this Bill. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that many of us, including yourself, have from time to time in looking after the interests of our constituents and indeed other persons other than our constituents, have had to be

writing letters to the Labour Department concerning this matter.

I think it is a bit regrettable or certainly calls for comment that when this type of legislation is passed, and when we know that we have to cater for people who are benefiting from the legislation, there seems to be no adequate machinery for dealing with their cases speedily. In many instances, unfortunately, it is the less privileged parts of our community who suffer in this respect. I should, seriously, ask the Minister to see to it that steps are taken to pay people what is due to them under the provision of this legislation. Certainly, some proper system of records should be kept.

I have already spoken in this House about updating the Labour Legislation, but labour statistics are very important in this country and the obligation should be placed firmly from now on, on persons to have the available statistics. In many instances a lot of people do not seem to have kept records, and this has caused some delay. I do not believe that this is good enough when we are dealing with rewards for people who have made a tremendous sacrifice in that part of the industry which has carried this country for several years; indeed, for the centuries that we were in existence.

I will join with the hon. member for St. Lucy in urging that adequate steps be taken to see that what funds are due to persons are paid out to them speedily.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this Bill, but I must also criticize the fact that, in making the amendments to the 1965 Act, the Government has not found it necessary to include in the amendment something which one could use to operate against persons who are employed at factories or plantations where workers who are now displaced are affected. We have had the Sugar Workers Provident Fund, and it has been in existence for some time now. I think the Fund started its payment from 1970, and up to today one can find persons who have given all of their worthwhile life to this Sugar Industry tramping the streets day after day from the various country districts to Herbert House. They are given several stories. Some are told that their forms are not in order and they will have to go to a particular plantation. The plantation manager or somebody will tell them that he was not at the plantation when they were working and he is not signing the form. (*Asides.*) All kinds of excuses are being made.

Mr. Speaker, I fear that this amendment will create the same problem which has formally been created. There should have been a penalty clause in

this legislation. It is all good and well when displaced workers know that they are going to get something, but the question is how soon they will get it. I should like to see some method devised whereby the persons who have to vouch for the workers who were employed and are now displaced would have to face some penalty if they refused, without a just cause, to verify the relevant time at which a worker was employed in order to enable him to receive his severance pay.

I should hope that the payment under this Act would take place as speedily as is humanly possible, and that we do not have the same complaint as we have had in dealing with the Sugar Workers Provident Fund. I know that the Government came here and intimated that it was necessary to supplement the Fund from resources from other places. Even though the Act has been passed you can still hear from those persons employed to administer the Fund that no meeting has been held, and that there will be a meeting next week at which certain things will be dealt with and so on. When a man is hungry, it is no good telling him that his matter will be dealt with next week, because he may never live to see next week.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is getting confused between the Sugar Workers Provident Fund Act and the Labour Welfare Fund. The point is that there is a difference between the two Acts. The workers at the Sugar Factory are properly organised by the Barbados Workers Union, and the Union negotiated the terms of employment for these people. It is already known how many people are entitled to severance payment.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not want to interrupt the Hon. Minister, but I am not sure whether I heard him correctly. Did he say that the sugar workers are properly organised by the Barbados Workers Union?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is not my fault, Mr. Speaker, if he did not hear me, and I am not going to repeat what I have said,
4.10 p.m.

The amount to be paid out to these people is already known to each person. The people to whom it is to be paid already know. We know how many sugar workers have been displaced, we know who they are and it is not a question of going back 15 or 20 years to see if this person did work for this sugar factory or not. This is already done. The position here is that we want the money. The

money could not be taken from the Price Stabilisation Fund, and this is the only sugar fund from which money is available. The Act provides that this funding should be done through Labour Welfare. Hon. members will remember that even when we wanted money for baths and latrines we have had to come here and vote money from the consolidated Fund to provide these, although it was policy that latrines should be financed through Labour Welfare Funds, because there is no money in the Labour Welfare Funds. We looked at the Act to see if we could pass the money directly from Price Stabilization Funds to the Severance Payment Funds, but we could not do this legally; so all we are doing is amending the Act to give us authority to pass the money from the Price Stabilization Fund to this Fund. What the hon. member has been speaking about was with reference to the Provident Fund where you have to go back and get somebody to produce evidence that you worked on this or that plantation. We are dealing with factories vis-a-vis plantations so I just want to raise the point that the hon. member this time is on the wrong trail; it is not unlike him, and next time I think he will get his facts correct.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation, the Hon. Minister says I am on the wrong trail. I would like to explain again for the Hon. Minister that despite the fact that the number of people is known, it is a human cry where persons have been walking day after day and there is some technicality where they are not paid. What I am saying is that it is no good telling somebody that he is entitled to something, but he cannot get it. the Hon. Minister has missed the point.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Act we are amending is the Sugar Factory Workers Severance Pay Act. I sometimes can be very unkind to the lawyers. How is it that lawyers cannot distinguish between two Acts of Parliament? We are not amending the Sugar Workers Provident Fund Act, and anything you say about that now is irrelevant.

The point I would like to make is that this is a matter which has come about by the workers themselves. This is nothing that the politicians have done. The workers decided that when they have worked anywhere for a long time they are entitled to severance payments. The statute for this is that in Barbados we had reached the stage where at one time the powers that be, were afraid to make the sugar industry pay the people directly out of their money. When a man has worked with an employer for any time and he loses his job through no fault of his own, the employer should make provision to pay him, but the sugar industry has always been put up as an industry that everybody must underwrite, and we came out with this compromise

situation that if a sugar factory closes down, the workers should be given severance pay. I have my own views as distinct from the lawyers. Now that the sugar factories have been formed into a single company, we will have to revise this again, because you cannot say that because all the sugar factories have been formed into one company that they have nothing to do with the plantations. If a sugar factory closes down, you cannot say that the factory still continues on the plantation because they are two separate entities. I am not out to have any legal quarrel and at the same time people have to wait to get their money, and for that reason when I agree with this. I am satisfied in my own mind that the factories are the ones who should have the responsibility to pay the money out of their own income because people worked with the sugar factories. This was done, and again there was legislation backwards and forwards because legislators cannot make up their minds as to who should pay. At one time there was some idea that this money should come out of the National Insurance or should be merged with National Insurance. The Barbados Workers' Union opposed it because we felt that if a man worked in the sugar industry, notwithstanding anything he is going to get from National Insurance, he should be able to draw this severance payment as of right under the Act like anybody else.

Now I am going to make the hon. member for St. Joseph understand what the Minister of Agriculture said, that the Barbados Workers' Union has negotiated an agreement like this up and down the country that if a sugar worker is working at a factory and he is severed, he gets his money the next week, the next day or in a matter of hours or days. I agree with him that there is delay, but that is because you have some bogus Civil Servants who do not understand how to operate and administer certain things, and these delays take place because normally they are poor people. I will bet you that any time you pass money in here to give civil Servants backpay it does not catch any cobweb in the Treasury. Before you can say Jack Robinson every man has his backpay and is lashing Broad Street with the things down there; but when it comes to these workers there is a lot of bogus delay, and we have had problems with the lawyers too. There was an occasion on which we had problems with the Attorney General, because he said that people were not entitled to money at Haggatts Factory; it was only maybe a coincidence that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture represented St. Andrew and he saw a problem right in his face and some method was used. You get these lawyers sometimes looking about for little legal niceties to prevent somebody from getting money. They say that they are not entitled, that the factory was not closed permanently.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would give way.....

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not mean the hon. member as Attorney General. The Attorney General was not the present Minister of Communications and Works who made that ruling. I see you all looking over here. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Hon. members who are not on their feet, please observe the Standing Orders.

Mr. WALCOTT: The problem is that that was a ruling given at one time by an Attorney General, and it delayed matters because unfortunately when an Attorney General gives a legal opinion on matters like this, it forces the Government of the day to carry out an amendment, because I do not see a Government deciding to do something legally against the Attorney General's advice. What I would like to see done in Barbados not only in the sugar industry but all over to avoid this problem now that every worker has been registered through the National Insurance Scheme, is to register every employer by law and let them submit a list of employees in a register so that you will be able to keep proper statistics of the labour force. There is no point living in an age like this and having people working at various places and nobody knows how many employers there are. I am sorry the Minister of Labour is not here to hear this. All employers should be called upon to register. You have registered 96,000 workers holding National Insurance Cards, and there are not 96,000 employers in Barbados; so let us have this done. When it comes to matters like these, hon. members in this Chamber might not know much about them and mix one with the other and think they are talking correctly because they may have a few people to deal with, and we have this as a problem. 4.00 p.m.

I sat on both committees in the beginning, and it was the pressure of the workers that caused the Government to pass this legislation giving severance pay. There is another Severance Payment Act which was passed and is still to be implemented as a result of this same sort of lack of information in Barbados, and I think the time has come to avoid some of our basic manpower and employment problems, and you should register all the employers in Barbados. If all the employers in Barbados were registered there would not be any problem with anybody else. I know that there is no problem with the factories. Three Houses, Springhall, Warrens's and the Belle factories have all closed down and none of these people has received any money. The reason for that was that this money should have been paid out of the

Labour Welfare Fund and the Labour Welfare Fund did not have enough money in it to pay, and the amendment now is that you should have revert to the Price Stabilization Fund or any source because this is a commitment the Government has made. The people are entitled to it so you must pay it, but it came out of the Labour Welfare Fund and you find that this was under the Labour Welfare Fund and two years ago somebody somewhere did not see that it had to come out of the Labour Welfare Fund, but then there was no money and they find they could not pay out of the Price Stabilization because the Act did not give the Government any permission to do it.

Now that this is done, I hope that the Minister concerned will set about to give a directive to the Departments concerned that they should undertake and carry out these important surveys so that when you pass an Act like this, you are not going to find that if it is approved by the Senate that people have to wait for another month before they get their money. These people have been very patient and one must say that two years is a long time to wait for money. I feel that these are the things that will irritate people and I hope that when we pass this Bill today, efforts will be made to get the machinery in operation to pay these people the money as expeditiously as possible. I know some of the people have died since the factories closed down, and the beneficiaries should be given the money as quickly as possible. I hope when this is done the Department of Labour or the Minister of Labour will see to it that steps are taken very soon to institute the register of all the employers in Barbados so that this important information which is so vital to our country and the various needs we have will be available on record and we will not make the errors we have made in the past by either over - or under-estimating but we will have a better record of the true position of our labour force.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

The Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, 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. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was read and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This now concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to

move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th May, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.30 p.m.