THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st August, 1972.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.40 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P. (Acting Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committes); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C. B. E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); and Mr. A. MORRISON;

Prayers were read.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to lay documents at a later stage in the sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Permission is being sought for various documents to be laid later in the sitting. If there are no objections, leave will be granted. Leave is granted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I draw to Your Honour's attention Order 29 Rule 2, "Every member is to be uncovered when he enters or leaves the House"

Mr. SPEAKER: In relation to what is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. ADAMS: With great respect, Your Honour, to the fact that Your Honour is wearing a hat in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member say that when the Speaker was wearing a wig, he was therefore covered? I think the hon. member is entirely out of order.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am entertaining no more discussion.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, I am drawing to your attention that that is a robe of office and you do not want to hear me. I did not come in here in a box cart.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, can I take it then that at the next meeting I will be in order to wear a wig?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will be quite out of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am ready now to proceed to lay the documents.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Notices is the Order of the Day.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the law relating to the age of majority to persons who have not attained that age, and to the time when a particular age is attained and for connected purposes.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following resolution:

WHEREAS it has been proved beyond doubt that Community Centres are very beneficial to all the areas which are served by them;

AND WHEREAS there are areas where the erection of such centres is a pressing need;

AND WHEREAS the following districts: Club Morgan, Bonnetts, Britton's Hill, Clapham and Forde's Road constitute one such area which is in need of a Community Centre;

AND WHEREAS there is also an urgent need for a proper Housing Area and Day Nursery at the said Bonnetts, Britton's Hill, Clapham and Forde's Road;

AND WHEREAS Bourda Grounds also known as Crane's Pasture in the Parish of Christ Church provide a very accessible and suitable site for the erection of such a Community Centre, a Housing Area, a Day Nursery and other social facilities for the above mentioned area;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to give immediate consideration to the establishment of such a Housing Area, a Community Centre, and a Day Nursery together with other social amenities and facilities in the Bonnetts, Britton's Hill, Clapham, Club Morgan and Forde's Road area;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government takes such appropriate steps as may be necessary for the erection of these facilities on Bourda or Crane Pasture or on some other suitable site in the vicinity.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair. Mr. Deputy SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the following:

(1) The Caribbean Free Trade Association (Specified Countries) Notice, 1972.

(2) The Customs Duties (International Laboratories Limited) Order, 1972.

(3) The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1972.

(4) The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1972.

and on my own behalf, the Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1971.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $19,573 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1972–73, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1972–73, No. 6, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Statutory Boards (Pensions) Act 1969.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $92,821 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1972–73 Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972–73, No. 5 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $69,323 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates, 1972–73 Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972–73, No. 7, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

2.50 p.m.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:–

Is the Minister aware that the Pine Hill Dairy is offering for sale in bottles and cartons, milk which is unfit for human consumption, because of the following amongst other reasons:–

(a) The brushes and brooms used in cleaning the waste water drains are the same used for the cleaning of the milk tanks in which pre-processed milk is stored;

(b) The brooms used for scrubbing the factory floors are the ones used in scrubbing the floors in the changing rooms and the toilets on the premises;

(c) Due to inadequate and improper storage facilities waxed milk cartons that are known to be rat-infested and roach-breeding are filled with milk and offered for consumption by the public; and

(d) Milk in bottles is marketed repeatedly before results of laboratory tests are known?

2. Can the Minister state on what dates during 1971 and in 1972 to date the Public Health Department took samples of Pine Hill Dairy products for Government analysis?

3. What has been the result of each such test?

Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Statutory Boards (Pensions) Act 1969 be now read a first time.

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

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the law relating to the age of majority, to persons who have not attained that age, and to the time when a particular age is attained, and for connected purposes be now read a first time.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 27 asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 28 asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 29 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is ready.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 30 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with your permission, I now lay the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 20 asked by the hon. member for St. Thomas.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 27 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister.

(a) Would the Minister state for the benefit of this Honourable House what percentage of the Barbados Marketing Corporation activities is taken up in the importation, purchase, and distribution of non-local commodities?

(b) What are the specific canned foods which are handled and distributed by the said Barbados Marketing Corporation?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows:

The percentage of the Barbados Marketing Corporation's activities in the purchase, importation and distribution of non-local commodities is 35%. (This figure applies to 1971–72).

The specific canned foods handled by the Barbados Marketing Corporation are as follows:

1. Canned Fish

Salmon
Pilchards
Sardines

2. Canned Fruits

Pears
Peaches
Plums
Mixed Fruits

3. Jams and Jellies

An assortment of sizes and flavours

4. Juices

Orange Juice
Grapefruit Juice
Apple Juice
Pineapple Juice
Mixed Juices (a small supply of nectars)

5. Corned Meats

Corned Beef
Hams
Bacons
Sausages
Luncheon Meat
Ham Roll

6. Vegetables

Beans
Beets
Carrots
Processed Peas
Mixed Vegetables.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, will the Hon. Minister deny that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is now trading as a local Supermarket?

3 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would not be in the interest of the public to deny that, because the public has begun to buy their commodities from the Barbados Marketing Corporation and thereby reduce their cost of living as the commodities at the Barbados Marketing Corporation are by and large sold at a more reasonable price than similar commodities at other supermarkets on the outside, but the Barbados Marketing Corporation is not a supermarket as the hon. member tried to imply. It is really for the purpose of standardising and stabilising prices; so it will serve no better and useful purpose than that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Hon. Minister say who are the suppliers to the Barbados Marketing Corporation of such things as canned beans, beets, carrots, salmon, sardines and pilchards?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no answer, the next question.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is Question Time and I have a right to pry into the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I do not want to make a row today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you wouldn't.

Mr. BOLDEN: I really would not like to, but I am against Ministers who want to hide what is going on at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I know what I am getting at.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member cannot make a speech in Question Time; he can only ask questions.

Mr. BOLDEN: And get discourteous replies to questions asked.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Provided a question is a reasonable one, it will be answered. I am not the Minister under whom, the Barbados Marketing Corporation falls, so to ask me where they get canned beets from is not in the file.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that is not in the file, would the Minister say the amount of canned beets which were imported last year and what part of last year they were imported?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, all these are the subject matter of separate and independent questions which the hon. member has a right to ask. All that calls for research and investigation which cannot be conducted here and now.

QUESTION RE RADIO 900 A.M. & F.M.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 28 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:–

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:–

In view of the fact that the announcers at C.B.C. frequently speak of Radio 900

A.M. & F.M. Would the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable Chamber

(a) The power in watts of the said F.M. Transmission.

(b) If the F.M. Transmitter is omni-directional or not.

(c) What area coverage does it provide.

Since many persons within two miles of C.B.C's Pine office complain of not being able to receive the alleged F.M. broadcast, though having the necessary equipment to do so, would the Minister state how soon this advertised F.M. Transmission will cover a 360° radius?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 28 is as follows:—

1. The power of the F.M. Transmitter is approximately 40 watts radiated.

   The radiated pattern is not omnidirectional at present.

   The radiated pattern is directed to St. Lucy with the more minor lobes covering Christ Church and St. Philip. However, reports of satisfactory reception have been received from areas in St. Philip, St. Joseph, Christ Chruch and various parts of the island.

2. It is expected that a separate F.M. station will be established within six months and the service will be powerful enough to cover the whole island.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Hon. Minister tell us what parts of Christ Church, St. Philip and St. Joseph, this alleged F.M. had been received from?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: The F.M. service is not received from all these places; it may be received in some of these places, but as far as parts of Christ Church are concerned, I certainly would not be in a position to detail the parts of Christ Church and St. Philip in which it is received.

Mr. ADAMS: Will the Minister tell us without looking at his file what F.M. and A.M. stand for?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I certainly am no expert. One is frequency modulation and I have forgotten the name of the other. I do not pretend to know very much about this as some of my friends on the other side. I am not an expert on all things.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Minister deny that the present transmitter is directed to the Black Rock area only?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member would ask reasonable questions, he would get answers which are satisfactory.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can scarcely hear the Minister because of members on the Government benches speaking. Please speak in undertones.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this F.M. service was established about 18 months ago for the prime purpose of establishing a link between the Pine Studios and Black Rock. The purpose was to ensure constant communication in case there should be some disaster such as a hurricane whereby the telephone lines and other means of communication might be destroyed. When this was established for that particular purpose, it was found that other areas had begun to receive this reception and in consequence, it was decided in order that those people who might be able to pick it up should be able to do so, to publicise the frequency of the service, and that was the sole reason why other people are picking it up now. As I have stated already, it is the intention within this year to create an F.M. service for the entire Island.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Minister say what is the cost of putting in this present F.M. service?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if a question of that nature were asked, I would be glad to find out the information.

QUESTION RE ROCKFIELD SOCIAL CENTRE, ST. LUCY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 29 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:—

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

1. Is the Minister aware that the Rockfield Social Centre in St. Lucy is in a dilapidated condition, in dire need of repair and expansion, and that the playing field is in need of proper development?

2. Is the Minister aware that this centre plays a vital role in the social and cultural life of the St. Lucy community and that its poor condition seriously hampers its ability to do so?

3. Will the Minister state precisely what action his Ministry proposes to take to rectify this state of affairs?

Hon L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 29 is as follows :—

In order to ensure that the Rockfield Community Centre and Playing Field continue to play a vital role in the social and cultural life of St. Lucy I propose to carry out repairs, alterations and extensions to the existing building. It is envisaged that the bar and refreshment area would be increased, the hall enlargened and a platform included, additional toilet facilities provided, and a storeroom and an office for the Welfare Assistant added. As far as practicable, the playing field would be levelled, rocks removed, and a paved access to the Centre provided.

Mr. GREAVES: I would like to know if the Minister can state whether this proposed expansion and development will include the installation of a telephone.

3.10 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is the policy of the Government, as far as is practicable, to supply telephones at Community Centres. I cannot now state whether those repairs and alterations to which I have made reference, would include the provision of a telephone.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 30 standing in the name of the same hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. GREAVES: To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:—

1. Is the Minister aware that difficulties are experienced by the travelling public particularly from the St. Lucy area in obtaining public transport to and from the City of Bridgetown?

2. Is the Minister aware of the valuable service which the Minibuses and pick-ups are performing in relieving this hardship?

3. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties which some minibus and pick-up operators experience in obtaining permits?

4. Will the Minister state precisely what are Government's intentions in this matter?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reply to Question No. 30 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is as follows:—

Although the Transport Board provides a service on an hourly basis at peak periods, the Board has so far been unable to supply adequate means of transport for all members of the public travelling between St. Lucy and Bridgetown at all hours of the day. For that reason 14 mini buses and pickups with a carrying capacity for 229 persons have been granted permission to carry passengers on these routes to supplement the Transport Board's equipment.

In January 1971, operators of mini buses and pick-ups then plying for hire were invited to apply for permission to operate these vehicles. Following this, permission was granted to those operators who met the requirements of the Ministry.

The future of the mini buses and pick-ups will be taken into consideration in connection with an overall study of the Transport system.

Mr. GREAVES: I would like to find out how soon this study will be done and whether there is any possibility of a further expansion in the number of people who are allowed to bring people from the St. Lucy area to Bridgetown.

Mr. WEEKES: I am not in a position to state when we will deal with the matter of increasing the number of mini buses and pick-ups. On the other hand, I would like you to know that the Transport Board has complained on numerous occasions of finding it almost impossible to balance their budget owing to the fact that the mini buses, they claim, have reduced the number of passengers which the buses must carry.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 5 under Private Members' Business is by its nature a reflection upon the Chair, and it is, I believe, the custom of Parliament that such questions should be dealt with expeditiously, that is, on the very rare and unusual occasions that the Opposition decides to call into question the Speaker's conduct and ruling – I remember only two such occasions in my experience.

Although to my understanding this is likely to be the last meeting of the House before its recess, I am sure that all hon. members – I am glad to be corrected by the Leader of the House – I think that the item contained under Order No. 5 is likely to last a great deal longer than might have been expected. These are merely prefatory remarks.

I move that item No. 5 be the first Order under Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has intimated that today will be the last sitting of the House before the recess. It will not be, because there are certain outstanding matters to be dealt with and certain provisions to be made; and there is a Bill which we have standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing to amend the Public Holidays Act. If we go on recess today, we might have to recall the House from the recess. It may be necessary to meet for another two weeks to have these bits and pieces of legislation and the necessary provisions made for carrying out the business of the Government over the next two or three months when the House is not sitting. I want to say to members of the Committee appointed to deal with the Public Holidays Act in connection with October 24, United Nations Day, that if the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues were to look into this Act, they will see that the Governor General has power under this Act to declare any day a public holiday. If the 24th October is not a Monday, the Monday in that week can be declared a holiday.

I think that the Committee should report or be dissolved. I am not sure what the procedure is. We cannot have the recess before we have the Public Holidays Act completed. If we go into recess I would not like the House to be recalled in order to deal with that. We cannot wait until October 24th to deal with that. In any case setting it out in the Act is unwarranted.

Mr. ADAMS: If I can resume my speech, I am surprised that the Minister.....
3.20. p.m.

None the less what has been said is so relevant to the motion I am trying to make that we deal with this as the First Order of Private Members' Business, that I do not think it requires a reply. The Minister of Education can deal with such matters in the House at another time. For the reason I have suggested, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the First Order of Private Members' Business.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION RE SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my point in seconding the motion that Item. No. 5 be the First Order under Private Members' Business is because it is a very wide range Resolution. It deals basically with the conduct of Mr. Speaker, and if you yourself will have enough time to read it – I should like to draw it to your attention that about two weeks ago or thereabouts I bought before Parliament a Resolution which would have been asking the Government to consider passing certain bits of legislation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must say that Mr. Speaker is most ignorant and very ignorant of his duties and ignorant of the responsibility which.....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, how can Your Honour sit and allow the hon. member

to be making such derogatory statements about His Honour the Speaker? What is this coming to? Your Honour sitting in the Chair and allowing the hon. member to make derogatory statements about His Honour the Speaker! If this goes on we may have to adjourn. These statements should be withdrawn. You cannot admit them. I should not have to rise at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was about to stop him but he just continued repeating it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I had expected him to go off that line, but there is no doubt that what he is saying is insulting. I would not admit behaviour like that. I think it is entirely out of place, it is intended to be abusive and to launch an attack of that nature against His Honour the Speaker is capable of being regarded as using scurrilous language, and if not abusive, it is wrong. I think it is entirely uncalled for and it should be withdrawn because it means that we are trying to hold Mr. Speaker up to ridicule in the eyes of the public and it is against the Standing Orders of this House, especially as the majority of members in here are sitting for the first term and the hon. member for St. James is the only member who has been in here for such a long time as he had – some seven years – and he is giving a very bad example to members who have been in here for a shorter time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask that those words be expunged from the record, and I would ask the hon. member for St. James to withdraw the remark.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should try my very best not to put you in a very awkward position. You have asked me to withdraw the remarks. No. 1; what remarks? No. 2. You asked to have the remarks removed from the records. I withdraw the remarks since they have already been made and you have asked me to do so and I am going to obey you and withdraw them but that does not necessarily remove them because that is my personal opinion about the Speaker. I say that he is ignorant of his duties in Parliament....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member continues with that, I will move a substantive motion. You cannot allow any member in this House to make such a remark against another member; no member should make a remark like that against another member, furthermore against Mr. Speaker as Speaker. It is a gross insult, and you should ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member for St. James not to continue in the same vein, using insulting language against the Speaker or against any other member in this Chamber. If he wishes to continue speaking on his Resolution, he may do so in a proper way, without using any insults or insulting language. If the hon. member continues to use insulting language, I shall ask him to leave the Chamber. I can hear him or any other hon. member on the Resolution.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution, Sir, amounts to a motion of censure against the Speaker. In moving such a motion an hon. member can express his point of view, as to the capabilities of the Speaker, – whether he is ignorant, blind or whatever it is.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue to speak, but do not use abusive language.

Mr. HINDS: Very few of us do not use abusive language in here – either abusive or indecent language.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have a proper debate and I am willing to hear it, otherwise I will have to bring this meeting to a close.

Mr. HINDS: For any one of us to say that a counsel is ignorant of the law is not abusive, and to say that a man is ignorant of psychology or that he is ignorant of philosophy or that he is ignorant of religion, is not abusive language....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you addressing the Chair?

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Sir. I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I were to say that the member for St. Michael West is ignorant of his duty on behalf of the people he represents so far as his business is concerned, would that be abusive language?

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I were to say that the member for St. Michael West is ignorant of his duties as a politician would that be an insult or would that be abusive language? If I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a minister is ignorant of something within his ministry, would that be abusive language? If I may say then Sir, that Mr. Speaker is ignorant of his duties in here, is that an insult or abusive language? I am only asking.

I would like to suggest to you, Sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you may say it is too strongly put, but how can you say that it is insulting or abusive? This is my view and I shall point it out to you in the course of my debate. I do not mind the pop guns over the other side – overnight jokes. I do not pay them any attention.

This is the resolution Sir: "Whereas His Honour the Speaker ruled on the 4th day of July, 1972 that the resolution moved by the hon. member for St. James was out of order" – merely just the first few sentences Sir, would show quite clearly that in my view Mr. Speaker was ignorant of his duties. I am developing a point Sir, I am saying that since this resolution can reach here the Speaker gave a wrong ruling. This is a resolution Mr. Speaker has permitted to come here. It is, therefore, my opinion that Mr. Speaker was ignorant of that particular ruling and therefore it is relevent to his duties.

Now Sir, we go further on. This is the resolution: "And whereas it is the constant complaint that food prices are steadily rising and that the general cost of living has moved considerably upwards since the old age pensions have been increased, be it resolved that this House requests the government to consider" I want you to take a note of those words 'to consider' – "raising old age pensions from $5 to $15 per week." Note carefully, Sir, 'to consider'.

Now if I may draw to Your Honour's attention Sir, Standing Order 59 numbers 1 and 2, this is what it says;– "Except on the recommendation of the Cabinet the House.....

.....

Now in my resolution Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not asked the Government to charge or to impose a charge on the taxpayers of this country. I ask the Government to consider. That is why Mr. Speaker is ignorant of his duties, Sir. To consider; note carefully Sir. I am asking the Government to consider raising the old age pensions because of the high spiralling cost of living – to meet the cost of living. That is what I am asking. I am asking the Government to consider. Mr. Speaker says it is out of order. But Standing Order 59 makes it abundantly clear that when Mr. Speaker ruled this resolution out of order that he (Mr. Speaker) was ignorant of the Standing Order which forms part of his duties. I shall say at this stage Sir, that I have no respect for Mr. Speaker's rulings as has been clearly made by other members on the other side. Only a few weeks ago, Sir, Mr. Speaker had what we call, a dressing of the chair, from the Minister of Labour. He just escaped the tongue of the Minister of Communications and Works. Needless to say that the hon. member for St. Michael West is always ready to cut his head off and he has made remarks to Mr. Speaker repeatedly of his behaviour, his conduct in the chair for not allowing members to speak freely. As you rise to say something "take your seat". Like if he believes somebody came in here in a box cart. A man who cannot earn his living at the bar, could come in here and tell people who are hon. members like himself, "Take your seat and take it immediately." I thought he was ignorant enough to sit down in the chair today. I believe you suggested to him not to sit in the chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of Order. I do not know that I ever challenged the ruling of the Speaker. I might not always agree on a particular view but I have never yet had any debate with the Speaker about his rulings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. CRAIG: We know you are back in Barbados. James Bond, we know you are back. We read it in the papers. Take it easy.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. The hon. member did say, and what he attemped to mean in fact was, that his Hon. the Speaker, a man who could not make his living at the bar.... Do you allow that Mr. Deputy Speaker? If you allow that in parliament I am drawing it to your attention. A man who could not make his living at the bar! I regard that as being a very derogatory and defamatory statement, because his Honour has only just started practising and to say that he cannot make his living at the bar – that sort of thing does not suit in here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member continue his debate?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is not in a position to know whether he makes a living or not.

Voice: Do you know? *(Asides.)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member is trying to imply that he is a failure at the bar and a failure in here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member refrain from making such insulting speeches.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to refrain from what I should refrain from and that is what I am doing. But I am not going to sit down here and allow members on the other side to tell me something and then you tell me to refrain from doing this. It is you, Mr. Deputy Speaker that I am going to listen to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you permission to continue. I shall listen to you intently now.

Mr. CRAIG: Thank you very much Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker we go on.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. Standing Order 26 section 7. "No member shall impute improper motives to any member," and any remark that is made and for a subsequent motion to be here which challenges the Speaker in the vulgar and uncouth language that is being used: that a man, and a man in reference to his Hon. The Speaker, who could not make a living at the bar is not only against the rules, it is vulgar and unparliamentary and below the dignity of any man who is a member of this honourable chamber.

Mr. CRAIG: I withdraw the remark.

Mr. WALCOTT: What we read in the paper this morning should be a lesson to some of us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. WALCOTT: What I say is that it is below the dignity of any member of this honourable chamber to make such a remark.

Mr. CRAIG: The member for St. Michael West is playing shots all around the wicket.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you continue the debate?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes Sir. Now Mr. Deputy Speaker we go on further Sir. I have said that to my mind Mr. Speaker is ignorant of Standing Order 59. The resolution goes further. "Whereas the government has attempted to keep pace with other progressive countries in providing the senior citizens with token privileges in honour of their previous contributions to the economy of the country and whereas old age pensioners in Barbados are now permitted to ride free of charge on Government buses.....
3.40 p.m.

I am not asking Government to impose a charge on the taxpayers of this country, I am asking them to give the same opportunity to the old age pensioners who ride on the buses owned by the private concessionaires as those who travel on the buses owned by the Transport Board. It is as simple as that, I am not asking them to do anything, I am asking them to consider it. I am just drawing this to the attention of the House. I am asking the Government to consider something, and Mr. Speaker in his folly refused to allow this Resolution to come before Parliament.

Now we go further, "AND WHEREAS the said Ruling was not warranted by the Standing Orders of this Honourable House; and is wrong;

BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker's said Ruling be expunged from the Records of this Honourable House and that the Honourable Member for St. James be permitted to give notice of the said Resolutions."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can cite a number of instances in here where Government members had to draw to Mr. Speaker's attention that he was wrong, and the most recent one was when Mr. Speaker said that he was not going to tolerate any hasty legislation coming down here, and asked that the Bill be sent back to the Senate. The Minister of Agriculture had to draw to Mr. Speaker's attention that he could not do that because he does not have the power, but that the House must pass a motion to send it back to the Senate. That is one of the instances. It is for the House not to tolerate legislation, not for Mr. Speaker. This shows you quite plainly that Mr. Speaker is ignorant of the Standing Orders. I am going to bring a resolution in here asking the Government to give him a course in England, because it would be unfair to the taxpayers of this country and to hon. members in here to be guided all the time by Mr. Speaker's rulings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what can $5.00 do in a day like today?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member is in this resolution questioning the ruling of His Honour the Speaker. He is questioning His Honour's ruling as to whether a resolution ought to be admitted in this House to be debated. The hon. member is quite out of order to attempt to debate the same resolution. If he wants to question His Honour's ruling by this substantive motion, let him do it, but I do not think it is fair to you for him to come here to try to get around you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to debate the same resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point well made. The hon. member will speak on the ruling.

Mr. CRAIG: There is no ruling before the House, there is a resolution which I read quite clearly to you just now. Am I to take out part of the resolution and debate it and not debate another part?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps I too will be ignorant as the hon. member pointed out, but as I understand the resolution, it is a resolution that Mr. Speaker's said ruling be expunged from the records of this Hon. House and that the hon. member for St. James be permitted to give notice of the said resolutions. How in the name of goodness can the hon. member come in here asking for permission to give notice of the resolution which he is now debating?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the hon. member continues, this is the resolution:

"WHEREAS His Honour the Speaker ruled on the 4th day of July, 1972 that the following Resolutions moved by the Honourable Member for St. James were out of order namely:—....." then it states the Resolutions and then it goes on:

"BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker's said Ruling be expunged from the Records of this Honourable House and that the Honourable Member for St. James be permitted to give notice of the said Resolutions".

We are not really debating these Resolutions, as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has said, we are debating the Ruling which is contained in the preamble which I have read, plus the last part of the Resolution "BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker's said Ruling be expunged from the Records of this Honourable House and that the Honourable Member for St. James be permitted to give notice of the said Resolutions". We are not debating the substance of these Resolutions, and the hon. member knows that too.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, why do you not tell hon. members not to question your ruling?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I only want to hear you on the part of the Resolution which states: "BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker's said Ruling be expunged from the Records of this Honourable House and that the Honourable Member for St. James be permitted to give notice of the said Resolutions". If you care to, you can give notice of them but no debate can be entered into on these Resolutions.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am appealing to you – and you know, Sir, that of all members in here I would appeal to you – to let the Clerks assist you. They are trained in this field, you are not a trained Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am acting as Speaker here today and any ruling I give, you will have to abide by it. I am Speaker today and what I say, goes. If it is right, it is going, and if it is wrong, it is going, I am the Speaker.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I thought it my bounden duty to assure Your Honour of the full cooperation of the Government benches insofar as observing your wishes and we will not be a party to the insinuations, which the hon. member is trying now to impute. He tried first with the Speaker and he is now coming to you with the chain of abusive language he is attempting, and I am glad to see that Your Honour took it up in the right way, because unless you take it that way, you are not going to get things working in here as they should.

Mr. CRAIG: The Deputy Prime Minister would know that I have a deep respect for him, but I will wait on him to withdraw the remarks that I have used abusive and insulting language. I am sure that you would not allow me to use abusive language in here, I am asking that the Deputy Prime Minister withdraw those remarks. 3.50 p.m.

I am objecting to that statement, sir.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. *(Asides.)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the hon. member for St. Michael West permission to speak on a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a grave insult to the Chair for any member to say that the person in the Chair is not a trained Speaker, and when any member uses those words to the Chair, he is either ignorant of Parliamentary Rules, or he wants to insult the Chair. There is no such thing as a trained Speaker. We have a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. When the Deputy Speaker is in the Chair he is performing the duties of the Speaker, and it is a grave insult for any member to say to the Deputy Speaker that he is not a trained Speaker.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Do I understand the hon. member

to say that there is no such thing as a trained Speaker? I am sure the hon. member for St. James will reiterate it. Speaking on behalf of the Opposition, what we are saying is that the job of Speakership requires no training. That is, all the members of the Opposition are saying in a matter such as this. I should like to join with the Leader of the House in expressing every confidence in you. There are degrees of quality and competence between Speakers, and Your Honour shows a higher degree of competence than the Speaker. That is our view, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking you to call on the Leader of the House to withdraw those remarks. He said that I was using abusive language.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I did not say that he used abusive language. I said insulting language.

Mr. CRAIG: You said abusive and insulting language, and I could not do that sort of thing to you. I have always treated you with the greatest respect. What you have said is also casting a reflection on the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard hon. members on both sides of the House, and I would like this Debate to continue. The Hon. Leader of the House was clarifying a point when he said that the hon. member for St. James was using insulting and abusive language to the Chair. I am asking the Hon. Leader of the House to withdraw those remarks.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am willing to get the people's business done. If I used the word "abusive", I will withdraw it. The hon. member was using insulting language all the time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. Will the hon. member for St. James continue.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution makes it quite clear why Mr. Speaker did not want it to come before Parliament. He said that it imposed a charge against the Government. I merely asked to raise the old age pension from $5 to $15. We know that $5 per week cannot....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Three hon. members are on their feet!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have drawn your attention to the fact that the substance of the Resolution cannot be debated on a Resolution which questions His Honour's Ruling. The hon. member is asking in this Resolution that the House condemns His Honour's Ruling and that he be permitted to introduce the said Resolutions. He cannot discuss the contents of that Resolution in this debate.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not discussing the contents of this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are to discuss why Mr. Speaker ruled wrong.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker refused to allow the Resolution to come before Parliament by saying that it was asking Government *(Asides.)* He said that it imposed a charge against the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I came to this House to introduce a Resolution, it is for me to say why I introduced the Resolution when it is being discussed. The hon. member is now explaining why he is introducing this Resolution. If he has nothing more to say on this Resolution regarding Mr. Speaker's Ruling, then he should take his seat. If this House condemns the Speaker's Ruling and permits him to introduce the Resolutions, he can then explain things.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as Your Honour said at an earlier stage.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, on what has the hon. member for St. Thomas risen? The hon. member for St. James is the substantive speaker; he has not completed his address, although I think he should have. The hon. member can only rise on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. member said that the hon. member for St. James gave way.

Mr. ADAMS: I constantly give way to the Leader of the House, and he gives way to me. Your Honour said that the hon. member for St. James could deal with his Resolution....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House has just caused something to be done which is very irregular. There is no such thing as giving way when a member is making a substantive motion. When one of his colleagues gets up and addresses the

Chair, he cannot get up and tell us about his colleague giving way to him. A Minister may say to somebody that he is giving way in order to sit down and allow him to make a point. I think the Hon. Leader of the House wants the hon. member to give way now so that he can make a few points.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I hear the hon. member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister of Labour said that I referred to him as being ignorant.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. The Minister of Labour is not here.

Mr. CRAIG: I should have said the Minister of Agriculture. Nobody who could amass a fortune in such a short time could be ignorant.
4. p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my view is that the reason why Mr. Speaker refused to allow this Resolution to come before Parliament was due to the fact that he said when he was giving his Ruling that it was out of order, but what could be out of order in this? I am not asking the Government to raise the old age pensioners' money, I am asking the Government to consider the raising of old age pensions because of the spiralling cost of living.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There again the hon. member is trying to sidetrack and get off the line. He will speak on the Resolution or I will close the debate.

Mr. CRAIG: Can you do that?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you about to question my ruling? You will soon see.

Mr. CRAIG: I am asking if you can.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I am really alarmed at this business of the closure of debate. You can only close a motion that has been seconded. It is true a Speaker can do anything right or wrong, but the Rules only allow you to close the debate to a motion, and it is not a motion that has been seconded, and I am sure Your Honour would not be so hostile to the rights of the Opposition.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing continuous repetition from the hon. member, and if it continues there will be only one ruling. I know what to do.

Mr. CRAIG: I did not know that this would have caused so much thunder from the other side. I was given the assurance by one of the Ministers on the other side that he was going to support this Resolution. I would hate to call his name now because that would be nasty. I am trustworthy and I do not betray a man's confidence, but outside in the Lobby, he said repeatedly that Maxwell only went to school long but he does not know what is going on in here and he is prepared to back this Resolution. I am surprised to see that the member on the other side is jumping up every minute trying to stop the debate on this Resolution making this look like some comedy show. You were in here and heard some of the rulings given by Mr. Speaker that were questioned repeatedly by members on the other side, and it is out of this that I feel very strongly about Mr. Speaker's attitude towards members of Parliament. You even heard the Minister of Labour tell him a few days ago that he did not come in here in a boxcart and he would not sit down. That is a censure on the Speaker by a Minister of Government. All these things you have heard in here about Mr. Speaker and Mr. Speaker will tell you that if there is one person who set out to assist him in his way, it was me because I gave him this book which I have in my hand to read and said I sincerely hoped he would make a better Speaker than the former Speaker of this House, and his reply was that he was prepared to do this; but you cannot go on all the time having this type of behaviour in here by Mr. Speaker unless somebody brings it to the attention of Parliament. What I would strongly recommend is that members of the Government insist that in conjunction with the C.P.A. the Speaker be given the first C.P.A. course available so as to bring him up to date on what is going on in Parliament, otherwise he is going to run it down. Look at his behaviour today when he walked in here with his hat on. My colleague, the Leader of the Opposition questioned it. (A VOICE: That is out of order.) What is out of order, you idiot?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? Will the hon. member please withdraw that remark?

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise to you. What do you want me to do now? Kiss your feet?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will tell you what to do if you do not do it correctly.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, they can only heckle me, but you know I am a professional heckler. I can talk here all day whether it be nonsense or not.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. member get back to the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: Only today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you saw the behaviour of Mr. Speaker walking in here with a hat on.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, you cannot allow the hon. member to say that you saw the behaviour of the Speaker walking in here with a hat on. The hon. member has run out of gas and he should come home.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker entered this House with a hat on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition queried the Speaker's dress and the Speaker replied to that query suitably.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker entered this Chamber today wearing a hat.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, how much longer must we sit here and endure the irrelevance of the hon. member? For the last half an hour he has been either repeating himself or dealing with irrelevant matter which has nothing to do with the Resolution which is that "WHEREAS His Honour the Speaker ruled on the fourth day of July, 1972, that the following Resolutions moved by the hon. member for St. James were out of order, etc.

BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Speaker's said ruling be expunged from the records of this Honourable House."

The hon. member for half an hour has not said anything which can convince anyone that his Resolution deserves support from either side, and all we are hearing is a lot of irrelevant matter. I would not like to say we are hearing nonsense. He cannot waste our time in this way, and I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention that there is Standing Order No. 32 which deals with tedious repetition, irrelevance, etc.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was interrupted, I was making the point about Mr. Speaker's conduct and his ignorance. I was putting a motion of "no confidence" against Mr. Speaker and therefore I am addressing the Chair and explaining why I want this motion of "no confidence".

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order.....

Mr. CRAIG: Why don't you sit down, man?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is any more behaviour of this sort, I will suspend the sitting for ten minutes.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is talking about no confidence. If a Resolution is to be brought in here with a vote of "no confidence" against the Speaker, it will be so worded and tabled. The hon. member has brought a Resolution here which is asking the House to expunge from the records of the House a Ruling of the Speaker. He has not brought a motion of "no confidence" and it cannot be discussed in this manner, and therefore he cannot talk about a vote of "no confidence". If he wants to bring a motion of "no confidence", he should not bring this Resolution and try to get an opportunity to debate old age pensions.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was interrupted and I have to repeat myself at this point. The Minister of Agriculture has said that I was dealing with something completely irrelevant. I am dealing with Mr. Speaker's conduct in Parliament and Mr. Speaker's ruling, and rulings are relevant to his conduct.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with his conduct. You are dealing with rulings and you are to prove to this House that he was wrong. There is no question of conduct.

Mr. CRAIG: When he gives rulings repeatedly which are questioned by members of both sides would you not question his conduct, Sir? Therefore his conduct is relevant to his rulings. I know that the other side does not want to hear me.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. You should question the Speaker's conduct by a substantive Resolution of no confidence in the Speaker. By the Resolution before us the hon. member cannot question the conduct of the Speaker. I will move that there is too much irrelevance in this debate and too much repetition, and that the hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: You can get up all evening. I have been in here for six years and I know that your style is playing for time. You can get up every moment, but you cannot stop me from saying what I am going to say about Mr. Speaker. You have enough time. You can speak on this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair on this Resolution?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes sir. They have enough time to reply. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is at this point that I would like to call to Your Honour's attention Standing Order No. 59 which is quite clear. Since this Resolution which I gave notice of, does not impose a charge on Government revenue, may I at this stage beg to move that the ruling given by Mr. Speaker be removed from the records of this Hon. House and that the Resolution given notice of which embodies old age pensioners, and old age pensioners travelling on private concessionaires' buses be now given notice of.

It is regretable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I had to speak in this vein, and I know that I have to bear the interruptions of hon. members on the other side, especially one hon. member because he has to vote against his conscience now, which was evident during the debate on the Budgetary Proposals.

If the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works was in his place I am sure that he too might have supported this Resolution because they all on several occasions have expressed regret about Mr. Speaker's rulings, and they have challenged them repeatedly.

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to say something that will perhaps surprise the mover of this motion and members on the Other Side at the very outset of my speech because on this matter I am fairly and squarely for a compromise.

I honestly believe that Mr. Speaker from the depth of his inexperience repeatedly makes wrong rulings in here. I firmly believe that temperamentally he is consistent with his wrong rulings. I believe that he has allowed himself to correct himself only when members on the Other Side rise, such as the Minister of Agriculture.

I believe that this has to be put down to the fact that the House has deliberately chosen, on the motion of the Hon. member for Christ Church East and my seconding, to elect to the office of Speaker, a man who has never before been a member of this House. A person even if he is as brilliant as to be a first in Constitutional Law – which Mr. Speaker is not – if he sits in the Chair for the first time will make mistakes.

I will like to see nothing better than a vote not to be taken on this motion. I would like to see a situation where the member for St. James can, with the leave of the House, withdraw the motion, for the fury which members on both sides have felt by Mr. Speaker's rulings and the highhandedness with which he has persisted in them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I object to the words "high handedness." I think that they are unparliamentary, and I think that the hon. member knows that they are unparliamentary.

Mr. ADAMS: I withdraw it purely in defence to your ruling. In my opinion it is hardly unparliamentary. Perhaps I had better get a dictionary and let the Leader of the House look it up. What I mean is that Mr. Speaker honestly believes in his rulings. Mr. Speaker only wears a hat when he is going to reprimand a member. We know that the Speaker must not wear a hat. He only wears a hat when he is going to reprimand a member.

I am not sure on what side the right lay, whether with Mr. Speaker, or with the member for St. Andrew when he was able to ask Mr. Speaker to withdraw a ruling. That is a privilege only seldomly afforded to members. This is no insult to Mr. Speaker, but there is no training for Speakership. No person can be right all the time. 4.20 p.m.

This is the background to the situation, Sir. An experienced Speaker cannot afford – even Sir Theodore Brancker with all his wealth of experience in the House – to think that he will always be right. He cannot always be right. Speakers who have occupied the Chair of the House of Assembly for years, cannot always be right. Contrary to what the Leader of the House would urge upon us – he seems to think that there is something treacherous or something treasonable in questioning the rulings of the Chair, but this is a procedure which has to be adopted at certain times. His Honour the Speaker is a young man with the utmost courtesy; he shows great courtesy and is very polite in his practise as a barrister-at-law, and I can assure hon. members that His Honour outside this House has great manners and shows much politeness to his fellow practitioners, and I wish that inside the House he would show the same courtesy to members as he is forced to show to fellow practitioners in court, because the first point I would like to make about his rulings is this; Sir Theodore Brancker was in this House since 1937 with unbroken service and as Speaker,

he was never against taking the advice of the Clerks. Let us take for instance, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central; he comes in here and he says to the House that he is no expert, he has to be guided and he has to be advised. Now, this is the key note, to my mind, of the success gained by a large number of professionals. In my profession I advise people. That is what I am here to do and if I want something done I ask for advice. If I have a law suit myself, I get a lawyer to appear for me. So Mr. Speaker should not be above doing that.

Why I say that we should not take a vote on this is because we are very partisan in this House. The party system in places like Canada is a little different and I do not believe that with the small number of members we have in this House, it is fair to ask members of the Government side comprising of some 18 persons, to vote against anything. So we cannot afford – and I can see the point – a vote in which the whole Government might be involved in a House of 24 members. This is no reflection on Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time now being 4.30 p.m., that brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question of withdrawing has been mentioned but we wanted to accommodate the Leader of the Opposition in making a completion to this motion. However, the sooner this ends, because of the way it has gone, the better it is for all concerned.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question of withdrawing the motion by me is not the end of the debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the next Order of the Day is proceeded with, I beg the leave of this Honourable House to make a motion. I will be away from the Honourable House for a while and I am asking for leave of absence for six weeks from attendance at the House with effect from today's date.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second the motion.

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

4.30 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a resolution to grant the sum of $92,821 out of the Consolidated fund and place it at the disposal of the government to supplement the estimates for 1972–73, Part 2, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates for 1972–73, number 5 which forms the schedule of the resolution. I wish to crave the indulgence of this House to proceed with the resolution in all its stages today during GovernmentBusiness.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has asked leave to proceed with this resolution in all its stages today.

Mr. ADAMS: We are only now considering it. It is only about a minute ago that we were asked and I will be glad if I will be given a chance to have a look at it. Something is wrong with the Addendum. The Addendum asks for a token contribution of $100 but it says that the amount wanted is $992,821.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I suppose the hon. Minister will be able to explain.

Mr. ADAMS: I understand that now Sir. The Addendum says that $100,000 have been provided. Oh! I see.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. minister is asking to be allowed to deal with it in all its stages today – not this very minute, but later at today's sitting.

Mr. ADAMS: We will agree with that, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is agreed upon.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction to the committee to deal with the Money Resolution for the sum of $92,821 of which notice was given and which the House has agreed to deal with today in all of its stages at today's Sitting.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair. The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. R. Lowe took the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman Sir, In moving the passing of Head 9, Ministry of

Finance, (2) Valuation Division, for the sum of $5,700, I wish to deal with Item 16. The full explanation Sir, is that the Valuation Division is pressing forward in its efforts to complete the new valuation role before the end of August and the programme has reached the stage where orders for computer stationery for owners' returns and other notices will have to be placed. The Government's computer will be used in the programme. The quotation for owners' return forms is $37,00 E.C. per thousand and 50,000 forms are required, the total cost of which is $1,850. In addition the sum of $3,850 is required for the purpose of valuation notice computer forms at a cost of $6,954 per thousand. This price is quoted F.O.B. loaded from the factory in London and 10% has been added to cover packing, insurance and freight making a total of $5,700 to supplement this item. That is the full explanation of item 16 –

Item 22 for the sum of $2,520 – Furniture and Equipment. During the last visit of the United Nations adviser, the calculations involved in the new valuation roll and the subsequent maintenance of the roll were discussed and it was decided that the calculating machine was an essential piece of equipment for the valuation. It is accordingly proposed to provide the sum of $2,520 for the purpose of acquiring this machine which will be used by the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, Supervising valuers and valuers. This equipment is urgently needed. I beg to move that Head 9 stand part.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman Sir, I appreciate the fact that you cannot wait until the hour that these forms and the like are needed to place the order for them, because money must be placed in advance. As to cost, we have no queries whatever. The point to which we are addressing our minds is this: We are of the opinion Sir, that the date fixed for the bringing into being of this whole valuation list, I think is already passed. If it has not, it does not have very many hours before it passes. I would certainly like to hear from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, what progress has been made with regard to the receiving of the returns from the owners of lands, because I am sure we are making preparations here to deal with the returns that the owners of land send into the Valuation Division. I am sure that there are thousands of land owners in this island who have not yet received a request from the Valuation Division for submitting a return – up to today's date thousands of them. Many who have received are people who do not own a square foot of land at all. In other words what I am saying is that the Valuation Division does not know until this day how many people own land in Barbados from how many do not. So exactly how they are going to arrive at the number of cards and forms that are really needed one does not know, because in my view Sir, it is high time that every land owner ought to have received the request from the Valuation Division for making his return with respect to his or her plot of land or various plots.

4.40. p.m.

The last thing that will ever be told to this Honourable House is that the operations of the Valuation Division are in a mess, and the sooner we can be told the truth about all this, the better it will be for all of us. I should certainly like to hear from the Minister what progress has been made in this particular respect.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, what I am particularly worried about is the way the forms have been designed, and the questions which are being asked. I am sure many of the Representatives sitting in here have been faced with questions by persons who would bring forms to them, and these people would be those, who have either inherited from a long past relative or they might be paying the tax bill for somebody overseas, and they are asked to state the number of the plan, the number of square feet, etc. What I consider the cynical part about the whole form is that they set out the Act which states that if you do not reply within 21 days, you are in breach of the law.

Let us take a simple example. John Jones went to England in 1960 and left Peter Thomas to look after the land and to see what is going on, so Peter Thomas' name happens to be at the Treasury for the paying of the taxes. It is well known from the legal point of view that nobody leaves his plot and sale or conveyance in the hands of anybody else because if he dies, it may be the significance of a gift, and you are being asked at this point to tell the Valuation Division the number of square feet, the number of the lot, etc. of this particular land. My honest view is that the forms have been designed to suit the new developments, lot 1 of plan No. so and so, and I would think, that the form calls for some sort of revision to suit land that was in existence in Barbados long before massive developments came to this country, because a number of persons are confused as to how to fill out the forms. I would think that the Valuation Division would do very well if they would sit down and reconsider the forms which are being sent out because numerous persons cannot answer the questions truthfully, and therefore I am of the opinion that by the time you are finished you are still not going to get a correct assessment of the

number of lots and the square footage of land that exists in Barbados. I know of at least two instances where lands have been surveyed and have been found to be far in excess of what the person thought they should have been. I know of a man in St. Andrew who said he owned a quarter of an acre of land and was paying 12 cents a year for it, but when it was surveyed to be sold it turned out to be 2½ acres.

If you design a form to suit the new developments you are going to get one answer, but you are putting 60% of Barbadians in trouble to answer the questions set out in those forms, and I think they need a lot of redrafting to take into account the new developments as against the man who owns a small plot in St. Lucy or St. Andrew where there are no developments. There might also be a question of giving the name and address of the owner so that the Valuation Division can get from the owner all the information they need.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, these relatively small Resolutions raise so many problems that I am actually frightened to open a debate on something like the current valuation roll. Let there be no mistake about it, the Government is going to be hitting the house owners in Barbados – because plantations are not going to be so severely affected – massively before this year is out. People living in their own houses are going to be astonished at the amount of taxation that is going to come as a result of this. New house owners, people who have recently within the last five or ten years been able to own their own houses, it is upon them that the burden is going to fall rather than on plantation lands where the returns are not so great and the land therefore not valued at quite so great a rate, but that is up to the Government.

My point in raising this is that my suggestion seriously to the Government here and now is that if you are hitting taxpayers for $2 million in respect of new land taxes, if the hope is to raise that much money, you should be giving those same taxpayers some return for their money. The remarks of the hon. member for St. Joseph make it quite clear what we all know who have any dealings with land, that there should be registration of title in Barbados. No land should be allowed to be revalued unless backed up by a proper survey, and it should be registered at the Registry where you can check it. Anybody who has to deal with this in or out of the Courts will be only too well aware that the valuation lists of ownership in those parts of Barbados where perhaps poor persons live, bear very little relationship indeed to who actually occupies the land. The valuation roll is not enough to produce documentation suitable for new developments where everybody's title is something that must be done sooner rather than later to clear up the entire mess of land ownership in Barbados. This is the first point I am making. Hon. members who practise in the Courts will be aware that the Judges have described the principal instrument for making title in Barbados, namely the title suit, something with which you, Sir, if I may be personal for a moment, are very familiar with, having participated in a number of them recently, it may astonish you to know that the Judges think it is an instrument of fraud, and one Judge has more than once already this year said he would like to see it abolished from the Statute Books and the solicitors made to find the suitable titles, but the Government pays no attention to any of these things.

4.50 p.m.

They collect $2 million in taxes without paying the slightest attention to the needs of the classes from whom they are collecting taxes. I am not saying that this must always be done, but some attention should be given to this matter. We should not now be computerising the Valuation Roll. We should have a Register of Titles which would make the purchase and sale of land in Barbados very much cheaper and more convenient to the ordinary citizens.

While we are dealing with the Valuation Roll, over the past year or so, I have been trying to find out all of the countries in the world, if any, that freely allow non-nationals to own land in them. I would do anything to bring Barbados into line with the majority of countries in the world in this respect. I do not see why Barbadians should have to pay the same taxes as foreigners who own our land. I am in favour of differential land tax. While the Valuation Department is computerising this matter, the Government should pay attention to introducing some sort of Aliens Land Holding Legislation in Barbados. On a Resolution such as this, we could carry the House through a whole debate.

Sir, you could not go to St. Vincent, unless you were a St. Lucian or a Grenadian before this week, to buy land as you like. It would be necessary for you to get a licence before you could purchase the land. There are Corporations in the United States which could buy every acre of land in Barbados, and they would be in the same position as Barbadians so far as taxes are concerned. These are considerations which the Government should look into. I will repeat this on every occasion that Resolutions such as this come before the House. We should have a land

policy. The question of registration of title should be integrated with a new Valuation Roll within the context of a land policy.

Hon. members know that I am not a blind anti-foreigner, but I believe that much more of Barbados should be in the hands of Barbadians. The Minister should be able to make a statement on this matter. If the Prime Minister were in here, he would say something about it. Since we have to make do with a second best, hon. members will leave in here dissatisfied. So far today the Hon. Leader of the House was very hard on the Opposition without any cause. He said that we were scurrilous, abusive, insulting, and so on. I will appeal to him to try to answer some of the points that we are raising about the people's business rather than continuing to attack the Opposition in the most unwarranted manner that he has ever done in this House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, certain hon. members have gone true to form in this respect that whenever certain Departments of Government are discussed in this House they have quite a lot to say. I refer to the Data Processing Unit, the Valuation Section, the Statistical Section, and so on. We have come here with a Supplementary after certain provision was made in the Budget. When the Budget is discussed in this House certain explanations are given. Hon. members are now asking for a progress report on the work of the Valuation Department. If hon. members would like to have a progress report on the work of the Valuation Section, I would be quite willing to find out whether there is such a report at this stage. We are dealing with a Supplementary in order to get money to carry on a programme. All hon. members had an opportunity of asking questions on the Valuation Department, but they have not done so. I must say that I am not in a position offhand to give them a Report on the working of the Department just off the cuff like that. I suggest that hon. members ask substantive questions and have their questions investigated and replied to.

Insofar as the investigation of titles of land is concerned, hon. members know as well as I do and probably better that in order that our Land Registration Act be put on the Statute Book you must, first of all, have all the land in Barbados surveyed. They know that there is a shortage of surveyors.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. The hon. member is misleading the House. It is only the people who want to have their land registered, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said that, in order to implement the Land Registration Act, all the land in Barbados will have to be surveyed. I am dealing with the Land Registration Act. The Government has just made a start in this connection and, in due course, we hope there will be a Land Registration Act.

As far as the Aliens Land Holdings Act is concerned, the hon. member knows that this matter has been under investigation for a long time and it is being re-examined. The Aliens Land Holding Act forms part of the Government's policy. If hon. members want me to give further information on this specific matter that could probably be done, but I cannot give them information on the Supplementary. If they want a progress report on the Valuation Department, I am not in a position to give them that at the moment. When we come here with a Supplementary, we do not come here to give reports on every Department. We come here to get certain things done.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not adopting an attitude to get through the Government's business. Something has gone to the Minister's head. This Resolution is quite plain and simple. It asks that the sum of $5,700 be provided to purchase computer forms for Owner's Return and Valuation Notices which are considered an essential part of the Division's current programme in completing the new Valuation Roll. If an hon. member asks a Minister, in the light of what is before us, how soon does he expect to complete the new Valuation Roll, is he asking something that he should not ask? Is he asking the Minister too much?

5.00 p.m.

Is that too much to ask the Minister? If you ask the Minister how are the returns from the land owners coming in, is that too much to ask the Minister? The Minister should be armed with all that information because the note in itself says that all this is pertinent to the issue that is before the House at the moment. I do not know what the Minister expects. We ought to be told these things. It is not any foreign or extraneous matter we are trying to bring into the Resolution. It is simple straightforward matter and the Minister should have it before him. I know whether there is progress or no progress and if the Minister behaves like that I would tell him exactly how the Department is going and let him feel how he ought to feel in a matter like this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, if you want a report on the working of that Department, there were 32,000

posted of which 16,000 were received from the owners, and there are 14,000 to be posted by week-end. That is a progress report. Unless you ask for information like that, how can I help you?

The question that Head 9 – Ministry of Finance – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 14 – Inland Revenue Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, there are two items involved. Item 21 – Office Expenses and Item 25 – Furniture and Equipment for $2,700 and $265 respectively. Under Item 21 – Office Expenses, out of an amount of $19,210 provided in the 1971-72 Estimates, the sum of $2,857.22 lapsed at the end of the Financial year. Statements for supplies ordered through the Central Purchasing Department were not submitted to the Inland Revenue Department in time for payment to be made and the sum of $2,700 is therefore required as a revote to settle outstanding bills.

Under Item 25 – Furniture and Equipment, an amount of rods and curtains were purchased in 1972 through the Central Purchasing Department, but the statement was not submitted in time for payment to be made before the end of the financial year and the fund lapsed. The sum of $265 is now required as a revote to meet the cost of rods and curtains. These two amounts come to $2,965.

I beg to move that Head 14 – Inland Revenue Department – Stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Item 25 calls for an amount of $265 for rods and curtains. I would like the Minister to tell us how many rods and curtains were involved in this amount.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is getting that information, I do not know if these rods and curtains are going to be found necessary after all. I realise that this is a revote and the rods and curtains might have been installed. My reason for saying so is that this is for the Inland Revenue Department and there are indications at present that the economy of the country is in reverse gear because all the business places in Bridgetown are doing absolutely nothing. Most of them are laying off staff and carrying out retrenchment; so it would appear as if from early next year there will be little or nothing for the Inland Revenue Department to be collecting. It might appear to be somewhat humorous, but these things are real, Mr. Chairman. No business is really going on in Bridgetown and elsewhere at the present moment and I really do not know if we are going to have need for this furniture and equipment in this department, or if we would not find that we might have to provide more transportation for some of the officers to get into the country and try to resurrect some of the businesses that might have gone into liquidation and take up some of the old scrap and milk something out of nothing. That is exactly where our economy has been forced into. I really do not know if it is going to be necessary to spend this money on furniture and equipment. I will certainly like to be advised by the Minister as to what he thinks under the circumstances because this is a time that we have got to try and hold on to every penny. This is a time when Government must draw its belt if there is any waistline around which a belt can be put and do any drawing. We have got to be very cautious in our spending. We do not try to deny these members of staff on whom the evening sun is bearing down in their course of duty. We would like to see that members of staff are provided with conditions that make it comfortable for them to perform whatever they are called upon to do, but we have got in this particular instance to be ultra cautious in what we do at this time.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies to the questions asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph, I should like once again in this House to make a plea on behalf of the staff and other persons who use the Inland Revenue Department for the Government to treat with some urgency the necessity for air-conditioning that part of this Department of that building in Fairchild Street. The members of the Inland Revenue Department work under very trying circumstances not only during the morning but particularly in the afternoon it is almost impossible in the tropics particularly at this time of the year and I am sure for the next two months for any normal human being to produce at a reasonable rate in the over-bearing heat that one finds in this Department. That they have managed to produce as much as they have done I think is a tribute to the Civil Service of this country. It is not enough for the Government to get in here from time to time and to criticise the working conditions in some private businesses if in the Government's own front room there is this state of affairs existing.

Those of us who have to go there from time to time on business are appalled that a high-ranking officer and a very important officer like the Commissioner of Inland Revenue should be seated in offices that are very uncomfortable for him and under very trying conditions whereas you go to other Departments established subsequent to his own, not as important to the economy of this country, and they have air-conditioned, carpeted offices and all the luxuries that one would expect. I think we must get our priorities straight, and I am going to appeal to the Government to treat with some amount of urgency the air-conditioning of this building.

The other thing I must remark on is that it is known that there are occasions when the staff in that Department have to resort to bringing the normal toilet requisites that they want for their normal uses. I do not like to refer to certain things in the Department because of the vote that is made available to provide these things. It is not good to have to come to the House to remark on what might appear as triflings, but I have unfortunately had frequently to go to the Department on business and have seen people working under strain, and I think it is my duty to bring it to the Minister's attention and I hope that before the end of the financial year, that the Government will rectify the situation for the people in the Inland Revenue Department.
5.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I made notes of the requests of the last speaker. I agree that in some departments, including Inland Revenue, the case for air-conditioning has been made, and I agree that some Civil Servants work in very trying conditions. I will bring this to the attention of the Cabinet, and I hope that something will be done in this respect.

In so far as the amount of $265.00 is concerned, I have no power to delete it, nor any intention of deleting it. I have neither the intention, the desire nor the ability to delete it. That is a suggestion trying to induce me into doing something wrong. I will not be led into that trap. This is a revote and the Cabinet has already made a decision. Money has lapsed.

Mr. BOLDEN: I had asked a question earlier about the number of curtains and curtain rods which cost $265.00. The reason for asking that question is following on what the Hon. member for Christ Church West has said. It seems that the Government has adopted a policy of treating these departments which earn money in the worst possible way. If the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and the staff have to work under such strain, and members of the staff have to bring in their own toilet requisites, there is no wonder that some people are dissatisfied with the work in that department.

The departments that bring in money seem to be the ones that get the last hand. Only this morning I noticed that in the Courts in Bridgetown, the District "A" Court, which every morning you see collect $1,500 or $2,000 in fines, have had kitchen tables brought in in the Courts.

This, in my humble thinking, seems to be bad planning. Something is wrong somewhere. The Department of Inland Revenue brings in revenue to the Government, and therefore the officers there should have the privilege of being able to walk on carpets and to work in air-conditioned offices, and so should the Courts which collect $4,000 a week.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In this Resolution, there is absolutely nothing about the Courts. You will stick to this Resolution. I have given some latitude; but do not repeat yourself.

Mr. BOLDEN: I do not want to challenge your ruling, but it seems to me that we have reached the stage when members of the Opposition cannot even compare what is going on. Ministers say that they cannot answer questions. I am speaking on a Resolution. I am asking about curtains and Government's spending on departments that bring in money. Am I not entitled to compare departments that bring in money? Am I restricted to saying that only the Department of Inland Revenue, the Department of Inland Revenue and finish?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given an ultimatum that Head 14 is dealing only with the Inland Revenue Department. We have a Head for the Courts. When it comes to that Head, we can deal with that Head at length at all times; but I am asking the Hon. member to discuss conditions at the Department of Inland Revenue and not at the Courts, which is not before this Chamber at the present moment.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like a specific ruling as to whether or not I am allowed to compare the Government's spending of money in any department. That is all I want to find out; but I would like to say that posterity shall say who is right or who is wrong. After I have gone out of this Chamber, after I have passed on, people will say I know that so and so was right. As a

member once said, let me make Hansard right which is what the historians will look at.

If I cannot compare, and I hear anyone else comparing, I will get up and object. I want a ruling.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. With all respect, this is a Money Resolution. I think that it is but fair that as long as you are dealing with a Money Resolution you can talk if it deals with Government House, the Courts or the Department of Inland Revenue as long as the money is revenue which the Government is seeking from the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On a specific item under a specific Head of Expenditure.

Mr. CRAIG: The Government is asking this House to pass a Resolution for money out of the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And we are dealing with a particular Head, and not with the whole Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister spoke about air-conditioning. The Hon. Minister is speaking about curtain rods.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. member is completely out of order. The hon. member for St. Joseph got up to make a speech. He was asking about curtain rods. And where? In the Inland Revenue Department, and not in the Magistrates' Courts.

Mr. CRAIG: With very great respect, he said other Government Departments. My colleague said that the Courts were not air- conditioned.
5.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the hon. member to make all the points he would like to make, but he will not discuss the Courts. He can refer to the Courts' appalling condition or whatever he thinks but he would not discuss the Police Magistrates' Courts.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like to say that there are no longer Police Magistrates' Courts in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will check. All right; the Magistrates' Courts.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would go on to say this. The Government seems to be treating some Government Departments in a very shabby manner. The Inland Revenue Department has no curtain rods; other departments including the Courts, in the kitchen, what they have are of an inferior quality. The very departments that bring money to the Government. It seems to me as if the people's business is divided into small sections and that hon. members are not entitled to discuss the people's business.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is repeating matters which have been dealth with already. However, the hon. member may proceeed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: We are in Committee so he can speak as often as he wants to, but this may assist him. The rods and curtains were received and installed during the last financial year, but payment was not made during that year. The money lapsed and we are now re-voting the money. They were received and installed. This money is to pay outstanding bills. So all this has been done. We just want the money which has lapsed. The question of upgrading the officers is a different matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: As I said, Mr. Chairman, Hansard will prove who is right or wrong and whether the Opposition is entitled to speak on the people's business. I ask how many rods and curtains are involved in the $265. But this shows very clearly that when you ask a question, either the Minister is unaware of what is going on or cannot understand the Queen's English, or the person giving information pays so little attention to the Opposition that they don't answer you.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I cannot tell at this stage, Mr. Chairman, whether there were ten, five or what. I cannot tell how many were installed. The hon. member is entitled to ask questions, and soon be may want to ask what was the length of the rods. If this is all the hon. member can ask, let him ask.

Mr. BOLDEN: Now, Mr. Chairman, this shows that in order to protect the people's interest, one must be in a position to compare. If it were the Union's business involving curtains or rods, somebody would know. Now it is the Government's business, it is criticised. All I am trying to do is to compare whether or not the sum spent on curtain rods would compare with the sum spent on the kitchen in the courts.

The question that Head 14 stand part was put and resolved in the affiramtive without division.

Head 35 – Ministry of Education – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, there has been a decrease in the number of boarders at the establishment of the Lodge School and it is considered that this establishment still has a role to play in the life of the school, and in order to make any increase in the fees for the Boarding Establishment, it is considered necessary that a subvention should be made to the Boarding Establishment in order for it to continue to provide a service to those people who want to make use of it.

If there is any information which is required on this particular matter, I will be happy to supply it, if it is at my disposal. I therefore beg to move that Head 35 – Ministry of Education – stand part.

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

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in connection with Item 23 – Grants – I would like to make two or three points. It seems to me that in this day and age, it is almost a complete waste of time for us to be still concerning ourselves with the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School. If one were to examine the Establishment of this school, one would see that the concept which is held, with regard to this Establishment is one which is not in keeping with what we are striving for at the present time.
5.30 p.m.

I would like to suggest that the time, effort and money which are wasted in this establishment – because I do not see the tremendous benefits which can be involved from this kind of arrangement – could be more usefully spent.

Now the minister in introducting the Resolution indicated that the boarding establishment still has a role to play in the life of the school. This clearly indicates that the establishment obviously will be focussed around the school and that not enough attention is being paid to the broader impact of a school of this nature. The point that I am making, Sir, is that the school and the boarding Establishment, has a certain air of snobbishness about it. This is the type of situation which we want to get away from in our educational system. We do not want to be continually in a situation where we are permitting snobbishness, and it is for this reason that I think that the Boarding School at Lodge School should go and that we should not really be, in this day and age when we want to bring education to everybody, still encouraging a kind of select group and a select system of education in this country of ours.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to pursue that point. I agree with the hon. member for St. Lucy because I feel that the Boarding School, in the context of Barbados, is going to be, in modern times an educational anachronism and I do not consider that this is something to perpetuate.

What I really want to deal with is this. I am taking a hard look at the Minister's department. The bureaucratic and old fashioned bogus methods adopted in the education department must be torn up and thrown through the window. We are not going to sit back on this stupidity that is being indulged in by Civil servants any longer. I want to know from the minister what do you have to do to get a communication in to the Minister when you write that department? Do you have to go crawling on your knees or bowing at his door and wait like some penitent person waiting on some things to fall from the Minister's table? I do not understand. You write a letter to the Ministry of Education, and I presume in a Ministry of Education everybody is literate. You write a letter in December 1971 and say I will be grateful if you will forward this letter to the Minister. You follow that up with a letter in January 1972 and then you are going to receive a letter from the Ministry in July 1972 asking you if you would submit further information on some matter. I have spoken, not in an official way, to the Minister. I know they have their problems in the Ministry. I hope that the Minister will get a new department because that barn that they have up there is not conducive to any proper production.

I wrote them. The Governor General made his speech in which the Government says it has a policy about the granting of something to the Barbados Workers' Union about a labour college. We are going to write them. We are going to give them the facility of understanding what we want. They say send and tell us what is your syllabus. We sent and gave them. This is our syllabus. This is what we are going to do. Now seven months after – in the mean time Mr. Chairman, you can get a foreign organization somewhere in Washington come up with an answer of $100,000 and in Barbados it is worse than that. It is like the telephone system in some parts of the world where you can get an overseas call easier than you can get a call in the country in which you live. There is a standing joke in France where a

man who was living in Paris found that he could not get the village he was living next to, so he telephoned the operator in New York and told the operator to telephone the village in Paris and allow him to speak to the person in the village in Paris. It seems to me that we can get something easier from the U.S.A.; from Washington but because of the bureaucratic methods in the ministries, not the ministries only – I would not say the Ministers themselves – but their Permanent Secretaries and officers, it is easier to get an audience with President Nixon than it is to get an audience through Civil service bureaucracy. The letter has been written and the impertinence of it, is that you write a letter asking that it be forwarded to the Minister and you do not even get a reply saying that the Minister is willing to receive you, or will you send some more information. I hope the Minister will understand that we do not want any shadow of independence to be operating. They must give direction to their staffs that any letter that is written to them from a responsible organization asking to have an audience with the Minister, THAT MUST BE DONE. And it would be no question of the Permanent Secretary or anybody holding the letter and sending it round the rounds. All that can happen.

I would say that organizations are not begging the Government for alms. This is a matter of policy. The Government has stated its policy in certain areas. People who are concerned with it are asking the Government to declare its policy in some practical form. This is what we intend to do if we do not get any answer. Seven months! I do not believe in tokenism. We are not asking for these things on the basis of a token or jesture. It is a matter of public importance and it delays the operation where people involved are architects and builders and people like that. You can be delayed unnecessarily. It is the bureaucratic nonsense of these Civil Servants in these offices who are sitting back on letters. They take 10 months, 9 months, to get a reply to an ordinary letter saying I would like to meet the Minister to discuss a matter. I believe it is not only rank discourtesy but it is the height of inefficiency when you write a letter to officers and people who are so well paid for the work that they have to do and you are not getting the things from them. You are getting these complaints and then you hear complaints about people who are working for 80c or $1.00 an hour to the effect that they are not working hard enough.

I hope the Minister understands that this is something that many people are complaining of.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with the two points that have been raised so far. About the point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy about the boarding Establishment at the Lodge School, I do not propose at this stage to go into the reasons, or the history, of the boarding Establishment of that school. What I would wish to say on this occasion is that we believe that in the situation in which we find ourselves today – that Boarding Establishment – whereas in the past served the interests of certain classes of people in this country, and there can be a redress of that – but today it can serve the interests of the poor person in this country.

5.40 p.m.

We have a policy of admission to the school, not on the basis of the money in one's pocket, but on the basis of a competitive examination, and certain persons were advancing the argument that a number of places should be set aside for non-Barbadians to go into the Boarding Establishment in order to make it a viable institution. What we as a Government decided was that admission to the Lodge School would be on no other basis of admission from that of any other school, and that one would have to get into the Lodge School first before one could get into the Boarding Establishment. It was not a case of giving board and lodging and thereby automatically getting a place in the school, but if one satisfied the criteria of the Commom Extrance Examination and then one wanted to make use of the facilities of the school one would then get into the school. But there are a number of Barbadians both here and outside of the country, who might wish to make use of this particular facility, and we would be reviewing the situation from year to year and if at any stage it is considered necessary that this Boarding Establishment should be closed, the Government will not hesitate to take the decision. All we are saying is that at this particular stage, we are not taking such a decision.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that you would permit me the same latitude that you permitted the member for St. Michael West to speak on the matter on which he has been speaking. I heard you rule earlier, and this particular matter which we are dealing with is in respect of the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School, I am not aware that there is any letter for over seven months relating to the Lodge School.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I want to make it clear that we are dealing with grants, and in order to get a grant from the Government, you have to write a letter. All I am saying is that to

write the Ministry of Education a letter you have to wait seven months to get a reply in relation to a grant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. WALCOTT: All I am saying is that in order to get something out of the Government we have to write to the Government and say we are ready to discuss it, so I do not accept what the Minister said, that I have been granted any latitude. I do not want anything granted to me, I do not want any latitude, all I want to say is that I want courtesy from the Departments of Government, when a letter is written to them, they must learn to reply, and I hope the Minister would not get in this House and back up any of this which makes the Civil Servants so inefficient. It is grants we are dealing with, and I say to get a grant you must write the Government a letter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Under Head 35(3), Item 23 – Grants, Mr. Chairman, if I may say this, I could well understand the points made by the hon. member for St. Michael West. It is a fact that a letter was received in the MInistry of Education towards the end of 1971 and that in that letter there was a request that – as I subsequently learnt, some five months later, the letter was addressed to the Permanent Secretary with a request that the letter be forwarded to me, and that was drawn to my attention some five months later after being processed in the usual methods within the Public Service. I would wish to apologise for the delay, and as the hon. member stated, I was not aware of that particular letter, but I would let this Hon. Chamber know that what goes on within a Ministry, is public business.

Some time during the month of February, I believe, I had to give a directive that I would not be sending any matters to certain officers in the Ministry until they had cleared their desks, because they had accumulated a mass of files and unattended matters on their desks, and I said I would deal directly with lower level officers and give them some time to get their desks cleared. No doubt this was one of the matters which was resting on one of the desks. Where public servants are to be defended I will be the first person to defend. It is a fact that the lines of communication are a bit slow, but I would wish to point out too that it is now over a year that in my Ministry which has suffered severely from problems of accommodation that I have been asking for an increase in staff as well and this has not yet been decided upon. Over 50% of the persons in that Department are in an acting capacity. However, in mitigation, I would like to let the hon. member for St. Michael West know that the particular matter which was referred back to him was a request for information to assist the Ministry in determining what level of grant would be given to the Labour College. I did speak on the delays in replying to this particular matter, and if the hon. member would take this assurance that my speaking on this matter did bring some results, because as soon as the letter came in, it was forwarded to me within minutes, so I hope that this is some indication that there has been some atonement in that respect.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed the candour with which the hon. member has spoken. I would like to deal in the same manner in which the questions have been raised on the Boarding Establishment of the Lodge School. I respect the views of the hon. member for St. Lucy, but I think in our eagerness to forge our way ahead, we sometimes catch at the shadow and lose the real substance or meat of the matter. The fact that we have a Boarding Establishment is not necessarily synonymous with snobbishness, and it is quite possible to remove snobbishness from a school by taking substantive measures to counteract snobbishness without destroying the value of the Boarding Establishment.

5.50 p.m.

The hon. member has not adverted to the fact that a country like Barbados is at the moment having to place overseas its Diplomatic Staff. One of the reasons why we should keep part of the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School is that some of the Barbadians, who are working overseas, want to have their children educated here and in some instances it is not possible to make arrangements for them to live with relatives or other persons. I am not only talking about the Diplomatic Staff because there are numerous Barbadians living and working in Regional Institutions; some of them are itinerant officers, and the more our economy advances, the more it will be necessary for us to have accommodation for these children.

I have always contended that you can improve the quality of life for some of our less fortunate people by making sure that those who have learned to mix at the ordinary level with other people – I am not thinking in terms of wealth but in terms of cultural content – should be able to mix freely; therefore, I would have thought that the hon. member for St. Lucy would have urged on the Minister that he makes things for the 11 plus much more reasonable and that he would ensure that some of the children should be given an opportunity of being day boarders, because there are very few week-end boarders. Instead of the students of the Lodge School being snobbish, they should be given an opportunity to live with children

in the lower brackets, and that should be one of the tenets of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

We feel that the Lodge School should be extended like some of our secondary schools in so far as cultural content in education and cultural, social attitudes are concerned. I would not like anything I may say here to be taken as if I am condoning the separation of the classes and turning people into masses. I think that a lot of the snobbishness in this school is due to the fact that as soon as school is over, some children run to their homes and others run to their rooms and there is not much chance of mixing. I think the Minister should keep this matter under review.

If I may be allowed to speak on the system of Grants and the reply to letters, Mr. Chairman, it does not surprise me that the hon. member for St. Michael West has had to complain about the failure of the administration at times in answering letters. Unfortunately, all of the ire is being thrown on the Civil Service. I think one of the things that we need to inculcate at all levels of our society is that politeness is not necessarily synonomous with serfdom, and we must make not only civil servants but Ministers understand that they should answer questions and letters promptly.

Sir, if you were to look at the Order Paper, you will find that there are questions directed to the Prime Minister for over nine months, and this House has not yet had an answer. I wonder how we can talk about civil servants without talking about the Ministers. If there is to be efficiency there must be efficiency from the top. I like to be fair and to give Jack his jacket. He is one of the Ministers that has instituted a system whereby you can get to him closely and easily. As the Shadow Minister, he has extended to me all of the facilities that I want. If I ask him a question, he answers it as quickly as possible. I am sure that the hon. member for St. Michael West would get the same facility, if he wanted it. I hope that matters will be speeded up. I believe the manner in which the communication was directed was sufficiently important. I also believe that civil servants as well as Ministers should have a sense of priority in dealing with certain important matters.

Mr. Chairman, I notice that we are discussing the whole Head, and I should like to speak on "CARIFESTA". I wonder if he intends to speak on Item 45, and to tell us the purpose of this vote. Maybe he will speak on this matter and, subject to what he has to say, I may have to speak on it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am not at all surprised at the reaction of the hon. member for Christ Church West at the criticism I have levelled at the Boarding Establishment. Since he has reminded us that he is the Shadow Minister, one can very well understand what would have been his policy if he were the Minister of Education. He tried to make a comparison between the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School and at the University. I want to say, unfortunately, that this comparison is not a very good one.

As a matter of fact, the whole idea, as I understand it, behind a University is that it is not always possible for it to be situated within easy reach of the students and, therefore, some kind of residential facilities will have to be provided for them. The atmosphere at the University should be good, and the students should be living under conditions whereby they could meet and discuss things which are of interest to them. I contend that the same situation does not relate to the Boarding Establishment at Lodge School. We know that we are pressed for space in the Secondary Schools. My point is that the space which is allocated to the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School should be converted into additional space for children who are crying out for space in the Secondary Schools.

The hon. member for Christ Church West also tried to indicate that the Boarding Establishment at the Lodge School would provide an opportunity for a number of children from the top income brackets as well as those from the lower income brackets to mix. My contention is that it does not necessarily mean that there must be a Boarding School for this type of mixing to take place.

6.00 p.m.

As a result you will find that the children who are in residence in the boarding schools are drawn from a particular income group, and I maintain that this type of situation which leads to snobbery should be discontinued.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for what he has said. The hon. member for Christ Church West said that he is the Shadow Minister, but I am not even a second, furthermore a Shadow Boxer. What I would like to say is that as a member of this Party, I do not consider it is my official business to go around to Ministers in any business that the organization that I have to deal with write about officially. I do not seek any Minister's attention on any unofficial business, because they are not doing any favours for me. I write on public business, and even in the Cabinet, I have only seen them on official business. I have made it my policy not to

seek a Minister on any type of business in connection with what I have to do. I do not consider it incumbent upon me to ask the Minister what about something I have written about, because I do not consider that my duty. I spoke to the Minister about that once when the last letter was written. I told him it became a public matter and I said it publicly and therefore I could let him know what the position was.

On the question of what was said about Lodge School, the Minister said he would review it, but I say it is an anachronism. There is no point in pretending. There is no justification in Barbados today for the perpetuation as such of a Boarding-School even on the grounds that the hon. member for Christ Church West has advanced. We have diplomats overseas who have children, and every diplomat overseas would have some relative here, and the diplomats overseas were not born overseas, and if they are overseas and are Barbadians and coming back here, what would happen if there are children who happen to be going to Harrison College where there is no boarding-school, or if there are children going to Combermere School where there is no boarding-school; and so you cannot *ipso facto* because you are a diplomat say that your son must go to Lodge School. If the diplomat has a daughter who goes to Queen's College, there is no boarding-school there and a man would have been placed in greater difficulty with a daughter in finding a boarding-school because you want more protection for a girl of 14 or 15 years in a boarding-school than for a son who would be able to go and stay in the village. The hon. member spoke about people living together, but what is better for a girl or boy in Barbados than to live in the district and mix with people rather than to have a narrow circle of 20, 30 or 60 children with whom they are going to school. If you have to keep a boarding-school because it was there, I think the time will soon come when the Minister will find that he can use the boarding-school for more space for children to go to the school at Lodge. The hon. member spoke about this even in Universities, but the only University nowadays that give you a long time is the University of the West Indies. The hon. member went to Cambridge or Oxford and he only had the privilege in the first year to live in there, and in the second year he had to go out and look for a landlady to spit in his face to find somewhere else to live. In the United States thousands of boys and girls go to Universities, but at certain Universities there is no boarding. There is no boarding at London University, and though boarding itself is a good thing, it is not a must.

The Minister has said that he is going to review the situation at Lodge School, and although I feel that $5,000 is a small subvention, the law of contrition is likely to work out, and when it works out you would not have this at the school. I do not think there is anything that the hon. member for Christ Church West knows we are impatient about. We just see that this in itself is not necessary, but if you have to let it work itself out, let it work itself out.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not want really to pursue this matter any longer. I indicated to this Chamber that I will be keeping this matter of the Boarding Establishment under review.

With respect to the provision at Item 33 (New) Carifesta, I wish to state that this provision is in order to enable artistes from this country to visit, attend and perform at the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts which is scheduled to take place in Guyana from August 25 to September 15 this year. The objectives of Carifesta, as it is known, have been described as follows:

(a) To give stimulus to the cultural revolution in all the participating countries in the region, by calling attention to the various patterns of identity – comparing and contrasting and thus encouraging the individual movements and stimulating a unified atmosphere throughout the region;

(b) To help illuminate those common cultural manifestations of the Caribbean peoples who share a similar history, that have survived the transition of countries of colonisation;

(c) To inspire a climate which would encourage our artists to return and draw from their environment while receiving as much recognition and even more encouragement than they get from the metropolitan situation;

(d) To emphasise the need for regional identity in literature with the possible evolution of a publishing company which would help artists "to express themselves neither in Chauvinism nor in the insularity that reflected colonial rule but to show that we are on a plateau with other free peoples";

(e) To work toward the consolidation of the region's units into a cohesive bloc and a potent force in the affairs of the world.

Mr. Chairman, it is because we tend more or less to subscribe to these objectives that we have decided to recommend to this Hon. Chamber that

a sum of money should be provided in order to enable participants from this country to visit Guyana for Carifesta, and it is proposed that the artists should be in the field of dancing as represented by the Barbados Dance Theatre Company, some fifteen persons representing the dance; folk singing as represented by a quartet known as the Quavers Quartet and there is also an accompanist; that there would be a display of works of Art, and these will be selected by the Barbados Arts Council; and also that direct reading would be done by Mr. Alfred Pragnell; and finally that the drama should be represented by persons selected by the Writers Workshop. There are some twenty persons involved in this, and we are proposing that the sum of $14,000 which was originally sent down to this Honourable Chamber be amended in as much as reconsideration has been given to this matter of representation in the field of drama, and that the sum of $6,155 should be added to the $14,000 under Head 35 – Item 33, to give a total of $20,155 as the amount for this participation.

In addition to the artists, it is proposed that the immediate Past President of the Barbados Arts Council and his wife should attend the Carifesta programme, and that a Government Minister and his wife should also attend, and that this attendance at Carifesta would be spread over a particular period of time.
6.10 p.m.

The main artistes to whom I refer will be attending for one week. I am sorry that I did not refer to one person, the High Commissioner. I think that I have given all the information that is warranted on this particular subject matter. If there is any further information, I will be happy to supply it.

Mr. FORDE: I think that the fact that the Minister has stated that he is seeking an amendment to the amount of money asked for, calls for some comment. I think that it is obvious that the decision to include persons in the field of drama has come as an after thought to the Government, and I am sure that the representations made by Miss Daphne Hackett through the Press have at long last borne fruit.

I think that I would be lacking in my duties as an enthusiast of drama and one who wants to encourage drama in this country if I did not draw to the Minister's attention the general attitude which has been taken by the Government towards the question of encouraging drama in this country. We can readily admit this because although it is now an appendage to the Ministry of Education, it was formerly attached to the Ministry of Social Services, and at another time to the Ministry of Trade. Whatever right it had to be attached to the Ministry of Trade I cannot imagine.

I wonder if that is why the attitude has been such towards drama in our schools and drama in the Community at large. It is true that Government gives an annual grant to the Arts Council, but there are no plans, or there is a great deal of delay in putting those plans into effect in trying to formalise drama in the country. In no part of the Government's planning is there provision for a Drama Officer. Not once since the British Council left Barbados has anyone thought of training at formal level drama teachers in Barbados. We have been left to depend on the efforts of people like St. Winifred's School, the Green Room Theatre and Mr. Frank Collymore and others like Miss Daphne Hackett.

Anyone will know that it is the field of drama and creativity that over spills into the development of the community and the nation. I am asking the Minister to consider seriously the establishment of at least two posts of Drama Officer in this Ministry and to make sure that the normal chances are given to teachers to be trained and to ensure that the people who go on these courses are genuinely interested in the subject, and not taking it up as a means of getting a qualification and then going on to another field.

I am also asking that this be brought down to the concept of the housing areas and that he will introduce at the nursery level some form of drama education as well as in schools and the Community College, and also take steps to bring in fold singing and as many of the creative arts as possible; because a country cannot exist simply by bread alone; but it must also exist by its soul.

I will also draw to the Minister's attention that the Barbados Manufacturers Association and the Industrial Development Corporation have been trying to establish at Pellican Village an open air theatre, and that delay is being caused at administrative level. Why not a village theatre of this nature?

I spoke about community centres. I have a wider vision. I believe that they should be the life blood of the community, breaking down the barriers of class and race. To allow any part of our community to live in isolation seems to be absolutely wrong.

I also want to put in a plea for the Barbados National Theatre Workshop. It may be well to have as its present chairman someone who is not *persona grata* with the Government. It has been

able to take around to the community centres drama and involve the people in the housing areas in its work. It has trained a lot of people who normally would not have been involved in this type of activity.

The breaking down of racial barriers is what I am talking about. We had Mr. Arthur Browne, a white non-Barbadian, trained in drama who was sent out because be could not get a work permit. We are missing an opportunity to use one of the young people who has not allowed his race or class to be a barrier, and the Government has missed an opportunity not to put him on the establishment. You should not miss the opportunity to make use in Barbados of this potential which can be tapped. Mr. Milton McCollin who lives in one of the housing areas came out from the Theatre Workshop and landed a job only because he had the opportunity to do this.

6.20 p.m.

That is why it shocked me to see that in the last Estimates no provision was made for a thing of this nature. There are people who are willing to help if only they could be given the opportunity. Drama happens to be one of the few areas that knows no class, or colour, or favour and one of the quickest ways that we can stop this nonsense is to show that all people have ability and that they can bring it together for building a better Barbados. I think the time has come when we should give honour to those who provide us with drama; not only Frank Collymore or Alfred Pragnell but people like Daniel Alleyne who has worked for the glory of it, and there are lots of people like Miss Eleanor Nurse who is now retired and who has helped people to lose their shyness, and have made a lot of us better people, and have broken down barriers.

I hope that all efforts to improve the Theatre Workshop will go forward without any political intervention whatsoever, simply because I believe that people should live by culture and also by all the amenities and all of these virtues, and not simply by bread alone.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few remarks on behalf of the lesser mortals – not the upper-ups. In 1965, Mr. Chairman, many people thought that the scope of the artistes in Barbados had reached the stage where there were very few people possessing the necessary calibre as good artistes, and certain people went about to form the Barbados Musicians and Artistes Union, and I can tell you this, that the Government of the day put every possible obstacle in the way to prevent this Union from functioning. The position today is that artistes in Barbados are being exploited by the hoteliers in this country and will be exploited until the Government sees fit to encourage that Union to function, because a local artiste in Barbados is never regarded as being worth anything. From Sandy Lane Hotel down in the West Coast, to Sam Lords Castle in the East Coast, do not pay any artiste in Barbados much more than forty dollars a week and if they ask for more, they lay them off.

In 1966 when Barbados held its independence celebrations, Barbados had to import artistes in order to celebrate independence and that Union was willing to give its services but the Government refused bluntly to co-operate. Now that CARIFESTA is coming along the Minister is talking about the Quavers Quartette taking part. I doubt we will find in Barbados 20 people, outside of the Police Band, who are able to play a musical instrument by looking at the sheet of music. That has completely died out and it has died because the artistes in this country realise that it is no use going into this avenue. But what is surprising and strange is this, that you cannot perform in Barbados unless you pay a certain amount of money or have a similar group perform with you on stage, and every now and again you can hear "Sparrow" coming through on Barbados. Come CARIFESTA now, and how do you pick the groups? Who will determine the quality of these people who have been selected? Nobody has heard of Madam Yvette but what has happened to Madam Yvette?.....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is not that type that we are talking about.

Mr. BOLDEN: I know I would get an answer like that.

6.30 p.m.

But you are going to pay the Supremes that came here and caused the riot. You are going to pay them a fantastic sum to come in. You are going to pay somebody from Trinidad to perform on Bay Street for independence, but when it is at that level, it is art. That is the thing that is worth while, but when it is a local Barbadian, that is not art. I think the Government's attitude has got to be changed. As I said, I repeat, the overflow goes into commerce and unless you can provide a foundation ..... Mr. Chairman, there were times when the St. Joseph School was known to produce practically 60% of the musicians in this country. But what happens to them? Nobody thinks about them now because there is nowhere for the overflow to go. I often wonder how even the drama group or the various dance theatres

provide themselves with music. You have to give people an idea, you have to give them the opportunity, show them a goal to work towards in order to develop the whole creative instinct in our society. But if you are going to say that when you have a little thing here you run out and pick a group from here and there, you are going nowhere.

We on this side, have asked the Government to create a cultural centre. You hear nothing about it. Our community centres should not be places where you sit down and play dominoes only, with a television locked up in the corner and as the hon. member has said, if you have in our midst a gentleman who is qualified, a person who can teach us – there was just the instance in Trinidad of a man who left Stockholm and came to Trinidad. He was interested in calypsoes. Now years ago you heard that calypsoes were not fit for certain people. They were for the under dog. Today it is part and parcel of the life of Trinidad. It is a money earner.

What is the culture of Barbados? What is it? What specialty have we got? The Scotsman has his dance and his pipe. The Trinidadians have their calypsoes. What have we got? Nobody is thinking. Have you developed a department to save the culture of this country? You have down in St. Andrew and St. Joseph, the old pottery skill. Where is it going? Who is preserving it? But you rush in here because there is Carifesta in Guyana and you are going to show off Barbados. I am amazed and ashamed when people come here and ask what is your heritage?

Quite recently the museum has been digging around looking for bits and pieces. But how many people in Barbados go to all the schools, Mr. Chairman? Take from the 6th Forms in Harrison College, take from the Community College and ask them who were the original inhabitants of this little island. Ask them if they have ever seen a stone axe and not one of them can tell you what it is. Because the museum is located up in the Garrison, that you can't even see it from the front road. Don't look for a sign wandering through between some houses and find the museum! But where are we going? As I said, come Carifesta and you come down and ask for some money to pick out a few ..... I don't mind the Minister of Information. He will laugh. He has his heritage back there. Ours is here. Let us preserve ours. He hasn't got the information. That is as much as he cares. But as I said "Time is longer than rope."

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may just reply briefly on this matter, I must say I appreciate the feelings with which the hon. member for Christ Church West and the hon. member for St. Joseph have spoken on this particular matter, obviously with a depth of knowledge and feeling for the arts. I know the hon. member for Christ Church West has had quite a good reputation in the field of drama and has participated with the British Council and Extra Mural Groups in the promotion of arts generally. I am not so familiar with the record of the member for St. Joseph although I believe his sister or a relative was involved in the dance with the Little Caribs.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, for the Hon. Minister's information I am the person who formed the union for the artists in Barbados and it is certain hoteliers like the one sitting next to you who sabotaged it from the beginning because they thought that to pay an artist what was a reasonable fee to dance in the hotels would have robbed them of the charge which they had attached to the rooms and they sabotaged it from the beginning and the Government refused to back the Union.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am very grateful for the explanation. I am always willing to learn and to know that the hon. member's contribution was in the field of Union organization.

Mr. Chairman, to be serious on this matter, the Government has increased this grant to the Barbados Arts Council and this has been the traditional method through which the Government has made a financial contribution to the arts. In addition we have made subventions and grants to other organizations and institutions in the promotion of the arts.

As far as the ability of musicians in this country to read music is concerned I would like to announce that this is a matter I have been giving some consideration to since assuming the responsibility for this particular subject cum adult education and I expect very shortly to have a course launched for our musicians in order to develop their knowledge in the reading of music. This is a matter on which we have had discussions with musicians themselves and this is what they say would be a requirement.

The Quavers are made up of a number of very outstanding singers in this country – Mr. Festus Thompson, Mr. Rudolph Hinds, Mr. Irvin Harris and Mr. Neville Phillips who are well known in the field of singing in this country and I have no doubt at all that they will make a very good impression on behalf of this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. member for Christ Church West that in the area of drama education we are awarding a scholarship in order to develop education in drama and I believe that later this year one person will be taking up a scholarship under the Commonwealth Bursary Scheme.

In drama education, and this is definitely an area which we hope to develop, I, from my position as Minister cannot hand pick persons to put them on the establishment. I am aware of the case to which the hon. member for Christ Church West made reference and I believe that this matter is being dealt with, I hope expeditiously, by the public service. But I would like to assure hon. members that the Government is very much interested in the promotion of the arts and in making our community centres places where the arts and other types of creative activities can take place including the more popular arts as well. I hope that in due course we would be able to use these centres in a much more creative manner.

Mr. Chairman, may I move formally at this stage that the figure $14,000 be deleted and the sum $20,155 be substituted therefor.
6.40 p.m.

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

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

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the sum of $12,880 is required to supplement Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare, Item 38 – Family Planning Association. The sum of $10,000 is required to supplement this Item. It is well recognised in this country that the Family Planning Department has done a wonderful job, and is still doing a wonderful job, in this country. Family Planning is something new that is mainly carried out in most of these developing countries. In a country like Barbados with only 166 square miles and a very large population, we must pay regard to our land mass and our population. We have nowhere to retreat, and Barbados is one of the world's most densely populated countries, and if we are to survive, we have to pay great attention to our population growth in this country.

This amount of $10,000 was left out in error from the 1972-73 Estimates and I am now asking for that $10,000 to be put in. Since 1964 the Sunnen Foundation has paid the expenses of the Manager and this will expire at the end of this year, 1972, therefore the salary for the Manager for January, February and March will be required if we are to continue the programme. This will no longer be subsidised as it is now by subventions outside the World Health Organisation. The difference between the $10,000 and the $12,880 will be for travelling and the managing, and this is how the total amount is made up. I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that what the Minister of Health has said has a very considerable amount of truth in it, that is, that the Family Planning Association has done some good work in Barbados, but Mr. Chairman from evidence which I have in my possession I am asking the medical profession in this island to be honest to itself and thus to be honest to the community as a whole. There is, and I am saying it here and now, living evidence where one may go right now at the District Hospital in St. Philip – that is one case, but at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there have been numerous cases – and will be able to see cases of persons having deformed children at that hospital, and the case history bore ample evidence that those mothers have been under the care of doctors for a very long period and have been following most carefully and strictly the instructions given by the Family Planning Association and the doctors.

What is necessary, Mr. Chairman, is for an assessment of the work of this Association, and for the medical profession as a whole as it encounters these cases, the University of the West Indies should benefit considerably from these findings, but what we are saying is this, merely giving the pills as we call them to these would-be mothers is not enough, some of them are taking the pills according to instructions and are still finding themselves in a state of pregnancy. The result is, as I have said and it is well within the knowledge of the medical profession, that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has had enough of these cases, and taking them from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and putting them in the District Hospitals is not good enough, something more should be done, and I am asking not that the Family Planning Association should stop its work but that some further research, and if necessary, its source of supply of the pills, closer contact between the Association, the medical profession and the source from which the Family Planning Association is getting its supplies is absolutely necessary if these people are to be saved from these kinds of situations.

I am not saying what I am saying because of one isolated case, there have been numerous cases coming in the hands of doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and do not let anybody fool the Minister trying to deny this, mothers have been questioned.
6.50 p.m.

I can call the name of some of these mothers, but it would be embarrassing. These things need investigating. I would certainly like to know that something is being done to protect these people. It is all very well and good for us to support the Association and the work that is being done, because we believe that Barbados is one of the most densely populated countries and it is only 166 square miles. All of this makes good reading, but we have to support our population whether it is one million, half-million or a quarter-million. It is for us to put our brains together and find ways and means whereby we can support our population. I myself am not in total opposition to the idea of Family Planning in some cases, because I think my Party supports it. However, I think that some degree of caution is absolutely necessary at some stage or other in dealing with this problem.

Mr. Chairman, as regards this sum of money for the payment of salary to the Manager of the Association, I am of the opinion that if the Minister feels that the Association has made a 30% progress, or a 20% progress during the past years, then that progress could have been doubled if the right type of officer had been at its head. Nobody in Barbados would support the Government's continuing with the Association with the present Manager at its head and expect our women folk to succeed in very considerable measure in this venture.

Mr. Chairman, we must give a considerable amount of credit to the staff at the Family Planning Association who have brought a considerable degree of understanding as well as patience to bear in dealing with the numerous requests from people who deal with the Association. I am in a position to say that the Manager of the Family Planning Association contributes nothing to the smooth and effective running of the Association. It seems that it is not in his make-up to be able to get along with people. There are some people who do not seem to like themselves, and I do not think this is the type of person who should be at the head of such an Association. It must be remembered that the Family Planning Association is a ticklish piece of business to handle.

Mr. Chairman, when you invite a family to make a plan before you make a baby, with whom are you inviting the family to make the plan? At least you are inviting a family to make a plan with somebody, or as a result of some counselling by somebody from the Family Planning Association. It means, therefore, that one has to be ultra-cautious in appointing the type of officer who is selected for making personal contact with these people.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we did not suspend Standing Orders, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for today's sitting.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am prepared to forgive the Hon. Leader of the House today, because he is not quite himself.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. Nothing is wrong with me. It is just that I did not allow the hon. member for St. James to get away with what he intended to do.

Mr. ADAMS: Is that a point of order, Sir? Do you not think that we should have a rule in this House that, when a Minister gets up on phoney points of order, he should be put out of the House? *(Asides)* What kind of business is this? The Leader of the House allows Private Members'

Business to be done. *(Interruption)* He brings in a Resolution that was circulated today which was not on the Order Paper. Are hon. members to be treated in this way? The Clerks, the messengers and so on, are working, and they only have a 20-minute break. There is a Special Experiment today with the Shorthand Reporters and Typists. Are we going to work up to midnight? There was no consultation about the Standing Orders and so on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. The hon. member speaks of no consultation. He wanted to deal with Private Members' Business, and he was allowed to do so. Now it gets to the time when, normally, we should have concluded our business, we find that things are still dragging on. In the circumstances, it is necessary to suspend certain Standing Orders in order to complete our business. There is no dinner; we did not come here to eat; we came here to deal with the people's business.

Mr. ADAMS: The young man who is operating the tape recorder was sitting there since the sitting of the House began. We can go outside and get what we want. There are places where hon. members of this House are members and all we have to do is to go in Bridgetown, eat there, and the food will be better than what we can get in the House. We go for dinner, as a matter of fact, because it is not intended that human beings should sit down and work into the hours of darkness, without a break.
7.00 p.m.

You have the Clerks, the Shorthand Reporters, the Marshal and the Tape Recorder operator who cannot easily get up and go out – and of course there should be consultation about suspending the Standing Orders. As I say, the Minister is not himself today because he is always kind to members of the Opposition. He helps us when we are in need of many things if I may say so; let him not depart from his accepted standards of practice on this occasion. The Minister of Education is on his feet. We do not often get him, but he is being shot at from the back and being helped a little bit from in front, and there will be other conversations. I cannot compliment the Leader of the House on how he is dealing with his files, but we are going through the business slowly and we are not going to get through by 7.30 p.m. or even eight o'clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, could I have made two motions at the same time? Could I have asked for the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to avoid an adjournment and ask for a suspension for dinner at the same time? For that reason I have just sent for the Clerk to ask what about dinner as I realised the time was running out; so I am only trying to show the hon. member that I am considering the interest of the Clerks and everybody else. I am the one who asked about dinner just now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to ask the Leader of the House which Clerk he had consultation with because it would be embarrassing him to ask that. He is not himself today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I asked the Marshal to call the Clerk. There is only one Clerk and there are two Deputy Clerks.

Mr. HINDS: I take it that the Clerk has not reached him yet.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not finished my speech. I have been interrupted on points of order. It is time that the House understands that there are procedures for these things. The Debates Committee when it was being consulted to raise the salary of the Administrative Officer gave a directive that at a certain hour the Administrative Officer of the House was to ask the Leader of the House whether dinner would be required. I cannot remember whether the hour was 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock, but the Clerk who was present and taking the Minutes of the Debates Committee can refresh our memories on that matter. You do not wait until 7 o'clock to talk about dinner. At 5 o'clock it was obvious that dinner would have been required.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, how could we know at 5 o'clock that this thing would have been debated? We did Private Members' Business until 4.30 p.m. and no one expected to be still here; but if you ask how many rods there were and how long they were and all that ignorance, how can we get through?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, when the hon. member talks about ignorance, I must ask him to withdraw that because I am the person who asked about the rods. I object to any Minister or anybody saying of a member of the Opposition that he was talking ignorance. I am asking for that to be withdrawn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister spoke of ignorance, but he did not personify anyone. It was a general remark.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to you, the Hon. Minister spoke about the ignorance of asking about the length of curtain rods, and it was I who asked about curtain rods.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does appear that the hon. member is taking the blame, but I have no ruling on that.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is clear that the ignorant Ministers come in here thinking that the Opposition will sit down and let the business of the day fly through without enquiring into the people's business, and if we are carrying out the people's business by investigating what Government is doing, the Minister cannot say that we are keeping him back.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I object to the statement by the hon. member about ignorant Ministers. I happen to be a Minister and I do not think I am ignorant.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is a collective statement.

Mr. ADAMS: I am speaking and I have been interrupted by points of order. All this talk about ignorance reminds me of a previous occasion when the Prime Minister had to come in here and look around at one of his own members no longer with us and remind the House how that member said that the doctors in town had a cure for anything, but there was no one who had a cure for "ignorancy" yet. Anyhow, that was the Prime Minister's joke. How could the Minister say that at 5 o'clock they would not know whether dinner was wanted? If he had come and asked me I would have told him because I knew there were speeches to be made by hon. members on this side. The Minister of Agriculture would recall that when we were sitting out there at 5 o'clock the member for St. James came and told me to go back in the House and speak and I said "no, the member for Christ Church West has points to speak on," and I could have probably told him the time he would take to deal with them. Members of the Government side have spoken; so there is no secret that the debate was going to go on for a long time. We know that members on this side had matters to consider, and I know that the next item is one which I believe the member for St. James will speak for half an hour or more on and lay some things on the Table of the House too in connection with some of these things; so we are not fooling ourselves that this is going to be over quickly. We should hear about dinner before we vote on this motion that the House revert to Committee of Supply. I will call on the Minister; he is so fast to jump up and talk about ignorance in connection with the length of the curtain rods, he had better be careful that the rod of correction is not visited upon him when the hon. member for St. Michael West comes to speak again. He should get up and tell us something about it. Obviously he does not know because he is a courteous man and when he knows something he talks, but let him think what are we going to do for the rest of the evening just sitting down in Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member knows that we have this omnibus Resolution which we have not yet got through.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I have finished talking. There is no use talking to a marshmellow.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: We have this Resolution which we have not yet finished and we have another Resolution for $92,000 and then we have the Resolution to guarantee the payment of principal and interest on money borrowed by the Barbados Development Bank. How does it become a matter of the Schedule? What is all this high sounding thing? We have a small agenda and we should have been finished already; so if we have to stay until midnight we will stay.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the House resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, am I not entitled to speak on the motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already begun to put the motion.

Mr. BOLDEN: My apologies. Am I to understand that the Opposition will be railroaded because they came in here and figured that the Opposition should keep quiet and say nothing?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As long as I am in the Chair, none of that will happen. You have your right to speak, but if you do not stand in time and I start to put the question, I am not going to stop.

Mr. BOLDEN: As I said earlier tonight, Hansard will prove how the Government intends to conduct the business of the country, because if you come in here with a number of Resolutions, it is quite obvious to anybody who knows the workings of the Opposition that the Opposition will have something to say, and if you are going to move the suspension of the Standing Orders at 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock and say that you do not see why we should be in here at this moment, it is tantamount to saying that the Opposition has no right being in here. We deserve some consideration. We have reached the point in here when it seems as if the staff of Parliament must work endlessly like machines, and even machines have got to be greased and oiled. The

Leader of the House who was in here for so many years should know better than to say he does not see why we should be in here, and looking at his watch to see when we should get out. Is that the way that the people's business should be conducted?
7.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Time is being wasted. We have often suspended the sitting at 7.30 p.m. to get some refreshments.

Mr. BOLDEN: I cannot even talk now. I wonder if senility is stepping in somewhere along the line.

The question that the House resume Committee of Supply was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Committee reported progress and asked for leave to sit again Head 37 was being considered and the hon. member for St. Peter was speaking. He may continue.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the note to this item tells us that the Association has also requested Government to meet the cost of the salary, ($860.00 per month), and of the travelling allowance, ($100.00 per month), of the Manager of the Association with effect from 1st January, 1973, since the Sunnen Foundation, which now pays these emoluments, will cease to do so from 31st December, 1972.

I believe that the Minister would have more information on this and would be able to say what is bringing this about, if the Foundation is ceasing to pay these emoluments as from 31st December, 1972, if the Foundation has reasons to believe that it is no longer necessary to employ a manager at a rate of $860 a month plus $100 a month travelling allowance.

I do not know if representation can be made to the Foundation to contribute to a lesser extent for a longer period than what it has been contributing in the past. If this can be answered by the Minister, we would appreciate it very much indeed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the work of this Association is to succeed in any appreciable manner, we feel and we are satisfied that the question of staffing would have to be looked into not only with respect to the salary of the manager, as we have before us, but in the case of all the other members of the staff; and we will like to know what the Minister has to say about this.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has asked if representation has been made to the Sunnen Foundation by the Barbados Government. This organisation, Mr. Chairman, has been paying the salaries of the manager, the assistant manager, the nurses, four field workers and the driver since 1964. This is not the only organisation which is helping. The Family Planning Association receives sums from WHO and we are now trying to negotiate for funds for the construction of a new building.

The hon. member also mentioned the personality of the manager as far as family planning is concerned. I think that the essential thing would not be only the manager's personality, but the adaptability and personality of the field workers. I think that the emphasis is on field work. The activities of these field workers are important. There are now 10 field workers in this particular business. I think that this clearly sets out all the information that the hon. member needs.
7.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I made mention of a point where the Queen Elizabeth Hospital could assist the family planning and the Government generally, and I have given the Minister one case at the St. Philip District Hospital that he could go there and see.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The point made by the hon. member for St. Peter is well taken and I will explore what can be done in this field. I do not think there is any medicine that is guaranteed one hundred per cent. I do not think that even the makers can guarantee them. Age plays an important part and people should take them according to the directions. All these are very important parts of it. You might miss taking the medicine for two days and the effect is not the same. In no case can you guarantee them to be one hundred per cent. Who is to say if a woman finds herself pregnant and she was affected, who is to prove whether she had been taking the medicine in accordance with the instructions? I do not think they may be guaranteed 99% but there is hardly any of these medicines that are guaranteed one hundred per cent.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister must bear in mind is that there are cases

which have been treated monthly and for that reason they have been seen monthly by doctors and examined at the Clinic, and even at a very late stage three doctors have held consultations, and these have been worried as to how it could come about that the result of the pregnancy is a deformity. What is the Minister going to say about this? These are people who have been under a doctor's care from the very first moment to the last.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: This is the first time I have heard about this. The hon. member is always in a position to get information that I cannot get. This is honestly the very first time that I have heard about doctors having consultation about something like this, so what can I say about it? I would try to make an investigation to see what I can say about it. As I said, this is the first occasion that I happened to know about it.

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

Head 41 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the passing of Head 41 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – Item 14 – Non-established Staff for which the expenditure is $14,400. The addendum sets out the reason for this. It states that the Price Control Section of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce is being re-organised and it is proposed to increase the non-established posts of Price Control Inspectors from six to twelve. An amount of $14,400 is therefore required to meet the salaries of an additional six Price Control Inspectors for the period 1st August, 1972 to 31st March, 1973.

Hon. members will recall that the staff of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce needed reviewing and re-organising, and recently certain proposals were made with regard to the creation of certain additional posts on a pensionable basis. This included three Price Control Officers, one senior economist, one assistant economist, three clerical officers and two stenographers. There was also included provisions for the abolition of the post of Senior Technical Officer and the increasing of the number of non-established posts of Price Control inspectors from six to twelve. That is what we are dealing with now.

I am just giving members an idea that beside the Price Control Inspectors with which we are dealing specifically now, that the whole Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce has been re-organized and set on a proper footing so that it can produce better work and on a better basis.

Speaking for myself, I have had dealings with this Ministry sometimes and I realise that this Ministry is now being put on a better footing as far as the Price Control Inspectors are concerned because there is a lot of work for them to do and it is very important work and the whole system has to be properly organized.

Sir, I beg to move that Head 41 stand part.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak briefly on this Head. I refer to the increase in the non-established posts of Price Control Inspectors from six to twelve. The Minister in his introductory remarks said that they were putting the department on a better footing, but this question of trade for some time has been a problem and it appears to me that it has been giving the Government a headache.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I see no need for increasing the number of Price Control Inspectors unless you can really control the cost of living. I think that this is what the Government should set out to do. Increasing the Price Control Inspectors from six to twelve when you should control a few items like sardines and things of that nature, is not meeting the problem and it has been like this from the time this Government has come into power that we have had this rise in the price of goods in the country. I think members on the other side are aware of the fact that the cost of living last year alone was greater in one year than it has been in all the years put together when the former Government was in power.

7.30 p.m.

The increase was greater in one year than it has ever been in all the years put together when the former Government was in power, and they have at their disposal all the economists, which we did not have, because young men and women were just in the process of coming out of the universities when the present Government came into power. They have the Central Purchasing Department. They have the Planning Unit. All of these things they have at their disposal. One of the things which the Government has failed to do repeatedly is to be able to control the country's cost of living.

I think a couple of nights ago I was watching television and I saw the hon. member for St. Lucy interviewing, I think it was a trade unionist from Bermuda. The member for St. Lucy did question this gentleman, the trade unionist, and he told him...

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am sure that the hon. member could not say that we were asking anything about prices or anything to do with the price control, with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labour in that interview.

Mr. CRAIG: Yes Sir. He is a very nice boy. I know him for a number of years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No nice boys inside here.

Mr. CRAIG: He is a very pleasant member. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I recall very well that this trade unionist was the most amazed person when he heard that some people in Barbados are still earning $20.00 a week. Now what can $20.00 a week buy? You have a business, I think, of this nature Mr. Chairman and you would know people in the agricultural district where you operate, when they have to come in the supermarket or come to your place of business, you are afraid and sometimes you are ashamed to see the amount of goods they have to accept for $10, $15 or $20. So increasing the price control inspectors is not really the answer to the problem. What the Government must tackle immediately – and they have had something like 10 years to do it and they're going into their eleventh year in a couple of months' time and they will be in there for another four years unless you have some young people or some people which I believe will rebel because the Government is coming in here and passing bits of legislation and not really tackling the needs of the people. When I continue to put the old age pensioners' case...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now, now!

Mr. CRAIG: I continue to put the old age pensioners' case of getting $5 a week to go into the supermarkets and buy price controlled goods. You will not be able to say "Now, now, now" again, Sir, because you are the person who helps to sell them. You will have to say Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear, could it be so hard? That is the position Sir.

I have with me a few items which I purchased today. I brought them with me to see if these could stimulate the Government to tackle this very terrible problem. You will be a most amazed man Sir. A package of biscuits for 21 cents. I will make these a document of the house. I purchased $5 in groceries. A pound of potatoes for 25c. Sir. You will find a tin of Mello Cream costs 42c., a package of cocoa costs 14c. You will find that the pensioners will never drink Ovaltine. A bag of dog chow costs $1.95 and if you have dogs you will know that one dog will eat three bags of dog chow in a week.

Now I would like to know what you have got the control officers for? Is it necessary to have them? Is it necessary to increase them when this is the problem which the country is confronted with and you are bringing in little ends of legislation. What you have to do is to tackle this. This is the problem. A tin of sweetened condensed milk costs 50c. and you are not even sure if it is good. As you heard from the hon. member, they are scrubbing out the tanks with the same broom that they sweep the gutters with.

I think, Mr. Chairman, you will recall that some time ago, I think it was the Minister, at that time, of Agriculture who defended the Pine Hill Dairy so ably in here when he said that something was wrong with the vacuums and that in six weeks' time it will be alright. We are not sure if this milk is good but it is what we are getting. Onions, Sir, they are grown locally – 30c. a pound.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is ignorant of what is going on in this country, because those onions which he presented here are not grown in Barbados. All the onions grown in Barbados have already been sold at a price of 18c. a pound or less than 18c. a pound. So don't let him come in here and mislead this House. Let him be knowledgeable of what's going on and when he comes in here don't bring ignorance.

Mr. CRAIG: Yes Sir; onions are grown in Barbados, but you buy them at 30c. a pound.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Again he is displaying his ignorance and I use it in its strictest sense. Our onions are grown seasonally. It is completely uneconomical to grow onions which will ripen after the month of April because of the shortness of the night. At a time when the nights are longer the onions will bulb. During the time when the nights are short what you get from the onions is seasoning. We produce onions when we can produce them economically, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I know nothing at all about agriculture or onions or anything else. But there are brands of tropical onions that bulb in 12-hour nights. The Minister knows that. Tell me that they are not grown in Barbados or that they may not be suitable on some other grounds but tropical onions exist and bulb in 12-hour nights. I am not telling him he has to do as people do with Poinsettia in the middle of the year – cover them over to turn them red. But even that is done commercially, as he might know so that they can be sold in North America in July, red. The Minister is well familiar with that. Strains of these things that apparently need long hours of night or long hours of daylight are developed to grow in countries that do not have them.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Again he has got a partner who is displaying his ignorance of what is going on in this country. Tell him to talk about commerce but don't come in here to tell me about agriculture. I breathe agriculture; I sleep agriculture; and I know what is going on in this country in the field of agriculture and the point is, Mr. Chairman Sir, that the hon. member talked about tropical onions...
7.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have the option to speak at length. When it comes to a point of order, I allow each member of this Chamber to develop his point of order. I am not going to accept a speech as a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order which was referred to by the hon. member who came in here and made a misleading statement and displayed his ignorance, and it is my right to get up and reply to get the record straight, I cannot let that go down in Hansard. If the hon. member had referred to the hon. member for St. Joseph, he would be able to advise him that what he was saying was not strictly correct.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the Chairman's attention that what is good for the member for St. Andrew is good for me when I get up to speak. It has to be.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot tell the Chair what must be, I will not allow this kind of nonsense.

Mr. CRAIG: I am no expert on these things, but I will ask the Minister if he will agree that since the onions are grown seasonally, he will increase the old age pensions. You are having $5.00 a week and your prices go up today and only on one particular item they come down tomorrow.

I continue. Brown sugar, 15 cents per pound. Split peas, 19 cents per pint. A box of matches, 7 cents, a cake of blue soap, 22 cents. Mr. Chairman, you may sell them a little higher because all these items are not controlled. These came out of a supermarket where the volume is a little bigger. A half pound of salted meat costs 55 cents and a half pound of cod fish 45 cents, and they have to buy the fourth grade of cod fish. Corn meal, 19 cents a pound. This is the so-called socialist Government that has been bluffing this country for a number of years. Rice, 15 cents per pint. When you total these amounts, Mr. Chairman, you will see it comes to $5.01. There is no bread, no table butter, no toilet paper or toothpaste, no salt, no kerosene oil, a pound of fresh beef or pork will never be seen on that table. Chicken backs is something of the past. Flying fish, bacon, eggs, cereal, fruit; these things they cannot afford to buy.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, are we discussing the resolution for increasing the non-established staff of the Ministry of Trade or are we discussing what an old age pensioner receives and what he can buy with it? The hon. member brought in those things to deal with the Resolution which he got knocked out today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to deal with it. He has produced all these articles to prove to me that it is not necessary to have any further Price Control Officers, but I am waiting to ask him to sit down when he is going to tell me about the old age pensioners again. If you think I am not aware of what he is doing and that I will allow old age pensioners to be discussed under this Resolution you are wrong. The hon. member may proceed with the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: You have anticipated me very well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not anticipating anyone in here.

Mr. CRAIG: You have been doing a very good job in that Chair, do not worry to anticipate me. There is no corned beef, no fresh fruit, no corn flakes, clothing does not come into this, and you will find that repeatedly the Union has to go to employers asking them for increased wages for the workers to help with this spiralling cost of living and the Government has done

absolutely nothing to control it. What we are asking here this afternoon is for six Control Officers; what are they going to control? What you have to control are the merchants in Bridgetown who are the advisers to the Government, what you have to control are the imports that come to the country. You have to set up something so that you can control the imports that come into the country that push the cost of living this high, we do not want six more inspectors. How often do you see a case come before the Courts about the control of prices in this country?
7.50 p.m.

I have heard the Minister of Trade in the Senate advocating that you must have some External Trade Bureau similar to what they have in Guyana, but we have not heard anything more about this. You have a problem where Mr. John Jones imports something and then passes it on to the Bridgetown merchants; the Commission Merchants pass it on to the wholesaler, and the wholesaler passes it on to the shopkeeper who passes it on to the consumer. The Price Control Inspectors are unable to deal with those fellows at the top, but when the small shopkeeper increases the price of an article he will be taken before the Court and asked to pay a fine of $500. Anybody who sells something at a price higher than the scheduled price is a fool, as far as I am concerned.

For some 10 years they have been in power, and we have seen the cost of living going up year after year. A tin of mutton which was sold at $1.13 a few days ago is now sold at $1.30 or $1.39. We want the Government to make sure that the Commission Merchants, with whom the Trade Union boss had a battle quite recently, do not continue to fleece the people of this country. Government has always condoned this type of behaviour. My colleague once said in here that certain decisions are made in Plantations Ltd. Buildings, in Broad Street – the Huntes, the Goddards and so on – and then certain people walk about under the guise of socialists. The small man has no chance of survival. You get a rise in your pay packet this morning and tomorrow morning the prices of things will go up. You will then be told of dock strikes, inflation, and so on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, that is, until 9 p.m.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it is now reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we reported progress, we were dealing with Head 41, and the hon. member for St. James was speaking. He may now resume.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you will recall that I used these items before me as exhibits to show where the Ministry of Trade has failed in its policy to control the very high cost of living in this country. When this Government comes here to ask for 6 additional price Control Inspectors, I can only conclude that it is due to the number of small business places that are going up and there is a need for these additional officers. What I have pointed out is that there is a lack of direction and a lack of policy in the Ministry of Trade.

Mr. Chairman, I think you will probably know that a 5–lb bag of flour will cost $1.45, simply because the Government has failed to allow flour to be imported from Australia whereby the small man would be able to make a small profit. As a result of that decision the Commission Merchants do not import that type of flour. They seem to think that it is inferior flour, and they import Robin Hood flour. The small man has to buy that flour at 28c [illegible] pound. A 5–lb bag of flour will cost $1.45 [illegible] 27c or 28c per pound.

Potatoes were imported into this country, and the Ministry of Trade said that they had to wash them because they had on too much dirt. However, the amazing thing was that the big boys were able to make about $10,000 as a result of the high mark up which they were allowed to put on the potatoes. The poor man has to carry this burden all the time. Some people have to work for $5 a week; some people get $1 a day, and others have to exist on $20 a month and be living at the mercy of some employer who may give them something when they retire. This Government only thinks it fit to give some of our senior citizens $5 a week on which to exist. The articles I have before me do not include lard oil which is sold at 52c a pint. What is needed is some system for controlling the Commission Merchants down Broad Street. You have just had the Trade Union fighting them tooth and nail in order to get a proper wage for the workers.
9.05 p.m.

As soon as the Trade Union is in a position to get better wages for workers, up goes the price of things again. Only this morning I gave a young lady a drop to work, while on my way to Seawell Airport, and she told me she could only pay bus fare up to that point because it costs her something like $7.50 a week in bus fares and $6 for lunch at Norma Jackman making a total of $13.50 a week out of $19 which she recieves. How can this young woman exist on $16.00? What about her deodorants? What about her clothes? These are the things which Government must attack. I am sure that they had in their manifesto the question of the cost of living, and all you can hear every day is people screaming and crying out about the cost of living.

It is regrettable, Mr. Chairman, that Government's only answer to this is that one country passes on inflation to another, but Government must tackle a problem of this nature. You can safely say that if the Department needs strengthening by having an additional six officers that you have to determine what is the real purpose of these officers and what duties they must perform. The merchants have stopped importing sardines which were controlled at 21 cents or 22 cents a tin and are bringing in corned herrings which are sold at 29 cents and 30 cents a pound, and there is no scheduled price on herrings, and people who would normally have bought a tin of sardines are now forced to be exploited by the Bridgetown merchants. I would like to see before I leave this Chamber that Government tackles this problem in a manner whereby the small man can be in a position to have a proper meal and a balanced diet. It is the old people, people who are unable to work, not necessarily because of their age, but handicapped in some other manner, who are pressed to the ground. You hear the Civil Servants and teachers demonstrating that they must get more money to combat the cost of living. You have hundreds of girls and boys coming out of school and being thrown on the labour market, and only two days ago I read where the Union is prepared to tackle this retrenchment by some of the boys in Broad Street, because they are bringing in machines, cutting their labour cost down, and other people are thrown on the market, there is no work or money, and you force them into committing more and more crime in the country.

I will wait to hear what the Minister has to say because he only introduced the Resolution and did not say why they want the six inspectors except that the Department was never staffed properly. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power eleven years ago there were three inspectors; today there are six and you are asking for an additional six, but the cost of living then was never as it is today. I will wait to hear what the Hon. Minister has to say in connection with the few points I have drawn to his attention.

Hon. G . G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have listened rather attentively to the hon. member for St. James who is throwing the entire blame on the Government. I would like to tell him that I have been Minister of Trade, and if he takes the amount of small shops in the entire island and the small amount of Price Control Officers who have to visit the various parts of the Island, one of these inspectors could not get back to the same shop in two years if he had to visit all of them. The hon. member knows Barbados as well as I do and he would know the number of shops, and even with an addition of six inspectors I would not consider them sufficient if we had to carry out a practical month to month investigation if you had to go back to the same shop especially in the rural areas where people suffer greatest. If an inspector covers an area in St. Michael and St. Lucy, he cannot be in both places at the same time. I think the idea behind this is to have certain inspectors who can be allocated to certain districts. Only today we received information of a particular shop that is actually overdoing it and we can directly send an inspector to it.

The hon. member knows that most of the things like flour and meal are under control, and it is a matter of investigating the system. The mark-up on most of these commodities is 3 percent to the importer, 8 per cent to the wholesaler and 12 per cent to the retailer, and as long as we have this type of system, there will always be trouble. The Ministry Of Trade is working on this to cut down this three tier

system which is creating inflation which is responsible for high costs because the importer, the wholesaler and the retailer must get their share. The Government is actively working on the problem of making sure that the invoice system that we get in this country is correct, because this is all the Government has got to go on. Prices have been rising over the last four years, and I would like to ask if the hon. member has ever made any recommendations to the Price Control Board or complained of anything. He is entitled to go and give evidence and that is one of the reasons why the Government has set up the Board so that anybody can make complaints and let us have an investigation made.

We had a price put on the 3½ ounce tins of sardines and they got around it. This is their right in buisness, and they are now importing the 5 ounce tin sardines which have no price control, but who can look at a tin of sardines and know whether it is a 3 ounce or 5 ounce tin? There is very little difference in size. It is not fair therfore for the hon. member to say that the Government has no regard for prices. The hon. member also talked about potaotes being washed, but the entire agricultural development of this country could be completely broken down through the importation of vegetables from another country with soil on them. The hon. member for St. Joseph would be aware of this, and he would know that by bringing in diseases in the soil our agricultural development can be broken down. I saw shipments come in here last year and the year before with soil, and we refused to allow our soil to become contaminated; so every precaution has to be taken. The hon. member must be fair in what he is saying. He knows quite well, too, that every pound of codfish is equivalent to three pounds of fresh fish.

9.15. p.m.

That was only in the days before there was refrigeration. Now you can put 3 lbs of fresh fish in the deep freeze without having to dry it. Salting fish was the old pattern that was devised when there was no refrigeration. When I go to a party and I get some salt fish cakes, it is a luxury to me. I do not think that where old age pensions are concerned –

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to hear anything about old age pensions.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: He knows that the Ministry of Trade is very concerned about the cost of living and the control of prices. The only way we can do this is to have enough inspection. He is talking about something which he says the Government is doing nothing about, and now that the Government is trying to do something about it, he is complaining.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am not surprised to hear the member trying to make out a case against Price Control Inspectors.

Mr. CRAIG: I said I agreed that we should have additional Price Control Inspectors. If the hon. member read Hansard he would have realised that four years ago, I brought in a Resolution asking for price control.

Mr. GREAVES: If I remember correctly he said that there was no need. Any thinking, reasonable, person would realise that there is need for Price Control Inspectors.

The hon. member talked very glibly about the cost of living without really going into the background of the cost of living. There is no doubt that a country like ours which is highly dependent on imports cannot entirely control the cost of living. I am not saying that we cannot to a certain extent exert a certain amount of control over the cost of living, but we are largely an importing country, and a lot of things that we import are at prices over which we have no control.

I really believe that the Government is pursuing a policy of seeing that the mark up on the goods landed here is such that consumers are not exploited. I do not think that anyone would deny that a business man in any part of the world would not exploit a situation. What we have to see is that exploitation does not take place. That is why we have to increase our staff of Price Control Inspectors.

I do not want to be dramatic like the member for St. James, but in order to get this debate into true perspective, I do not think that anyone in this Chamber has any doubt that the hon. member for St. James was caught with his pants down. I think I know him well enough now to realise that he will be terribly disappointed if he did not have an opportunity to say the things that he has said.

I want to speak about Price Control Inspectors specifically, as I wonder why it is that the post is unestablished.

9.25 p.m.

If anyone looks at the money they are going to be paid, I have worked it out and it is somewhere in the region of $300 a month. It gives me the impression that enough serious thought has not gone into the question surrounding the appointment of the people who are going to supervise the Price levels in this country. I would not think for one moment that when the Price Control Inspector is appointed, that he is there only to harrass the small shopkeepers. He is there also to check on the large business places in this country because there is no doubt that the owners of the large businesses in this country use every means and every device to exploit the small people in this country, and we have to ensure that adequate precaution is taken so as to prevent any such situation continuing. I, Mr. Chairman, see the appointment of Price Control Inspectors as a direct insult.

The question which arises in my mind is, what quality of people you are expecting to attract at this salary, and when one thinks that you are looking for some old retired person who has no idea of what is involved in this question of the control of prices – or am I to understand that they are interested in appointing people who would ensure that these policies of the Government are carried out without fear or favour. There is no doubt that if you are asking a person to do such an important task and paying people at such a low rate, you are running the risk of these people being placed in a situation where they may be tempted – I am not saying what they may be tempted to do, but the temptation is there. I am not casting any aspersions on any person but I want to be sure that our price control inspectors are so well looked after that this temptation would not have any real effect on them.

It therefore means that the selection of the inspectors is extremely important. One has got to look at such qualities as integrity, honesty and forthrightness. We must be sure that these people possess these qualities because they have a very important function to perform.

The hon. member for St. James made mention of the fact that it was stated that the Government was establishing an external trade bureau. This, to me, is a very important thing for any Government in a country. I believe that we must get into the area of at least controlling the imports of the essential goods which we import so that we would be able to make sure when these commodities are passed on to the consumer, that the markups which are placed on such items are kept at a minimum. This is extremely important. This no doubt will hurt a lot of people, but I do not think, we should be thinking in terms of the few people who are going to be hurt, particularly when you know that the masses of people in this country would benefit from such a move.

The Hon. Minister of Health when he was speaking just now made mention of invoices and things of that nature, and this is another important aspect of this whole question of the control of prices of items which come into this country, and I understand from fairly reliable sources that there is a tendency on the part of some businessmen in this country to get their counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic, or wherever they trade, to present or to make out false invoices so as to create a wrong impression on the price of certain items that come into this country. I think the Government has to pay attention to this and ensure that the invoices which are tendered, are true. One of the ways in which this can be done – and I do not think this is beyond the realm of possibility – is that every effort should be made to get hold of the prices from the source where these business men are dealing with, so as to make sure that the community is not being taken for a ride.

One point I would like to mention is this, that the Ministry has such an important function to play in this country that it should possess within its ranks, a research unit which would be able to go into the whole question of pricing, and mainly, into the possibility of external sources of supply, so as to ensure that we get the very best at the cheapest rate.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when one sits and listens to the debate on this Resolution, he would almost come to the conclusion that an election is around the corner. Fortunately for us, we have approximately four and a half years before we have another election.

Now throughout the world, the cost of living is a problem for every Government, and especially for the Government of a country like Barbados which depends on commodities from overseas to feed the population.
9.35 p.m.

We in this island import inflation. When the workers in big countries demand higher wages, it must pass on to the consumers, and in these cases no government in the world, regardless of your policy, can control fully, the increased cost of these commodities. For one to get and critize this government for not doing this and for not doing that, I wonder how those people feel. I can assure you that this government is doing all that

it possibly can do, to deep the prices down, so that poor people of this country will only pay the necessary increases which we are obliged to pay for the commodities.

Now concerning the increased staff, if we did not have the inspectors, where will the cost of living go? You have these inspectors. They get around and it is through their constant supervision that we have not got to pay even higher prices for the commodities. But what can be done about these increases when in many cases you get black market. Certain commodities are sold to certain people without even the mark up and you get some of the very people who will criticize these prices.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. Did I hear the hon. member say that there is something about black market? Because I would hate to think that the hon. member knows about black market and withholds this information from the police.

Mr. WEEKES: You have mentioned in your speech that people are paying greater prices for things. You, too, as a member of this Honourable House, could have reported the matter to the Police Department immediately.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. I said they are paying greater prices for things simply because the government failed to control the prices of goods. I never mentioned anything about any black market. I do not believe in that sort of racketeer thing.

Mr. WEEKES: I would like the hon. member to know that it is my prerogative in here, as a member of this House, to speak on any Resolution. During the time that he was speaking, I was decent enough not to interrupt him. But at this particular time, he finds it possible to interrupt me. The statement I have made is authentic and I would like you to understand that what I have said, I can vouch for. In this island, there are certain commodities which several people, several members of the community, purchase at higher prices than the prices which are marked up. Let us even think about some of the commodities we have in this country. You go to the fish market. It is true that the price control is not there with fish now because we have not got any mark up on the fish, but before that, you or any person who wanted a piece of fish, would pay what the fisherman demands of you; and this is the kind of thing that is going on in this island. But.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. It is painful to sit down and hear the hon. member speak about some things about which he does not know and mislead this Hon. House. When and hon. member speaks about going to the fish market and paying what prices are demanded, he should not talk of things, he does not know about because.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. That is number one, and number two, I have given a lot of latitude on this Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN: Well if he is fishing, stop him from fishing and come to shore.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to make hon. members confine themselves to item 14. This is the item we are discussing. I have given a lot of latitude.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, in increasing the number of inspectors, I feel that the time has come when we must think about travelling allowances which these inspectors are paid. They are not on the travelling schedule, consequently it may not be possible for them to do as much travelling as they would desire. I am appealing to the Government to have a look into this matter and find out if the amount of travelling allowances which are given to these inspectors is enough for them to travel throughout the island and render efficient service in controlling the prices.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member that has just sat down, the price control inspectors are on the schedule basis. They are paid on the basis of the mileage that they do.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am glad for the information which the hon. member has just given. But I would like to draw this to his attention. While they are given the travelling allowance, I would like him to know, that they are not given the opportunity to borrow money to purchase cars. Consequently I met one of them a few days ago and gave him a drop down in my car. He told me that he would be glad to get a loan from the Government to purchase a motor car but the Government does not allow the inspectors to be placed on the schedule so that they can borrow money to purchase motor cars.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry again to interrupt. But again I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member that Government has been giving consideration

to the very thing that he is mentioning. Some means by which they can get loans at least on the same conditions that postmen get their loans for scooters or something like that.

Mr. WEEKES: I must thank the hon. minister for the information which he has given me.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman I feel very happy, because if an Acting Minister who is also a Parliamentary Secretary, does not know what is going on in the government, I am a happy man, when I know a little bit that is going on. I have sat and wondered, and wondered, and wondered.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under what Head are you speaking now?
9.45 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Head 14 Sir. With all due respect, I am dealing with the price control because throughout the speeches made from the other side tonight everybody is talking about importing inflation, etc. The hon. member for St. Philip South gets up and talks about going into the market to buy fish and having to pay what price the fisherman asks for it, but as I said, the word "ignorance" has been used a lot in here tonight, and I repeat if you are ignorant of what is going on, do not jump in, because you will muddy the water. All the Price Control Officers you might bring into this country you cannot beat the man outside selling if your laws are not correctly drawn up. The hon. member should understand that there is price control on fresh fish, and all you have to do is to put it with a little ice and take it out and it is iced fish and not controlled any longer, so you have to pay. Increasing the number of Price Control Officers will not help, there are several factors involved in this.

It is all well and good to compliment the Minister of Trade, but you have to start right to end right. You increase the Price Control Officers from six to twelve, but does any member on that side know up to now that the Price Control Officers go in Court and prosecute themselves and there is no qualified legal practitioner directly and permanently attached to the Ministry of Trade in respect of price control? That is the first mistake you are making. When the Rules of Court are properly drawn, they will have to pay the costs and the Price Control Officers will not be able to help you.

The next point you have to look at, Mr. Chairman, is the fluctuation of prices especially on a commodity like corned beef. How many corned beef cases have been lost in this island because the Price Control Officers did not know how to prosecute? Mr. Chairman, you know very well the technique; you take off the label and put a little onion on it and you put up the price and say you are selling corned beef and onion, and if a man says he wants to eat the corned beef on the premises that is another thing.

You have another confusion. You have the Ministry of Trade which is being patted on the back, but you still have the Ministry of Trade importing into this country beets, carrots, etc., and this is the reason why I asked certain questions about the B.M.C. because at the same time the small market gardeners of this country are producing carrots, beets, etc. and cannot get a market for them. What do you want Price Control Officers to control? List your priorities first, because you are breaking down the very system you are trying to set up and you are getting nowhere.

Let us go a bit further. The very goods, that they talk about controlling the prices on, come through the harbour, and up to this day, the Minister of Health can tell you that 90 percent of the ships which bring goods into this country do not present a completed manifest to the Port authorities. It is only when a sale comes up or when somebody down there, sees your mark on the goods that they will call you and tell you to come for them, and the shipping agents will tell you they are not responsible for the goods, it is your duty to know when something has arrived for you. The importer does not lose, the Government has got to clean its own house first, make every shipping agent in this country responsible for goods put on the ships, but until a whole investigation into the operation of the shipping agents in this country is carried out this situation will continue. All the Price Control Officers you employ, giving them travelling allowance and motor cars cannot help the poor man in this country, and that is where you have to start, Mr. Chairman. When an importer in Bridgetown imports a containerised cabin loaded with foodstuff and it is not on the manifest, it stays down there, who is going to lose? Not the importer, because the mark up is based on the C.I.F. value and the duty when it gets here, and every day you pay port charges, all this is added to the cost of the commodity, and all the Inspectors you put there cannot prevent this. Do you know why you get big mark ups in this community? When you add 3% for the importer then the next 2½% and the next 8%, it leaves a very wide margin for the country man.

Everybody has had an example of this with the recent dispute between Banks Brewery and the Roebuck Street merchants. If you control the Port and the big producers you will leave a wider margin for the man in the country district, but this is how you will do it. You will put the Price Control Officers to go into the country and harrass the man in the country who is afraid, but as somebody said, the last Budget Speech was the merchants' budget.
9.55 p.m.

I defy anyone of them sitting over there to say that the last Budget was not a merchant's Budget. When you think of *ad valorem* duty, you will know that when things come into the Harbour automatically you are putting more money into the pockets of the merchants and more cost on the consumer. Your Inspectors are not going to help anybody in this matter. You are merely increasing the debt of the people who have no control over their destiny.

I agree that we import a certain amount of inflation, but it is the duty put on certain articles that is causing all of this trouble. Government must endeavour to cut its jacket to suit the question of inflation. How are you going to do it when you have the Ministry of Trade with all of the economists and all the expertise, and you are still allowing the merchants to import English potaotes? Has the Minister ever considered whether we could grow potatoes in Barbados at the same cost or at a cheaper cost than the potatoes imported?

When the hon. member for St. James spoke about onions being sold at 30c per pound, it raised a question that several people have not yet seen. I can tell you, categorically, that in 1970 onions were grown in this country, exported to Trinidad, and within six weeks the same onions were brought back into this country and sold at a far higher price. It is known that we reaped onions in Barbados, exported them to other countries, and then we had to buy imported onions. In December last we had the same trouble with tomatoes. People were not encouraged to plant tomatoes in Barbados, and it was necessary to import tomatoes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member is making a good point. I just want to draw to his attention that, as a result of recent experience with onions, etc., the Barbados Marketing Corporation will soon be the sole importers of certain commodities in order to stabilise prices. We will deal with onions, tomatoes, and things of that sort. He says that the Barbados Marketing Corporation or the Ministry of Trade is doing nothing, but he does not know what is being done in this direction. The hon. member for St. Joseph is merely trying to capitalise on certain things.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some people do not seem to know how to duck out of the way when blows are coming. The Hon. Leader of the House says that the B.M.C. will soon be the sole importers of certain commodities, but he does not seem to understand what is taking place. *(Asides.)* What is the policy of the Department? There does not appear to be any agreement between the two Departments. You are talking about increasing your Price Control Inspectors in order to keep down the rising cost of living when you are importing the things that we can grow in Barbados. The farmers are not interested in growing things, because they may suffer the same fate as they suffered last year. They planted commodities and had to leave them in the ground while the B.M.C. imported similar commodities.

Mr. Chairman, the B.M.C. imported eggs while the merchants in Barbados had a lot of eggs on their hands. The Ministry refused to allow the farmers to export eggs to other countries, so you do not need Price Control Inspectors. First of all, what type of people are you going to employ at $300 per month to perform the duties of Price Control Inspectors? When you increase the Price Control Inspectors to 12, will they be doing the prosecutions in the Courts? Are you hoping to keep down the cost of commodities by increasing the number of Price Control Inspectors when there is an escape route via the mark up system?

The hon. member for St. Philip told the hon. member for St. James that he should report the matter to the Police, if he knew that somebody was selling something above the scheduled price. The Price Control Division is a specialised Department, but it does not have specialist staff. With regard to the question of giving evidence to the Price Control Board, nobody is going to the Board to say that John Thomas is selling Corned Beef at 3¢ higher than the scheduled price, because whatever is said will find its way back to the shop keeper. When the Price Control Inspector or somebody else goes to the shopkeeper to get a tin of Corned Beef he will be told that the Corned Beef is not for sale. On the other hand, merchants can store things in the bond and refuse to bring them out. There is something called "Invitation to Treat" in law, and you cannot make me sell something if I do not want to sell it; so you have a lot of things to think about.
10.05 p.m.

It is not all just to increase the Price Control Officers, put them in a motor car and send them around the country. Another point is that Barbados is a small place and every merchant will soon get to know the Price Control Officers, and as soon as he steps into the shop he will be asked to fire a "see through", and business is finished until the Price Control Officer gets outside. I know a supermarket owner who used to win his case every time he was reported, because the Price Control Officer used to forget the evidence when he got in Court. That is as true as I am standing here. With all this argument by the hon. member for St. Philip that the Government has the interest of the people at heart, and by the Minister of Health that if you send a Price Control Officer into the rural districts he would not get back there for two years, I would say that he would not get back for three years because he would be drinking for two years and has to sober up for one before you bring him down.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of problems. Let us assume that you catch a man in St. Philip selling goods above th schedule price, you have to prosecute him at Boarded Hall; so what will the Price Control Officer do for the fifteen or sixteen days he is at Boarded Hall standing in the sun? *(Asides.)* You should be careful before you start speaking. There are lots of things that have got to be done, but I guarantee that you are not going to be better off with the increase from six to twelve officers. You should go in the Port first and start controlling the cost of living from there, and do not try to fool the public that by increasing the Price Control Officers from six to twelve that it will lower the cost of living.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has talked utter nonsense and knows absolutely nothing about what he is talking. I put it to him that he does not know what are the charges in the Port. Only a crass idiot would come in here and say that the charges at the Port....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I object to the remarks the hon. member has made. If he has been sleeping, he should wake up first and hear what I was saying.

Mr. WALCOTT: I said that only a crass idiot would make that statement, and there is nothing improper about that, and I challenge the hon. member that he does not know the charges in the Port. If he knew he would not have talked the nonsense he did. We are going to the metric system. It takes 2,240 pounds to make a ton, the charges in the Port are $6 per ton, you bring in corned beef, or salt fish and sell it by the pound; what kind of charges are you going to add to make those the charges that are going to be imposed on the community so far as retail prices are concerned. Only a crass idiot would get up and talk about controlling prices at the Port. In Barbados the highest productivity per man is down at the Port. These idiotic statements by people who do not know what they are talking about do not solve anything. These are statements he can make in Melvin's Hill, but when he comes into the House where he is meeting equals and talks that kind of foolishness it does not make sense. He cannot go in Court and talk that nonsense.

I will not enter this debate about the cost of living because the hon. member has a few parcels on the table which should be devoured by somebody who wants something to eat, but this melodramatic way of playing to the Gallery we have done many years ago, so let us play a different tune. As the hon. member for St. Philip said, we have passed the election and when the election was coming off, they played this tune; so it is time for them to play a different tune. With all this hypocritical talk about the cost of living, look around at the kind of motor cars that the people have. The people in this country are purchasing some of the consumption goods and you are asking the Government to restrict certain things. You cannot in this community where the same poor people are buying motor cars say that the Government is doing something vicious to the people. This Government like all importing Governments have a problem, and the problem is the inflationary position which is universal and nothing to do with Barbados.

One month ago the British Government made a decision that it was going to float the pound sterling. As a result of that, various currencies had to take a different position, and only today gold was sold at $75 per ounce. Do you know what is going to be the repercussions from that when it was $35 an ounce? Barbados is microscopic in the world-wide change of things. Sometimes when I come back here I would like to withdraw from public life when I hear men in public life talk as if Barbados is the centre of the world. There is this inflated idea that we are the centre of the world. Barbados is a microscopic country with imports that nobody would ever miss if Barbados went off the map. There is nothing that Barbados uses that anybody would remember if Barbados disappeared from the map. You are talking about a little village with 250,000 people, something the size of Coventry and with less people than the whole of Fifth Avenue in the United States of America; so when

you begin to talk in terms of size, you are talking about a little country and you are talking as if this little country is going to set the pattern for the world to conform to our way in Barbados.

Now the hon. member made a statement that I would like to ask him to withdraw. When the hon. member said that the Government allows people to grow things here and still import some from outside, he knows it is not true. What Government is going to have things growing....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, it is all well and good to hear the hon. member making certain statements, but when the hon. member says that I said something that I know is not true, he is imputing that I am lying. I would like the hon. member to be honest because he started his debate and has not touched on anything I have said but he will sleep and jump up because he can blow his big mouth and feel he can ridicule people, but when he reads Hansard he will see that when he talks about 2,240 pounds to the ton, he does not understand what I was talking about.

Mr. WALCOTT: The vulgarity or whether my mouth is big or small is not going to affect me, but he knows it is not true that the Government allows thing to be grown here and still permits them to be imported. You are so accustomed to talking something that is untrue that it becomes an obsession.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: This is a debate in Committee and you can make your speech when I am finished.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of elucidation, the hon. member said that it is untrue to say that you grow things here and the Government still imports things. We grow canes here from which we get sugar and we know that you have just imported sugar from Trinidad.

Mr. WALCOTT: We export people and we import some too. I will not make an issue out of the idiotic speeches that have been made earlier, because they ary trying to riducule the hon. member for St. Philip South. What I said I am going to repeat. Only a foolish Government would do what the hon. member said, and it could not last because the people of the country would know. How can you have tomatoes and vegetables growing in your country and at the same time you import these things from somebody else?

10.15 p.m.

You would have to be an idiot or a blind mouse when you could import into a country something that the country produces. What kind of idiotic country could that be? (ASIDE: You import sugar) Yes, you import people too. Only an idiot would not know what kind of sugar you import. We import people from St. Vincent. There are some people who would say that because Christ was born in a stable, therefore Christ was a cow.

You say that Barbados is importing tomatoes. You know that you cannot wait until something is growing to import it. Idiotic people will have us believe that Barbados is an island all by itself and that with all the land that we possess, we can become completely self sufficient. We can get all the tomatoes and poultry that we require.

What kind of Government would import eggs from elsewhere if you have them here? The poultry producers have been asking the Government to put up restrictions on the importation of poultry. If we put up such restrictions, can they supply what the community would require? You will have some eggs today and none tomorrow.

How much can you add on when you are dealing with imports? Do you believe that you can make $6.00 or $2.00 or $3.00 off extra charges on 3,000 cases of something? There are some things that cannot be passed on in charges and they are some which can be passed on. If you could pass on everything, you will have to pass on the price of every paper bag.

Everyone knows that this question of prices and price control is a sensitive matter and that is why we have to keep these things under surveillance. Everyone feels that putting up new buildings means that business must be doing very well. If Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd. can put up a $6 million building, they must have been doing very well, and the distributive trades must have been doing very well. Let us be frank. This in itself is not related to the question of port charges, but to the whole economic position in Barbados as such. If you subscribe to private enterprise you will have with you all the problems that arise from this system.

In a place like Barbados where the merchants are importers, where private people are the main importers they can manipulate this system within any control that you make. Every time that the hon. member comes and wants to criticise the Government about something, it is because he has a vendetta.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

Mr. WALCOTT: The only thing they have not talked about today is the manufacture of the atomic bomb. They have salt fish and sardines there. All these things, including at tin of milk, they have brought in here.
10.26 p.m.

Let us know now how much the Port charges can get in; how many tins of milk it takes to make a ton.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Who has been talking about Port charges or charges in the Port?. I have been hearing about "ton" and "Port charges", but it looks as if when a member wakes up, he says anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: The last thing he said was that you could go down to the Port and if you do not go down to the Port you would not know. Look he is over there grinning. You are grinning at the people of this country? Some time they will have some grinning to do too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am nothing to do with any grinning. I am giving every hon. member in this Chamber an opportunity to air his views.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order....

Mr. WALCOTT: An hon. member cannot have two consecutive points of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He never had a point of order. I never accepted it as a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, if you are in a serious debate and you are talking about the cost of living you have to relate the facts to the cost of living as they are. You cannot imagine things. You have to relate the facts as they are. If any man is running a business and he has any sense, there could be no point in his allowing his goods to remain in the docks for any time and allow additional charges, because he is competing with other people; he has to compete with other people. There also is no point saying that all the business men are going to sell at the same price. We know that is not true.

What I would like the hon. member to prove is that the Port charges are the charges that one could say are exorbitant. I know more about the Port charges than the hon. member. Since the Deep Water Harbour was built eleven years ago – it was built in 1961 – the landing charges have remained the same; the landing charges are the same $6 a ton as they were in 1961. As I said, in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, the Port charges have remained constant since 1961. Six dollars a ton is the same rate now as it was then.

I have heard the Minister of Agriculture make a broad policy statement on diversification. You have heard this Government's policy about diversification and are you seriously considering that a Government which would diversify its crops would allow one of its agencies not to equalize what they are going to grow? The Minister is not here, but he is just back from Venezuela where he went into discussions on the process of processing meat. You have heard it said by the Government that we want to increase our own agricultural production in order that we may lower our imports so that the balance of payment position would be more equalized. So I do not think it is fair to the Government for the hon. member to be saying what he has said, and we over here have a duty to the Government to be fair and I do not think this fair.
10.35 p.m.

We will parry at an election time and try to play for something, but election is over. We have to be statesmanlike and examine the problems. There is no point trying to inflame the masses of people on issues that you know are not true and to give the impression that the government will go and import eggs or import onions. One time there were so many onions here that the people could not eat all. We had to export some of the onions. There is a time when you have enough green peas. Nobody is going to eat green peas every day – green peas for tea, green peas for breakfast, green peas for lunch and green peas for dinner.

I do not see why you should make this kind of statement. The hon. member for St. Joseph made a sweeping statement and I listened to him and I challenged him. He may tell you that I was sleeping. It is true some of them will send an angel to sleep if they make the statements that they made in here all night. I have some sort of feeling for the people who work here.

I never intended even to enter this debate, but I felt it was so unjustified to make these statements and each time there is a Money Resolution or something like this, the members on the other side think that they are chiding us, the members of the Government, by holding us up for hours on end in order to repeat something that they said already.

Finally I would say that it is time that you all examine the true economic position of Barbados and see how the people in Barbados are spending money. You had better watch and see that there are millions of dollars in this country being spent, not on foodstuffs and not on small items in any tins. You had better make a closer examination of our tastes for certain things and let us utilize some of the money that we are using in a lot of the more highly expensive, durable, consumer goods and see what we can do to stimulate a greater economy and diversify the agricultural production in a manner that will make it possible for us not to have to import as many things that we are now forced to import and therefore stop importing or import to a lesser extent some of the more expensive things that we are importing in this country.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman Sir, I think I can try in my small way to put the records straight with respect to something the hon. member for St. Michael West who has just sat down has had to say. I think I am right in saying that I have heard the Minister of Agriculture explain on an occasion in this House, in replying to the hon. member for St. Joseph, that there was an occasion when some of the farmers had to plough back – I think it was carrots – into the fields. It was some crop which clashed with other imported commodities at the same time. So I do not think that all that the hon. member for St. Joseph was saying was so totally wrong as the last speaker has attempted to make it.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. That was not my point. This is what I said; you can have a situation in seasonal crops when that can take place. But I say it is a different thing to say that you have these goods, you know you have them, they are there available to you and you go and import them. There can be a clash by all means.

Mr. HINDS: Let us get on Mr. Chairman. This Resolution Sir – the note says that the price control section of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce is being re-organized. Our first point is this Sir, what is the purpose of re-organizing the price control section of the ministry? There must be some just reason for doing this. But what we want to say from this side is this; before the Ministry of Trade can attempt to re-organize the price control section, the ministry has got to demonstrate in no uncertain terms that the ministry is familiar with the structure of trading as it is conducted in Barbados at all levels. I am saying Sir, that we have seen nothing, except a mere mention of a catch phrase, "The three tier system, the three tier system." Just a catch phrase. I am going to challenge the Minister of Trade. I will tell you this; our present Minister of Trade is the laughing stock of the Chamber of Commerce and all the people who know about trade, when he talks about the three tier system, because the people in commerce know that the system is not a three tier system at all and they are happy when he is talking about a three tier system. It is not a three tier system as far as the price is concerned.

I have tried to point out already to this Honourable House, and if the Government would accept the advice that is often tendered from this side, we are confident that the Government could do better at times. I have heard mention from the other side by some hon. members about getting at the source of purchasing from the manufacturers at the other end. I want to say it is almost impossible, almost impossible. Trading as it is done – I have been in it myself in a small way and I want the hon. minister to investigate what I am saying – most of the imports that come to this country are bought from brokers at the other end, not from manufacturers. They are bought from brokers. Just a minute, Sir, what makes it extremely difficult, what carries up this high pricing? This is the kind of inflation that they tell us we are importing. What makes it difficult is that you buy from brokers but you do so through what is called a "Confirming House". Now Sir, a "Confirming House" does not confirm an order for the sake of confirming it. In other words when Da Costa and Musson places an order with a broker in any part of the world, that order is of no value to the broker unless it is confirmed by the "Confirming House" in some other part of the world. The order may go to Europe but the "Confirming House" may not necessarily be in Europe. But the order has got to be confirmed for it to be of value. An agent here in Barbados might have secured the order from Da Costa and Musson and sent it off to the broker who has offered him these commodities. The agent is going to get his commission when he sends up this order. But the order has got to be confirmed through the "Confirming House." Already the broker has gone to the various manufacturers, scattered wherever they might be, and he would have bought up all these things in job lots perhaps, and he is in a position now to dispatch them all out to any part of the world.

The broker is going to sell at a profit, the "Confirming House" is going to confirm at a commission. They must have a commission for confirming. The commission agent here in Barbados must have a commission.
10.45 p.m.

You might receive an order from Messrs. DaCosta and Musson, but inside Messrs. DaCosta and Musson, they have a Commission Agency

through which the order would also have gone and they have to get a commission on the business that is coming in there. They might have their own wholesale department from which any commission goes on, the 2% or 3% that the Minister has been telling us about, so when you study it before it gets down to the wholesaler for him to get his 8%, and then to the retailer for his 20%, there are three or four 20 percents that have gone on and that is the source of the business which any Minister of Trade has got to get down to. This trading business is not as easy as we speak about it and fool the people all the time, we have to study how trading is done in this place.

The Minister told us about these Price Control Inspectors who will be required to go about to all the country shops, but to do what? What country shops will they have to inspect? All the country shops are closing down. The last stroke to help close some of them was the structure of the bus fares, because if you can drive from Pie Corner to Bridgetown for 35 cents, you will not stop at Speightstown any more, and all the shops in those areas now are not getting any business. If you need these Price Control Inspectors you are going to need them in Bridgetown, but when you look at it to see that you are going to employ these people at about $300 a month and a man has got to get a motor car to get a $300 a month job, you are sending these people to look into the people's shops and ask them for hams and the like. We need some Price Control Inspectors, but not of the $300 a month calibre, we need Price Control Inspectors at the level to go into these DaCosta and Musson people who can really sit down and discuss trading with them.

I have heard some talk about what they call "corrupt invoicing". Most of the "corrupt invoicing" is done here in Barbados and this present Government has had a first class instance of "corrupt invoicing", not by any small people in Barbados but by some of the biggest people in Barbados and they did absolutely nothing about it. Raw material was brought in here and taken to a warehouse, nothing whatsoever was done, no local labour employed, but then it was reinvoiced as if local labour had been employed, and a higher price put up to send to another country to rob Barbados and another country of their revenue. The Government knows all about it, but the people were too big to be prosecuted. When you employ Price Control Inspectors, I agree with the Minister that you should employ them and send them to the small shops in the country districts, because they cannot be around the big people who are really committing the crimes in the trade. It is as serious as this. The matter of price control is a serious one, very serious indeed. Prices are being jacked up today for all sorts of reasons. The wholesalers have goods in bonds, they are waiting for Government pricing, but before Government puts a price on they are working as fast as they possibly can to effect a delivery, but on each delivery bill they are charging so much as a delivery charge so that when the Government fixes its price, if it is below or above the original price, they already have their payment from the small man who cannot talk back because they do not want to hear him and they will not do business with him again. If it is a case of corned beef, rice, corn meal or whatever it might be and the small traders charge $2.50 for this extra charge, how must he get back his $2.50? The wholesaler has placed this on him and provision has already been made for the wholesaler to get 8% on his trading, but he takes another 1½% or 2% out of the distributor's profits, and they are some distributors who have to sell about six bags of corn meal before they can get $5.00. They have to pay cash for these goods and the turnover is terrific. Let us ask ourselves this, are all the Price Control Insepctors now going to be employed to examine these bills that these provision merchants are sending around? If they examine these Bills, can they make any deductions or charge them for putting on these delivery or other charges on these bills?

10.55 p.m.

You will understand that, if you employ ten dozen Price Control Inspectors under the present setup, the system is already defeated. It means, as I see it, that Government will have to employ a staff with a full knowledge of the intricacies of the business. In other words, an old man used to tell me about tricks in the trade. You have to get Price Control Inspectors who are familiar with the tricks in the trade, because you have more tricks in the trade than trade. That is the situation presented to us.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the Price Control Inspectors are only to see that the prices regulated by the Ministry of Trade are complied with. In other words, they must make sure that the commodities are not sold above the scheduled prices. The Price Control Inspectors will have nothing to do with invoices and so on. That type of work will be done in the Ministry of Trade. If Corned Beef is sold at 90c, it will be their duty to see that it is not sold higher than 90c a tin. They will only look after controlled commodities and see that they are not sold above the price fixed by the Control Board.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I now come to some of these business places that use the cash register system. I do not know how we will be able to solve this problem, but there are very good reasons to believe that the cash registers do not register accurately at all times. In most cases they register in favour of the owner or the operator of the business. I believe that the operators of cash registers are honest people.

However, a customer may take up twenty or thirty items, he pays the money and he goes away without checking his list to see that everything is correct. There are numerous instances where people were satisfied that the additions were incorrect, but the additions are never in favour of the customer. Is this a case for the Price Control Inspector, or case for the Police? How are we going to get over these things?

Mr. Chairman, I should like to see that we have a proper method of controlling the prices of commodities. When we have our Price Control Inspectors functioning, I would like to know that they are satisfied people. We want to know that they are reasonably well paid, and that there can be no room for temptation where those officers are concerned. We would like to know that they can go into these big business places and do a thorough job. We want to know that whoever is caught selling commodities above the scheduled price is prosecuted and brought before the Court. We cannot say here how the Court should deal with such people, but we sincerely hope that if such people are convicted for doing things contrary to the law that the fine or penalty imposed upon them will act as a deterrent to others who might be tempted to do likewise.

Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – $1,813 – stand part.

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. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution in the sum of $65,433 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
1972–73 No. 5

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution in the sum of $92,821, of which notice was given earlier today and which stands in the name of the Minister of Education, do now pass. It is in connection with the construction of the Division of Technology at the Eyrie, and this amount is needed to carry on the work.

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

11.05 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister himself feels indebted to this side of the House to tell us something about this. We would like to hear what progress has been made and what is the true position.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the amount of $100,000 provided in this year's Estimates has proved insufficient to complete the project for the development of the Barbados Community College. The amount being requested in terms of completion of the provision of technology is $92,721. The revised estimate for this building is $526,625 of which at 31st March, 1972, the sum of $337,504 has been expended. It is anticipated that during this current year the sum of $189,121 will be required, and out of the amount provided in this year's Estimates the sum of $96,400 has been released leaving a balance of $92,721; but it should be noted that of that sum at the 31st March, 1972, some $80,496 was the unspent balance and can therefore be regarded as a revote; so that the real increase over the estimate given in 1971–72 is something like $12,225. The building is nearing completion and in order not to have any hiatus in the construction work, it is therefore necessary to have this money provided.

There is also a token provision of $100 being requested at this particular time in order to engage consultants for engineering and other ancillary services in respect of the whole project for the development of the Community College. An application for a loan has been made to the Inter-American Development Bank and it is necessary before this application can be officially considered by the Board for full drawings to be presented along with the application, and it is expected that this will be put before the Board for final decision in November. It is therefore necessary to have these detailed drawings as speedily as possible not only for presentation in November, but also to meet the IADB team which is expected to come here to evaluate these programmes within the next few weeks. This Resolution therefore is in respect of (a) all the completion of the work on the division of technology, (b) continuation of the work on the division of science and (c) in respect of the token

provision with regard to the balance for the total Barbados Community College project.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Addendum says that the Ministry of Communications and Works is unable to undertake the design work within the required time. Is this due to the fact that we have not got the engineers and architects at our disposal at Communications and Works and therefore we have to get other engineers here in Barbados, or are these people, you are hoping to bring in, to assist you? I was listening to hear what the Minister had to say on this.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The situation is that the Ministry of Communications and Works' staff is taken up with other projects and hence are not able to complete this particular work within the time available, and it is proposed to engage private consultants to provide your structural engineering, your sanitary engineering services and other consultant services.

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

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT OF $1,000,000 BORROWED BY THE DEVELOPMENT BANK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item on the Order Paper is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister of Finance of the payment of the principal sum of $1,000,000 borrowed by the Barbados Development Bank by the issue of National Development Bonds, and of the interest thereon.

Hon. members will recall that in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals made by the Minister of Finance on 27th July, 1971, it was proposed *inter alia* that National Development Bonds would be made available to investors through the medium of the Barbados Development Bank.
11.15 p.m.

The Manager of the Barbados Development Bank has submitted copies of the prospectus, and the first issue of National Development bonds has been made under the provisions of Section 12(1) of the Barbados Development Bank Act 1963–48. This section provides that with the approval of the Minister of Finance the Bank may issue debentures or bonds for the purpose of exercising its borrowing powers under Section 9 of this Act but the aggregate amount of such debentures and bonds outstanding at any time shall not exceed such amount as the Minister of Finance may from time to time determine.

This prospectus has been prepared by the staff of the bank in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The matter has been proceeded with and the bonds issued under the provisions of Section 12(1) of the Act under the following terms:–

$1,000,000, 6% National Development Bonds at par due 1978–82, the proceeds to be used to finance development projects in accordance with the functions and the purposes of the Bank in the following arrears of operation:

(a) Tourism projects, including ancillary projects;
(b) Manufacturing and processing industries
(c) Co-operative
(d) Small businesses.

At the end of the first year of operation, the 31st March, 1970, the bank made a profit of $23,658 and at the end of the second year it was $32,980, an increase of 22,2 percent over that of 1969–70. The annual statement shows an overall profit of approximately $62,000. I say this for the benefit of the experts on the other side.

As the Addendum of the Resolution sets out, the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech to the House of Assembly on 27th April, 1971 stated inter alia that in pursuance of his policy to maximise the mobilisation of local resources and at the same time provide a stimulus to the investment of Capital in productive enterprises, he proposed that National Development Bonds be made available to investors. These bonds will be issued by the Barbados Development Bank.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would just like to say that there is an outstanding piece of legislation which I would like to have cleared. I refer to the Public Holidays Act, 1968. If it is carefully examined, it will show that what we are doing is serving no useful purpose. If the 24th October is not a Monday, the Governor General can proclaim the next Monday a holiday.

Without any further ado, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th August, 1972 at 12 o'clock noon with the hope of getting through everything before we have the summer recess.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

11.20 p.m.